nonesuch

inside

Tom Avery, polar explorer

Club Seals

plus: your 8-page 2005 Convocation Reunion Weekend pull-out
Dear friends

You find us in a very positive frame of mind about the University. We are wary of complacency, but we cannot deny feeling a sense of satisfaction at the superb quality of the University’s staff and students, the high standard of its research and teaching and the sheer dynamism of its enterprise activities. As you will see from the article on page 24, the relative strength of the institution’s financial position is a further source of optimism. You may have noticed that a number of universities are closing down some of their academic functions for financial or other reasons; Bristol, on the other hand, is adding a new one – the Centre for East Asian Studies. We take no pleasure in others’ troubles, but it is important to acknowledge Bristol’s success.

For all this, 2005 and 2006 will undoubtedly be challenging for Bristol, just as they will be for the rest of UK higher education. How will we differentiate ourselves in what will become a more competitive marketplace? All our peers are likely to join us in charging the maximum £3,000 a year for every course from 2006, but a genuine market is likely to develop in the area of scholarships and bursaries. Even more importantly, potential students will be looking for the best value for money in terms of the quality of teaching, the standard of facilities and the ‘brand advantage’ they will gain by graduating from one institution rather than another.

Clearly this puts us under even more pressure than of old to keep investing – in student support, in academic and other facilities, in staff – and, just as crucially, to build a vibrant and distinctive sense of community. We do not want Bristol’s fertile student–University relationship to be degraded by the emerging higher education marketplace into an arid consumer–provider one.

We have been talking with students about the factors that help to generate the collegial, grown-up relationships that are at the heart of Bristol’s success as a community of scholars. We think these factors include the sense of belonging to an internationally successful, forward-looking university that is focused and confident; the University’s location at the heart of a compact, desirable city; and the social networks established through halls of residence, clubs and societies, the Union and so forth.

We must play to and build on such strengths, while tackling factors that can erode the sense of community – for instance, any tendency to behave as though education plays second fiddle to research, and any unsatisfactory provision for students’ accommodation and social needs.

We hope that, as ever, Bristol alumni will continue to help the University to consolidate its already strong position as the higher education landscape shifts over the next year or two. We will carry on seeking your financial support, of course, but in addition we hope that you will do what you can to safeguard the University’s reputation as a special place that strives to offer a first-class experience academically, socially and culturally.

The forthcoming Convocation Reunion Weekend, the Convocation AGM and the associated events – all of which you can read about later in this issue of nonesuch – are opportunities to learn more about the University’s past, present and future and the vital role that its alumni continue to play. Last year’s Reunion Weekend saw record attendance and we hope that 2005 will be even more successful as an occasion for friendships to be made and renewed and for us all to celebrate our University’s great distinction.

With best wishes to you all.

Professor Eric Thomas
Vice-Chancellor

Stuart Goldsmith (BA 1966)
Chairman of Convocation
# Contents

## Features

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Page</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Authors/Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>The Big Freeze</td>
<td>Tom Avery talks to Eve MacFarlane about exploring the ends of the earth.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>From Downing Street Vision to Classroom Reality</td>
<td>Peter Hyman on the front line.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>Investing in the Future</td>
<td>The University’s next steps.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>Bristol’s New Botanic Garden</td>
<td>Simon Hiscock reports on the evolution of this unique resource.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>Bursting into Broadcasting</td>
<td>David Sheppard: the freshest face on local radio.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>34</td>
<td>You’re Having a Laugh</td>
<td>Danny Robins and Dan Tetsell talk to Eve MacFarlane about their career in comedy.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40</td>
<td>From Rag to Riches</td>
<td>Lucy Owens celebrates 80 years of RAG.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>43</td>
<td>Shedding Light on the British Isles</td>
<td>Lara King describes the University’s role in the BBC’s British Isles series.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>48</td>
<td>From A to B</td>
<td>Paul Parry recounts his epic journey.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50</td>
<td>Up, Up and Away</td>
<td>Richard Porter looks at the University’s Aim Higher mentoring scheme.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45</td>
<td>Science at the Smallest Scale</td>
<td>Siôn Lutley tells us about Bristol’s leading role in nanoscience and quantum information.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Regular Items

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Page</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Authors/Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>The Year in Pictures</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>News</td>
<td>Alumni news, Student news, University news</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>Bristol Reunited 2005</td>
<td>Special pull-out with everything you need to know about this year’s Convocation Reunion Weekend.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32</td>
<td>Events Diary</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>37</td>
<td>Special Collections</td>
<td>Elections special</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>44</td>
<td>Alumni Benefits</td>
<td>Don’t miss out</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>46</td>
<td>Alumni Groups</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>47</td>
<td>Merchandise</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>53</td>
<td>Alumni Update</td>
<td>Alumni news, book reviews and class notes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>59</td>
<td>Obituaries</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Cover Image

Tom Avery jumping across a crevasse on an expedition in the andes.
the year in pictures

February

March

April

May

June

August

July

nonesuch
February 2004: FIELD, an installation by Richard Box, artist in residence in the Department of Physics. (Southwest News Service)

March 2004: Jumping for Justice: student athletes highlight poor working conditions in the sportswear industry by jumping hurdles with banners representing ‘low pay’, ‘long hours’ and ‘no unions’. (Bristol United Press)

April 2005: Making a splash: Bristol’s men’s waterpolo team celebrates winning the British Universities’ Sports Association Championship.

May 2004: Janet and Phillip Hulme, founders and Trustees of the Hadley Trust, with the Chancellor, The Right Hon Baroness Hale, at the 2004 Charter Day event. (Martin Chainey)

June 2004: 50 students from schools all over the UK took part in a Chemistry Camp for 15-year-olds in the School of Chemistry.


August 2004: Sporting stars of the future: 60 budding young sport stars took part in a programme of sporting fun in the Centre for Sport, Exercise and Health. (Bristol United Press)

September 2004: Artist Leon Palmer with one of his artworks installed in the windows of the new Dorothy Hodgkin Building. (Martin Chainey)

October 2004: The launch of BIRTHA, the Bristol Institute for Research in the Humanities and Arts. (Martin Chainey)

November 2004: Crocheted chaos: The famous Lorenz equations are turned into a crocheted work of art.

December 2004: Cancer: is this the key to the cure? Scientists in the Department of Physiology have found a new ally in cancer treatment: a protein already present in normal body tissues and blood. (Bristol Evening Post)

January 2005: The students who organised a ball that raised £8,500 for the Tsunami Relief Fund.
CRACKING CUP COUP
A large cracked drinking vessel bought at a local auction for £500 by Bristol graduate Michele Paduano (BA 1987) has been discovered to be a rare piece of 17th-century pottery worth about £50,000.

The BBC journalist took the piece to BBC1’s Antiques Roadshow and was shocked when experts told him it was a rare Slipware cup.

The three-handled cup, known as a tyg, holds about four pints of liquid and is thought to have been used during celebrations. It is said to be a classic Slipware design; the term ‘slip’ refers to the coloured clay used, which was dripped from a quill mounted in a cow’s horn to draw a design.

CLASSICS IN THE CLASSROOM
A group of young people from Hartcliffe Engineering College, Bristol came to the University in December to find out more about classics and ancient history. The year-9 pupils, aged 13 to 14, are all studying for Latin GCSE. This is the first time that Latin has been taught in the college.

The day was organised by the University’s Widening Participation Office and the Department of Classics and Ancient History, and was led by lecturer Dr Genevieve Liveley. The pupils explored Roman life and issues of gender and used the Arts and Social Sciences Library to find insights into life in the classical world.

Childcare put centre stage
A Bristol graduate has been credited with putting childcare at the heart of the Government’s political agenda. Stephen Burke (BSc 1981) is Director of the Daycare Trust, which promotes high quality affordable childcare for all. Since taking up this post, he has transformed the charity’s cause from a marginal concern to a key domestic policy issue.

Only a year ago, universal childcare was, in political terms, a side issue. But since the Daycare Trust’s inaugural childcare lecture in January 2004, Stephen has managed to persuade the Government that childcare is ‘everyone’s business’. He said: ‘It is central to ending child poverty, improving life chances, raising educational attainment, promoting work-life balance, promoting equality and regenerating communities.’

Universal childcare will now play centre stage if Labour is elected for a third term. Alan Milburn, Labour’s chief election strategist, announced in January that: ‘Our aim is for universal childcare to become a new arm of the modern welfare state.’

Little Britain’s record-breaking DVD for charity
The award-winning Little Britain comedy team Matt Lucas (Drama 1993-95) and David Walliams (BA 1992) released a DVD on Valentine’s Day to raise money for Comic Relief. The DVD became one of retail chain HMV’s fastest sellers with 110,000 copies sold in the first four days.

It features Robbie Williams dressed in drag as a ‘ladydee’ and Sir Elton John being interviewed by the ‘only gay in the village’ Daffyd, while George Michael makes an appearance with wheelchair-user Andy. Vicky Pollard pops up in an episode of the TV show Trisha.

‘When we asked these household names to enter the world of Little Britain we never thought they would throw themselves into it with quite so much enthusiasm. It’s great to think that the money from this DVD will go to help change lives – we hope loads of people buy a copy, or even two,’ the comedy duo said.

Comic Relief chief executive Kevin Cahill said: ‘We’ve been blown away with the amazing response to the DVD. The money raised from these sales will make a real difference to people in the UK and Africa.’

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Facts and figures 2004/05</th>
<th>Men</th>
<th>Women</th>
<th>Total</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of full-time undergraduate students:</td>
<td>5,422</td>
<td>5,838</td>
<td>11,260</td>
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<td>Number of full-time postgraduate students:</td>
<td>6,559</td>
<td>7,172</td>
<td>13,731</td>
</tr>
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<td>Number of applicants for home undergraduate places:</td>
<td>32,000</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Number of home undergraduate places available:</td>
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<td></td>
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</tr>
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<td>Ratio of home applications to places</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Arts:</td>
<td>13.0</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science:</td>
<td>8.1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medical and Veterinary Sciences:</td>
<td>8.1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medicine and Dentistry:</td>
<td>9.7</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Engineering:</td>
<td>7.7</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Sciences and Law:</td>
<td>12.1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Foyle’s guide to Bristol’s architecture

‘If I had to show a foreigner one English city and one only, to give him a balanced idea of English architecture, I should take him...to Bristol, which has developed in all directions, and where nearly everything has happened.’ Sir John Summerson

Bristol is the latest city to be added to the highly-regarded Pevsner Architectural City Guide series.

The guide, written by Bristol-based historian Andrew Foyle (BA 1998), describes Bristol’s huge variety of buildings in great detail; from medieval churches to Jacobean timber-framed houses, through its Georgian heyday, to its great Victorian monuments such as the Clifton Suspension Bridge.


Bristol grad revives British horror

Bristol film-maker Christopher Smith (MA 1998) saw his first feature film, Creep, hit the big screens in January 2005. Described as ‘smartly reviving the British horror genre’, Creep is not for those with a weak constitution. Set in the London Underground, it is a deliberate throwback to the splatter movies of the 1970s and 1980s, bringing together a host of genre staples – lone woman in peril (played by Franka Potente, Run Lola Run), subterranean settings, an unstoppable maniac and a variety of gruesome demises.

‘I’ve been really lucky,’ said Christopher about his recent success. ‘Thirteen years ago I found myself staring out of the window from the office of my dead-end job. I remember thinking, what do I really want to do? What I’ve always wanted to do is make movies.’ And so he enrolled on Bristol’s MA in Film Production in 1998, and the rest is history.

inbrief

SHANGHAI PRIZE
The American Historical Association has awarded its Morris D Forkosch Prize for 2004 to Empire made me: an Englishman adrift in Shanghai by Dr Robert Bickers in the Department of Historical Studies, who is also an Associate Director of the new Centre for East Asian Studies.

Empire made me is a biography of Maurice Tinkler (1898-1939), a British member of the Shanghai Municipal Police. The narrative also examines British power in Shanghai, and the city itself during the inter-war period.

DEAF STUDIES HOSTS DEAFLYMPICS COVERAGE
Technology developed at the Centre for Deaf Studies has made reporting on the Deaflympics – a major sporting event for the Deaf community worldwide – more accessible and immediate.

The centre’s Deaf Station website carried daily coverage of the games, which were held in Melbourne in January, with information on teams and results, and reports in British Sign Language about each day’s action.

21 YEARS OF ‘MIRACLE BIRTHS’
The University’s Centre for Reproductive Health recently celebrated its 21st anniversary. More than 2,600 babies have been born to infertile couples receiving treatment at the centre.
Telling Stories wins prestigious radio drama award

Anthony Cropper’s (BSc 1992) writing career received a welcome boost when he won the BBC’s Alfred Bradley Bursary Award with his play Telling Stories in January this year. In addition to a £5,000 bursary, Anthony, who studied geography at Bristol, will also be considered for a Radio 4 commission.

The award, open to northern-based writers who have already had a small amount of their work published or produced, is one of the most prestigious awards for dramatists in the country. The judges, who included playwright and novelist Willy Russell, selected Telling Stories from over 280 entries.

Anthony’s play focuses on four people who seem set on destroying each other. They meet for a meal. They bicker and fight, they flirt and tell stories. They chip away at each other, pouncing on weaknesses. Willy Russell said: ‘As soon as I began to read the play, I had that unmistakable sense of being drawn into an expertly drawn world. I like the script’s sense of daring and its ability to present the bleakness of these lives without the play ever becoming bleak or nihilistic.’

Previous winners of the award include Lee Hall, who went on to write the critically acclaimed Spoonface Steinberg for BBC Radio and the Golden Globe-winning film Billy Elliot.
Science Learning Centre for the South West

School children in the South West will be learning more about science and its impact on society with the opening of the Science Learning Centre in Bristol. The pioneering new centre – based within @Bristol, the award-winning science and discovery centre – was officially opened by Professor Kathy Sykes, Collier Chair of Public Engagement in Science and Engineering, on 18 January 2005. It is jointly run by the Universities of Bristol and Plymouth and will deliver continuing professional development for science teachers and technicians from across the region.

This is one of nine regional centres opening in England this year as part of a national network set up by the Department for Education and Skills and a Wellcome Trust initiative. The scheme aims to reinvigorate teaching skills from primary through to post-16 education, boosting science literacy. The centre will offer teachers access to newly furnished labs, advanced ICT equipment and innovative courses covering education strategies, traditional science and the wider ethical issues of science in society, cutting-edge scientific research and developments across business and industry.

inbrief

BIOPHYSICAL SOCIETY AWARD
Dr Mark Szczelkun, a Wellcome Trust Senior Research Fellow in the Department of Biochemistry, has been awarded the British Biophysical Society Young Investigators Award 2004. The award is made every two years for an outstanding contribution in any area of biophysics.

THE STORY OF SUGAR
How did an insignificant grass used for thatching in its native New Guinea come to dominate global cuisine, create great wealth for a few, and cause millions of people to be transported across the world under one of the most cruel and brutal regimes ever devised?

Award-winning author Dr Sanjida O’Connell (BSc 1991), who studied zoology at Bristol, unfolds this complex story in Sugar: the grass that changed the world. The book shows how sugar has shaped our culture, landscape, politics, geography, economics, race, music, health, the very food we eat and what we drink in a way that no other commodity has throughout human history.


Rat race comes to Bristol

Bristol’s most famous landmarks will be the setting for an extreme sports contest called the Rat Race.

The event, which will take place over the weekend of 11-12 June 2005, is the brainchild of former law student Jim Mee (LLB 1999). It will feature competitors running, kayaking, abseiling and navigating around Bristol’s streets and buildings along a 100 kilometres course.

Jim said: ‘The city’s natural features are well known and there are some obvious jagged bits which our competitors will seriously enjoy.’ For more information visit www.ratraceadventure.com.
Eight members of the University’s Mountaineering Society plan to explore the vast Fedchenko Glacier in the Pamir mountains of Tajikstan this year, much of which has never been visited before. The team’s main objective is to make the first ascent of the north face of the remote Peak Bakinskikh Komissarov.

Simon Spencer-Jones (MSci 2000, MB ChB 2005-), the expedition leader, said: ‘We will be taking the University of Bristol Mountaineering Club one step further by climbing in truly unexplored territory, ensuring the future of cutting-edge mountaineering at Bristol.’

The team is funding the expedition itself. Simon said: ‘We are facing a significant financial challenge. Tajikistan’s relative inaccessibility means that the cost of transport is much higher, and a huge amount of equipment and supplies will be needed to stock a base camp on a remote glacier for five weeks.’

Anyone who would like to support the team should email Simon at ss6900@bristol.ac.uk.

Another intrepid Bristol student, Jake Myer, is set to become the youngest person to complete the Seven Summits, the ascent of the highest mountains on each of the seven continents.

Having climbed Kilimanjaro in time to see in the Millennium sunrise aged just 15, Jake has since completed another five, most recently Mt Vincent in Antarctica. But his last summit, Everest, will be his biggest challenge yet.

Jake will be starting his expedition on 26 March 2005.
Bristol Students’ Union hosted the first ever nationwide film festival to showcase and celebrate the work of student film-makers on 4 to 6 March 2005. SCREENTEST, which was organised by the University’s Film-making Society, included three days of screening staged throughout Bristol, as well as a host of events at which student film-makers could gather to develop new ideas and techniques. Local Bristol school children enrolled in media classes were also invited to attend free screenings.

The festival culminated on Sunday with an awards ceremony and a screening of the winning films. Twice Oscar-nominated actress and Bristol graduate, Emily Watson, presented the Best Student Film award at the ceremony. On Sunday morning Emily also hosted a Q&A session about the film industry in the Victoria Rooms.

The festival was generously supported by the University’s Alumni Foundation, Bristol Odeon and The Independent.

Above: Stills from two of the film entries: right: Superduck and the Evil Cheese - ‘a CGI animated, superhero short featuring a super-powered duck and the evil masterduck who wants him destroyed’; left: Christm’asses - ‘an Aardman-style stop-motion animation about a grumpy mule and the worst Christmas he ever had’.

It seems that for some students there is an increasing disparity between what they expect from a university experience and what is actually provided.

When I studied for A-levels, learning was structured and very intense. I’m sure this is the experience of most sixth-formers. University is a very different environment. Undergraduates can expect to do much of their study on their own, with less than 300 hours teaching in total over their three years. This disparity was exemplified last year by the former student who went to The Daily Telegraph with a tale of woe about insufficient guidance from academic staff.

Many undergraduate students also have difficulty comprehending the role of research at university. At A-level, teachers are there for one purpose and one purpose only – to teach us, the student. Academic staff must research as well as teach, and students can sometimes feel neglected by their lecturers.

If the target of 50 per cent of young people going into higher education is reached, and with students paying increasingly large amounts to study, will universities have to modernise to meet the expectations of the 21st century student, or is it that the students themselves need to revise their expectations?

The management at Bristol are working with the Students’ Union to try and meet some of these expectations. They are encouraging a sense of community within the University. This approach includes undergraduates, postgraduates, staff and alumni in one cohesive group. It should lead to more understanding and an even better University for all those involved.

Chris Pitcher is the Students’ Union Communication Sabbatical.

BRISTOL HOSTS SCREENTEST

Four students were presented with awards by the Department of Exercise and Health for their outstanding contributions at the Lifetime Health and Fitness prize-giving on 15 February 2005.

Jacqueline Butt won the award for Best Dissertation, Patricia Simpson-Davis and Wendy Parker jointly won the Best Overall Contribution to the Department and Victoria Chan won the Lifetime Health and Fitness Prize for Community Health Promotion.
Bristol’s rugby showdown

A crowd of almost 3,000 saw Bristol’s men’s rugby team defeat the University of the West of England (UWE) 18-8 in one of the biggest fixtures in both teams’ sporting calendar: the Rugby Varsity match on 16 February. The varsity match has been an annual match between the universities since 1992.

Last year, the men defeated UWE for the second time in four years by 41-13, and the women also defeated UWE 10-5. Sponsored by Lloyds TSB, all money raised from the event has gone to the Tsunami Relief Fund.

Incredible tsunami relief effort

A group of Bristol students (pictured above) organised a ball that raised over £8,500 for the Tsunami Relief Fund.

Roshan Nilaweera (Computers Studies 2004- ), who has family in Sri Lanka, was the driving force behind this amazing achievement. He said: ‘I wanted to help by doing my bit and I knew there were others who felt the same way and so I set about finding them. We decided that the best way to raise a lot of money quickly was to organise a huge event that everybody would want to go to.’

And it worked. Tickets for the night sold out within five days of being released, which is unheard of for student events. Roshan said: ‘In the space of over three weeks, this brainchild was transformed into the biggest event of the year. Although I may have started this project, without the help of the core team it wouldn’t have been possible.’

The Alumni Foundation helped the ball get off the ground with a grant of £400.

Staff did their bit too, by organising a ‘crazy badminton tour’ at the Centre for Sport, Exercise and Health.

Gemilang 2005

Bristol’s Malay Cultural Society asked guests to suspend belief and enter the wondrous world of Malam Gemilang at its 2005 dinner (pictured below). Malam Gemilang is a night when Malaysian cultural performances and traditional plays are combined into one huge act and the society excelled itself with an evening of cuisine, music and dance.
Earthquake challenge for young engineers

Pupils from Bristol schools put their engineering skills to the test in an exciting challenge run by the University’s Earthquake Engineering Research Centre and @Bristol in March this year.

Eighty-eight pupils aged 13-14 from 16 secondary schools in the Bristol area worked in teams to design and construct small-scale model buildings using only MDF (medium density fibreboard), paper, string and glue. The models had to stand up to artificial earthquakes generated on the shaking table in the University’s new BLADE (Bristol Laboratory for Advanced Dynamics Engineering) Earthquake and Large Structures Laboratory.

The teams prepared their materials and planned their designs using the University’s IDEERS (Introducing and Demonstrating Earthquake Engineering Research in Schools) initiative to get advice on how engineers design earthquake-resistant buildings.

Honorary degrees awarded

Four distinguished people, all Bristol graduates, were awarded Honorary degrees at the this year’s February degree ceremonies.

His Excellency, Mr James Williams (MEd 1984), High Commissioner of Saint Christopher and Nevis, and Anne Weyman (BSc 1965), OBE, Chief Executive of fpa (formerly the Family Planning Association) were honoured with the degree of Doctor of Laws.

Lillian Brown (née Oakman) (BA 1951 Cert Ed 1952), member and Convocation and representative on Court, was honoured with the degree of Master of Arts. On receiving her Honorary degree, Lilian said: ‘I owe the rest of my life to my days as a student at Bristol University; my marriage; my career; everything.’

Deborah Moggach (née Hough) (BA 1970), novelist and screenwriter, was honoured with the degree of Doctor of Letters. She said: ‘I’m thrilled and honoured. Little did I guess, all those years ago as a scruffy and vaguely mutinous undergraduate, that I would revisit my favourite city in such style.’

Student sleuth reveals architect of Swindon jewel

Bristol student-turned-detective Carol Fry has solved the mystery of who designed Swindon’s ‘architectural jewel’ Lydiard House. After poring over ancient bank accounts, Carol, who is studying a for PhD in Palladian Architecture, has discovered that it was eminent 18th-century architect Roger Morris. She went through dusty ledgers in the vaults of Hoare’s Bank to reveal that Lydiard’s owner, the St John’s family, paid Roger Morris £42 on 10 September 1744. Morris was a renowned architect of his time who designed the famous ornate bridge at Wilton House, near Salisbury.
A series of inscribed crosses which may be at least 10,000 years old have been found on the wall of a cave known as Aveline’s Hole in Burrington Combe, Somerset, by two members of the University’s Spelaeological Society, Graham Mullan (Medicine 1971-72) and Linda Wilson (LLB 1982) have spent much of the past ten years studying Palaeolithic cave art.

Assisted by Dr George Nash, formerly of the Department of Archaeology and Anthropology and an Honorary Recognised Teacher in Archaeology (Continuing Education), and experts from the British Museum, they believe that this engraving is likely to be post-Ice Age in date.

Jill Cook, Deputy Keeper in the Department of Prehistory and Europe at the British Museum, said: ‘This is an exciting and important discovery. The few lines that form this panel are a signature from the period right at the end of the last Ice Age when the present period of warm climate was beginning. The pattern is comparable with others known from Northern France, Germany and Denmark, giving a wider context for the finds of this time and a rare glimpse of what may have been a rather special means of communication.’

Clifton Hill House won first prize in the 2004 National Architectural Awards of the London-based Georgian Group, in the category ‘Restoration of a Georgian country house’. Prince Michael of Kent presented the award to interior decorator Anthony Richards and Clifton Hill House Warden Annie Burnside at a gala evening at Christie’s in Mayfair. The large and distinguished gathering included leading architects, historian David Starkey, architecture correspondents from The Times and The Daily Telegraph, and the members of the Georgian Group judging panel.

The Rt Hon Paul Boateng (LLB 1973), MP and Chief Secretary to the Treasury, visited the University in February to speak about faith and globalisation. His talk was the 11th Anne Spencer Memorial Lecture, an annual event that seeks to promote new thinking in theology and engage with contemporary issues.
A cure for type 1 diabetes may be in sight, thanks to researchers at Bristol and King’s College London. The two teams are preparing to test a vaccine on human subjects.

Type 1 diabetes, formerly known as juvenile onset diabetes, is caused by the presence of white blood cells that attack insulin-producing cells in the pancreas. People with type 1 diabetes tend to develop the condition before the age of 40 and have to inject themselves with insulin every day, or their blood sugar would reach fatally high levels. The vaccine follows work by Dr Polly Bingley and Professor Edwin Gale from Clinical Science at North Bristol, who evolved a technique for predicting with 90 per cent accuracy whether people will develop diabetes.

‘The word “vaccine” is a bit of a misnomer,’ said Dr Colin Dayan, Head of Clinical Research at the Henry Wellcome Laboratories for Integrative Neuroscience and Endocrinology. ‘Vaccines increase the immune response – we’re reducing it.’

The crucial ingredient is a tiny fragment of protein called a peptide, identified by co-researcher Professor Mark Peakman from King’s College London, that encourages the production of protective immune cells to defend the cells in the pancreas against attack. After successful results in animals, the team is now ready to begin trials in humans, jointly funded by the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation International and the Diabetes Vaccine Development Centre in Melbourne, Australia. Initially, injections will only be given to volunteers who have had diabetes for at least five years. ‘These patients will have no insulin-producing cells left,’ explained Dr Dayan, ‘so we can ensure that the white blood cells respond in the way we predict without putting any healthy insulin-producing cells at risk.’
British education system failing Turks and Kurds

Young Turkish people and Kurds are especially prone to school exclusion and failure to obtain qualifications, according to a new study by researchers in the Centre for the Study of Ethnicity and Citizenship.

Professor Harriet Bradley, Professor Tariq Modood and Research Fellow Dr Pinar Enneli carried out a survey of 250 young Turkish-speaking people in North London for the Joseph Rowntree Foundation. Their findings, also derived from 30 in-depth interviews, found high levels of truancy and serious discipline problems.

Almost a quarter of young Kurds said they had been excluded from school; four out of ten Turks and six out of ten Kurds said they had no formal qualifications. Many of these had attended ‘sink’ schools with high levels of tension and harassment between different ethnic groups. Kurds felt that they had been left by schools to fend for themselves.

‘We recommend that schools, colleges, careers agencies and local government departments should overcome their apparent blindness towards the Turkish-speaking communities and learn to perceive their needs,’ said Professor Bradley. ‘We would urge them to employ specialist staff who can work with young people from these communities to help them steer their way through the educational and other disadvantages that the research has identified.’
Cooling the brains of babies deprived of oxygen at birth can reduce the risk of brain damage and cerebral palsy, according to an international study published in *The Lancet* online.

The research was undertaken in hospitals in North America, New Zealand and the UK. The UK arm of the trial was carried out in the University of Bristol at St Michael’s and Southmead Hospitals, where most of the English babies were treated, at University College London Hospital and Imperial College London at Hammersmith Hospital.

To achieve cooling, the body temperature of babies in the trial was lowered by three to four degrees for 72 hours after birth, using a water-filled cap. The results indicate that, for some babies, cooling can reduce brain damage. Treatment may therefore be possible for babies deprived of oxygen at birth. But Professor Andrew Whitelaw, Professor of Neonatal Medicine, Clinical Science at North Bristol, highlights the necessity of gathering further information on the timing and methods of cooling before it becomes the standard of care for such babies.

Professor Hanks honour

Professor Geoffrey Hanks, Professor of Palliative Medicine at Clinical Science at South Bristol, has been selected to receive the Hambro Macmillan Fellowship. The award recognises outstanding contributions to improving the lives of people affected by cancer.

Professor Hanks was selected for his work on extending pain control and palliative care education. He received the award in December at the Reform Club in London, with the Dean of the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry, Professor Gareth Williams, also in attendance.
Her Majesty The Queen opened the University’s new £18.5 million research facility BLADE (Bristol Laboratory for Advanced Dynamics Engineering) on 25 February 2005. She was accompanied by His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh.

BLADE is located in the Queen’s Building, the Faculty of Engineering’s base. The original building was opened by the Queen on 5 December 1958 and has now been extended with two new, superbly equipped laboratory buildings.

It is playing a major role in developing the next generation of engineering systems. Aeroplanes, helicopters, bridges, buildings – these must be stronger, lighter, more reliable under variable conditions and less harmful to the environment.

By bringing together leading academics from a range of disciplines and adopting a ‘whole lifecycle’ approach – from analysis and design to construction and performance monitoring – BLADE is seeking to address these challenges. Aerospace engineers, civil engineers, computer scientists, engineering mathematicians, electrical engineers and mechanical engineers are pooling their expertise in the quest for practical solutions.

BLADE is also helping to reduce the possibility of engineering failures. Every year, thousands of lives are lost and billions of pounds wasted when materials, components and assemblages fail. At BLADE, researchers can undertake precisely controlled experiments to find out how structures and systems behave under extreme conditions.

Vice-Chancellor Professor Eric Thomas said: ‘This is probably the most advanced facility of its type in Europe and is helping to place the University and the city among the world leaders in this vital area of research, analysis and experiment.’
Inhabitants of a village in Palestine’s West Bank are planning to restore a cistern originally constructed by Bristol University students in 1960. Budrus, a small village of around 1,500 inhabitants, suffers from a serious shortage of water. In 1960, a group of Bristol students and staff built a simple concrete structure of 700 cubic metres volume, which stores enough rainwater to provide an entire population with water for household and agricultural use for a month.

In recent years, the increase in Jewish settlements in the area – Budrus is now encircled by seven – has put even more pressure on the village’s water resources, and, due to shortage of funds, the cistern has also fallen into disrepair.

The increasing importance of the cistern as a secondary water source has led the villagers of Budrus to seek to restore it and to repair the small road which leads to it.

For more information about the Budrus Cistern Restoration project, contact John Harte at johnharte@cantab.net.

GETTING TO GRIPS WITH THE BRISTOL DINOSAUR

Visually impaired students got hands on experience of the Bristol Dinosaur, thanks to a workshop organised by the Centre for Access and Communication Studies and Remmert Schouten from the Earth Sciences Department.

Remmert began by giving a history of the Bristol Dinosaur, while the students were able to feel and inspect fossils and bones from the dinosaur.

The students were also given raised diagrams of a skeletal impression of the Bristol Dinosaur and had the opportunity to feel a cast of the dinosaur’s front leg (pictured right).

Big day for part-time archaeology students

The first 11 students from the University’s part-time BA in Archaeological Studies graduated in February, and four of them graduated with a first.

It took them six years to complete, attending one weekend a month, as well as going on several digs, including uncovering the Roman mosaics at Bradford-on-Avon.

The part-time degree in archaeology was very much Time Team archaeologist and Emeritus Professor of Landscape Archaeology Mick Aston’s idea. He felt there should be an opportunity for those who missed out on university education to be able to study archaeology part-time at Bristol.

It is Mick’s vision to make archaeology accessible to all that has resulted in the great success of the degree.

There are now 70 students studying part-time for a BA in Archaeological Studies.
Two new centres for excellence

The teaching of both chemistry and medical sciences at Bristol will be transformed by funding worth £9 million from the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE), matched by a further £12 million from the University. The award will fund two Centres for Excellence in Teaching and Learning (CETLs).

Bristol ChemLabS (Bristol Chemical Laboratory Sciences) will feature laboratories and practices with state-of-the-art instrumentation and facilities for the e-learning of modern laboratory chemistry. The HEFCE funding will also be used to host fellowships for seconded schoolteachers, establish University Teaching fellowships and develop outreach programmes to engage pre-university students.

Dr Kim Howells, Minister for Lifelong Learning, Further and Higher Education, visited the School of Chemistry during a tour of the South West in January. He congratulated the University on its successful bid for CETL funding, and said that the School of Chemistry ‘shows us how our universities can be at the forefront of science teaching, rivalling the best in the world’.

The AIMS Centre (Applied and Integrated Medical Sciences) will pioneer the integration of medical sciences and clinical skills. The teaching of anatomy, physiology and pharmacology will include models, images and simulations of normal and diseased body structure and function. Resources will include a web-based library of images to aid study of the structure of tissues and organs; a Clinical Anatomy Suite, in which traditional approaches to anatomy teaching are complemented by digital imaging; a training centre for medical and dental undergraduates and surgeons at all stages of their careers; and computer-driven dummies which can simulate conditions such as heart disease and asthma.

Convocation Award winners

Two students, Dries Neirynck (PhD Electrical and Electronic Engineering 2003 - ) and Jill Meadows (PHD Chemistry 2003- ), were awarded a 2004 Convocation Award for their outstanding contribution to Bristol University life.

As President (2003/04) and former Vice-President of the Postgraduate Society (2002/03) and Departmental Research Student Representative (2002-03), Jill has represented postgraduates at every level in the University and the Students’ Union and has played a vital role in raising the Union’s awareness of postgraduate issues. Dries was President of the Postgraduate Society in 2002/03 and Chairman in 2003/04. He helped to establish a new Postgraduate Society, and played a key role in its evolution into the Postgraduate Union.

Dries and Jill are pictured left with Stuart Goldsmith (BA 1966), Chairman of Convocation.
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At the tender age of 26, Tom Avery (BSc 1998) became the youngest, and his team the fastest, ever to reach the South Pole. Two years on he’s planning to lead an expedition aimed at settling a century-old controversy over whether Robert Peary, the American explorer, was the first to reach the North Pole. Eve MacFarlane talks to Tom about his adventures and finds out what drives him to explore the ends of the earth.

When seven-year-old Tom first read about the adventures of polar explorer Captain Robert Falcon Scott, he was spellbound. ‘I was instantly captivated,’ he recalls. ‘What possessed these men to spend months trudging through hostile lands to reach a random spot on the map? At that moment I just knew I would follow in their footsteps.

Tom’s outdoor life started at school, when he took up climbing, and continued at Bristol, where he met other budding mountaineers in Manor Hall, his hall of residence. They got talking about expeditions and thought why not do their own? Tom threw himself into planning the Bristol University Inca Mountaineering Expedition, aiming to climb the highest peaks in Peru, and Bolivia.

Two years later and enough sponsorship had been raised to pay for the expedition. Tom learnt a lot during those six weeks. ‘It was a steep learning curve. My climbing skills improved, but I also learnt about myself – how strong my body is, how it responds when pushed to the limits, how I cope under pressure.’ But the biggest lesson for Tom was teamwork. ‘There are no limits to what you can achieve when you’ve got a good team.’

‘We shared an incredible experience,’ says Tom. ‘The flame of adventure had been kindled within us all. I vowed to return to the mountains again.’

And so he did. The next adventure was the 6,962-metre high Aconcagua, South America’s highest summit. It was here that Tom learnt another important lesson: how his body responds to altitude. ‘Things were going well until I realised that my toes had gone completely numb, the altitude was affecting my vision to the point I could barely see, my head felt as if it was going to explode and the only other person on the mountain was about 2,000 vertical feet below me. I was forced to admit defeat just two hours from the top, but not before I scared myself silly,’ he recalls. ‘There’ll be another opportunity to climb it though.’

After he graduated, Tom settled into a fairly regular twenty-something life in London, training to qualify as an accountant with Arthur Andersen. But he had a nagging feeling in the back of his mind that this wasn’t what life was about for him. ‘My heart wasn’t in it,’ he says. ‘I just couldn’t get passionate about auditing companies or tax.’ The turning point came when he failed an
important accountancy exam, something Tom describes as ‘the best thing that ever happened to me’. A few days later he picked up a very cushy job – a ski guide for a small Swiss company in Verbier in the Swiss Alps.

Tom continued to organise mountaineering expeditions, and the highlight of his climbing career to date took place in 2000 when he led a pioneering British expedition to the previously unexplored Eastern Zaalay Mountains of Kyrgyzstan. ‘It’s the dream of most mountaineers to climb where no one has been before,’ explains Tom. ‘There’s only a handful of these places left now – in Alaska, Tibet, Antarctica and deep in the jungles of Papua New Guinea.’

It’s the dream of most mountaineers to climb where no one has ever been before.

Along with three other Bristol alumni – Nick Stopford, George Wells and Patrick Woodhead (BA 1998) – he scaled over nine virgin peaks. ‘It’s incredible to get to the top and see a view that no-one has ever seen before,’ says Tom. ‘And if you are the first to climb a mountain, you can give it a name.’ Tom named one of the mountains, the 5,439-metre Pik Quenelda, after his mum, whose birthday fell on the day the team made the summit.

The Kyrgyzstan expedition served to whet Tom’s appetite for adventure even further, and his thoughts started to turn to his childhood dream: reaching the South Pole. The Commonwealth South Pole Centenary Expedition was the result of two years’ planning and hard work.

One journalist, perhaps rather unfairly, described the team as ‘more “dude where’s my crampon” than Scott of the Antarctic’. Tom himself describes his team as a ‘ramshackle team of polar novices’ when they set out. This is not to say that they were unprepared. They trained hard before arriving in the Antarctic. As well as a training trip to New Zealand, they built up their sledge-pulling strength by dragging tyres attached to their waists around Hyde Park. ‘We got some strange looks from dog-walkers,’ says Tom.

But no amount of hard work prepared them for the physical effort involved in walking to the South Pole. ‘In mountaineering, it’s three days of intense physical effort and then you chill out for a bit. Walking to the South Pole was relentless. We rested for two-and-a-half days in seven weeks,’ explains Tom. Pulling the sledge on the first day – when it is at its heaviest – was a bit of a shock as well. And nothing could have prepared them for the reality of this icy windswept continent. ‘You can read about, and try to imagine what it’s like. But it’s not even close.’

It didn’t take long for them to metamorphise into an efficient and successful team. ‘We got into a team routine,’ says Tom. ‘Everyone had their own bits of expertise.’

On 28 December 2002 the team reached the South Pole, in the fastest time ever. And Tom become the youngest Briton to complete the perilous journey. This record didn’t last long though. Just a week later Andrew Cooney, a 23-year-old scout leader from Nottinghamshire, snatched it from Tom. Was he disappointed? ‘I couldn’t care less,’ he says. ‘Only 120 people have ever made it to the South Pole. Most of them have broken a record – the youngest, fattest, slowest. For me it’s all about the journey.’

Tom describes this particular journey as – not surprisingly – the toughest thing he has ever done. He also describes it as the most enjoyable. ‘I love pushing myself,’ he explains. ‘I love being in the snow. It was a spectacular setting, and it was an amazing feeling to be following in the footsteps of Captain Scott. Okay, it was a bit uncomfortable sometimes, but that’s not going to make me give up. It was the perfect adventure.’

While he was plodding along, Tom did a lot of thinking. ‘It does become a real battle of the mind. The view doesn’t change. All you see is sky, snow and the sledge in front of you.’

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Left: Raging winds, the bane of the South Pole expedition

Condoriri’s summit ridge, the Andes

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While he was plodding along, Tom did a lot of thinking. ‘It does become a real battle of the mind. The view doesn’t change. All you see is sky, snow and the sledge in front of you. It’s just you and your thoughts. Some people can’t deal with it. I find it quite therapeutic. I get into a rhythm and daydream. It’s a great way of filtering out the general rubbish, like worrying about the double glazing. It concentrates your mind on what is really important and makes you really appreciate it.’ Didn’t he ever get bored? ‘Not once. Never.’
There was a break in the plodding. The team planned to harness the power of the relentless Antarctic winds – which can reach speeds of up to 200 miles per hour – and use state-of-the-art kites to power themselves across the ice. On the 33rd day of their expedition, the wind was finally blowing in the right direction and the time had come to try out the kites. Tom recalls this moment in his diary. “Poised on the snow 30 yards in front of me, my kite flaps around wildly, I tentatively pull on the handles. The kite soars into the air and I shoot off behind it. Absolutely bricking myself. Completely out of control, I am hurtling through a world of uniform grey, devoid of any horizon. Five minutes later I have already covered half a mile. Have a quick glance back to see how the others are getting on – stupid mistake. Taking my eyes off the kite for a split second, I lose what little control I had, causing the kite to accelerate across into the most powerful quarter of the wind. I am pulled off my feet and promptly bite the dust. Moments later, the 12-stone sled, which has been bouncing along noisily behind me, torpedoed straight into my back.”

So what was it like to walk those final few paces to the red and white polar marker side by side with his team mates? “It was a real mixture of emotions,” says Tom. “I was thrilled to have done it. But I was also completely knackered, so there was no euphoria. It was also touched with a tinge of sadness. ‘We’d just shared this amazing experience together, now it was all over,’ he explains. It wasn’t the untouched wilderness Tom and his mates had been expecting either. ‘There’s a whopping great science base built about 40 metres from the Pole; it’s a monstrosity. And there is rubbish strewn everywhere. When Captain Scott arrived he said: “Great God, this is an awful place”, and it is – but for very different reasons,’ says Tom. He also recalls how a group of scientists gathered to greet them, and asked if they wanted to visit the gift shop to buy a key-ring or a t-shirt.

Back in England, Tom keeps himself busy. He’s a regular on the motivation speaking circuit, visiting schools and businesses to talk about his expeditions. “I’m not trying to motivate people into taking up polar exploration,” says Tom. “I want to inspire people to make the most of their working and school lives; to grab every opportunity that comes their way. I draw on my own experiences in the world of exploration – teamwork, communication, planning and individual determination, and show how they are the key ingredients in achieving results in any environment.” On top of this, he raises funds for the Prince’s Trust and is an official ambassador for the London 2012 Olympic bid.

I want to inspire people to make the most of their school and working lives; to grab every opportunity.

He also wrote Pole dance, his personal account of the South Pole expedition. It was launched at Stringfellows nightclub in September 2004. Not as tenuous a link as you might imagine. Tom was looking for a publisher when he spotted Peter Stringfellow on the same flight as himself. He passed a note up to business class asking for help and promised to name the book Pole dance as a link between their two professions, and the rest is history.

Settling nicely back into London life again then? Well, not quite. For the past two years Tom has been planning his next adventure, this time to the icy wastes of the Arctic in spring 2005.

Along with four team mates and 16 husky dogs, he is heading to the North Pole in a bid to solve the greatest polar mystery of all time. Tom and his team are aiming to recreate the legendary American explorer Commander Robert Peary’s disputed 1909 expedition, when he claimed to have discovered the North Pole in an incredible 38 days. Mystery and controversy surround his expedition, and many still do not believe he could have done it in this time. The Barclays Capital Ultimate North Expedition aims to verify his claim once and for all by recreating as closely as possible Peary’s expedition; even down to using the same wooden sledges and breed of huskies.

Tom is absolutely convinced that Peary did do it. “The more I read his journals, the more I believe it. He was talented and driven and he was also a bit of a lunatic. If anyone could have done it, it was him. He worked with Inuit people and followed their ways of travelling – he realised they were the most qualified.”

He is feeling a bit nervous, however. “It’s going to be a lot tougher than the South Pole,” he says. “The Antarctic is minus 20 degrees, the Arctic is minus 40. And it’s constantly shifting terrain. You can camp 100 miles from the pole and wake up in the morning 110 miles from the Pole.” But he feels a lot more prepared this time. “The South Pole taught me a lot about the polar environment. I’ve become more efficient. I know what I need to do.”

So what is it that drives Tom to these unforgiving places, to go to such extremes to reach a point on a map? Put quite simply: adventure. “I have a real love of adventure. I’m always searching for the perfect adventure: the combination of risk, with a spectacular setting and a close team of adventurers. I trace it back to when I first read the book about Scott – that’s when the flame of adventure was ignited.”

Working in Downing Street, Peter Hyman (BA 1991) was a loyal, trusted, chief speech-writer and master of strategic communications. Then last year he quit his political career to be a classroom assistant in Islington Green school – a tough, inner-city comprehensive. Eve MacFarlane talks to this ex-editor of Epigram about being on the front line.

Tony Blair was apparently very surprised when Peter told him about his plans. Bright, successful, and evidently very good at his job, he had a glittering career in politics ahead of him. So what induced him to give it all up?

'It was nothing spectacular,' says Peter. 'I'd been doing it for ten years, and I knew I wanted to move on. I am passionate about education and I wanted to see what it was like on the front line. In government everything is on a macro-level, the big picture. It's all about the theory of policy. I was interested in finding out how to actually make things work operationally,' he explains.

So what were the first few weeks like? 'Incredibly exciting,' claims Peter. 'Suddenly I was released from all these meetings at Number 10. There was this incredible buzz everywhere – in the canteen, in the playground. And at the beginning I was just observing, so I didn't have any responsibility yet. I could just enjoy the experience.'

But he was also very conscious of his shortcomings, and clear that he was starting on the bottom rung. The first time he was sent to supervise the exclusion room, where children are sent when they become unmanageable in class, he had to be rescued by the deputy head. 'My strategic skills in Government were not the best in terms of controlling a class of unruly 14-year-olds,' he says.

However, he has been able to put his experience of editing Epigram to good use by setting up an after-school newspaper club, which produced the first school magazine called Whatever. 'It's one of the things I'm most proud of,' he says. 'They are incredibly talented kids and they've produced a fantastic magazine.' He's also been teaching the kids debating skills. 'It's something completely new for most of them,' explains Peter. 'To be able to articulate yourself well is a great skill to have in life.'

'Why the hell have you come to a place like this?' These are the words of a 12-year-old pupil upon meeting Peter Hyman, one of the Prime Minister's key strategists, in the playground.

So what has he learnt from working at Islington Green? 'I've seen how amazing the teaching is,' he says. 'I've sat in some inspirational lessons. I've learnt the importance of the accumulation of small things over time. I've also learnt just how challenging this job is; how difficult it is to build up authority. It's the low-level stuff that drives teachers mad – kids turning up late, forgetting their books.'

And has it changed his views on education? 'In Government, you have to have lots of momentum and initiatives, or people say you are adrift. You fire out policy on the micro-detail of school life. Now I can see that the Government should step back a bit and think: how can I make the jobs for those on the front line easier?'

As well as being a classroom assistant, Peter has also played a lead role in a move to rebuild the school as a city academy, partly funded by private interests. 'It will mean a new school with much better facilities,' he says. Has he faced any hostility from other staff? 'By and large, no. But some have been a bit suspicious of this New Labour bod coming into their school and making changes.'

So what next? He hasn't decided if he is going to stay on at the school and do teacher training, but he does know he wants to stay in education, something he is clearly committed to.

Does his passion for education extend to universities? Would he like to see more kids from schools like Islington Green make it to universities like Bristol? 'Of course,' he says. 'It's so important that access to university is open to all; it's absolutely vital. I know that Bristol University is doing a lot through its Widening Participation Unit. But it's also about building confidence in the kids while they're at school, through things like public speaking and debating.'

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The University’s financial strategy over the past decade has been to increase its operating surplus, which is used to sustain the fabric of the University, manage its borrowings and moderate its risks in order to become a sustainable organisation academically and economically. The word ‘sustainable’ is very important here. It means that the University can adapt to change and sustain its intellectual activity, its people, its buildings and its new investments from its financial surplus and the borrowings that the surplus can generate – essentially that it can describe a future that is not just about pleading for more government money.

The success of this strategy means that the University is now in a position to take advantage of increases in income and funding to create an adventurous investment strategy. The following developments and prospects have led to much greater optimism:

- **Borrowings** – the University’s financially stable position and increasing turnover mean it will be able to borrow more money.
- **Government income initiatives** – the University conservatively estimates that research and teaching at Bristol will receive over £20 million extra a year above inflation by 2008/09.
- **Government infrastructure support** – the University expects to get nearly £50 million over the next four years from the additional Science Research Investment Funds announced by the Chancellor.
- **Opportunity** – the University realised a significant sum from the sale of land at Long Ashton.
- **The centenary** – the University will be running a major fundraising campaign towards the 2009 centenary and will be expanding its Annual Fund.

All this means that the University should have an investment capacity of at least £250 million between next financial year and the centenary.

There will be many calls on that investment. First, the University will be using a significant proportion to ensure that what it is currently doing is sustainable. In fact the Government infrastructure support cannot be used to fund expansion of the University’s estate – it is principally for refurbishment. The extra research income is to fund the present volume of research activity properly rather than to increase it. And the extra income from fees will be used to improve existing teaching facilities and support the University’s Education Strategy. The University also has to accept that while income will rise as a result of its capital and other investments, so will its operating costs.

Nevertheless, the stronger financial position does mean the University will also have money for responsible investment in new buildings and staff. It already has an ambitious, £150-million precinct plan. It will be asking academic staff to suggest innovative ways of attracting new staff to build up areas of strength, particularly in research.

One idea is ‘cluster appointments’, where researchers are recruited to a number of different departments around a research theme, such as medievalism or nanotechnology. Investment of this kind is aimed at securing Bristol’s position in the top flight of UK and international research-intensive universities. Finally, the University will use fee income for new initiatives to improve the student experience as well as for refurbishment.

These are exciting times, with real money to invest in the University. Not every ambition can be fulfilled, but a lot can. Identifying areas for investment will entail very difficult choices about priorities. However, the University now stands able to make serious, strategic and responsible investments in its future. This is a unique opportunity – possibly even a watershed – and the University is committed to using it to the full.
Major plans are afoot for the development of the University’s precinct. The University’s Bursar Mike Phipps gives nonsuch readers a preview.

During the life of the University of Bristol there have been three attempts that are known of at creating a precinct masterplan for Bristol. The first could be said to be the plan for the Royal Fort area based around the HH Wills Physics Building. George Oatley planned a student residence on the site designed to a cloister arrangement. It never went ahead and the residential element was instead built at Stoke Bishop, becoming Wills Hall. At the same time it is recorded, somewhat vaguely, that HH Wills had a vision of seven towers atop the hill, presumably a continuation of the one tower of the physics complex.

In the 1950s we know that Percy Thomas Partnership designed a masterplan establishing University Walk and occupying most of the land down to present-day Park Row. This plan sought to demolish most of the western side of St Michael’s Hill. Only the Queen’s Building and School of Medical Sciences were ever completed.

Following the expansion of the early ’60s a further masterplan, and physical model, were developed by Architects Co-partnership. This was equally expansive and sought to demolish most of Woodland Road. Until about the year 2000, little in the way of a vision for the precinct was possible. Funds were uncertain and the University was limited in what it could achieve by the level of borrowing it could sustain. By 2000 a limit had been reached and although several major schemes had been possible, including the award-winning Arts Faculty development, there had not been a fresh look at the precinct as a whole since 1960.

A key factor in catalysing efforts into creating a new vision for the campus was the purchase of the former Children’s Hospital site on St Michael’s Hill. This acquisition, completed in 2000, provided a unique opportunity for development and the rejuvenation of large areas of the precinct by creating room for new facilities.

After two years of very hard effort we believe we now have a masterplan for the precinct that is progressive, forward looking, and achievable, given the funding that is going to be necessary to deliver it. In short, we are aiming to remodel the University to meet the challenges of the 21st century. We hope to produce an environment that is stunning and projects a world-class image to Bristol. What better vision to have as the highest point on Bristol’s cityscape than the top of a higher education establishment?

Several key and exciting advances are embedded in the new plan. Some of these are:

- A clear central social focus to the University creating a ‘sense of arrival’ at key points.
- A public realm that has a design and coherent theme that staff, students and the public will enjoy.
- New facilities for state-of-the-art science research and teaching which will be flexible and sustainable over the long term.
- A major centre to house the Library and Information Services, learning and teaching space and the Students’ Union right in the heart of the University on Tyndall Avenue.
- Physical linkage between the University and our city neighbours by opening up new pathways through the University.

The latest 3D outlines of the new buildings; the proposed nucleus complex; an artist’s impression of the area approaching the Hawthorns and an early impression of Tyndall Avenue. These illustrations are all in their early stages of design.
A new University Botanic Garden is being created within the grounds of The Holmes, at Stoke Bishop. Dr Simon Hiscock, Academic Director of the University Botanic Garden, reports on the evolution of this unique resource.

Work began on developing the new Botanic Garden last summer and already the glasshouses and support buildings have been erected and the garden landscaped in preparation for planting this spring. The new garden is expected to open towards the end of this summer, but the official public opening will not take place until spring 2006 when the plants will have had a year to establish themselves. The plant collections planned for display within the new garden will have a very tight focus on four key themes: Plant Evolution, Plants of Mediterranean Climate Regions, Useful Plants, and Local Flora and Rare Native Plants, which have been carefully chosen to fulfil the teaching, research and conservation requirements of a small University Botanic Garden in the 21st century.

The University’s investment in a new Botanic Garden will not only enhance the teaching of Plant Sciences within the University, it will also provide a unique teaching resource for local schools and a new cultural attraction for the City of Bristol. In deciding on the themes and contents of the four core collections, Nick Wray (the garden Curator) and I have received expert botanical and horticultural advice from, among others, Professor Sir Peter Crane (Director of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew), Joyce Stewart (former Director of Horticulture at the Royal Horticultural Society) and Lady Christine Skelmersdale (former Royal Horticultural Society council member, and managing director of Broadleigh Bulbs) who give generously of their time to sit on the newly established Curatorial Advisory Group formed to ensure delivery of the new Botanic Garden’s mission, summarised in the motto: ‘To educate, communicate and conserve’.

The evolutionary walk will take the form of a journey through geological time.

In drawing up a detailed design for the new garden, top garden designers Land Use Consultants, whose previous commissions include The Eden Project and Heligan, were commissioned. Their design, formally agreed by the Curatorial Advisory Group in July 2004, offers a meandering organic trail through a blend of informal and formal plantings that will be both educational and aesthetically pleasing.

Throughout the new garden emphasis will be placed on displaying plants that illustrate specific aspects of their evolutionary biology. The eponymous Plant Evolution collection will be central to this aim and will include some particularly exciting displays and sub-collections. These include an ‘evolutionary walk’ through a sunken dell, that charts the most important stages in the evolution of plants on land, from green algae to flowering plants, and a ‘DNA family tree’ of the flowering plants in the form of a branching tree of paths and family borders to illustrate their evolutionary relationships according to new classifications based on gene sequences.

The evolutionary walk will take the form of a journey through geological and evolutionary time from the Cambrian to the Cretaceous. At the beginning, primitive plants, such as liverworts, clubmosses and tree ferns, will be grown among rocks and fossil plant and animal remains (as casts) to create a crescendo of increasing plant diversity that will culminate in the Cretaceous with an explosion of flowering plants centred around a spectacular display of magnolias. Drs Liz Loeffler and Howard Falcon-Lang from the Department of Earth Sciences are giving expert palaeontological advice on developing this display and are sourcing rocks of the appropriate geological periods from local quarries that will help to guide students and visitors through this unique educational display.

The somewhat daunting task of turning the design for the new garden into reality by the summer falls to project manager Alan Stealey (Grounds and Services Manager), Nick Wray and their staff, who have been propagating plants in preparation for the move for the past two years. Most of the plants that will form the four themed collections will come from the old Botanic Garden at Bracken Hill, while new plant material, particularly for the Evolution Collection, will be acquired from other Botanic Gardens, such as Kew and Edinburgh, and even, in the case of the most primitive living flowering plant, Amborella

The fine collection of Mediterranean plants developed at Bracken Hill, which includes rock roses (Cistaceae) and...
Built in 1879 and situated opposite Churchill Hall, The Holmes is a large Victorian house that sits within 1.77 hectares of gardens, which contain a number of fine specimen trees. During the planning of the Normandy landings in 1944, The Holmes was used as a base for top US Army generals but today the house functions as a University hall of residence and small conference centre. The decision to develop a new Botanic Garden at The Holmes came about as a result of a review by the University of its estates and gardens policy. This resulted in a decision to sell Bracken Hill, the somewhat remote location of the current Botanic Garden since 1959, and develop a new Botanic Garden nearer to the University for improved and expanded access by students and the public. The relatively undeveloped ornamental garden at The Holmes was identified as an ideal location for the new garden because it is of comparable size to Bracken Hill and ideally situated just off the Downs on Stoke Park Road.

If you wish to support the new Botanic Garden you can become a Friend of the University Botanic Garden. Tel: +44 (0) 117 973 3682 or visit www.bristol.ac.uk/Depts/BotanicGarden/friends.htm to download an application form.

many species of aromatic herbs, will be moved to The Holmes, where plants will be displayed according to their region of origin: the Mediterranean Basin, the South African Cape, Chile, South and South-Western Australia and California. Emphasis will be placed on illustrating the concept of convergent evolution: the similarity in plant form evolved by plants in different regions of the world, despite their lack of evolutionary relatedness.

The Chinese medicinal herb collection, recently established at Bracken Hill, will also be moved to The Holmes as part of the Useful Plants Collection, and will be relocated in the shadow of a splendid established ginkgo. This will allow further development and expansion of the collection as a valuable teaching resource for Chinese herbal medicine.

Central to the design of the new garden will be a large body of water that will display a range of aquatic plants, including water lilies, as well as providing an important habitat for amphibians and other animal pond life. The margins of the water will provide a habitat for native and threatened plants local to the Somerset Levels, while a rocky area set back from the water will display rare plants from the Avon Gorge, such as the Bristol Onion, Spiked Speedwell and Bristol Whitebeam. The development and expansion of the Local Flora and Rare Native Plants Collection will fulfill the new Botanic Garden’s commitment to be part of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation.

To complement the outdoor displays, tender elements of the four core collections will be housed within a new glasshouse complex divided into four climatic sections: tropical, sub-tropical, warm arid and temperate. A central feature of the tropical section will be a raised pond where the giant water lily Victoria amazonica will be grown surrounded by aroids and tropical crop plants such as bananas, sugar cane, and various spice bushes. The sub-tropical section will house epiphytic orchids and bromeliads as well a new collection of primitive flowering plants, such as Amborella, from remote Pacific Islands.

Over the next few months a new Botanic Garden will emerge and blossom at The Holmes to provide the University and City of Bristol with a unique botanical and cultural resource for the future. Regular progress reports will soon appear on a new Botanic Garden website (currently under construction) in preparation for a formal opening in the summer ahead of the official opening next spring. Professor Sir Peter Crane said of his involvement with the project: ‘This is an important investment by the University that will not only enhance teaching and research, but that will also further enrich the City of Bristol for all its citizens.’

Pleione bulbocodioides

Kadsura (male)
Twenty-two and straight out of his studies, David Sheppard (BA 2004) has achieved all three of his ‘by the time I’m 30’ ambitions already: to be a radio presenter, to have a BBC email address and to interview Terry Wogan. Eve MacFarlane talks to the freshest face on local radio about his meteoric rise.

It started back in 1988 with an appearance on his local commercial radio station as ‘Young DJ of the Day’, aged six. David’s lofty ambitions to become a bus-driver were instantly curtailed, and his attentions became firmly focused on broadcasting. ‘I vividly remember seeing the dark studio and finding the whole thing completely and utterly fascinating,’ he recalls.

David was quick to get involved in the University’s student radio station BURST as soon as he arrived at Bristol. ‘I tracked them down at the Fresher’s Fair,’ he says. ‘It took a while. They were fairly new and small, and I found their tiny stall tucked away in a corner. I joined up, warning the girl running the stall that if I got a slot I’d be more Radio 2 than Radio 1. She seemed to think I was joking and took me on.’

But he wasn’t joking. ‘Far too many years’ of listening to BBC Radio 2 had left an indelible mark on David. ‘My style is quite old-fashioned for student radio. I was seen as a bit of an eccentric, older than my years and Woganesque,’ he admits. ‘But people seemed to like it. I think a lot of the students thought I was being ironic, but actually I was just being me. I think I was the only student presenter who could get away with playing Hall and Oates.’

The students certainly did like his style. He was voted best presenter and his own lunchtime slot became legendary for such features as The Lunchtime Grill Quiz and Smash Hits. ‘Smash Hits was the Room 101 of pop music,’ explains David. ‘We would play records people love to hate with a sound effect in the background of something being smashed. They were generally tunes from the ’80s, things like Startrekking by the Firm, and early Kylie songs. People would pass me on Woodland Road and say: “David, I’ve got a great idea for Smash Hits. What about...”’

In his third year, he became station manager at BURST. He worked on raising the profile of the station. ‘We bought a van, put some big transfers on the side and drove around with a megaphone at lunchtime,’ David says. He also looked at other ways of broadcasting; they broadcast online and bought intermittent FM licenses. ‘We were a cat’s whisker away from getting an AM license (a full-time license to

David on air at Radio Berkshire
broadcast on the radio on a lower power, therefore much cheaper than FM) when I left,” says David. BURST is still working on this. When it does get it, it will be one of the first radio stations on a non-campus university to run an AM licence.

The highlight of David’s time at BURST was a four-week broadcast period on FM while he was station manager. ‘The atmosphere was amazing. Everyone was putting loads of thought and work into their shows and there was a real feeling of all of us working together as a team,’ he remembers.

It was during this period that David managed to secure an interview with his idol – Terry Wogan. ‘The Wogan interview created a massive buzz around campus,’ recalls David. ‘The posters advertising the interview became collectors’ items. They’d go up on Wednesday and by Thursday they’d be gone. Terry was great to interview – the model of a professional broadcaster. Afterwards we started getting loads of email messages from listeners – so many it froze our computer. That was a first for us.’

It wasn’t all smooth sailing though. David remembers a period when there were strange intermittent sounds during the evening programmes. ‘No-one could fathom what they were. Sometime later, we discovered that it was interference from the lifts going up and down the Union building,’ he chuckles. ‘Another time I remember one chap who left his microphone on during a news bulletin. As the newsreader read out a serious story about a kidnapping, his entire conversation – including inappropriate comments on the kidnapping – was broadcast over the top of the news.’

During the University holidays, David started doing some work at BBC Radio Berkshire. ‘I started off doing the jobs no-one else wanted to do, like answering the phones on Christmas day,’ he says. He also joined BBC Radio Bristol as a broadcast assistant, working there in the evenings and between lectures. He remembers getting a call from the programme controller late one evening in January 2004. ‘He said that the presenter for drive-time was ill and could I stand in for him. It was a prime time show, so I was incredibly nervous. It was quite a serious newsy programme – very different from anything I’d done at BURST. After about ten minutes I began to relax and really enjoy it – it was great experience.’

Since graduating in July 2004, David has continued to work for both BBC Radio Berkshire and Bristol. ‘I do a real old mixed-bag of things,’ he says. As a presenter he anchors live programmes for early-breakfast, afternoon and drive-time slots on BBC Radio Berkshire. He often produces Andrew Peach’s mid-morning ‘phone-in programme, and has studio-produced programmes for a variety of presenters, including Joe Brown, Steve Madden, Maggie Philbin, Jon Briggs and Phil Kennedy.

He also drives programmes for outside broadcasts and guest presenters, including Paul Daniels and Jenny Hanley. He works on the Richard Lewis Show, the live regional programme broadcast nightly on BBC Radio Bristol. As well as preparing programme material and audio, David is a popular part of the on-air team.

So what’s it like working with all these ‘old greats’ of radio? ‘Paul Daniels is a brilliant presenter but he doesn’t have a clue about the technical side, so I do all that for him. He’s good fun to work with. The first time I met him he’d already done a handkerchief trick before he’d got in the building. Bruce Forsyth did a bank holiday show just before the launch of Strictly Come Dancing. He was charming and polished – the perfect professional presenter. I’ve learnt a lot from being around these people,’ says David.

But it is Richard Lewis who has influenced David the most. ‘He used to produce a lot of the Saturday night TV I’d watch in my youth, like Telly Addicts,’ explains David. ‘I’ve learnt a lot from him, especially about how to engage with people. It’s done wonders for my style in terms of connecting with people and getting your personality across. A silent pause, or playing the right record at the right time, can be a lot funnier than delivering a good line. If you get the timing right, people will already be laughing.’

Has he had any fan mail yet? ‘There are a couple of listeners who write in regularly. Charles from Slough seems to be a particular fan at the moment. It’s nice that he’s connected with me,’ says David. ‘Although Charles from Slough probably isn’t every young male DJ’s idea of the perfect fan,’ he adds.

So, where does he go from here? ‘I’d definitely like to work on presenting,’ David says. ‘Five years ago I thought I could never be a presenter. When I was at BURST, I began to think it might happen. Now I feel I’m definitely on the right route. Maybe one day I’ll be a presenter on Radio 2 – who knows.’

For now David is just enjoying doing what he loves. ‘It still feels like fun. I think I’ve wanted it for too long for the novelty to ever wear off.’
Bristol Reunited 2005

Friday 1 July to Sunday 3 July

Have you been reminiscing about your student days and wondering whatever happened to your old friends and colleagues? Are you interested in visiting your University to see what’s changed?

All alumni are warmly invited to the Convocation Reunion Weekend 2005. It was a resounding success last year, and we saw a huge increase in the numbers of people attending. So much so, that this year many of the events are being held in new, larger venues.

Please see the pull-out in the centre of this magazine for a full programme of events. Details of ‘mini reunions’ taking place over the weekend can be found on pages 32 and 33 of the main magazine.

special invitation

for 1955, 1965, 1975 and 1985 graduates

This year, the University is inviting everyone celebrating the 25th-, 30th-, 40th- and 50th-anniversary of their graduation to return to the University as part of the Convocation Reunion Weekend for a special reunion. We hope to give you the opportunity to meet old friends, make new friends, find out more about University activities, visit your old department and, above all, have a lot of fun.

Our 1955 graduates are invited to lunch in the beautiful Victoria Rooms where you can enjoy a drinks reception and a two-course lunch. A special lunch will be held for the 1965 graduates in the splendour of the Great Hall in the Wills Memorial Building. The graduates of 1975 and 1980 are invited to a garden party in the grounds of Royal Fort House.

If you are a graduate from 1955, 1965, 1975 or 1980 and haven’t yet received an individual invitation letter, please contact the Campaigns and Alumni Relations Office. Tel: + 44 (0) 117 928 7939 or email reunion-2005@bristol.ac.uk.

You could also visit www.bristol.ac.uk/alumni/reunion2005 to check attendee lists and to see if you can help us reach any of your ‘lost’ contemporaries.

We look forward to seeing you, your family and friends and welcoming you back to the University of Bristol.
Graduates from 1995 are invited to celebrate ten years since graduating with a special reunion in the Students’ Union. Pimms on the terrace at 7.30 pm will be followed by a buffet in the Avon Gorge suite and a disco.

If you can get to Bristol in the morning, join us to cheer along Bristol in the annual University boat race with the University of the West England (see www.thevarsity.co.uk). For further information and to check attendees and ‘lost’ lists, please visit www.bristol.ac.uk/alumni/reunion2005/10 or contact the Campaigns and Alumni Relations Office.
7 May 2005

**Class of 1995 Reunion**
Can you believe it’s now almost ten years since you graduated from Bristol? Come along to celebrate this milestone at a special reunion event in the Students’ Union on Queen’s Road. Plimms on the terrace at 7.30 pm will be followed by a buffet in the Avon Gorge suite. Then there will be a disco, so you can dance the night away (just like the old days). You could also organise a ‘mini-reunion’. If you would like to get together with a group of old hall or course friends, please let the Campaigns and Alumni Relations Office know. Tel: +44 (0) 117 928 8612/7939 or email reunion-2005@bristol.ac.uk.

**University Boat Race**
The annual University boat race will be celebrating ten great years. This year there will be a real needle match between Bristol and the University of the West of England (UWE). Bristol won the first eight boat races, but has lost the last two and UWE is eager to complete the hat-trick. The races are to take place in the Floating Harbour with the first race at 11 am and the last – the Senior Men’s VIII – at about 3.30 pm. You’ll be able to get a good view from the pedestrian-friendly Hotwells Road quayside so come along and add your cheers for Bristol. For more information please see www.th-varsity.co.uk.

8 May 2005

**1960, 1961 and 1962 History Graduates’ Reunion**
These reunions are becoming popular annual occasions, and involve lunch at a local restaurant, an opportunity to exchange news and renew old friendships and the chance to see something of the new Bristol, which has changed so much since the 1960s. For more information, please contact Jo Edmonds (née Jarrett). Tel: +44 (0) 1276 24550 or email tedmonds@waitrose.com.

21 May 2005

**1965 Medical Graduates’ Reunion**
Robert Jarvis (MB ChB 1965) is organising a quinquennial reunion for alumni graduating in Medicine in 1965. The reunion will be held at the Bristol Marriott Royal Hotel on College Green. Everyone is welcome. For further information, please contact Robert. Tel: +44 (0) 1692 670617 or email rjt.jarvis@btinternet.com.

28 May 2005

**1975 Medical Graduates’ Reunion**
Join other 1975 medical graduates for a dinner at the Thistle Hotel in Bristol. For more information, please contact Terry Kemple. Tel: +44 (0) 1275 375690 or email bristolmedics1975@yahoo.co.uk.

6 June 2005

**Alaska - Voyage of the Glaciers**
As part of the Alumni Travel Programme, in association with Collette Vacations, why not travel to Alaska? For a full itinerary, go to www.collettevacations.co.uk/group/ubalumni/ao.cfm.

1-2 July 2005

**1965 Physics Graduates’ Reunion**
A ‘40 years after’ reunion of physics graduates will be held at the start of the Convocation Reunion Weekend in July 2005. It will feature presentations by the Department of Physics on current research and a dinner at Browns. If you have not been contacted about this, please get in touch, as soon as possible, with Alastair Scott for further information. Email alastair.f.d.scott@btopenworld.com.

1-3 July 2005

**Acton Society – Celebration of the 50th Anniversary of Graduation**
A 50-year reunion for history graduates of 1955 will take place over the Convocation Reunion Weekend. Please contact Roy and Hannah Davies (née Bailey) for more information. Tel: +44 (0) 1432 341154 or email royandhannah@thedavies.f9.co.uk.

2 July 2005

**Engineering Mathematics Graduates’ Reunion**
The Department of Engineering Mathematics is celebrating the 25th anniversary of its first graduates and all graduates over the past 25 years are invited to attend. You’ll meet former and current staff and students, have an opportunity to see what has happened to the Queen’s Building and find out about exciting developments in the Engineering Mathematics Department.

There’ll also be a Reunion Dinner in the Great Hall, Wills Memorial Building on Saturday evening. Partners are warmly invited.

Email enm-alumni@bristol.ac.uk to express your interest in this event and the department will then contact you with the details nearer the time. Further details of the event will appear at www.enm.bris.ac.uk/25.html.
A number of Economics and Accounting graduates have already pencilled 2 July 2005 into their diaries for lunch in the Great Hall with other graduates from that year. Additionally, David Clarke is organising a meal in a Bristol restaurant that evening. All accountants (including graduates of 1964 and 1966), friends from Churchill, other halls and, of course, all partners would be most welcome. For further information, please contact David Clarke. Email davidfasb@aol.com.

Department of Earth Sciences

Graduates of the Department of Earth Sciences are invited to this event to meet with one another and some of the current and former staff. After a tour of the department there will be the unveiling of the S H Reynolds Lecture Theatre and of the new Earth Sciences mural by local artist Bob Nicholls.

You’ll be able to hear lectures on dinosaurs and volcanology and on the Sunday morning go on a walking field trip to see the building stones of the University area. The registration fee of £20 includes coffees, teas and ploughman’s lunches on both days. The department is also hosting the Convocation visit and reception on the evening of Friday 1 July. (See the Convocation Reunion Weekend pull-out for details and booking form.)

Please contact Dr Liz Loeffler, Museum Curator for more information. Tel: +44 (0) 117 954 5415 or email liz.loeffler@bristol.ac.uk.

16-18 September 2005
1959 Medical Graduates’ Reunion

The reunion will be held in the Jury’s Hotel, Bristol. All members of the Class of 1959 are invited to attend. For further information, please contact Sylvia McLauchlan (née Smith). Tel: +44 (0) 1483 285144 or email derek@mclauchland.freeserve.co.uk.

2006 IMA travel dates for your diary

22 to 31 March 2006. Total eclipse of the sun, Libya. Visit the superb remains of Roman North Africa and see the total eclipse.

1 to 8 July 2006. Burgundy Hotel Barge Cruise, France. Float through the vineyards of Burgundy – sybaritic travel with mediaeval overtones.


26 September to 7 October 2006. Iliad Cruise, Turkey – Troy and Ephesus and a one week Aegean cruise.

www.bristol.ac.uk/events
for a full list of University events. Here are just a few of the highlights.

10 May 2005
Lantern of the West: Wills Memorial Building with David Skelhorne

The tower of the Wills Memorial Building has become a symbol of the University of Bristol itself. This tour will give an insight into both the history and some of the current academic activity connected with the building.

24 May 2005
Bristol’s Literary Heritage: Walking Tour of Bristol II with Elvyn Griffiths

One of two walking tours glimpsing places where British writers have worked and lived in Bristol.

4 June 2005
New Home for University’s Flora: the new Botanic Garden with Nicholas Wray, Curator

A tour around the grounds of The Holmes, Stoke Bishop, where the new Botanic Garden is taking shape and where you will be able to experience the Garden’s growth so far.

11 June 2005
From Iron to Victorian Age: Burwalls House and Gardens with Anita Sims

A tour round this mid-19th century house will include a discussion on the Iron Age banks and ditches of the fort still visible today.

22 June 2005
The World of the Stage: University of Bristol Theatre Collection with Jo Elsworth

Described as one of Bristol’s well-kept secrets, the University’s Theatre Collection is the UK’s largest theatre archive outside the Victoria and Albert Museum. The Keeper of the Collection will lead this talk and short tour of the archives.

For further information or to book a place, please contact Joan Lewis in the Public Programmes Office. Tel: +44 (0) 117 928 7157, email joan.lewis@bristol.ac.uk.
Danny Robins (BA 1998) and Dan Tetsell (BA 1995) met at Bristol University in 1995, where they formed student comedy sketch team Club Seals with Marcus Brigstocke (Drama 1995-1997), now a successful comedian himself. They have written and worked together ever since. As well as numerous performances at the Edinburgh Festival, they have had their own TV programme, created original series for Radio 4, and written for such luminaries as Ronnie Barker and Basil Brush. Eve MacFarlane talks to Danny and Dan about their time at Bristol and finds out how they forged a career out of making people laugh.

It was a ‘Welcome to Freshers’ cabaret back in 1996 that brought Danny, Dan and Marcus together. Danny and Marcus were first-year drama students, and Dan, who had just graduated, was doing stand-up at the cabaret. Marcus arrived at the event wearing a three-piece suit. ‘He handed out business cards to everyone,’ recalls Dan. ‘Those cheap ones you get printed off at petrol stations. He had the address of his bed-sit on the back. He said he had some money from an uncle and was going to start a comedy club.’ ‘And later on Marcus came back and found these cards lying all over the floor,’ says Danny. ‘He was devastated. Everyone else had thrown them away, except for me and Dan.’

And so Club Seals was born. In the beginning, it was a group of seven. ‘We had these lavish shows,’ remembers Danny. ‘We did about two or three a term, and ended up with our own dancers called the Sealettes.’

There was a big demand for their comedy. ‘Bristol hadn’t got involved in student comedy, so we came in and invented the scene,’ says Danny. They also did some creative marketing. One evening they tied inflatable clubs and fluffy seals on all the lamp-posts along Woodland Road. ‘We created a real buzz,’ says Danny. ‘At our high point we had about 400 people at one of their shows in the Union, which was unprecedented.’

Club Seals is a name that everyone remembers. It’s also the kind of name that puts certain people off. ‘The first year we tried to get sponsorship, and one company replied saying we were “trivialising an atrocity”’, remembers Dan, ‘which we then got printed on t-shirts and wore to Edinburgh.’

‘We created a real buzz. At one point we had about 400 people at one of our shows in the Union, which was unprecedented.’

They first went to the Edinburgh Festival in 1996 and again in 1997. But by 1997 Club Seals had been somewhat culled and they were down to three. ‘We mentally grew,’ says Dan. ‘The first year we were only there for two weeks and there were seven of us. The second year we were there for a whole month and there were three of us. There were no fewer arguments,’ adds Danny. ‘And no fewer props. Or stupid hats.’

Talking of props, a certain replica AK 47 once got them into a spot of trouble with Marcus’ future in-laws. ‘We had this sketch about a mercenary,’ explains Dan. ‘Pointless sketch really, but it involved me stripping down an AK 47. We’d used a toy gun for a while, then we found a man who had this replica AK 47 and we asked if we could borrow it.’

‘Marcus’ girlfriend collected it for us from the Drama Department, where it had been used in a play,’ Dan continues. ‘She put it in her car, without any wrapping, and drove to London. Then she gave the car to her brother, Piers, and asked him to take it back to the house for Marcus, Danny and Dan. So Piers drives into Highgate – where the family live and which is famous for having lots of diplomats – parks outside the house and pulls out an authentic AK47 rifle and starts walking down the street.’

Danny steps in: ‘At which point, not surprisingly, an armed response unit arrives. They throw him to the ground, shouting “drop the gun drop the gun”, with a machine gun pointing at his head, and he gets dragged off to Paddington Green high-security police station. Meanwhile, the family house is raided by the anti-terrorist squad. They’re quite a countrified family, so the police find a room full of shot guns and the house gets completely turned over.’ ‘And we were in the dog-house for about a year,’ says Danny. ‘I maintain to this very day that it wasn’t our fault,’ protests Dan. ‘I mean, who carries an assault weapon down the street?’

It was in 1998 that things really began to happen for Club Seals. They started to meet producers, Dan and Marcus both got to the final of the BBC New Comedy Awards and then they got their big break – BBC2 commissioned We Are History, a series involving short spoofs lampooning personality-driven TV history documentaries. ‘It was quite amazing. In three months we’d gone from nervously handing a sketch to the
producers to knowing we’d got a BBC2 TV series,” says Danny.

They were soon writing sketches for Radio 4 as well. One of their early sketches on *The Way It Is*, a late-night topical show, received a record number of complaints. James Boyle, the then controller of Radio 4, told the producer that whoever wrote the sketch must be ‘vicious insensitive morons’. Are they? ‘No,’ they both cry. ‘We’re not insensitive and definitely not vicious. We may be moronic every now and again.’

The pair credit the Edinburgh Festival with playing an important role in their careers. *The Museum of Everything*, which is now a successful Radio 4 series, started off as at Edinburgh in 2002. It’s themed around the world of museums, galleries, guided tours, stately homes, historical re-enactors and obsessive collectors and set in the vaguely mystical environs of the Museum of Everything. The guides are a pair of long-suffering, underpaid West Country museum attendants (inspired by the University’s porters) who pop up to remind us of museum rules and announce forthcoming attractions.

The show taps into the popular fascination with history, a theme throughout Dan and Danny’s work. ‘We’ve done loads of sketches about museums,’ explains Danny. ‘We’ve always been interested in history and we both, quite sadly, like going to museums.’

Which is lucky, because they had to visit a lot of dusty, waxwork-populated museums as research for *The Museum of Everything*, including Merlin’s Cave in Tintagel (a bargain at just 60p) and Pitt Rivers in Oxford with ‘drawers full of stuff that weird Victorians had collected’.

*The Live Ghost Hunt* was another Edinburgh success, combining comedy with supernatural terror. ‘To start off with we are two buffoons,’ explains Dan. ‘By the end the lights have failed, there’s a woman trapped in the cellar, a ghost is coming up the stairs. The buzz of having a full audience in Edinburgh screaming and jumping out of their seats was amazing.’

But the work they are most proud of is *Paperback Hell*, a series of fifteen-minute satires on Radio 4 tackling a variety of literary styles in which they spoof everything from life-style self-help books to chick-lit. Described as ‘A Book At Bedtime for people who choose their reading in the airport’, parodies include *Black Teeth Lane* by Zandra Jones (A sprawling Booker-nominated epic of life in London’s immigrant Welsh Methodist community).
‘Have you noticed how characters in modern novels by female writers are so often “plump, buck-toothed but intelligent” and obviously autobiographical?’

They may be the most proud of *Paperback Hell*, but writing for the *Basil Brush Show* was their ‘dream job’. ‘It gave us great kudos at parties,’ says Danny. ‘And we got to write loads of jokes. It’s very satisfying to come up with a really good joke and Basil is a great mouthpiece for them.’

What attracted them to Basil? ‘He has a very clear comic voice,’ answers Dan. ‘He’s fully formed and not like anyone else. He’s a bit naughty, but he’s clever. And he gets away with really bad jokes. Who else can deliver “Why do fish go to sea?” and I had to check with the Tennyson line ‘I am part of all that I have around you. That’s why you can never write comedy if you’re a recluse who sits on your own at home. You’d be a novelist.’ Did the people of Bristol inspire you? ‘We have the control of being writers and performers,’ says Dan. ‘We’d like to do our own sitcom.’

Do they think there should be any taboo topics in comedy? ‘I think you can joke about anything at some point if it’s the right joke,’ says Danny. ‘You have to know the reason why you’re doing it. Comedy is full of victims. If you’re on stage and you make a joke about a heart attack, someone is sitting in the audience who has just lost someone to a heart attack, then they’re going to see the joke very differently to everyone else. You have to acknowledge that someone is going to be offended by something you say.’

Your comedy is a product of where you grew up, all the people you’ve met, all the things you see around you.

Have they ever really offended anyone? ‘We had a letter that said “How can you joke about Mary Queen of Scots? Do you know what it’s like to have your head chopped off? Not only was she alone that day, but it was very cold...”’

Do they think they have a peculiarly English humour? Danny quotes the Tennyson line ‘I am part of all that I have made’. ‘It’s very true in comedy,’ he explains. ‘Your comedy is the product of where you grew up, all the people that you’ve met, all the things you see around you. That’s why you can never write comedy if you’re a recluse who sits on your own at home. You’d be a novelist.’

Have they got any advice for budding comedy writers? ‘Watch and listen as much as you can,’ says Danny. ‘I can’t think of many examples of people who had talent and utter determination who haven’t succeeded.’

Do many women make it into comedy writing? ‘Well, no actually. We’ve got a writers’ lunch booked in next week. All male, all white, all middle-class. But it is changing. In *According To Bex* we’re the only men in the writing team,’ says Danny. Is that different? ‘Well they’re nice to look at,’ he quips. ‘No really, they’re very talented. It can get a bit stale when it’s all men. Literally.’

‘Dan’s girlfriend is a comedian and she’s a woman,’ Danny points out. ‘I’ve tried to stop her,’ jokes Dan. ‘I’ve told her you can either be a woman or you can work in comedy – I’m not allowing both. Ha ha BOOM BOOM!’

Very funny. Basil would be proud.
As the nation votes this spring, the University's Special Collections Department will attempt to gather in a permanent record of the issues, personalities and party promises, constituency by constituency. The resulting collection will join an unrivalled and unbroken record of general, and, more recently, European Parliament elections, dating back to 1892. Michael Richardson provides an insight into this remarkable collection.

The Election Address Collection is widely consulted by political parties, Members of Parliament, journalists and students of politics. Historians make use of its riches in conjunction with a vast accumulation of printed and manuscript materials, formerly the library of the National Liberal Club, and it is with them in mind particularly that the Library seeks to extend its collections of election ephemera.

During this election, letters will be sent to every candidate, requesting copies of election addresses and other supporting literature. Party manifestos will be tracked down; frequently in the case of small parties, but occasionally for major ones, such documents have to be intercepted on the web.

The Library also seeks to retrospectively extend its collection. Recent acquisitions include a scrapbook concerning the Mid-Glamorgan by-election of 1910, when Liberal constituency feeling successfully rebelled against central party alliance with Labour. New holdings of cartoons, poll-cards, songs and other handbills from the Bristol of 1878 and 1880 offer an insight into a by-election and later general election dominated by the foreign policy of Disraeli’s government, with the Liberal camp highly critical of costly interventionism.

In 1878 Britain had just acquired the right to administer Cyprus in return for guaranteeing the Ottoman Empire against any advance of Russia into the Middle East. The Welsh iron-master Sir Ivor Guest unsuccessfully contested the vacant seat in the Conservative interest against the Liberal Lewis Fry.

In 1880 Gladstone’s famous general election campaign emphasised the right to life and peace of Afghan mountain-dwellers and Zulu tribesmen. Jingoists in London on occasion threatened the physical safety of Gladstone but the mood of the country as a whole was reflected in the return of the Liberals Morley and Fry to represent the two-member constituency. Nevertheless, a warning bell was sounded in the defection of a former Liberal, E S Robinson, who stood as an independent, declaring respect for imperial policies.

Other issues included the licensing laws, on which the Conservatives campaigned as the friends of the working man’s Sunday, the state of working-class housing, and Irish home rule, for which Irish voters were urged to unite in favour of the Liberals.

Left: 1880 election poster depicting Elisha Robinson at the gates of Constantinople, according to the milestone 1750 miles from Bristol Bridge. Above: Sir Ivor Guest’s grandmother seems little pleased with Disraeli’s smug image. The Conservative candidate in the Bristol elections of 1878 and 1880, Sir Ivor Guest, laboured under the disadvantage of an outsider to the constituency and sought to make up ground by emphasising the fact that his maternal grandmother had been a resident in Bristol.
getinvolved

There are lots of different ways for former students to be involved with the Bristol University community, from helping current students with careers advice, to welcoming students from overseas.

HELP CURRENT STUDENTS
Do you remember all those decisions you had to make when you were approaching the end of your time at University? What would you do next? Graduate placement or further study? How would you get your foot on the career ladder?

Now you’re established in your career, why not give current students and recent graduates a helping hand in planning their working lives?

WORK EXPERIENCE
The demand for good-quality careers-related work experience for the Christmas, Easter, and summer vacations is high and steadily increasing. There is a particular need for those students who are the first in their family to attend university.

If you think you may be able to employ students, offer work shadowing or the possibility of an informal visit even for a day, please contact Graduate Recruitment @Bristol.
Tel: +44 (0) 117 928 8234 or email G-R@Bristol.ac.uk.

CONTACTS SCHEME
This scheme enables students to get in touch with Bristol graduates involved in the type of work they might wish to pursue. Students have indicated that the contacts scheme can be a significant factor in helping them to decide on their long-term career.

If you think you may be able to help, contact Lesley Castens.
Tel: +44 (0) 117 331 7074, email: l.d.castens@bristol.ac.uk.

If you would like to offer such hospitality to a student from abroad, or to have further details about HOST, please contact its Head Office. Tel: +44 (0) 207 254 3039 or visit www.hostuk.org.

If you live in or near Bristol or Bath, please ask the Convocation Office to pass your contact details to the local voluntary organiser.

SKILLS FOR SUCCESS PROGRAMME
Run at the Careers Advisory Service, each workshop gives students the opportunity to meet, work with and learn from a range of top graduate recruiters. Students can choose from topics including presentation skills, team working, making applications, interview skills and negotiation.

If you work for a company that employs graduates and would like to find out more, please contact Vivienne Saxon. Tel: +44 (0) 117 928 8226 or email vivienne.saxon@bristol.ac.uk.

PROVIDE ACCOMMODATION
Most new first-year full-time undergraduates, who apply by a certain date, will be offered University accommodation. However, some students, who apply after the cut-off date, may be advised to arrange temporary accommodation until late places are available. Each term some 300 European exchange students spend part or the whole of the term at Bristol. Many of these students would like to stay with an English-speaking family. Temporary accommodation is always needed for students who are attending one of the many short courses that are, increasingly, part of the University’s academic programme.

If you are able to offer accommodation on either a short- or long-term basis, please contact Nicola Minton in the Accommodation Office.
Tel: +44 (0) 117 954 5740, email nicola.minton@bristol.ac.uk or visit www.bristol.ac.uk/accom.

HOSPITALITY FOR OVERSEAS STUDENTS
The University contributes to Hosting for Overseas Students (HOST), a countrywide organisation, founded by the British Council and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, to foster international friendship and understanding. Its aim is to find volunteer host families who would welcome students from overseas into their homes for one-off weekend visits.

DID YOU KNOW...Bristol alumni can use the Careers Advisory Service free for the first two years after graduation. Simply contact the team to register.
Tel: +44 (0) 117 928 8221, email careers-gen@bristol.ac.uk

OTHER WAYS TO HELP CURRENT STUDENTS
If there are any other ways you feel you may be able to help current students, such as mentoring, please contact Jeff Goodman.
Tel: +44 (0) 117 928 8227.
For more information about the Careers Advisory Service, please visit www.bristol.ac.uk/cas.

There are lots of different ways for former students to be involved with the Bristol University community, from helping current students with careers advice, to welcoming students from overseas.
Pip Willoughby (BA 1952, Hon MA 1999) has been ‘meeting and greeting’ international students at the welcome lounge for about six years, along with her team of alumni volunteers. ‘We serve teas and coffees and hand out the information packs,’ says Pip. ‘But most importantly we are a friendly face.’

Pip wants to help the students enjoy the Bristol experience as much as she did when she was a student. ‘They invest so much in our education system, and I want to make sure the experience is the best possible for them,’ she explains. ‘I want them to look back at the welcome programme and think “they cared about us coming, they invested the time and they listened to me”.’

If you would like to help with either the 2005 welcome for overseas students, or with the coffee mornings, please contact Pip Willoughby, c/o the Convocation Office, Senate House, Tyndall Avenue, Bristol BS8 1TH, email convocation-alumni-office@bristol.ac.uk.
The first thing that comes to most people’s minds when RAG is mentioned is the eight-day-long fundraising extravaganza that is RAG week. This year, the schedule of events includes everything from sumo wrestling and a tug-of-war to slave auctions and abseiling down the side of the Students’ Union. The crazy and chaotic week culminates in a procession through the streets of Bristol in which a huge array of floats, lorries and cars manned by students dressed in all kinds of bizarre costumes parades down Whiteladies Road to the city centre. The procession is a time-honoured tradition that has become part of the history of Bristol. A great deal has changed since the first procession, which was held on 27 February 1925 and featured a morning collection followed by the parade which took a circular, six-mile-long route passing the judges at College Green and pausing for a ‘tea interval’ at the Victoria Rooms. The torchlight procession in the evening proved very popular, despite the fact that all the lights went out within five minutes and the crowds were so dense that it was impossible for the students to get past. The day ended in a pub crawl around the docks – perhaps things haven’t changed quite so much after all.

The RAG processions continued to attract thousands of Bristol citizens, who came to view the colourful spectacle. In 1928 the Western Daily Press reported on the most striking feature of the year’s procession: ‘It was in the form of a huge caterpillar extending possibly a hundred feet... it had a gigantic mouth, and the contortions of the monster as it moved its many feet were highly entertaining.’ The students’ costumes have always been a talking point, and throughout the years have included themes as diverse as pirates, highwaymen, Romans, Victorian Maidens and even giant babies. In 1939, 200 students took to the streets dressed as Hitler, Mussolini and Stalin, surrounded by ballet dancers and a jazz band, in order to celebrate 80 years of fundraising.

This year sees the 80th anniversary of Bristol University RAG (Raising and Giving), a student society dedicated to raising money for charity in infamously wild and wacky ways. Not only is RAG the University’s oldest society, but it is also the biggest, boasting over 1,500 members, or ‘Raggies’ as they like to be called. Last year, they collected over £45,000 for local and national charities, and this year they have already beaten their target of raising £80,000 to help celebrate their 80th birthday in style. Lucy Owens takes a look at RAG over the years.
to raise money for the Salvation Army mobile canteen providing for British troops.

RAG has become synonymous with going to outrageous lengths in the name of charity. In 1950, students sneaked into the building site of the new Council Building on College Green, stole a bucket of paint from the basement and wrote ‘RAG!!’ in 12-foot-high lettering on the side of the building. In 1956 a gang of Raggies managed to steal Alfred, a full-size male stuffed gorilla worth £600, from the Bristol Museum.

Bristol RAG also has a reputation for kidnapping members of the public and holding them to ransom for charity – captives have included Arnold Rogers, Bristol City’s centre forward, and Sylvia Robin, a cabaret star. However, one such prank ended in disaster when two students on a quest to find Southampton’s RAG queen ended up kidnapping the wrong girl, and unfortunately crashed their car on the way back to Bristol causing the girl in question to injure her leg.

Indeed, the crazy schemes invented by RAG didn’t always go to plan. In the procession of 1949 three chemistry students and a 13-year-old onlooker were taken to hospital with burns after their mock experiment with photographic flash powder burst into flames.

Three years later, in 1952, more problems arose. Atom, the RAG magazine was banned for being ‘too sexy and suggestive’. Fifteen thousand copies of the magazine, which would have raised hundreds of pounds for charity, had to be withdrawn from sale just days before RAG Week began.

1952 also saw police ban a proposed chariot race and a comic football match on the Downs, and to make matters even worse, RAG’s plans to hold a pole-squatting competition outside the Victoria Rooms were dismissed by a surveyor as too dangerous.

The 21st century RAG is headed by a Sabbatical Officer and a dedicated committee of student volunteers. The events they co-ordinate are perhaps less wild than in the past, but nonetheless remain hugely popular among the student population. One of RAG’s most successful events is ‘BARmy’, when hundreds of students donning matching t-shirts undertake a huge pub crawl and mix one of their favourite activities – drinking – with fundraising for local charities.

Another highlight of the RAG calendar is ‘Jailbreak’, a twice-yearly event which involves participants being released from ‘jail’ and having to get as far away as possible within the 36-hour time limit. The catch is that they are not allowed to spend a single penny of their own money, and must seek sponsorship if they want to beat the all-time record holders who managed to travel all the way to the Grand Canyon under their own steam, raising over £2,000 in the process.
However, it is not just these few popular and well-publicised events that make RAG what it is; far from it. Each week, a team of committed RAG members armed with collecting buckets pile into a minibus and travel around different towns and cities in the area on ‘raids’. Just as their predecessors struggled on with the 1947 procession in the face of a treacherous blizzard, the Bristol Raggies go on weekly ‘raids’ whatever the weather on a quest to persuade the general public to part with their hard-earned cash for a worthy cause.

Zoë Thomas, this year’s RAG Chair, commends the hard work and dedication of the student volunteers: “It amazes me just how committed these students are to helping others, and brightening up so many people’s days. Whether it’s planning events or street collections, RAG members give up significant amounts of their spare time in order to fundraise for causes they are passionate about, and this is reflected in the fantastic totals they regularly achieve.”

It is clear that, throughout the years, RAG has become an efficiently and professionally run student organisation, while managing to maintain its original ethos: to have fun while raising much-needed money for good causes. The student volunteers are a true inspiration and so here’s to another 80 years of Bristol RAG: long may it continue to enrich the culture and history of the city of Bristol.

Jailbreak record holders – pictured here in Arizona (that’s 5190 miles from Bristol)

Slave auction 2004

RAG week 2002 – the Super Heros

Sir Winston Churchill being ‘kidnapped’ by RAG members in 1929. He was visiting Bristol to be installed as the University’s Chancellor, but was intercepted at the railway station. He paid the ransom money on the understanding that the information would not be leaked to the press.
Students and staff at the University have played a key role in the planning and production of groundbreaking online resources to accompany BBC 1’s new flagship series British Isles: A Natural History. Lara King finds out more.

The British Isles series, presented by Alan Titchmarsh, explores the history of the islands we inhabit. The accompanying online project was launched to devise new and innovative ways of building on the interest sparked by the programmes. As the website explains, ‘the work of scientists sheds a whole new light on the world that surrounds us’, and the web resources developed in partnership with the University aims to extend this light further still. Building the content layer by layer around the question ‘How do they know that?’ the site makes the history of our islands interesting and accessible, from the development of super-continents to the restoration of Bristol Dinosaur Theo.

In partnership with the University of the West of England (UWE), Bristol scooped the prestigious contract against stiff competition. Thirty-three other universities, including Leeds and Cambridge, battled for the opportunity to work with the BBC and Open University to bring the world of natural history to life. Selection involved delivering presentations to a panel of representatives from the BBC, the Open University and the Natural History Museum.

Once the contract was secured, the amalgamation of the city’s two major institutions of learning opened the doors to a range of impressive resources. UWE’s Graphic Science unit has won awards for its science communication activities, and its head, Professor Frank Burnet, was enthusiastic about what he called the ‘winning combination’ of the science expertise of the two universities. ‘When people watch these programmes it often sparks an interest in science and the natural environment,’ he says. ‘We want to make the most of that spark and recruit people onto science-based courses – particularly the environment where more students are needed.’

Professor Burnet’s views were shared across the project, which aims to enhance the educational value of the BBC’s programmes by chronicling the latest scientific research in an accessible form and encouraging viewers to explore their interest further. With this in mind, University research assistants Becky Seeley and Adam Stuart Smith worked together on developing the online content. ‘It can be challenging explaining complex ideas in a simple way, especially when in many theoretical areas there is not necessarily a correct answer,’ Becky Seeley told nonsuch. ‘Adam and I worked with a number of Bristol academics to ensure the content produced was accurate. I loved studying biology myself as I have always been fascinated by the natural world, and I hope my enthusiasm for the subject comes across in my writing.’

Adam Stuart Smith agreed with Becky’s stance. ‘Unfamiliar terminology can put people off science, so we avoided this by explaining the terms we use in everyday language and using analogies where possible,’ he says.

Now fully up and running, it seems certain that the site will flourish. At the Bristol launch of the accompanying TV series, the Director of BBC Factual and Learning Programmes, John Willis, praised the ‘fantastic web content’ created by the project. Pro Vice-Chancellor of Bristol University, Professor Patricia Broadfoot, gave the final seal of success: ‘We are proud to be part of an exciting project. It’s all about inspiring people to want to learn more, through discovering what an amazing country the British Isles is.’

Now online at www.open2.net/naturalhistory/how.html, the fruits of the team’s labour can convince anyone of their opening claim that ‘as we look at the natural world that surrounds us, it is pretty obvious that it is amazing’. Drawing on the themes used in the BBC series, the easy-to-use, interactive site lets visitors explore the nature of the planet in ‘Dynamic Earth’, discover how scientists turn detective to dig out the secrets held by fossils in ‘Palaeobiology’, and learn how the tiniest creatures can make a sensational impact in ‘Invaders’.
There is a whole host of benefits, services and facilities available for Bristol alumni. From gym membership to discounted accommodation, take your pick and make the most of being a Bristol graduate.

**LEISURE**

**Keep fit**

Why pay huge gym fees when you can use the University’s top-of-the-range sports facilities for just over £4 a week? Alumni and their families are entitled to Associate Sports Membership at the University’s Centre for Sport, Exercise and Health. The subscription is currently £216 per person – so now you’ve got no excuse.

For further details and membership please contact the reception desk at the centre. Tel: +44 (0) 117 928 9810 or visit www.bristol.ac.uk/sport.

**Fine dining**

The Terrace Bar and Staff Dining Room at the Hawthorns are open to all alumni. It’s a great place to meet friends for a coffee at lunchtime or dinner in the evening. Both are open Monday to Friday (Staff Dining Room 12 pm to 2 pm, Terrace Bar 8 am to 8 pm).

**Union membership**

Associate Membership of the Students’ Union costs £12 per annum or £36 for life membership, and gives access to the Union Building (excluding the swimming pool) and its facilities, as well as the right to join Union clubs and societies. For details, please contact the President’s Office. Tel: +44 (0) 117 954 5816, email president@bristol.ac.uk or visit www.ubu.org.uk.

**ACCOMMODATION**

**Have a holiday**

Take advantage of the ten per cent discount offered to alumni on the cost of a self-catering holiday flat in the University and have a holiday in Bristol. They are available during the summer vacation at Goldney Hall, Clifton, and at University Hall, Stoke Bishop. The Goldney flats are set in ten acres of English Heritage listed gardens. They are self-contained and fully equipped. They are let by the week (Saturday to Saturday or Wednesday to Wednesday), or for the weekend. Cots and high-chairs are available.

For further information, please contact: Natalie Parsons, Functions Co-ordinator. Tel: +44 (0) 117 903 4873, email nat.parsons@bristol.ac.uk or visit www.goldneyhall.com.

**University Hall**

The flats at University Hall sleep two to five people and are fully equipped for self-catering visitors. Each unit contains three single and one twin bedroom, toilet, shower room and kitchen/diner. Flats are available to rent during the summer vacation period (July to September). For further information, contact Debbie Thom, Hall Secretary. Tel: +44 (0) 117 903 3730, email debbie.thom@bristol.ac.uk or visit www.bristol.ac.uk/Depts/UniversityHall.

**Week-day accommodation**

Visiting Bristol during the week? Five rooms at the Hawthorns are available throughout the year, on Monday to Thursday nights. Single rooms are £54 per night, double or twin-bedded rooms, £67.50. Cooked breakfast and VAT is included.

For further information or to make a reservation, please contact the Hawthorns reception. Tel: +44 (0) 117 954 5555, email hawthorns-reception@bris.ac.uk or visit www.bristol.ac.uk/hawthorns.

**KEEP ON LEARNING**

**The library**

All alumni can use the library for reading and reference free of charge. Members are also entitled to apply to borrow books (subject to recall) on payment of an annual fee of £54. Application forms for reading or borrowing should be obtained in advance.

For further information please contact Eileen Simpson. Tel: +44 (0) 117 928 8003 or email eileen.simpson@bristol.ac.uk.
Lunchtime and evening lectures
Attend lectures by Bristol academics at the leading edge of their discipline, ranging from climate change to healthcare, literature to history of art. Visit www.bris.ac.uk/events.

BECOME A FRIEND

The University’s Theatre Collection
The Theatre Collection is a fully registered museum and an internationally renowned research centre. It is home to the largest theatre history archive outside of London. All Friends receive a regular newsletter and have the opportunity to attend events such as theatre trips, lectures and the open evening. For further information please contact Jo Elsworth, Keeper, Theatre Collection.
Tel: +44 (0) 117 331 5086, email jo.elsworth@bristol.ac.uk or visit www.bristol.ac.uk/theatrecollection.

The University’s Botanic Garden
Get privileged access to the Botanic Garden and seasonal guided tours by becoming a Friend of the University’s Botanic Gardens. The subscription is £20 a year and will support and help develop the Garden. Members also receive the Garden’s seed list and can choose ten free packets of seeds each year.

Alumni who would like to become a Friend of the Botanic Gardens should contact Nicholas J Wray, Curator of the Botanic Garden. Tel: +44 (0) 117 973 3682, email nicholas.wray@bristol.ac.uk.

See the article on page 26 for more information about the Botanic Gardens.

REUNIONS AND EVENTS

Keep the West Country fires burning at regular social events in Bristol and beyond.

With dozens of Convocation and alumni branches around the world, you’re never far from a friendly Bristol face. See page 46 for more details about alumni groups.

The Annual Convocation Reunion Weekend in July has become the highlight of the Bristol alumni calendar, and is a great opportunity to catch up with the University and old friends. This year it is taking place from 1 and 3 July. See pages 30 to 34 for more details about events.

KEEPING IN TOUCH

The alumni magazine nonesuch and twice-yearly newsletter inntouch aim to keep you informed about the University and your contemporaries. And faculty newsletters keep you up to date with the latest developments in your faculty.

Email directory
Reach out to your friends the easy way. This service has nearly 3,000 email addresses for Bristol graduates, and it’s a great way to stay in touch with your old Bristol friends. Just email your name, subject and graduation to alumni-email-directory@bristol.ac.uk or visit www.bristol.ac.uk/alumni/-email.htm.

Bristol Reunited
Lost touch with your University mates? Help is at hand! We’ll forward messages on to them on your behalf, or we can help you organise mini-reunions.

Update your details
Don’t forget to let us know when you move. Update your details online at www.bristol.ac.uk/alumni.
## Alumni Groups

Get together with other former students in an alumni group in your region or country. If there isn’t a group in your area, why not establish one?

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<th>Association</th>
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<td>Badock Hall Association</td>
<td>The Warden’s Secretary, Badock Hall</td>
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<td>Dr Alan Rump, Warden, Churchill Hall</td>
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<td>The Clifton Hill House Old Students’ Association</td>
<td>Annie Burnside, Warden, Clifton Hill House</td>
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<td>Goldney Hall</td>
<td>Dr Arun Arumugam, Deputy Warden, Goldney Hall</td>
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The Bristol University Alumni-Mauritius Association was formed in September last year

Correspondence for the above contacts can be sent c/o the Campaigns and Alumni Relations Office, University of Bristol, Senate House, Tyndall Avenue, Bristol BS8 1TH. Tel: +44 (0) 117 928 7938, email development-alumni@bristol.ac.uk.
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ORDER FORM DETAILS
Please circle the size/colour on the order form and mark which faculty/department when ordering a scarf or tie

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Delivery charge 15% for UK
25% for overseas

Total

Disclaimer: Prices correct at the time of going to press, they may be subject to change.

Delivery details
Your name
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Signature

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☐ I enclose a cheque made payable to ‘the University of Bristol’. Payments from overseas must be made by sterling cheque, either drawn on a British clearing bank or Eurocheque
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Card number
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We will deliver goods within 21 days of receipt of order. If you are not fully satisfied, goods may be returned in seven days for a full refund.

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Tel: +44 (0) 117 954 5824
I decided I wanted to do a trip around Europe to raise money for charity and was considering possible cycling routes. I emailed a friend: ‘I need a reason to go from A to B ... hang on a second, there’s a place in Sweden called A. It’s in a Trivial Pursuit question!’ A lightbulb appeared above my head. It turns out the answer to the Trivial Pursuit question was Norway, but an idea was born. The hard part was finding a place called B. We discounted Biei (Japan), Bea (Angola), and B (South Africa). Biei was a nice destination, but would have involved a year at least of cycling across Siberia. Bea was only featured online as a location needing serious humanitarian aid, and a former location of genocide. Having found Bee, Nebraska (which is in precinct B of Seward County for the pedants who just want the letters A and B), it became apparent that this wasn’t going to be easy.

A few days later I was beginning to plan the route. I told my brother of the plan. His sarcastic reply: ‘Yeah sure, cycle 6,000 miles. Why don’t you do it on a tandem, and pick up hitchhikers?’ He walked out of the room, smirking. He didn’t mean it seriously, but it was a perfect plan. It meant people could join me along the way. Planning the trip took off. I gave up my job, appeared in a couple of newspapers and began to pick up a few sponsors. I appeared on breakfast TV and on Radio Five Live a couple of times.

On May 7 2004 I set off at dawn from Å, which is a picture-book fishing village inside the Arctic Circle on islands off the coast of Northern Norway. The first couple of weeks were hard. Norway is mountainous. As the Lonely Planet guide says: ‘Given its great distances, hilly terrain and narrow roads, Norway is not ideally suited for extensive cycle touring.’ It was spot on.

After just four days in Norway, I hit Sweden. It was over 1,000 kilometres to Stockholm, and another 500 kilometres or so to Malmo. Fortunately it got easier as I went along: from the mountains, to big hills, to little hills. Heading south-west towards Denmark, it became flat, but extremely windy.

Sweden was good to me. I picked up my first couple of hitchhikers. I got used to the bike, and began to feel more comfortable about the epic distance still to come. Also, after Sweden I was going through populated areas, so I wouldn’t need to carry quite as much food and water.

As I hit Denmark and Germany, the terrain became almost entirely flat and
full of cyclists. More people joined me on the bike, and I made decent progress down to Lübeck, and on to Hamburg. From here, I had originally planned to head due west and spend a jolly week through the Netherlands drinking Amstel, wearing clogs, and smelling tulips. Unfortunately the pain in my hands and wrists was getting ridiculous, so I hid in Bremen, Germany for a few days to try to get some life back into them.

I soldiered on (I’m tough like that), cutting off the route around the Netherlands, only briefly appearing in Maastricht, before heading into Belgium. In Brussels I popped into my old school, the British School of Brussels, where I had been throughout the ’80s. I gave a talk to the kids and the school agreed to make a donation, and I headed north-west again towards the UK.

I had almost a week at home. I slept lots. I ate healthily. I then headed down to Southampton and got the QM2 to New York. Unhappy with the hours in the gym on an exercise bike, I began to run around the deck. I ran a half marathon, and settled on a full marathon on the day before arriving in New York.

I spent an extra week in New York, staying with my parents, when huge storms hit the East Coast. It did mean I got to meet Miss Universe who joined me briefly on the bike. Going north, I went through Sleepy Hollow, Woodstock, through the Catskill mountains, and then through the Adirondack mountains and up into Canada. I was almost arrested for cycling on the highway by an over-enthusiastic Quebecois policeman. I headed onto Montreal, and then Ottawa. Then it was Toronto, and strangely along the river Thames from London past Chatham to Windsor. I appeared on TV in Toronto, and accidentally called Lance Armstrong a wimp, as he only cycles 2,000 miles in the Tour de France, and carries no baggage. They aired it. Fortunately, he wasn’t watching.

Back into the USA, I cycled through Michigan, Ohio and Indiana – small towns, lots of farms and not much else.

Arriving in Nebraska was amazing. As I crossed the Missouri into the Cornhusker state, I was escorted by two policeman on bicycles to the mayor of Omaha’s office. He issued a declaration making it ‘A to B day’ in Nebraska’s biggest city.

The next day I headed to Wahoo and Lincoln with my oldest hitchhiker of all: Chip Hackley, aged 73.

On Saturday morning, I got on the bike for the last time joined by Mary, a resident of Bee and organiser of my welcoming committee. My arrival in Bee was amazing. About 40 other bikes crossing the finishing line, there were two TV stations, newspapers and radio. Best of all, about 250 people had gathered to see me – in a village of only 200. A young girl sang the national anthem, and then the mayor gave a speech, wearing a Paul Parry t-shirt. I was presented with various gifts from the town and was made honorary police chief. I gave a short speech. I was then fed and watered and treated to watching a Bee-fest of activities – a few bands, a group of men dressed up as nuns and Polka dancing. I was given an enormous welcome, and felt like royalty.

Getting back to London via Milwaukee, New York and Reykjavik was strange – but it felt like I had never been away, and I had to keep reminding myself of the trip. I have raised over £12,000 so far for the two charities: the British Red Cross, and Victim Support.

For more information please see my website www.fromatob.org.uk.
Arriving at university can be an unsettling experience for even the most confident of teenagers. Leaving home, living with strangers in a new environment, a new city and a new way of life. Alongside academic concerns come new financial worries. Most students soon settle down and enjoy the freedom that university offers. But for some people, their background and circumstances mean that just getting to university can be too much of a hurdle. Richard Porter looks at how the University’s Aim Higher mentoring scheme is trying to change that.

**Mentors** help to change perceptions of university and ensure that talented pupils do not miss out on the opportunity.

**Up, up and away**

helping young people aim higher

Established three years ago as part of the University’s Widening Participation Office, the Aim Higher mentoring scheme pairs current students at the University with pupils from local schools. Students are introduced to two or three pupils and meet each one for an hour a week. It is a long-term commitment, from September to May, to allow the pupils get to know and trust their mentor.
Twenty-four students from the University are currently mentoring in nine schools across Bristol. The Widening Participation Office is also in the process of setting up a new e-mentoring scheme to support young people considering a career in one of the healthcare professions. This scheme will involve around ten more schools and 20 more students.

Pupils chat with their mentors about everything from homework and exams, to extra-curricular activities and their hopes for the future. The scheme gives pupils the opportunity to speak informally with someone they see as an equal, unlike a teacher or careers advisor. Students also have the advantage of recently having experienced school and university admissions and can give up-to-date advice.

‘I thought it would be a good way of getting involved in the local community,’ says Louise Norman, a third-year neuroscience student who has been mentoring for two years. ‘I come from a single-parent family, as do some of my pupils, and we have all been state-school educated. My pupils have not all been of my ethnicity, and I’ve mentored more boys than girls, but this has never been a problem. I have always found common ground somewhere with all of them.’

But it’s not always easy. Sara Stutt, a third-year law student visits Filton High School with Louise for two hours every Wednesday afternoon. ‘Last year, I was placed with two very troubled children – the main goal for me was to encourage them to go to school, let alone university! They are both doing well now, though, one is an apprentice and the other is in her final year of GCSEs.’

While mentors may help with a whole range of problems faced by teenagers, the main aim of the scheme is to ensure that the pupils are able to successfully apply to university. This involves helping them choose A-level subjects suitable for any degree course they may want to follow, assisting with finding work experience and emphasising that university is not just for the privileged. In short, mentors help to change perceptions of university and ensure that talented pupils do not miss out on the opportunity.

Students may choose to become mentors for many different reasons. ‘I decided to become a mentor to give something back to the community as I am from Bristol originally,’ explains Sara. ‘I wanted to give the kids some hope; that you can obtain a higher education even if you aren’t financially as secure as most undergraduates.’

The scheme gives pupils the opportunity to speak informally with someone they see as an equal, unlike a teacher or careers advisor.

The value of the scheme can be seen in feedback received from the pupils. One says that since getting a mentor ‘I’ve been more hard-working and I think about the future’. Another states, ‘I’m more determined to go to college or university.’

The fact that mentors have been able to inspire these pupils to work to achieve their potential demonstrates the success of Aim Higher. Next year, the first pupils to have benefited from mentors will begin their university applications. Hopefully, many will use the skills and help they have gained and will succeed in getting on to their chosen course. Some will inevitably apply to Bristol and that will be a very rewarding day for all the student volunteers and staff who run the scheme.
Nanoscience and quantum information are both widely anticipated to be critical to the future of the UK economy and that of the South West of England in particular.

So what will the new Centre for Nanoscience and Quantum Information mean for the University? Bristol has attracted a group of world-class researchers, and the centre will pull their work together. It will provide one of the finest facilities in the world, designed to keep Bristol at the forefront of research. It will be a unique environment in which a research community can thrive. In constant support for interdisciplinarity, the centre will act as a nucleator, a catalyst and an incubator for innovative research in nanoscience and quantum information.

The new building is being built to a very high specification. It will provide state-of-the-art specialised laboratories whose vibrations and noise levels will be amongst the lowest achieved anywhere worldwide. Because the research is being conducted on such a small scale, even the slightest increase in temperature or the smallest vibration might ruin an experiment.

The basement level will house the main research area with a suite of ultra-low vibration nanoscience laboratories, ultimately anchored to the bedrock. The ground floor contains the main seminar and interaction spaces, as well as the quantum optical laboratories with low-velocity constant temperature filtered air and medium low vibration provided by 450-millimetre-thick concrete suspended floors. All laboratories will have stringent controls on electromagnetic interference.

With the establishment of this centre, the future will be wide open for new, innovative ideas to come out of the University’s research community. Nanoscience and quantum information may be about the smallest of things, but its impact in the future will be huge. And Bristol is making sure it is at the forefront of this new and exciting discipline.

The Centre for Nanoscience and Quantum Information is due to open in autumn 2006. Plans for the centre are pictured below.

A nanometre is a unit of measurement equivalent to a millionth of a millimetre, or about:

- 1/80,000 of the diameter of a human hair
- how much your fingernail grows each second
- the thickness of a drop of water spread over a square metre

**What exactly are nanoscience and quantum information?**

**Nanoscience** is concerned with understanding and controlling the physical properties of structures and devices at the nanometre scale – that’s one billionth of a metre.

**Quantum information** has arisen from the realisation that there are deep links between the previously unrelated disciplines of quantum physics (which describes microscopic particles) and computer science/information theory. It is likely to be central to how coming generations of communication systems and computers will be built.

An interesting example is the work of physicists and biologists at Bristol, who are using the way that insects hear to devise new instruments for use in nanoscience. The atomic force microscope is the main tool used to obtain images at the atomic scale. By collaborating with colleagues in the Biology Department, Professor Mervyn Miles and his researchers in physics have used the atomic force microscope to ‘see’ the ways in which insects such as locusts and moths use their hearing systems to detect faint vibrations. They have then applied these techniques to atomic force microscopes, significantly improving the sensitivity of these instruments.

Other work includes developments in microscopy by Professor Mervyn Miles which are far ahead of any other group in the world and allow imaging up to 1,000 times faster than any other scanning probe microscope.

The Quantum Information Group has helped found the new field of quantum information and computation, and it is among the handful of elite groups worldwide. Perhaps the most significant result in quantum information theory is the fact that a quantum computer can perform computational tasks exponentially faster than any classical (digital) device.

At the moment nanoscience and quantum information exist almost entirely in the laboratory, but they have the potential to revolutionise all our lives with innovations in manufacturing, medicine and computing. Bristol is at the forefront of many of these innovations and is positioning itself as an academic powerhouse in both fields. Groundbreaking research is being undertaken which increases our understanding almost daily. It is truly multidisciplinary, drawing on aspects of chemistry, physics, engineering, computer science, mathematics and various bio-disciplines.
BRISTOL GRADUATE APPOINTED DEPUTY VICE-CHANCELLOR

Professor Paul Curran (PhD 1979, DSc 1991), Head of Geography and Dean of Science at Southampton, has been appointed Deputy Vice-Chancellor of the University of Southampton. Paul’s reaction on his appointment? ‘It’s a great privilege to be invited to take up a leadership position, in such a highly regarded and successful University. I’m excited by the challenge of working with colleagues, to strengthen further our international standing in research and entrepreneurial activity.’

ALUMNI ADVENTURES

Robert Mason (MSc 1999) and Emma Todd (BSc 1999, PhD 2003) have set up a holiday company offering adventure sports in the French Pyrenees. So far, things are going well. Their website, www.mountainbug.com, is receiving 200 hits a day and at the time of writing, they were preparing busily for their first ski-holiday week.

BARGE HOLIDAY

In early September 2004 a party of 21 alumni plus guests shared a very enjoyable holiday on the barge Chanterelle, cruising on the ‘Canal à la lateral de la Loire’ from Nevers to Rogny-les-Sept Écluses. The themes of the cruise were the gardens, chateaux and wines of the Upper Loire, to which subjects the party gave ample study. One of the highlights of the cruise was meeting Mme Gwen Juteau (née Clapham) (BA 1950). She had learned from nonesuch that the party was coming, and waited, complete with BA hood, to greet them at lock number 30, at her home town of Herry.

CELEBRATING TEN YEARS OF BUSA

Steve Brindley, currently Chair of the Athletic Union, organised something special for the Bristol University Sports Association (BUSA) 10th Anniversary Dinner on the 17 June 2004. He invited the Chairs of the previous ten years, and only two – Lynsey Cade-Davis (2001/02) and James Sheppard (1997/98) – couldn’t make it.


VETS REUNITE

Vets from the class of 1954 celebrated the 50th anniversary of the graduation of the first students from the University’s Veterinary School with a dinner at Coombe Lodge, on 2 October 2004.

WEIMAR TRIP

A mere 44 years ago, the motley crowd pictured top right were first-year students in Bristol’s Department of German. In the summer of 1961, they were all sent off to Germany, with strict instructions from their formidable Professor Closs to study German, to visit a long list of Sehenswürdigkeiten (sights) and to send him postcards as evidence. Peter Linton (BA 1963) said: ‘One of the sights was out of reach in what was then East Germany – the historic little town of Weimar, home of Germany’s greatest writers, and a place with many cultural, artistic and musical connections. Last autumn, a dozen of us rectified that omission. So, wherever you are, Professor Closs, please note that we have now done Weimar, and where do we send the postcard?’

Front row (left to right): Bill Chilcott, David Ellwood, Hilary Mason, Jennifer Pickerill, Susan Hughes, Sue McConanchy and Peter Linton. Back row (left to right): Angela Duncanson, Janet Dale, Pat Baber and Mike Townson. (All BA 1963)

CHOIR CELEBRATES 50TH REUNION

A University choir, which was formed in 1947, celebrated its 50th consecutive reunion on 11 September 2004. The choir, which originated as the Madrigal Choir but later became known as the Bayreuth Choir, was formed by the late R V Smith, and later led by the late Professor W K Stanton, the first Professor of Music.

In 1955 Jean (née Grice) (1952) and Jack Rider (1951) had the idea of holding a Bayreuth Reunion at their home, and that was so successful that further reunions followed. Soon the reunion expanded to include not only members of the Madrigal Choir, but many with University musical connections. John Riviere (PhD 1954), a member of the choir, said: ‘At last year’s 50th reunion, some 40 former students and staff came to sing in the very room in the Royal Fort House in which they had rehearsed under Professor Stanton more than 50 years before. This reunion will not be the last. The group is looking forward to many more years of singing together and of meeting old friends.’

Members of the Bayreuth Choir outside Royal Fort House
ALL ABOARD THE CONCORDE

One of the highlights of last year’s Convocation Reunion Weekend was a tour of the last Concorde ever built at the Concorde Heritage Centre at Bristol. Graham Hannaford (BSc 1956) writes about this treasured experience.

The idea of a visit to Concorde came to me as I sat in the University’s Convocation meeting, wondering whether there was any more tea in the pot. It was greeted with unanimous enthusiasm and the snowball was on its way down the hill. In no time it became a feature of the weekend.

Such was its popularity that we had to double-up on the buses, and a total of some 80 alumni and their partners set off from Manor Hall. We were met at the gates of the factory by a member of the Rolls Royce Heritage Trust. Our guide was fulsome in his reference to the number of Bristol graduates who had worked on the design and manufacture of Concorde. Several of the alumni on our bus were from that team, and this was as near as one or two of them ever got to the finished article.

We waited for our turn to go, ten at a time, out to the steps that took us up into the fuselage. Having done my National Service in the RAF, the complexities of the cockpit were not as overwhelming to me as they were to some of our group; but the compactness and neatness of the control area were impressive. There was an indicator in the main passenger area that showed when the plane went through this barrier – a unique passenger experience.

Concorde is now history and will eventually move indoors to her final resting place. But I felt as if we had done homage to the intellectual achievement of all that is good about British education in general and about Bristol in particular.

As we drove away I found myself bursting into song and the bus joined me in rendering ‘the Bristol Man’. And how does the first line go? ‘Though I myself have said it and it’s greatly to my credit, I am a Bristol man.’

Yes, we are ‘Bristol men’ and some of us helped build that Bristol lady.

BOOKS

Long words bother me
‘Long words bother me,’ confessed Winnie the Pooh, but the fact is the short ones are just as problematic. This book is about the craziness of words, and how they can change their meanings in the most unpredictable ways over time. The author, Tom Burton (BA 1967) is Reader in English at the University of Adelaide.


Waterways
In Waterways, James Crowden (BSc 1976) takes the reader on a fascinating journey into the world of water from source to sea. Among other things he explores the engineering feats of the earliest canal builders, the colourful communities that grew up around watermills and how water powered the industrial revolution.

A quirky book perfect for the enthusiast, but also for anyone keen to have the upper hand with a supply of remarkable facts – the London sewage system and Clifton Suspension Bridge will never seem the same again.


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ALUMNI FOCUS

We’ve all sat through them. Those cheesy corporate videos presented by C-class celebrities. But this could all be about to change, thanks to the vision of two Bristol drama graduates. Adam Etheridge (BA 2003) and Dave Watson (BA 2003) set up Aspect Film and Videos just nine months after they graduated. And they’re on a mission to make corporate videos cutting-edge.

So what makes Aspect different? First, they draw on everything they learnt while studying drama – from script writing, to filming to editing. Dave says: ‘We use serious film-making techniques like rhythm, pace and timing, and apply them to the corporate film. It seems obvious, but no-one else is really doing it.’

Second, they approach every job in a bespoke manner. ‘We spend time getting to know the company,’ explains Adam.

And they have youth on their side. Initially, they thought people might be a bit sceptical about them as straight-out-of-university-youngsters. But they’ve found that people are looking for new ideas and energetic approaches, and their age has been an advantage.

How did they manage to set up the business and buy all the equipment needed at such a tender age? Adam, the entrepreneur of the duo, struck gold at a young age with a brilliant money-making scheme. During his gap year he discovered that there was a lot of dosh needed at such age with a brilliant money-making scheme. During his gap year he discovered that there was a lot of dosh needed at such age with a brilliant money-making scheme. During his gap year he discovered that there was a lot of dosh needed at such age with a brilliant money-making scheme. During his gap year he discovered that there was a lot of dosh needed at such age with a brilliant money-making scheme.

As we drove away I found myself bursting into song and the bus joined me in
MARRIAGES

Georgina Lilian Graham Barnard, Tutor in Manor Hall 2000/01, married Ross Cobb on 14 February 2004 in Christ Church, Clifton.

Suzanne Marie Bearne (BSc 1997) married Nick Blundell on 30 May 2003 in Parc Seymour, South Wales.

Benjamin Richard Crabtree (BSc 1999) married Gemma Elizabeth Pockett (BSc 2003), also one of Convocation’s representatives on the Court of the University, on 8 November 2004 at St Paul’s Anglican Church, Clifton.


Ivan Boon Kiat Lee (MEng 2000) married Michelle Sui Choon Phang (LLB 1999) on 7 August 2004 at Barker Road Methodist Church in Singapore.


Wilson Kian Foh Wong (MEng 2002), one of Convocation’s representatives on the Court of the University, married Winnie Jia Jia Li (BSc 2003), on 8 September 2004 at the Mairie de Nguyen on 18 September 1994-95, married Quynh Sven Mathis Kern (Law 1999) in Parc Seymour, South Wales.

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Colin Smith is looking for his friend, John Cyril William Fowler (BA 1954, Cert Ed 1957).

Gillian Armitage (née Crew) (BA 1964) wishes to contact Susan Catherine Hayman (BA 1964).

Ron Colyer (BSc 1958, PhD 1963), Ken Tyrrell (BDS 1959) and Alan Williamson (BSc 1958) are among the members of an Old Cothamian Group, named ‘The Codgers’. Are there any other Old Cothamian Bristol graduates who would like to exchange emails and/or to join reunions with them?

John Joseph Owen (BSc 1999) is interested in any contact with former social policy students who may remember Rodney Lodge.

Trevor Jaggar (BSc 1946) is arranging a reunion of people who played in the University 1st XI football team in 1945 (pictured below) as part of the Convocation Reunion Weekend in July 2005. He would like to invite those who played in the 1944/45 team and the 1945/46 team. Unfortunately the alumni office does not have their records.

So far, he has traced three people from 1944/45 and two from 1945/46, all of whom are going to attend, and he would love to hear from the others (J Davies, J Kiely, H E Chappell, A Vickery and G C S Wag horn J Oates, D P McGregor, D Johns, J M Mitchell and N W Rowbotham). If anyone knows of their whereabouts, please contact Trevor, email trevor.jaggar@btinternet.com.

BIRTHS


Oscar William James Blundell, son of Mrs Suzanne Marie Blundell (née Bearne) (BSc 1997) and Nick Blundell, was born on 18 October 2004.

Cordelia Imogen Chatfield, daughter of Stuart Raymond Chatfield (BSc 1992, MSc 1994, PhD 1998), Secretary of the Wills Hall Association, and Rebecca Jane Chatfield (née Wiles) (MA Law 1994), was born on 21 February 2004.

Louis Frank Chase, son of Valerie Chase (JYA 1996-97) and Mike Chase, was born on 10 November 2004.

Naphtali Tzvi, son of Barry Graham (BSc 1986) was born in Silver Spring on 21 November 2004.

Ottlie Athene Daisy Grant, daughter of Thomas Paul Wentworth Grant (BA 1991) and Hester Xanthe Jane Grant, was born on 26 July 2004.


Hermione Megan Smith, daughter of Trevor Martin Smith (MEng 1999) and Claire Franck Bugler (BSc 1999), was born on 2 September 2004.

Thomas Spencer, son of James Albert Spencer (BA 1996, MA 1998) and Sharon Spencer, was born on 1 November 2004.

Celia Sybil Stevenson, daughter of Miles Richard Stevenson (former Deputy Development Director) and Dörte Stevenson, was born on 6 February 2004.

Robert Wiles, son of Daniel Wiles (BSc 1998) and Laura Wiles (née Gilley) (JYA 1995/96), was born on 18 October 2004.

Philippa Yuen, a daughter to Ivan Siu-Wai Yuen (BSc 1989) and Jasmine Yuen, was born on 7 November 2004.
1920s

Roy Niblett (BA 1927) received an Honorary Doctorate from the University of the West of England in 2003.

1950s

Bob Delbridge (BSc 1955) is currently winding down a long and happy career in intellectual property. He spent the first ten years in England and the rest in Canada. He is now looking forward to retirement.

Graham Hannaford (BSc 1956) and his wife Janet have founded a new charity which aims to tackle environmental degradation. The charity Escapexperience expects participation, not just donations, from its supporters. www.escapexperience.org.uk.

Alan Mackley (BSc 1955) is an Honorary Research Fellow in the School of History at the University of East Anglia. He is spending much time in the 18th century, having dealt with some minor architects for the Oxford Dictionary of National Biography, and is now editing letters written in the 1720s by John Buxton, landowner and gentleman-architect, for publication by the Norfolk Record Society in 2005.

Elizabeth Smith (LDS 1951) worked as dental surgeon in Malawi, Vanuatu, Kiribati, New Zealand and the Cook Islands.

1960s

Graham Bush (PhD 1965) has been an Honorary Research Fellow in the Political Studies Department of the University of Auckland. He is currently editing a major book on the history of the Auckland suburb of Epsom.

Nigel Cooper (Dip in Architecture 1969) is running a thriving architects’ office in Somerset.

Mark Elliot (BSc 1965) has worked overseas for 20 years mainly in oil trading. He runs a consulting company advising clients in the African energy industry. www.citac.com.

Ian Fell (BA 1965) is still married to Penny Vallans (BA 1965). Post-broadcasting and journalistic careers, and significant roles in national broadcasting and journalistic careers, have been married for nearly 36 years and has two children and one granddaughter.

Iain Johnstone (LLB 1965) read unseen newscasts at ITN, devised the now antediluvian Film ’71 for the BBC, stalked stars to shoot TV profiles, spent too long as the Film Critic of The Sunday Times, wrote with Cleese and, currently, makes documentaries for Spielberg.

Leon Kreitzman (BSc 1964) wrote The 24 hour society 1999 and co-authored Rhythms of Life 2004. He is currently writing a book on the biological timing of seasons, again with Professor Russell Foster (BSc 1980).

Tom Mall (MA 1965) worked as a university professor teaching speech and dramatic arts and cooperative education. Since obtaining a second Masters degree in Social Work and Community Planning in 1973, he combined his drama training with psychiatric social work before retiring in 2003. He currently lives in St Petersburg, Florida.

Nick Pattison (BSc 1965) joined Shell Mex and BP after leaving Bristol. He then completed a Masters in Business at Lancaster and moved to Shell International where he stayed until his retirement last year. He and his wife Susan now live in Muscat, Oman.

Timothy Samuelson (BSc 1965) spent two years doing textile chemistry research in Zürich after graduating, and then worked for a number of years on textile chemicals in Yorkshire. He moved to Kent and spent almost 30 years running an analytical chemistry laboratory at East Malling research station. He is now enjoying retirement doing (non-scientific) voluntary work: making and playing early wind instruments and bell-ringing (which he learned at Bristol).

Patricia Snell (BA 1963) worked in Chile with the British Council and spent many years in further education with City and Guilds. She set up new organisation, UK SKILLS, concerning training, apprentices and international skills competitions and ran it for ten years.

1970s

Keith Brackstone (LLB 1975) worked for the RAF for 23 years after graduating before returning to the University in August 1998 as General Manager of the Students’ Union at the University. In September 2004 he embarked on a part-time MSc in Strategic Management and also took up the role as Coaching Coordinator for the University’s cross-country and athletics teams.

Martyn Cremin (LLB 1979) is married with four daughters. He is still obsessed with hockey and plays for England Veterans (over ‘40s).

William Dailey (BSc 1973) is running his own consultancy business specialising in developing sales and marketing strategies for small and medium companies and providing investors with a form of due diligence on prospective undertakings.

Michael Deakin (BSc 1974) retired early in autumn 2003 after nearly 30 years in fund management. He set up his own business to provide investment advice to pension funds. He was appointed a non-executive director of the Pension Protection Fund in December 2004.

Alan Doe (BSc 1973) graduated with a PhD from Southampton University. He is now Headmaster of St Joseph’s School, in Launceston, Cornwall. He lives in Launceston and in Bembridge, Isle of Wight, with his wife, Carol (née French) (BSc 1973). He is a member of the Bembridge lifeboat, and Carol is a member of the Bembridge Coastguard team.

Gerard Duhig (BSc 1976) took up a horse riding sport called polocrosse. Unfortunately, a couple of years ago, while playing in a match, his horse fell. He says: ‘In getting up to run off, she tripped over something I had left in her way on the floor – my head! I don’t remember them, but I did get two rides in nice red helicopters!’ He continues: ‘If you remember me, you will remember Frances. Well, I married her and we have two kids.’

Nick Fox (BSc 1975) lives near Bakewell in Derbyshire and is Reader in the Sociology of Health and the Body at the University of Sheffield. Following a PhD from Warwick in 1989, Nick joined the School of Health and Related Research at Sheffield, initially to teach sociology to medical students. He is now Director of Teaching for the school and runs the WISDOM Centre for Networked Learning.

Anthony Knight (BSc 1979) has 20 years experience in neuropharmacological research, mostly in the field of amino acids as neurotransmitters. After university he was involved in the development of novel benzodiazepines...
for the treatment of anxiety, and the development of the NMDA antagonist, MK-801, for the treatment of strokes. After obtaining a PhD, he continued his studies with GABA receptors at Neurogen Corporation. He joined Vernalis Research, a start-up pharmaceutical company in the UK, in 1997.

Garth Lawson (BA 1979) has pursued a career in process and productivity improvement for the last 28 years. He would be particularly interested to find out about the fortunes of two of his classics colleagues: Nick Durkee, originally from Emsworth, and Peter Moffat.

David Lewis (LLB 1975) emigrated in 1977 and became a Californian attorney specialising in business and real estate matters. He is married with three children. He remains an active fencer.

Nigel Morris (BA 1979) career in banking took him the Caribbean, Brazil and Middle East. He has been living in São Paulo, Brazil, since 1992. He would be pleased to hear from any graduates with an interest in tourism and finance involving Brazil.

Nick Preece (BSc 1974, PGCE 1975) taught in a boys’ comprehensive in Chichester, then moved to Cardiff in 1983. He worked for BT in business and systems analysis, and now works freelance.

Robert Rae (BSc 1975) worked for a few years for Redland, then joined Courtaulds where he became Chief Executive of a new division he founded and developed. He left to join the newly formed chemical group of Holdiday Chemical Holdings to run a new acquisition as Managing Director. Home today is Lund – a small village near Beverley in the East Riding of Yorkshire.

Geoffrey Spratt (BA 1973, PhD 1980) moved to Cork from Bristol in 1976. After 16 years of lecturing in Cork University’s Music Department he took up the poet of Director of the Cork School of Music in 1992. His book about the music of Arthur Honegger was published in 1987, and he still combines his career as a music educator with that of a conductor. He is the Chairman of the Association of Irish Choirs and Cork Orchestral Society, past Chairman of the Music Association of Ireland, and was, until recently, Director of the Cork International Choral Festival.

David Tanner (BA 1970) has been managing the Great Britain senior rowing team since the World Championships in 1991, and in 1996 took on the role of ABA International Manager and Performance Director. He has had involvement with several Olympic Games.

Charles Williams (BSc 1974) is working for a Montreal exploration company looking for minerals in remote parts of Eritrea and Tanzania. He was a Captain in the Royal Engineers, worked for De Beers in Angola on the diamond mines, got a PhD from Imperial College, spent several years in investment banking in London, lived in the USA and South Africa for a while, was married for ten years, and was a fanatical glider pilot.


Alastair Wylie (BA 1975) worked as an actor for about six years before returning to Scotland to work for public sector organisations. Via an MBA in Public Sector Management, he now manages METREX, the network of European metropolitan planners that he co-founded in 1996.

1980s

Andrew du Boulay (BSc 1980) spent his first ten years as an analytical chemist. He did a maths degree with the Open University, got married to Gill and moved from Bristol to Ware. He then changed career and worked on the safety of air traffic control. He now works for National Air Traffic Services, forecasting numbers of flights. He says: ‘Funny fact: Gill and I tied a shoelace to a fence in the centre of Bristol 21 years ago and it’s still there.’

Kirk Buller (BSc 1980) spent two years of working on duodenal ulcers at Southampton University and then he moved to his current employer, a medical diagnostics manufacturing company based in Birmingham. He says: ‘I still keep in touch with a few of my Bristol contemporaries. I hope to get to the Reunion Weekend in 2005, and see a few more old faces from 25 years ago.’

David Cantrell (BSc 1980) has just finished an MRes in Clean Chemical Technology at the University of York. In 2004 he was appointed Environmental Scientist working for Arch Timber Protection in Castleford.

Juliet Dwek (BA 1989) has been an orchestral viola player, radio journalist, TV producer and director, and is now a freelance series producer, currently making a series for BBC2.

Caroline Gilad (née Sassoon) (BSc 1980) took a postgraduate PGCE in Leicester and then travelled extensively in the Far East, South-East Asia and Australia, teaching English as she went. On return, she worked for nearly six years in London. In 1995 she moved to Israel where she met her husband and married in 1996.

Clare Kendall (BA 1980) moved to Paris in 1980 and began working for a French pharmaceutical company, Servier. After four years in Paris and substantial product management of the Young company transferred her to its US affiliate in Austin, Texas. She worked in Texas for approximately four years and then moved to Chicago, Illinois to join Abbott Laboratories. In 1999, after ten years at Abbott, she moved to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and continues to work in the pharmaceutical industry.

Claire Mazure (née Saxton) (BSc 1980) spent five years working in insurance in London, and then moved to Paris in 1985. She has been living in France ever since, first in Paris, and then near Avignon since 1997. She spent a year travelling around the world with her husband Patrice. They have a son aged ten.

Andrew Murrison (MB ChB 1984) was elected MP for Westbury (Conservative) in June 2001, and was called up from September to November 2003 to serve as a medical officer in south-east Iraq. He became a Shadow Health Minister in November 2003.

Katharine Norman (BA Music 1982, M Mus 1985) has written 'Sounding art: eight literary excursions through electronic music.'

Robin Richardson (BSc 1980) spent 11 years in production management in the brewing industry after graduation. He returned to study and emerged a year later as a chemistry teacher. For many years he was involved as a volunteer on policy-making groups of the Youth Hostels’ Association. He has just been elected in a by-election as a Liberal Democrat District Councillor to Mid-Suffolk District Council, representing Barking and Somersham Ward.

George Tzotzos (PhD 1980) left Bristol in 1981 for his compulsory military service in the Greek navy. He then started work at the Ministry of Science and Technology as an advisor. Following that he joined the newly established International Centre of Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology at Trieste, Italy as Science Coordinator. In 1996, he joined the United Nations Industrial Development
Organisation as Chief of the Biotechnology Unit where he is still working.

Roger Wilson (BSc 1981) achieved an ITF world tennis ranking of 528 in the over-35s.

1990s

Julie Veronica Bates (1994) retired early in 2001 due to health problems. She previously worked for Somerset and Avon Probation Service prior to amalgamation. She currently does stained glass work and creative writing, and is a genealogist with five years experience. She would love to hear from any of her old university mates.

William Benson (BSc 1995) spent a year travelling in Central America. He then spent two years working for a foreign affairs think-tank and three years working for the International Development Select Committee in the House of Commons. Since 2001, he has been working in local government for Maidstone Borough Council. Initially responsible for introducing new political arrangements in the wake of the Local Government Act 2000, he is now Head of Change and Improvement.

Christopher Crook (BDS 1996) spent six years in Sydney. He, along with his wife Sophie (née Bradley) (BA 1994), are returning to live in England in mid-2005 and are looking forward to reuniting with old friends.

Dago Fernandez (MBA 1995) is now the Legal Advisor for the Director of the General Public Procurement Direction of the Minister of Finance in Paraguay.

Robert Gaussen (BA 1991) is married with two children, Gabriella and Sebastian. He served in the army for five years, 1991-96, leaving as a captain in the Army. He served in the army for five years, to undertake his present duties.

Jennifer Holmes (BA 1991) was recently awarded a Doctorate by the Department of History and Civilization, European University Institute, Florence.

Martin Hurden (BSc 1995) graduated with an MBA from Columbia University, New York, in October 2004, receiving the Executive MBA Award for Academic Excellence. Martin moved to the USA in 1998 and currently lives with his wife Maria in Washington DC. He is a senior manager with PricewaterhouseCoopers financial services practice.

Stephen James (EdD 1995), one of the first to study for the Doctor of Education degree at the University of Bristol in 1992, is now the Music Adviser and Head of the Music Service for Milton Keynes Council. He is also the National Secretary on the Executive Committee for the National Association of Music Educators. In addition to his full-time job, he now works as a non-stipendiary minister supporting his local parish priest.

Navy with the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel. He is married and has a five-year-old daughter.

Jackie Maguire (MED 1995) is currently teaching English at Dubai Women's College.

Jonathan Millatt (BSc 1999) spent two years teaching biology and maths in Malawi with Voluntary Services Overseas, as well building capacity within the local education authority and setting up community HIV/Aids support groups.

Viral Patel (BEng 1995) is now living in New York and working for CSFB as Chief Operating Officer for credit trading. He is married with a five-month-old boy.

Neil Sutton (BSc 1995) currently lives in Sydney and is working for the Bank of Scotland.

Robin Taylor-Hunt (BEng 1990) is now working at IBM, but still spends a lot of time with aircraft. He is married to Ruth and has two children – Anna and Maria – and lives in Surrey.

2000s

Alexa Alexander (BA 2003) has spent the past 18 months working at City University in London. She is currently working as an administrator but is planning to start a PGCE course in September to become a primary-school teacher.

Cecily Carroll (BA 2004) is applying for training contracts with law firms and starts her law conversion in London in September 2005. In April she is going travelling around Australia and South America.

Elaine Cole (BA 2003) left Bristol in 2003 and enrolled on a TEFL teaching course. After qualifying as an EFL teacher, she moved to Kyoto, Japan and taught English for a year. She returned in August 2004 to London and obtained a paid work experience post in a small PR consultancy.

Harriet Cookson (MED 2000) is currently studying with the Open University and hopes to train as an educational psychologist in 2006.

Stephen Davy (BSc 2003) has just returned from travelling around South East Asia, Australia, New Zealand, Fiji and Hawaii, and is currently temping until he finds a career.

Eleftherios Papakonstantinou (MSc 2003) is currently fulfilling his military obligations in the Hellenic Airforce as a mechanic of propeller aircrafts.
obituaries

1930s

Franks, Mr Martin Lister (BSc 1930), died 17 December 2003, aged 94.

Hall (née Lees), Mrs Helga Viola (BA 1931), died March 2004, aged 95.

Hardisty, Professor Martin Weatherhead (BSc 1931, MSc 1940), died January 2004 aged 94.

Herford, Dr Martin Edward Meakin, DSO, MBE, MC and bar (MB ChB 1937, MD 1955), died July 2002, aged 92.

Jones, Miss Joyce Hilda Bessie (BA 1937, Dip Ed 1938), died 9 November 2003, aged 87.


Locke, Mr Ronald Stanley (BSc 1939), died 20 September 2000, aged 82.

Lumbard, Mr Donald, MBE (Mil) 1942, (BSc 1932, PhD 1939), Joint Honorary Secretary and

Mander, Mr George Charles, MBE (Mil) (BA 1938), died March 2004, aged 95.


Mander, Mr George Charles, MBE (Mil) (BSc 1936), Joint Honorary Secretary and Treasurer of the Wills Hall Association from 1949-57 and Reunion Section 1957-68, died 5 August 2004, aged 89.

Markie, Dr Douglas John Burrows (BSc 1932, PhD 1939), died 27 August 2004, aged 93.

Marsh, Dr William Richard (BSc 1931), died 1 April 2004, aged 94.

Martin (née Brewster), Mrs Kathleen (BA 1936, 1 April 2004, aged 94.


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Harvey, Mr John Newton 'Jack' (BSc 1955), died 9 May 2004, aged 73.
Elizabeth (BSc 1959), died 24 October 2004, aged 67.
Murdan, Mr Kenneth Douglas (BA 1954, Cert Ed 1955), President of the Students' Union 1954-55, died 21 September 2004, aged 74.
Newman, Dr Richard Basil 'Dick' (BSc 1951, PhD 1955), died May 2003, aged 73.
Palmer, Mr Eric Charles (BA 1951), died 26 December 2002, aged 78.
Pask, Mr Thomas Arthur (BSc 1951), died February 2002, aged 77.
Prior, Dr Michael Geoffrey (BVSc 1959), died 24 February 2004, aged 79.
Rivière (née Carr), Mrs Sheila Mary (BA 1953, Cert Ed 1954, BMus 1955, MA 1993), died 9 September 2004, aged 50.
Sasse, Mr Geoffrey (BA 1953), died 31 October 2003, aged 74.
Skinner, Mr Christopher John, OBE (BSc 1953, Cert Ed 1955), President of the Students' Union 1954-55, died 21 September 2004, aged 54.
Snowden (née Thorne), Mrs Ann Jeanette (BA 1970), died 5 December 1998, aged 75.
Stammers, Mr Randal Antony 'Tony' (BA 1978), died 25 May 2004, aged 47.
Struthers, Dr Charles Alexander (MB ChB 1977), died September 2004, aged 51.
Sully, Mr David Cecil (BSc 1972), died 7 February 2001, aged 50.
Taylor, Mrs Anna-Marie (BA 1975), died 13 July 2003, aged 49.
Williams, Mr Huw Rhys (BVCSc 1978), died 21 September 2003, aged 48.
Woffenden (née Gillett), Mrs Anne Frances (BA 1975), died 25 July 2003, aged 50.
Young, Professor David George (BSc 1959), died 21 September 2004, aged 74.
Zanni, Mrs Maria (BSc 1959), died 26 May 2003, aged 65.
Mudhika, Mrs Cornelia Ndapeua (BEd 1989), died 25 April 2004, aged 49.
Scott, Mr Graham David (MLB 1984), died March 2004, aged 42.
Tyler, Mr Mark (BSc 1987), died 26 December 2004, aged 46.
limited edition print offer for Bristol alumni

‘Graduation day, Bristol University,’ 'Broadstreet, St John’s and St Michael’s Hill' and ‘Clifton Suspension Bridge’ are the latest original engravings by well-known Bristol artist Trevor Haddrell. They have been specially designed as companion pieces to the two prints ('Christmas Steps' and 'Park Street') which were featured in previous editions of nonesuch.

All five prints are now available to nonesuch readers at a discount price of £75 (plus £5 p&p). However, please note that only a small number of 'Christmas Steps' and 'Park Street' are left.

Each image measures 48 x 17cms. They are hand-printed by the artist onto fine art paper, and are signed and have an individual edition number. Editions are strictly limited to 250 copies.

Framed copies are also available (UK only). Please contact the artist for details.

To order any print, please contact the artist at Woodwell Cottage, White Hart Steps, Clifton Wood, Bristol, BS8 4TQ, tel: +44 (0)117 9298363.

Payment must be sterling cheque only made out to ‘Trevor Haddrell’.
Sheila Riviere’s legacy to the University is providing students with vital support today, and will continue to do so well into the future.

Mrs Riviere (BA 1953, Cert Ed 1954, B Mus 1955, MA 1993) studied French, Latin and Music at Bristol. During this time she met her future husband John, who was studying for his PhD in Physics. Many years after graduating she returned to the University and was awarded an MA in Music in 1993.

Sadly, Mrs Riviere passed away in February 2004. She had recently changed her will to leave a legacy to the University. She wanted her gift to benefit library and computing facilities, and students in need in the form of bursaries and scholarships. John said, ‘Sheila felt particularly grateful for the time she spent at Bristol. She had a great appreciation for the many ways in which she was able to benefit from the University, both academically and as an individual.’

Mrs Riviere’s gift will help to ensure that Bristol continues to attract the most able students regardless of their financial situation. It will also provide important resources that will help students of music and languages. Dr John Irving, Head of Music, is very grateful for her bequest. ‘Sheila was a great supporter of music, one of the original cohort of music students back in the early 1950s,’ he says. ‘Her gift will enable us to buy a large number of scores of late 20th-century music, one of the department’s key research interests.’

The tradition of philanthropy at the University of Bristol is one of which we are very proud. The generosity of Dr and Mrs Rivière, and others like them, continues to make a real difference to the University by supporting and enhancing teaching facilities and key areas of research, ensuring that students today, and in the future, are given every opportunity to thrive at Bristol.

If you would like further information about how to make a legacy to the University, please contact Siôn Lutley in the Campaigns and Alumni Relations Office. Tel: +44 (0) 117 331 9903, email sion.lutley@bristol.ac.uk.

With your help, we can ensure that every student has the opportunity to imagine, discover and achieve.