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be funny
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... and other things you didn’t know you needed to know until now
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cover image
South West News Service
The Brunel 200 celebrations on 8 April 2006 commemorated the 200th birthday of Isambard Kingdom Brunel. Thousands of people from across Bristol turned out to watch a spectacular fireworks display over Clifton Suspension Bridge to mark this anniversary and the unveiling of the new light display on his iconic bridge.
a year in pictures
March 2005: Members of Penn State Musical Theatre perform at the Wickham Theatre. Penn State’s President, Professor Graham Spanier, led the company’s visit to Bristol following their appearance in shows in New York and London. (Martin Chainey)

April 2005: Student Community Action perform The Wind in the Willows in the grounds of Goldney Hall. (Jerrold Bennett)

May 2005: Alumni and students go head-to-head at the weekend of sport. (Liz Green)

June 2005: Bristol student Jake Meyer conquers Everest, becoming the youngest man ever to have reached the summit of the highest mountains on every continent.

July 2005: A reporter from Radio Bristol interviews Dr Judy Harris about Bristol’s new human patient simulators, which can simulate conditions such as heart diseases and asthma. (Cherry Lewis)

August 2005: The Avon Longitudinal Study of Parents and Children invites all 14,000 ‘Children of the ‘90s’ to a giant party in July 2005, 14 years after their pregnant mothers joined the world-famous research project. (Martin Chainey)

September 2005: The University launches the largest landscape-scale UK study into rare bats in Purbeck, Dorset.

October 2005: The Graduate School of Education wins funding for a £2.5 million education programme in Africa. The project administrators are pictured outside the University of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.

November 2005: Award-winning comedy team Matt Lucas (Drama 1993-95) and David Walliams (BA 1992) make a special one-off appearance at the University to talk to drama students about their time in Bristol. (Martin Chainey)

December 2005: The Bristol Robotics Laboratory – the biggest robot lab in the UK – opens. (Bristol Evening Post)

January 2006: Professor Anthony Hollander, Arthritis Research Campaign Professor of Rheumatology and Tissue Engineering, and his team successfully grow human cartilage for the first time ever.

February 2006: Students go for a jungle theme on the Badock Hall float at the procession marking the start of RAG week 2006.
Dear friends

Now that Nonesuch is an annual event, it feels natural to use our joint page to glance at the past 12 months and share a couple of triumphs and tribulations with you.

First, one of the triumphs. In June 2005, a 21-year-old science student called Jake Meyer became both the youngest Briton to reach the summit of Everest and the youngest man in the world to climb the highest peak on each of the seven continents. (It is said, by the way, that in the process he also became the UK’s most eligible bachelor.) The glory was, of course, entirely Jake’s, but to us there was something fitting about the fact that he was, and is, a Bristol student. Don’t worry – we are not going to lapse into lazy metaphors about higher education at Bristol being a matter of “striving for the top”. But this place does seem to attract and develop more than its fair share of extraordinary people. Both of us are lucky enough to meet them all the time – people who are academically as gifted as it gets; people who are born entrepreneurs; people who are dazzling on the sports field or in performance; people who give time and energy to helping vulnerable groups in local communities. We think the concentration of such people here is unusual and part of the Bristol magic. No wonder our alumni are such a distinguished lot.

This takes us neatly to our second point, which sits firmly in the ‘tribulation’ category. Amazingly, there is at least one newspaper that still likes to paint a rather different picture of Bristol by repeating old falsehoods about our admissions policies. We find ourselves having to go over what has been spelled out time and time again since 2002: that Bristol would never discriminate against applicants from independent or any other type of school; that Bristol is just about the UK’s most popular university and that in some subjects it has no option but to turn down very large numbers of highly talented applicants from all walks of life; that Bristol would never ‘dumb down’ for political or other reasons; that widening participation has nothing to do with lowering standards. The facts are not allowed to stand in the way of the story for some journalists – not the fact that the proportion of students recruited by Bristol from independent schools remains one of the highest in the land; and not the fact that the Independent Schools Council announced publicly on 17 August, after its largest-ever survey of applications to leading universities, that there was no evidence at Bristol or elsewhere of discrimination against applicants from independent schools.

Rant over. How much better to concentrate on the truth about Bristol – a university of quality to which all who have the necessary ability, motivation and potential can and should aspire, whatever their background. And you are warmly invited to immerse yourselves all over again in this special environment by being part of the Convocation Reunion Weekend, the Convocation AGM and associated events. The Convocation Reunion Weekend is growing in popularity – last year, over 800 alumni attended. You can read about this year’s programme later in this issue. We very much look forward to seeing some of you there and to sharing tales of the past and news of the future.

With best wishes to you all.

Professor Eric Thomas  
Vice-Chancellor

Stuart Goldsmith (BA 1966)  
Chairman of Convocation
news

Pitching in

Twenty-three-year-old Ben Ramsbottom (MEng 2005) was inspired to do something when he visited Jora village in Kenya during a gap year in 2001. He not only saw the poverty, but also the importance of football in these communities.

‘Every school and most villages boast a team. The trouble is that many do not have adequate funds to purchase footballs and the pitches themselves are often very basic,’ said Ben.

Ben returned to Jora village last summer to erect goal posts and decided to extend the project to other villages. Back home in Oxford, he worked flat out at Beeline Cycles to make money to fund the scheme.

He is now spending six months in Kenya, constructing football equipment – including long-lasting galvanised steel goal-posts, corner flags and nets – from local materials, and is putting them up throughout the country. He is also handing out super-durable footballs that he designed by himself to withstand the country’s thorny acacia tree. In addition, the project aims to raise awareness about Aids prevention.

A football-loving Bristol graduate has set up a project that aims to provide decent football equipment to remote communities in Kenya.

Shore on the up

Baritone and Bristol graduate Andrew Shore (BA 1974) received rave reviews for his title role in ENO’s recent production of Vaughan Williams’s Sir John in Love. Based on Shakespeare’s comedy The Merry Wives of Windsor, the piece follows the hapless attempts of old soak Sir John Falstaff, played by Andrew (pictured left), to woo two married women.

Andrew, who joined the operatic and dramatic societies while studying at Bristol, is hugely respected in operatic circles. The Daily Telegraph described him as ‘gold dust – a true singing actor’ who is ‘brilliantly and naturally funny on stage, capable of lifting the dullest evening’.

Entrepreneur-in-residence

Advance Nanotech recently appointed Dr Claudio Marinelli (PhD 2002) as Entrepreneur-in-Residence at the Center for Advanced Photonics and Electronics (CAPE) at the University of Cambridge. Advance Nanotech is one of the premier providers of financing and support services to drive the commercialization of nanotechnology discoveries. Dr Marinelli will be responsible for managing Advance Nanotech’s programs at CAPE and its associated investments in Cambridge.

Javelin thrower Nick Nieland (BSc 1994, PhD 1999) won gold at this year’s Commonwealth Games in Melbourne, bagging his first international championship title. The 34-year-old stamped his authority on the event from the start by launching a season’s best throw of 80.10 metres.

Nick was a member of the Advanced Sports Squad while studying at Bristol.
Seventy-five years of sex

The changing attitudes to sex were explored at the 36th Convocation Spring lecture entitled ‘Seventy-five years of sex’. The lecture, given by Dr Anne Weyman OBE (BA 1965, Honorary LLD 2005), Chief Executive of the Family Planning Organisation (which celebrated its 75th anniversary this year), focused on the battles that were fought to enable women to control their fertility and to ensure that schools provide education about sex and relationships.

Dr Weyman also talked about the continuing challenges faced today. ‘The Family Planning Association has decided that being 75 is no excuse for putting our feet up, sipping a gin and tonic and going on a Saga cruise,’ Dr Weyman said. ‘Instead, we intend to go on for the next 75 years being the voice of reason in the highly controversial arena of sexual health. And for me, as a campaigner at heart, there can be no greater cause than championing the rights of individuals to make informed choices about their lives.’

Paediatrician Dr Beryl Corner OBE (Honorary MD 1996), who delivered the vote of thanks.

Lessons in perfume

The School of Chemistry is a key player in a new project to promote the physical sciences among young women. A collaboration between the University and a cluster of local science colleges, led by Rednock School, has been awarded a grant by the Royal Society to carry out a project on the chemistry of perfumes. Year 10 students from Rednock and the other schools will undertake practical sessions with Drs Dudley Shallcross and Hazel Mottram, both of Bristol ChemLabS, and John Steven of the Cotswold Perfumery.

Sporting students’ success

Bristol students were recognised for their sporting achievements at the EDF Energy Bristol Sports Awards held in March this year.

Laura Bechtolsheimer (Politics and Philosophy 2005- ) (above right), an equestrian athlete, won the Sportswoman of the Year award. Laura has won national and European championships in dressage competitions, and is heading for a place in the 2008 Olympic team.

The University Sailing Club, British Universities Champion, was runner-up in the Team of the Year category, and both Danny Williams, a member of the University’s water-polo team, and a key player in the England team that recently came fifth in the Commonwealth Games Championships, and windsurfer Hugh Sims Williams, who ranks third in the UK and is a contender for Beijing 2008, were runners-up for Sportsman of the Year.

The Bristol Sports Awards celebrate local sporting talent and achievements and are the climax to the successful Bristol Sport 2005 initiative, a partnership project involving local sports organisations whose aim is to promote active participation, achievement and excellence in sports.
The nation’s only student film festival returned to the Bristol Students’ Union between 17 and 19 March 2006. Showcasing the very best in young filmmaking talent, the line-up for Screentest’s second year included guests from BAFTA and Aardman Animations, workshops by the UK Film Council, and the Raindance Film Festival’s famous 99-Minute Film School. Also in attendance were Total Film critic George Kriptopolus, Oscar-nominated Lord of the Rings make-up artist Peter Owens, movie director Chris Cook and renowned filmmaker Ken Loach. The heart of the festival, though, was hours of new student films, ranging from professional in quality to those made with the cheapest equipment available. The brightest stars amongst this next generation of filmmakers can be seen again at the Raindance London Film Festival and on Sky’s new talent channel, Propeller.

Bristol rugby triumph

For the fourth time in five years, Bristol’s men’s rugby team defeated the University of the West of England (UWE) in one of the biggest fixtures in the sporting calendar. Nearly 3,000 spectators braved the February weather to watch Bristol gain the trophy with a 35 – 14 victory in the tenth annual Rugby Varsity match.

Bristol’s women’s team also saw off their UWE counterparts to regain the Varsity crown with a 15 – 0 win over their rivals.

Bristol men’s team on their way to victory at the Rugby Varsity match against UWE

Sponsored by Lloyds TSB, the two matches together raised £6,000 for the Bristol Union of Disability Sports (BUDS), which facilitates disabled sport in the local community.

To glance into the minds of our students at this time of year is to plunge into a world fraught with angst and worry. There’s the stress of revision and of impending deadlines for complicated project work, the setting of plans to fill the tantalisingly close summer vacation and, of course, the overbearing trauma of finding a new place to live.

It is this latter worry that suddenly converts a once grotty kitchen into one that doesn’t seem that bad. A drafty bedroom complete with uncomfortable bed and cardboard-thin desk becomes, by the dawn of summer, without doubt the best room you’ve ever had.

While the University’s NUCLEUS project grinds on, these are feelings shared by the Students’ Union. Battered and scruffy, ugly and remote, our unabashed Union building plays host to remarkable friendships, fantastic societies and student exertions – many of which decorate these pages.

As we continue to plan our new home within NUCLEUS, the part that each and every room in our current building has played in enhancing the university experience of our legions of students becomes crystal clear.

So as our current students reminisce over the good fun and happiness enjoyed in their own rooms, the Students’ Union is working to ensure that our new home will allow for a proud continuation of our student activities for years to come.

Ben Williams is the Students’ Union Communications Sabbatical.

Bristol rugby triumph on moving
HOW TO GET YOUR DREAM JOB

Our expert: Dr Rob Yeung (BSc 1992), business psychologist.

If you can’t honestly say that you don’t just like, but love your job, then maybe it’s not the one for you. Go get that dream job instead.

Get networking
Even in the toughest of times, organisations continue to hire. But when it comes to finding them, it has never been truer that it’s not what you know but who you know. At middle and senior levels, countless positions are never advertised but filled by word of mouth. Even at junior levels, many organisations ranging from advertising and consulting firms to big television production companies fill vacancies by referral. So get networking. Get talking to ex-colleagues, clients, contacts, even friends and family and ask if they know people who might know people who need someone like you.

Show them that you’re a STAR
At the interview, make sure you stand out from the crowd. Don’t just tell the interviewers how good you are; give concrete examples as to why you are a STAR. Tell the interviewers about a tough situation, the task you had to accomplish, the actions you took, and the result you achieved. Use the STAR acronym to bring your experience to life and make yourself memorable.

Be enthusiastic
Don’t forget that it’s not just what you say but also how you say it. Shortlisted candidates often have broadly similar skills and levels of experience. So interviewers are often heavily influenced by the enthusiasm and passion you display – and that often comes out as much in your voice and body language as the words you choose.

First impressions count
Finally, be aware of what psychologists call the primacy effect. In plain English, first impressions really do count. Interviewers often make up their minds within the first few minutes. So focus on presenting a strong handshake and making unwavering eye contact. Have two or three positive comments to make about the company, their offices, whatever. And don’t forget to smile.

We spend a third of our adult lives at work. Don’t settle for an OK job; go for your dream job.

Dr Rob Yeung is a psychologist specialising in management assessment and executive coaching at business consultancy Talentspace. He presents the BBC television series How To Get Your Dream Job and is the author of over a dozen books including The Rules of Networking and The Rules of Job Hunting.
HOW TO FLY A HOT AIR BALLOON

Our expert: David Bareford (MB ChB 1973, MD 1988), five-times British hot air ballooning champion.

It appears to be simple
A hot air balloon appears to be one of the simplest of crafts to control. It only has one basic control, the burner. You turn the burner on, the balloon climbs, it is taken by the wind, you maintain the heat in the balloon by intermittent use of the burner, you allow the balloon to cool and the balloon comes down.

But it’s a bit more complicated than that
However, the process is more complicated due to the delayed effects of the heat generated and the sheer inertia of the balloon. The hot air produced when turning the burner on takes some four to five seconds to reach the top of the balloon. The weight of the balloon and the air inside reaches over two tonnes and it takes some seconds to alter the vertical movement of that mass. It is this lack of immediate response in that one control that makes learning to fly a balloon a little more difficult.

You need a licence
A balloon is a registered aircraft and a pilot requires a licence issued by the Civil Aviation Authority before taking charge. Gaining this licence requires 15 hours of instruction in the air together with exams in air law, navigation, meteorology, balloon systems and human factors. These ground exams teach you that there are areas of air that are ‘controlled’ (such as around airports) that need to be avoided and how to do that. The flying practice is to learn the delayed response to the burner. This certainly helps when judging at what point to arrest the descent just before landing so as not to ‘round out’ 6ft below the surface. When you master the ability to get the balloon to ‘round out’ just above the surface so as to make a smooth landing you have learnt the essence of flying a balloon. There is one other control, the deflation panel. This is pulled, when landed, to release the remaining hot air so as to prevent that residual hot air dragging the balloon over some embarrassing obstacle.

Competition ballooning
Though the balloon is taken by the wind, the direction of that wind varies with the direction of that wind varies with height. Therefore by changing height, sometimes by several thousand feet, you can vary the direction of travel by up to 180 degrees. This is the concept behind competition ballooning. Targets are placed down wind and the competitor has to find the correct height to get the right wind to convey the balloon to the target, and then descend through various wind levels to pass by the target to place a streamer as near to the centre as possible.

David Bareford is Britain’s most successful balloon competitor. He has been British champion five times, has been in the top ten in the world championships consistently since 1977, and has a long record of successes in international competitions around the world.

HOW TO BECOME A STUNT WOMAN/MAN

Our expert: Lucy Allen (BA 1984), professional stunt woman.

Join the Register
To join the Stunt Register and become one of the true professional stunt performers in the UK, you must train yourself up to a recognised standard in six different physical disciplines as set down by the JISC Stunt Register of Co-ordinators and Performers. And believe me, this is no pushover. The dive test, for example, is ten dives from the ten-metre platform at Crystal Palace swimming pool – all marked to international standard. To prove you have experience of working in the film and TV industry, you must complete at least 60 days’ work as a supporting artiste. Video evidence of your physical disciplines must also be submitted to the committee.

Join Equity
Being a member of the actors’ union Equity is also a must and getting this ticket is another hurdle to overcome. You might have to find work as a dancer, wrestler, juggler or stand-up comedian, all the while keeping up with your training. My route was fairly extreme – working as an international striptease artiste in Istanbul for six months.

Learning the job
If you are finally accepted onto the Register you will be considered a provisional member – and that’s when you start to learn the job under the eyes of a stunt co-ordinator. Your work will be observed and you have to keep records of what you have done. Over the years you can progress up the ranks through intermediate to full membership, which means you will finally be in a position to become a stunt co-ordinator, supervising all the action and taking all the responsibility – not a job for the faint-hearted.

Be dogged and tenacious
The stunt profession is a tightly knit organisation and by most industries standards it is very small, but don’t be fooled that it is easy to get into or be accepted by. You need to be dogged and tenacious, willing to learn and be criticised and you have to be able to stand long periods of unemployment as the phone will not always be ringing. You have to take joy in the most uncomfortable, difficult, jobs – stunt work is never glamorous – and make light of long boring periods of waiting around. A sense of humour is a must as is the ability to get on with all types of people and know when to shut up.

Anything else?
Needless to say you have to have great physical ability, strength, suppleness and courage, a touch of masochism doesn’t hurt and you must also be a natural performer. Oh, and as a provisional you have to be very good at getting the teas in! Think you can do it?
HOW TO WIN AT BRIDGE

Our expert: Andrew Robson (BSc 1985, Cert Ed 1986), Britain’s number one bridge player.

Start young
To be really good at something, it is a great advantage to start really young. Tiger Woods and the Williams sisters will testify to that, having had the tool of their trade (golf club/tennis racket) in their hands aged two. It is the same with bridge, and I started aged ten.

School and university days, before the brain starts its inevitable decline, need to be filled with more of the same. As I collected my ‘Bishop Desmond’ in psychology, I couldn’t help but think that in reality I had received it for bridge. Many’s the time I planned to break up my all-night bridge four at 9.45 am, in order to attend a 10 am lecture. Somehow, I never made it. Only later I realised how I’d made the right decision, focusing on the skill that was to become my career.

Concentrate
To play bridge well, you need to concentrate for long periods – I remember once playing for 28 straight hours, then wandering up Whiteladies Road (every car a playing card) and putting on a pizza back at my Churchill Hall block, only to fall asleep fully clad on a chair in the kitchen. But for the merciful intervention of a neighbour, H Block (and myself) would have burnt down.

Be logical
You need to be supremely logical to win at bridge. ‘My partner already knows “x”, there is no point in showing him/her “x” again. Instead, I will show him/her “y.”’ Such reasoning forms the basis of many decisions at the bridge table.

It’s a partnership
Bridge is a partnership game. You must learn to encourage your partner, never to criticise, and to see things from his/her perspective. Not a bad training for life and marriage!

Bridge is an ingenious combination of cooperation – with partner – and competition – versus the opponents. The ultimate difference between winning and losing, as with all competitive pursuits, is hunger. And determination, ‘I will not let the bad result on the last deal upset me.’ ‘I will not make another mistake.’

Andrew Robson is Britain’s number one bridge player, teacher and writer. Former world and European champion, he is current world individual silver medallist. He writes the daily bridge column in The Times, and runs a highly successful bridge school (specialising in teaching beginners) in south-west London. For more information, visit www.arobson.co.uk.

HOW TO KEEP THE PERFECT PITCH
(also applicable to your lawn)

Our expert: Dr Stephen Baker (PhD 1982), soils and sports surface scientist.

During each game of football, the 22 players will tread on the playing surface between 200,000 and 250,000 times, damaging the grass and compacting the soil. As football is played at the worst time of the year for drainage and grass growth, it is essential that the pitch is managed so that it is in the best possible condition at the start of the season.

Drainage
Probably the most important factor influencing the quality of a pitch is its drainage system. This may consist of a series of pipe drains, possibly augmented by vertical sand bands linking the drains to the surface. However, at the professional level, 300 mm deep sand-dominated rootzones are widely used and they often incorporate plastic fibre reinforcement to increase stability.

The right grass
Grass selection is normally based on perennial ryegrass, with possibly some smooth-stalked meadow grass. Selection of the best varieties is important, using published information on wear tolerance, winter colour, resistance to disease, and so on.

Fertilise
Fertiliser management over the spring and summer is critical for subsequent grass survival. Too little fertiliser, particularly nitrogen, means that growth is not vigorous enough to sustain wear; too much fertiliser and the soft, succulent leaves become prone to mechanical damage and disease. For a sand-based rootzone, the optimum is normally 250-300 kg/ha per year of nitrogen, whereas for a soil-based rootzone, 150 kg/ha of nitrogen is usually sufficient. Other essential inputs may include sand top dressing, herbicides for weed control and fungicides to control disease.

The weather
Environment conditions have a major effect on turf growth and, in large stadia, shade and lack of air movement can reduce the quality of the pitch. Modern stadia may include an undersoil heating system, transparent or even movable roof panels, banks of artificial lights to sustain growth and large fans to help air movement.

Dr Stephen Baker is Head of Soils and Sports Surface Science at the Sports Turf Research Institute. He has co-ordinated research projects for most of the governing bodies of sports in the UK including the Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St Andrews, the Football Association and Football League, the Rugby Football League and Rugby Union, the England and Wales Cricket Board, the Jockey Club and the British Greyhound Racing Board. He is also a director of the International Turfgrass Society.
HOW TO WRITE SCIENCE FOR NON-SCIENTISTS

Our expert: Dr Philip Ball (PhD 1988), freelance science writer and a consultant editor for Nature.

Ask yourself why?
The implication is that you’re a scientist yourself, right? Or at least, I take it you have had some scientific training? Maybe you have just done some earth-shattering research and are eager to tell the world about it. Perhaps you didn’t do it yourself, but read it in a journal or heard it at a conference and feel it just has to be communicated. Or maybe you fancy getting into journalism (which is great, provided that you’re not doing it for the money). Whatever the reason, don’t pick up your pen or switch on your computer until you have asked yourself: why am I doing this? And if you don’t have a good answer, forget it until you do.

Seduce your readers
Then you need to identify your potential readers. Are they the kind who buy New Scientist every week? Or will they just stumble across your piece in a newspaper or magazine? Remember that, whoever they are, they aren’t obliged to read a single word of what you write. You might think that your topic should be obligatory knowledge for everyone – but if you bore or confuse or patronise your readers, they’ll put the article down without a moment’s thought. You have to seduce them.

Illuminate
That needn’t mean dumbing down or stuffing in bad jokes. It means (for example) that you speak to adults as adults, and children as children. Not only must you avoid jargon, but you should be alert to science’s habitual figures of speech, which tend to take a lot for granted. You should look for metaphors that are genuinely illuminating. And it means that you must tell a story. There are lots of narrative forms to choose from, and fiction writers have done you the favour of inventing them all already.

And finally, remember to enjoy it. If you don’t, no one else will.

Philip Ball is a freelance science writer and a consultant editor for Nature. His book Critical Mass won the Aventis Prize for science books in 2005, and his latest book is The Devil’s Doctor (Heinemann, 2006).

HOW TO BE A ‘NATURAL’ NATURAL HISTORY PRESENTER


To do this job well, you have to love it. Once you get tuned into the awesome lives of the organisms that we share this planet with, you just have to let people know about it. And it is awesome (watch any Attenborough series and disagree with me).

Thankfully, there are many people out there who agree and are ready to tune in and discover something new with you. You feel duty bound to go to the limit to deliver it. You are chest deep in a swamp with leeches around your delicates and you couldn’t be happier.

Filming wildlife is an education in virtues. Patience, persistence and acceptance are all essential tools of the trade. Frustration, disappointment and panic are all commonly encountered on the road to success. The story you set out to tell may not be the one that makes it to the screen. Flexibility and a quick tongue can get you out of a hole.

Finally, you absolutely have to be a team player. At least carry the tripod.

Steve Leonard began television presenting by accident, when he was filmed for Vets in Practice, an observational documentary. Since then he has graduated as a vet and presented many natural history series for the BBC Natural History Unit, including Vets in the Wild, Ultimate Killers and Animal Camera.
Flexible plans
Initially, we vowed not to catch a plane. Then the Iranian national team invited us to travel to Dublin with them for the first leg of their World Cup play-off against the Republic of Ireland.

Belief
Our goal was to engage as many personalities as we could on our travels. We knocked on many doors and got many rejections. Yet, sporting smiles and believing in what we were seeking to achieve, we did what we said we would do. Sven, Owen, Pele, the Dalai Lama, the grandson of Compo from Last of the Summer Wine and news slots on British, Japanese and Norwegian television all came our way. David Beckham eluded us, but we did get a free ticket from his parents ....

Andrew Sloan is author of 23 Sweet FAs, which charts his adventures with a table-football table through Europe, the Middle East, India, Nepal, China, Korea and Japan. Published by Virgin Books on 4 May 2006, Nonesuch readers can order a copy at the special discount rate of £6.99 + free P&P, telephone +44 (0)1206 255800, quoting the title as reference.

HOW TO CARRY A FOOTBALL-TABLE ROUND THE WORLD

Our expert: Andrew Sloan (LLB 2001).

In the British tradition of doing adventurous things for absolutely no reason, Andy carried a table-football table overland to the 2002 World Cup in Korea and Japan. The aim: to challenge all the Football Associations en route and to blag a free ticket to the World Cup Final.

Buy a football table
Not as easy as it sounds. The workforce of Toys ‘R’ Us met me with blank stares when asked if I could weigh their tables as I was planning on carrying one up to Everest.

Luck
During the trip, we somehow survived a Basque separatist petrol-bombing, avalanches, riots, and a direct lightning strike, and missed a plane which was subsequently shot down by a stray Ukrainian missile. On the top of a mud citadel (since destroyed by earthquake) in Bam, near the Afghan border, we met a Swiss woman whose cousin was rather senior in FIFA.

Scant preparation
By sole way of preparation for the trip, I drew a line on a map and wrote 23 letters to the 23 Football Associations en route. I got one reply and a rather bemused phone call from my mum: ‘Andrew, there’s a letter for you from the Football Federation of the Islamic Republic of Iran; what are you up to?’

HOW TO FILL A LECTURE THEATRE

Our expert: Professor Simon Bott (BSc 1983), lecturer.

First impressions
The most important thing is the first day of the class. The cliché ‘first impression is everything’ is very true when teaching large classes. I emphasise the difficulty of the material. I discuss the high failure rates of students who are not adequately prepared. I describe a study regime that would tax the best students, and maintain that it is essential for success in the class. Once I have them suitably terrified, a small joke works wonders – well out of proportion to the actual humour inherent in the joke.

British accent
Even though there is an enormous British population in the large Texas cities, the accent is still one that has extra credibility and, dare I say, attractiveness.

No notes
I totally eschew the use of notes in any form. I was always impressed by the lecturers at Bristol who were able to present the material coherently without any help. It always seemed to imply that they knew more than those poor people who needed reference material.

Demonstrations
It is hard to lecture for the entire class time. When teaching smaller groups of students, I use demonstrations to break up the time. The reaction of potassium with water is always a fun display – the lump of metal floats on the surface of the water, reacting violently to give off a gas, and then catches fire with a beautiful purple flame. This would be a super reaction to do in front of 150 people. However, in order to perform it on a scale that would be visible by people in the back of the classroom, one would have to use such a large lump of potassium that the lives of the people in the front of the class would be imperilled.

Intellectual breaks
I incorporate activities to illustrate concepts and provide intellectual breaks in class. For example, I get student volunteers to stick large sheets of coloured paper (which represent electrons) to themselves and hold hands to form bonds (just the other day, in front of 500+ peers, one student removed his wedding ring in order to make a bond with another student of the opposite gender).

To make the students want to come to class, and to hold their attention while they’re there, I try to create an atmosphere that is less of a formal lecture and, hopefully, one that is somewhat entertaining.

Professor Simon Bott is Research Associate Professor and Undergraduate Chairman at the University of Houston, Texas. It’s standing room only in Simon’s chemistry classes. Even students who aren’t majoring in chemistry will fight for a space in his lecture hall. It is this kind of enthusiasm coupled with the academic success of these students that has garnered Simon the university’s 2005 Non-Tenured Teaching Excellence Award.
HOW TO WRITE A BEST SELLER


I first decided to write a best seller when I was 14. It seemed a good idea at the time. It was 20 years before I succeeded, if you define a best seller as a book appearing in The Sunday Times top ten fiction or non-fiction. Since then, 14 of my 17 books have appeared in the top ten, most rather briefly and low down the list. But I’m not complaining: my books have paid the mortgage.

So what makes a fiction best seller? What follows needs the caveat that in the best seller game there are always exceptions that prove the rule, but break the rules and you’re unlikely to succeed.

Your story needs:
• a likeable, competent hero or heroine who has an appealing flaw or two;
• a plot that is credible within its own terms, robust in its working through, and occasionally unpredictable;
• characters, apart from the hero, who are believable, not clichéd, and have convincing, significant and affecting motivations;
• a context/background that is intrinsically interesting;
• a genre that is recognisable and familiar to the general reader;
• chapters that are of a number and length that match those usually found within your chosen genre; and
• a baddie who is sufficiently nasty and interesting to be worth defeating.

Most people who talk to me about wanting to be a writer seem incapable of taking the above rules on board. They simply don’t do the research or learn about their market. To be honest, most of these dreamers are lazy. What to do next? Read in your chosen genre a lot; write routinely, at least 400 words a day over weeks not days, months preferably; and don’t talk to anyone about your ideas because it dissipates your energy. Then, just start: today, tomorrow at the latest … next week never happens.

HOW TO CHOOSE A WINE FROM THE LIST

Our expert: Becky Sue Epstein (MA 1975), wine and spirits writer.

The wine director – the good and the bad
At fine dining establishments, you might have a variety of experiences with your wine order. First, you could encounter a wine director (as sommeliers may now be called) who is genuinely interested in your having a great wine-and-food pairing. If so, enjoy the experience.

But how do you tell if you’ve got a good wine person? Start by asking her/him what type of wine – not which wine – to order with your chosen dish. He or she will usually steer you in the right direction. (This is their job, after all.) But notice, while you are talking, if the wine director seems smarmy or haughty. Try to put your own insecurities aside. If you are genuinely not having a paranoid day and you feel you are being treated this way, then forget the wine director; you are on your own – almost.

The right bottle
I say ‘almost’ because there are several reliable ways to choose wine on your own – and you will have got an idea of what type of wine you’ll want from the otherwise-useless sommelier. First, look at the restaurant’s by-the-glass specials or wine flights. These can be fascinating discoveries at upscale restaurants (though they are often not the best idea at other places). Stick to the classic red with meat, white with chicken and fish – though a young pinot noir (aka red Burgundy) can also be lovely with salmon or pork.

Another method is to order the wine that is second from the bottom of the list, in your chosen category. Unless you are familiar with (and happen to like) the cheapest wine on the list, do not order it because it’s often put there for people who are literally bottom-line driven: they want the least expensive wine, for whatever reasons.

Also, do not order the most expensive wines on the list – again, unless you are familiar with and happen to like them. These are often targeted toward wine snobs and/or expense accounts. If you simply want a good dinner, you don’t need to try to impress anyone in the restaurant with your wine order. Cheers!

Becky Sue Epstein is the Wine and Spirits Editor for Intermezzo magazine. She has been providing wine and spirits columns to magazines, newspapers and websites in the US and UK for the past 20 years. You can read the full version of Becky’s article at www.localwineevents.com/Wine-Articles/185-1.html.
Day 64: The wind is howling and the temperature is hovering around -30°C, your legs are burning, your lungs are screaming and your heart is beating so hard that it threatens to burst from your chest. Your crampons scrape desperately at the featureless rock and your thickly gloved hands struggle to manipulate the ropes and carabiners. Oh, and in case that wasn’t enough, it is pitch black and there is a 13,000 ft drop only a few feet to your side.

Well, I guess that the experience of surviving near the summit of Everest is one that only a few individuals will ever have to contend with. However, with more and more travellers choosing trips that include the words ‘base camp’ instead of ‘beach’, and ‘trek’ instead of ‘taxi’, how will you survive?

Look the part and play the part
Gone are the days of ‘all the gear; no idea’! Get all that shiny new Gore-Tex out of the carrier bag and into the rain. Learn how it works, test it out: halfway up a glacier is not the time to be wondering if your crampons are on the right feet.

Take it easy
The human body needs time to adapt to the lack of oxygen at altitude. Drink as much water as you can, take aspirin for the joints, extract of garlic to prevent frostbite (and ward off vampires).

You are there to enjoy the adventure, and pulmonary or cerebral oedema from a rapid climb are not conducive to a good time.

Go with a guide, or someone who is experienced at high-altitude travel
Watch and listen to what they do. That is the reason that they are the guide or leader.

Get a photo
Do get a marvellously egotistical photo of you on the top of ‘your Everest’ to rival Tenzing’s. Union Jack optional, all-conquering Cheshire-cat grin mandatory.

Jake Meyer completed the Seven Summit Challenge last year, when he made it to the summit of Everest, making him the youngest man ever to have reached the summit of the highest mountains on every continent.

Being funny is very complicated. If you don’t have a face like a squashed tomato, feet like flat fish, the wit and irreverence of Oscar Wilde or a voice like a chipmunk, yet want to be funny, here are a few things you could try:

• Fall over. This is always funny. You might not be laughing but others will.
• Bump into things. With your head.
• Appear suddenly. Naked.
• Shock people. Anything unexpected is usually funny as long as it doesn’t involve guns/knives/bombs.
• Repeat things. Three times. Naked, naked, naked.
• Make people feel safe, like they know where things are going, then do something unexpected. Then something even more unexpected.
• Doing inappropriate things in inappropriate places is often funny. (Not if you’re a pervert though.)
• Be serious about silly things. Be silly about serious things.
• Be really bad at something. Be unexpectedly really good at something.
• Don’t censor your thoughts.
• Be fearless.
• Don’t laugh too loudly at your own joke, but laugh really loudly if no one else does. Laughing can be infectious, especially if you’ve got a funny laugh.
• Make yourself have a funny laugh.

If you’re still struggling, come and see one of our shows.

The Secret Gardeners have been working creatively together as writer/performers since they met in Bristol where they studied drama. They took their show Millie and Tillie Do You to the Edinburgh Festival in 2004 and were finalists for the Funny Women competition in the same year. They have also been involved in development writing for TV and radio. They can be seen performing their sketch show in numerous venues around London. For more information, visit www.vivieneclore.com.
HOW TO WIN AN ELECTION

Our expert: Ben Ullmann (Maths and Philosophy 2003-), who was recently elected President of Bristol Students’ Union 2006/07.

It’s been said that elections are won chiefly because most people vote against somebody rather than for somebody. I’m not sure that is always true and depending on the nature of the election, the key to winning will be varied. However, there are a few important tips which will, more often than not, ease your way to victory.

Believe in yourself
If you wouldn’t vote for yourself, then it will be difficult to convince others to. Your campaign team and advocates need to have confidence that you’re the right person for the job.

Plan everything
There’ll be enough to worry about during the campaign; make sure you know beforehand what you’re going to do every hour of every day.

Get your name known
Before the electorate can find out what you stand for, they need to know who you are. Use anything that helps people remember your name, including widespread publicity and well-thought-out branding. If they don’t know your name, they won’t vote for you.

Keep it simple
No-one wants to see or hear endless acronyms and jargon which only a handful of people will understand. Make your publications and speeches accessible to all so that people know what you are going to do for them.

Talk to people
This has the potential to win or lose you the election. Introduce yourself to as many people as possible to say ‘This is who I am and this is what I stand for’. The personal touch will win you votes and will encourage others to be your advocate.

The old adage of ‘if at first you don’t succeed …’ is well suited to elections. Victory is sweet but a defeat can also be a valuable experience.

HOW TO THROW A PARTY

Our expert: Marcus Rendle (MSc 1992), party organiser.

My job is mostly common sense, coupled with a pedantic passion to host a memorable event that will have been pitched perfectly for the guests attending, and simultaneously make the host look like a legend. All of which is simple. The hard part is coming in on budget.

What's your brief?
The most important aspect of every event I plan is getting a brief from the client. It’s essential to find out what they like, what they don’t like. When they wake up the next morning the first thing that should spring through their mind is ‘Last night was amazing because …’ Also, find out what other people have done in the past so you don’t replicate anything.

Venue
If you have chosen a theme, then consider venues that lend themselves to it. If you want to hold a Harry Potter party, find a period building with high ceilings such as the dining rooms at Wills Hall.

Budget
Budget is everything. With a budget established and contingencies set aside (there will always be something fun you will stumble across along the way: a chocolate fountain, more champagne), you can establish what you want to spend your money on: a band, vodka ice luges, a Moulin Rouge cabaret, a Moroccan chill-out or hot tubs in your ‘Caribbean’ garden.

Spread your budget throughout the night. If you spend it all on the canapés on arrival, after the initial WOW factor there is nothing to back it up. The options are endless: giveaways on the dining tables, a set of Dodgems after dinner, fireworks, goodie bags, a limo home.

Cleaners
And if you’re throwing a party at home, then make sure you’ve left keys for the cleaners. Then, by the time you rise for your papers, the debris has been removed and the furniture is safely back in place ready for a day on the sofa.

Marcus Rendle is founder and director of Hype Party Planning. The company was voted by The Daily Mail as one of the ‘Hottest Tickets of 2004’ for its design, production and event management of 3,500 guests in the Chinawhite Tent at the Cartier International Polo in Windsor. The Sunday Times Style Magazine voted it ‘One of the Twelve Best Parties of the Summer Season 2005’ and The Evening Standard voted it the ‘Best Event of the Year 2005’. For more information, visit www.hypepartyplanning.co.uk.
A rare bird

A film by a Bristol graduate made its world premiere at the ninth Bermuda International Film Festival held in March this year.

Lucinda Spurling (MA 2001) spent the last two-and-a-half years working on Rare Bird, a feature-length documentary on the story of the cahow, a seabird species native to Bermuda that was believed to be extinct as of 1620 only to be rediscovered 325 years later. The film is also the story of David Wingate, the 15-year-old boy who helped to find the bird. He went on to become Bermuda’s first conservation officer, and dedicated his life to ensuring the continuation of this unique species.

Lucinda grew up in Bermuda and came to Bristol for a year to study Film and Video Production. She worked as a freelance editor in England for a few years before returning home.

She said: ‘I can see all of my early influences in Rare Bird – my love of wildlife and an appreciation for a good detective story, which is what the cahow story is’.

A big cheer for the Alumni Foundation

A £500 grant from the Alumni Foundation has helped the University’s cheerleading club smile and strut their way to becoming one of the top-rated squads in the UK. Despite being a relatively inexperienced squad, the team recently finished joint first and third at a national tournament held in Newport, seeing off long-established clubs such as Liverpool and Cardiff. It is a far cry from their days as an attachment of the basketball club when the squad had to scrape around for coaching and facilities.

Now coached by Great Britain Cheerleader of the Year, Becci Parker, the club boasts some 100 members, with between 40 and 60 regularly attending training sessions. They are working to establish the club as a long-term fixture in Bristol sporting life, supplementing their funds with sponsorship from Bristol bar MBargo and cheering at the city’s Carling Academy once a month, and the Alumni Foundation grant has brought them a step closer to achieving their goal.

in brief

STUDENT SAVES COMPANY THOUSANDS

Magna Specialist Confectioners in Telford, Shropshire can boast savings of £250,000 a year thanks to the input of a student from Bristol. During his Year in Industry placement with the firm, Luke Stevens (Mechanical Engineering 2005- ) led the consolidation and rationalisation of the company’s stocks and then worked on the reconfiguration of the warehouse and new scheduling systems. The outcome of his project was a quarter of a million pound reduction in the company’s stock management costs.
Honorary degrees

The man behind Glastonbury Festival, Michael Eavis (above), was among the four distinguished individuals who received Honorary degrees at the Spring Congregation on 14 and 15 February this year.

Professor David Punter said: ‘Michael has done, and continues to do, something remarkable, something which gives pleasure to so many, and something which suggests that different communities need in the end to resolve their differences and live in a condition of harmony.’

Mary Mead, farmer, entrepreneur, and Director of Holt Farms Ltd, also received a Master of Arts. Dr the Honourable Gilbert Greenall, CBE, Consultant Adviser, Department for International Development received a Doctor of Medicine and Ellen Malos, Senior Research Fellow at the University, Women’s Aid pioneer and community activist, received a Doctor of Laws.

Space to breathe

A ground-breaking programme of creative movement workshops for those whose lives are affected by illness has been pioneered by a Bristol graduate. Joe Moran (BA 1988) is Project Director of Breathing Space, which offers a ‘breathing space’ for those living with illness, carers and health practitioners. The work aims to ‘renew the natural ease and rejuvenation that the body’s inner resources can offer’.

Breathing Space offers workshops for people living with HIV/AIDS and people who are losing their sight. And to celebrate the opening of the new Evalina Children’s Hospital at St Thomas’ Hospital in London in December 2005, it ran a series of workshops for children.

For more information visit www.fallingwide.com.
CONVOCAUTION AWARDS 2005
The two recipients of the 2005 Convocation awards were Robert Harding (Civil Engineering 2001-) and Tobin Webb (Music 2003-) (who is pictured above in the centre). The awards are made to students who have made an outstanding contribution to University life. Both students have helped to raise huge amounts for local and national charities. The winners each received a Bristol blue paperweight and a cheque for £500.

PANTO? NOW THAT’S SHOCKING
In one of the most surprising commissions of the century, Shopping and F**cking playwright Mark Ravenhill (BA 1987) has been asked to script the Barbican’s first panto – Dick Whittington. He assured the press that it will be a family pantomime, and won’t feature so much as a whiff of a rent-boy. The panto is due to open on 5 December 2006.

BEACHED WHALES
More whales are being washed up on beaches than ever before, leaving experts, including Dr Mark Simmonds (BSc 1980) of the Whale and Dolphin Conservation Charity, speculating that mankind’s industrial use of the sea is interfering with the mammals’ navigation system.

Since January this year, four sperm whales have been beached on the east coast of England, against only one in the whole of England and Wales last year.

Professor Angelini and the surgical team from the Bristol Heart Institute/Bristol Royal Infirmary

Professor Gianni Angelini, British Heart Foundation Professor of Cardiac Surgery, and his team at the Bristol Royal Infirmary have been voted Surgery Team of the Year by Hospital Doctor magazine in the Hospital Doctor Awards 2005.

The awards celebrate clinical excellence and innovation in hospital medicine. Professor Angelini’s team won the award for its pioneering work in developing ways to perform operations on the beating heart, a procedure known as off-pump coronary bypass surgery.

Conventional heart bypass surgery uses a cardiopulmonary bypass machine to allow the surgeon to operate on a still and bloodless heart, but this method can lead to potentially fatal complications. The new technique has been shown in trials to reduce the number of post-operative deaths, and to reduce the risk of stroke.

Jewel in Lissy’s crown
Lissy Kunnumpurath Mathew, a Masters student at the Centre for Deaf Studies, is the recipient of the Jewel of India Award for outstanding achievements in the field of Deaf Education. She received the award from the International Institute of Education and Management for 13 years’ dedicated service in Deaf Education, including promoting awareness about deafness through seminars, camps and workshops, and working with families in remote areas of Bihar, India to rehabilitate disabled people in the community.
Atkins is the UK’s largest multi-disciplinary consultancy and is leading the way in defence systems engineering. Our team is headquartered in Bristol and holds some of the UK’s most high profile engineering contracts.

As a top 40 supplier to the MoD, we also work extensively with other key names in the defence industry on planning, designing and enabling their most challenging programmes.

We are currently the systems house for the MoD’s flagship FRES programme (Future Rapid Effect System), defining the country’s next generation of medium-weight armoured vehicles. We’re also a key supplier to Rolls Royce, providing programme management and technical services across its marine and aerospace businesses.

This means we’re growing fast – and we need new people to join our team.

Experienced engineers and new graduates are required in the fields of systems, mechanical, electrical, nuclear and design engineering. If you want to be part of a global company at the forefront of this dynamic sector, which is as committed to diversity as it is to excellence, we want to hear from you. Excellent packages are available for the right candidates.

For full details, more information on defence systems and to apply, please visit www.atkinsglobal.com/careers/defence
THE NEXT BUDDY HOLLY
Edward Handoll (Mechanical Engineering 2003- ) has landed the eponymous lead in the touring production of Buddy, The Musical. Edward, who completed his engineering degree at Bristol and then faced the task of telling his parents he wanted to sing and dance instead, studied at the Mountview Academy of Musical Arts in London, and now becomes the 25th Buddy Holly in one of the most successful musicals to play the theatre.

TELETHON CAMPAIGN
This year’s Annual Fund telethon campaign has been a huge success so far, raising pledges of over £220,000. The team of 45 student callers has rung 13,348 graduates in the UK, Canada and the USA, and plans to ring a further 2,000 over the summer. The team would like to say a big thank you to Dominoes Pizza, Café Gusto, Pizza Provencale and Wagamama, all of whom kindly donated prizes to award the best callers, and to Coutts and Co., who made a donation.

BANTING PRESIDES OVER BIOCHEMIST CENTENARY
Professor George Banting of the Department of Biochemistry is Chairman of the Editorial Board for The Biochemist, the journal of the Biochemical Society, in its centenary year. A series of celebratory events is being held throughout the year, including the launch last month of a digital archive of all the journals published since 1906.

BLUNT WINS BRITS
Bristol graduate James Blunt (BSc 1996) won Best Pop Act and Best British Male at the 2006 Brit Awards.

Behind bars – for the right reasons
One Bristol graduate has found himself behind bars, and it’s all in the name of charity. Mike de Giorgio (BSc 1979) ended up in HMP Wormwood Scrubs on a fundraising mission for Greenhouse Schools Project, the charity he launched in 2002. Greenhouse uses sports and arts programmes to help 11- to 16-year-olds learn life skills.

The Wormwood Scrubs Sports Fair saw inmates, officers and members of the public take on a variety of running, rowing and cycling challenges to raise £50,000 for the charity. The 2006 event, now endorsed by the British Triathlon Association, takes place on 7 December and the charity is inviting Bristol alumni to take part. For more information, visit www.greenhouseschools.org.

Upside of anger
A Bristol graduate’s comedy that “takes the tabloid obsession with immigration and turns it on its head” has been a sell-out success since it opened at last year’s Edinburgh Festival to rave reviews. It has been playing to packed houses – both in the UK and internationally – largely on word-of-mouth recommendations.

Angry Young Man, written and directed by Ben Woolf (BA 2002), explores the British attitude to immigration and asylum and has been described as ‘a brilliantly written and performed piece to get people thinking’ and ‘an hour of non-stop frantic entertainment packed with pure theatrical exuberance’.

It’s Woolf’s third play for the independent MahWaff theatre company he started with two friends from Bristol University, Myanna Buring and Hywel John. Woolf says he was influenced by his Bristol drama course, which gave him the courage to write for British theatre, “Bristol was about liberating actors and directors from the text and saying, ‘If you hold the British theatrical canon in such esteem, you’re never going to write anything’.”
I donate...
Medical students visit Tibet

Maternal and child health community workshop: teaching the local women how to deliver and resuscitate babies safely

Medical students Camilla Peevers and Ajay Sangvi gained a remarkable insight into a life without Western medicine when they spent two months working in the Tibetan mountains as part of their final-year studies.

At 4,500 metres in Sichuan Province, the nearest hospital was seven hours away, and some patients walked for two days to see the pair.

The students treated 120 patients in the first two days and brought toothbrushes, toothpaste and soap in an attempt to educate the local community, but they struggled with the lack of access to painkillers and basic medicines.

Self-healing spacecraft

Researchers Ian Bond and Richard Trask in the Department of Aerospace Engineering are making exciting advances in developing a new material that could enable spacecraft to ‘heal’ punctures and leaks automatically.

The researchers have taken inspiration from human skin, which heals a cut by exposing blood to air, causing it to form a protective scab. In humans, the air chemically reacts with the blood, hardening it. In the airless environment of space, mechanical ‘veins’ have to be filled with liquid resin and a special hardener that leak out and mix when the fibres are broken. Both must be runny enough to fill the cracks quickly and harden before they evaporate.

They have fabricated a composite laminate material containing hundreds of hollow glass filaments thousandths of a millimetre wide. Half of the filaments are filled with an epoxy polymer or resin, the other half filled with a chemical agent that reacts with the polymer to form a very strong, hard substance. The glass filaments are designed to crack easily when the overall composite material is damaged, which causes both chemicals to leak out and plug the resulting crack.
I donate...

Euan Major (MSci 2001), Bristol Pioneer

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You'll be making a real difference to the lives of students at Bristol.

To make your contribution please visit our new online giving facility at www.bristol.ac.uk/alumni.
Dr Hazel Mottram (BSc 1995, PhD 1999) from the School of Chemistry took part in the Royal Society’s MP-scientist pairing scheme. Hazel was matched with the MP for Bristol West, Stephen Williams (BA 1988). As part of the scheme, she ‘shadowed’ Stephen for four days during November. Here is her diary of the adventure.

Monday 14 November
I arrive at 9 am and am pleased to find I have a pass, which means I can bypass the X-rays and frisking and enter the Palace of Westminster at will.

We start our week with a guided tour. Then, after an introduction from the Royal Society about the plans for the week, we break for lunch. MPs gradually drift in from their other duties and when Stephen arrives we grab a coffee and head over to his office, which is in the next building and miles away from the House itself. If the division bell rings, MPs have only eight minutes to get to the voting lobby and I reckon Stephen must need a good pair of running shoes to make it in time.

I make my way to the Stranger’s Gallery of the House of Commons to see what’s going on. The Chamber is almost deserted, with a handful of MPs debating the new licensing laws. A Tory MP is expressing his concerns about the dangers of binge drinking, describing how he believes typical behaviour for young antisocial binge drinkers involves ‘drinking double shots between each pint’. He seems to think that this doesn’t happen in his constituency, but in other, less affluent areas of the country, which makes me wonder when he last visited a pub. It emerges this week that the Red Lion, the closest pub to the Palace of Westminster and a well-known haunt of MPs and civil servants, has had its application for a late licence refused, although Number 10 claims it has nothing to do with the concerns of local residents.

Something that strikes me during the week is how little time an MP gets to spend in the debating chamber. The vast majority of the work is done behind the scenes in committees and meetings.

One of these is the All Party Group on Parliament and Science, one of hundreds of interest groups that exist in Parliament. The Science Group is an associated group, which means that its members need not all be MPs or Lords, so most of the UK Universities are members as are various other interested parties. This evening’s discussion is about risk assessment, particularly risk perception by the public.

I arrange to catch up with Stephen later in the week and go for a drink and dinner with some of my scientist colleagues. We’re all strong-minded people and, with the aid of a few glasses of wine, have some very interesting discussions about the differences between the US and UK systems, the future of the Lords and its makeup, and the differences between scientists and parliamentarians. We are all trained to assimilate large quantities of information, to précis and to say things concisely and accurately. Politicians, on the other hand, seem to deliberately beat around the bush to confound the issue. Shall the twain ever meet?

Tuesday 15 November
The day starts with a seminar about science in Parliament. Apart from Europe, science is the only subject which has an office in both houses, which although it sounds good, can in fact cause confusion over who deals with which issues. Later in the day I attend a meeting of the House of Lords Science and Technology Select Committee and am impressed by how seriously the committee members take their duties.

I meet Stephen in the central lobby and he takes me on a ‘behind the scenes’ tour of the Palace of Westminster. He is still finding his way round the buildings, which are a warren of passages, lifts and...
staircases, but manages to find a way to the roof terrace underneath the Clock Tower, the location of the Members Roof Garden from which the evil fictional PM Francis Urquhart threw a meddling journalist to her death in *House of Cards*.

Having survived the roof terrace, we go downstairs to the Terrace Marquee for a reception being held by a slimming group. Stephen is Liberal Democrat Shadow Health Minister, with particular responsibility for smoking, obesity and sexual health, so it’s important that he makes links with groups such as this. For a slimming group there’s an alarming amount of canapés and free-flowing wine, and I tuck in enthusiastically, but Stephen is much more reserved. He explains that if you’re not careful, working in Parliament can cause your food and alcohol intake to go sky-high.

Witty asides and point-scoring comments couched in the chivalrous language of the House make for an almost jovial air.

Over dinner I get my first chance to talk to Stephen properly and find out about why he went into politics. He decided he wanted to be an MP from an early age and so his new job as an MP really is a dream come true. It’s been a steep learning curve though, and I get the impression he’s only just getting to grips with the vast array of situations he now has to deal with and the wide range of subjects in which is now expected to be an expert. He admits that he starts work at 8 am and is rarely in bed before midnight.

**Wednesday 16 November**

At Prime Minister’s Question Time in the Commons, the Chamber is packed. As Tony Blair takes his seat, the buzz and excitement increases yet more. The first questions come from Scottish National and Labour MPs, but before long it is the turn of the Leader of the Opposition, Michael Howard. He seems far more personable than I had imagined. The debate between Blair and Howard is fantastic to watch. Witty asides and point-scoring comments couched in the chivalrous language of the House make for an almost jovial air. In the afternoon we cross Parliament Square to visit the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI).

**Thursday 17 November**

Stephen has a meeting with a campaigner from The Obesity Awareness and Solutions Trust (TOAST). On the way back to his office, I express my disappointment that I’ve not yet seen anyone famous. I was rather hoping for a few names to add to my meagre list of all-time celebrity spots, which currently numbers Jeremy Clarkson by the Watershed and one of the nurses from *Casualty* in the Highbury Vaults. It seems I will never make it as a tabloid journalist, for as Stephen lists all the people we saw over the previous two days, it emerges that Jack Straw had held the door open for me and Frank Dobson had walked past us in the corridor, and I didn’t even notice.

**Overall impressions**

I am left with several enduring impressions of Westminster. Firstly, MP’s work very hard. It’s a busy, stressful and time-consuming job. In fact, it’s almost two different jobs, one in Westminster and one in the constituency. Secondly, although the impression from the media is that everything happens on the floor of the Commons, the debating chamber plays only a minor part in an MP’s life. Most of the hard work is done in committee meeting rooms, thrashing out the finer details of a new bill point by point, hearing evidence from expert witnesses or calling ministers to account. Finally, I was pleased to find out how much we, as an electorate as a whole and as scientists within that, can and do become involved in decisions made by our Parliament.
Stephen Williams (BA 1988) became the Liberal Democrat MP for Bristol West in May 2005. In a tight three-way marginal, he secured a massive swing of almost 10 per cent to take the seat. Bristol West is home to the University and many of his constituents are University staff and students. Here, he gives an insight into his first year as an MP.

Polling day was terrifying. We thought we were going to win, but you can never be sure. When the results were announced my main emotion was relief. Everything I’d put into it had finally paid off.

It was the next morning that it really hit me. I walked through the University precinct and down Park Street. It was a beautiful spring morning, and it struck me: I first came to this area of Bristol 20 years ago to study and now I’m the MP. It was an amazing feeling.

Lots of hard work over a long period of time won the election for me. Yes, there were a lot of other factors. The Iraq war infuriated so many Labour supporters, tuition fees played a part. But really it was down to the hours put in by lots of people.

Nothing could have prepared me for Westminster. I was thrown in at the deep end and had to learn by trial and error. It’s not like any other job; no manager, no contract. The hours are punishing. I thought for the first year I’d be learning the ropes, but I was given responsibility straight away – sitting on two committees as well as being health spokesperson.

The volume of letters I get every day is incredible. Bristol West is a clever electorate, and I get letters about everything under the sun.

My tax background comes in handy in Parliament. When I first arrived, I worked on the finance bill. I don’t mind doing the odd tax-related thing, but I don’t want to get trapped in that role.

I had a terrible cold when I gave my maiden speech in the House of Commons. I was sneezing and coughing all the way through. It stopped me from worrying about what I was saying.

I’ve always enjoyed public speaking and I’m good at it. But the House of Commons has got to be the most intimidating place on earth in which to do it. It’s a ‘bear garden’ atmosphere. In the US and France, it’s more formal. But here, you can be interrupted, barracked, told to ‘give way’. You’ve got to keep your wits about you.

I’m an historian. I love the history of Parliament, the building and the traditions. But some of the practices have got to go – they’re nonsensical.

I come from a poor background. My dad died when I was young and my mum was a school dinner-lady. We lived in a council house in a mining village at the top of a mountain. When I came to Bristol to study at University, it was the first time I’d ever met a person from a public school, or a Tory for that matter. It was a huge culture shock. I was frightened that I wouldn’t fit in. But it all worked out fine.

The issues that a lot of my constituents write to me about don’t actually personally affect them. They’re largely affluent, well-educated middle-class people. They write to me about Tibet, Africa, Pakistan. They have the luxury of being able to care about these things.

Public health is one of my key concerns. My father died very young of bowel cancer, and I think that’s influenced me. It’s predicted that the next generation will be the first to have a shorter lifespan than their parents.

Further education is often overshadowed by higher education. I think further education is crucial: that’s where life-long learning takes place.

The one piece of legislation I wanted to help enact most was to ban smoking in public places. I’ve done this. Now I want to push forward lowering the voting age. In 1969, people said that there would be chaos if we lowered the voting age from 21 to 18, but there wasn’t.

I never wanted to be a football player or a racing-car driver. I was always interested in watching the news and reading papers.

You can see something on the news and you can get angry about it. You can rant or you can do something about it. There are lots of different ways to make a difference, but most problems are interconnected. I believe that it is only through politics and the democratic process that we can tackle these interconnected problems.
Seals off the Farne Islands

The first shoot, and one of the highlights of filming COAST, was a trip to the Farne Islands. Timing was critical as the aim was to try and swim with the adult seals underwater before they pupped, to avoid any aggressive encounters.

As far as encounters with wild animals underwater are concerned, this one is up there in my top ten. Providing you stay still, patient and in the right spot, the seals will come and check you out. Generally, a bull seal will swim by and give you the “once-over”. It’s as if he then goes off and tells the rest of the group that you’re OK and pose no threat to them. Then the females move in. After a few swim-bys, they will come up to you to investigate. They are inquisitive creatures, and once they’re happy with you, they seem to have no inhibitions – coming up to your mask, the camera, investigating your head, hoses, arms, legs, you name it. It’s always a privilege to have a wild animal approach you, whatever the situation (unless it’s a great white shark), and this experience was no exception.

We returned to the islands in November when it was a little colder and a lot windier. This time the seals were mostly on land and the ground was littered with white blobs – the seal pups. Owing to their dense fur, designed to keep them warm, they can’t swim and would drown if they got in the water before their first moult. They are the cutest creatures and seem to have little fear of humans going up and stroking them. The adults at this time are a little harder to deal with. Either they hang around pretty close by and make a mad dash for you if you get anywhere near their offspring, or they hang around in the water and it’s advisable not to swim with them. Needless to say, we didn’t dive second time around.
Mating cuttlefish in Selsey

Standing alongside the pier in Selsey in the April rain looking out to sea, the only clues about what lurk beneath the waves are a few bleached cuttlefish bones lying on the pebbles. Still, I was assured by a couple of local divers that this was one of the best spots in the UK to dive with cuttlefish.

It’s hard to believe that these exotic-looking creatures come to UK waters to breed, but in late spring, they move up from the ocean depths to beaches off the south coast looking for suitable sites for egg-laying.

Our chances were looking good, until we realised that the water temperature was two degrees lower than the same time last year and wondered whether the breeding season might be delayed. We had only a small diving window in which to film these creatures – what if they weren’t there?

I sat on the boat, ready to go, while the cameraman dived in. A few minutes later, he sent up a marker buoy to let us know that he had found cuttlefish and was filming them. I kitted up fast, but then had a frustrating four-minute descent to ten metres due to a blocked ear. Every minute that went by, I imagined we were missing exciting cuttlefish behaviour. Quite quickly, I came across a large individual who was quite happy to be filmed right in front of my face. It gave me a great opportunity to get a close look at its anatomy and colourations as it hovered motionless in the water. That wonderful rippling skirt, always on the move to keep it buoyant.

As I watched closely, it manoeuvred gently around a rock – and then the front two tentacles went up in a threat posture, and turned from a sort of mud brown to reddish purple. Then, right in front of my face, it shot straight for the rock face and returned with a crab in its tentacles. It shot past my face and into the gloom – just the sort of encounter we were after.
Drift diving in Strangford Lough

Two weeks after the cuttlefish shoot, we travelled to Strangford Lough, in Northern Ireland. It’s difficult to describe the sheer unspoilt beauty of the place and hard to do it justice with photographs. This Lough supports an exceptional range of marine life, from a high-energy and rocky environment near the mouth where the tide floods in, to mudflats at the top end where the water is much calmer.

It is home to over 2,000 marine species. The tide rushes through the Narrows, a very narrow opening for such a huge body of water, and gets churned up as it moves into the Lough and as the depth decreases dramatically in places. The force of the currents is incredible and looks pretty hairy when you’re on the water.

Unfortunately, there was a plankton bloom when we were filming and the water was a bit green, but we still saw lots of great sea life, including a fantastic blue conger underneath the timbers of an old 18th-century wreck. There were the odd few wrasse and a lot of scallops, hermit crabs and edible crabs. Plenty to look at if you can stay still long enough in the swell.

Our final few dives aimed to illustrate the force of the current – so we braced ourselves for some ripping water and got in. Only at the Needles have I been so sucked in and out of the currents that I felt out of control and at the mercy of the water. Here, we had to coordinate four divers, lights and cameras. The cameraman, Scott Tibbles, even managed to hold the camera and the light, and direct all of us in the current. At one stage, we were all lined up, hanging onto a wreck, being sucked underneath it. We had no option but all to let go and go with the flow. Scotty kept filming, and looking back at the footage until we got the images we needed: divers at the mercy of the currents. Well worth it for the experience but not for the faint-hearted.

The first series of COAST was screened in July 2005. Miranda is currently working on the next two series, due to be broadcast in the autumn of 2006 and the spring of 2007.

Miranda used a full-face ama mask during many of her dives for this series. The mask was developed by Richard Bull, an expert in working with media divers. It has a large flat plate, which is great for presenting because viewers can see all of the diver’s face and even their lips moving, but is tricky to use. It’s difficult to equalise the pressure inside your ears. Normally you would do this by pinching your nose (impossible with this mask), so you can only rely on swallowing to equalise. There is also a build-up of carbon dioxide in the mask, so you have to flush in fresh air every minute or two so you don’t go dizzy.
Come back to Bristol ...

‘The most beautiful, interesting and distinguished city in England’ – John Betjeman

Bristol reunited

2006

Come and see what (and who) has changed since your student days ...

Friday 21 to Sunday 23 July

All alumni are warmly invited to return to Bristol for a full weekend programme of events in July. This is a great chance to catch up with old friends and learn more about the University today. Why not bring your family along? Several of the halls of residence offer very reasonably priced accommodation at the weekend.

See the Convocation Reunion Weekend 2006 insert for the full programme of events, and booking details, or visit www.bristol.ac.uk/alumni for updated information, more reunions, discussion forums and to book online.

Visit BLADE (Bristol Laboratory for Advanced Dynamics Engineering) on Friday evening. Many other departments will host visits on Saturday afternoon.

Join the reunion lunch in the Reception Room of the Wills Memorial Building on Saturday.

Sir Neil Cossons, Chairman of English Heritage, will give a lecture on Saturday afternoon entitled ‘Brunel and his Legacy’.

Have dinner at Wills Hall on the Saturday evening (all alumni welcome).

Come on board the ss Great Britain on Sunday for a tour and lunch.
‘A superb event. It was wonderful to meet up with all those people after so many years.’


In addition to the main programme of events, there will be special reunion celebrations for everyone graduating 25, 30, 40 or 50 years ago. 1956 graduates are invited to lunch in the beautiful Victoria Rooms, 1966 graduates are invited to lunch in the splendour of the Great Hall and graduates from 1976 and 1981 are invited to a garden party in the grounds of Royal Fort House.

Full programme and booking details: www.bristol.ac.uk/alumni

Contact the events team on +44 (0)117 928 8612/7939 or email reunion-2006@bristol.ac.uk.

We look forward to seeing you, your family and friends and welcoming you back to Bristol.

Last year’s year group reunions were a great success ...
Harry Patch (Hon MA 2006), one of the few surviving veterans from the First World War, returned to the University last July to receive his honorary degree. Nick Riddle was there to meet him.

It was a curious sight: television cameras, microphones and lights hovering around a frail, robed figure in a wheelchair, parked in the lobby outside the Great Hall of the Wills Memorial Building – a Bristol landmark that he helped to build.

Harry Patch, one of the last surviving veterans of the First World War, had returned to the Wills Building to receive the Honorary degree of Master of Arts from the University. ‘I’m very, very proud,’ Harry told reporters after the ceremony.

Then the University’s newest – and oldest – Honorary graduate moved into the Council Chamber to meet pupils from local schools who came diffidently forward to ask him about ‘The War’. Speaking in a whisper, Harry answered their questions: about life in the trenches, about army food (‘If we got any – bad’), and even, in a telling moment, about why he ‘decided’ to go the Front (‘I was conscripted’, Harry replied, puzzled, as the pupil was left to grapple with the notion that joining the Army hasn’t always been a matter of choice).

Passchendaele has entered the British national consciousness as synonymous with endurance, sacrificial courage and slaughter.

And it wasn’t just the schoolchildren whose eyes widened at the realisation that, 80 years previously, Harry Patch, then in his twenties, had been a member of the workforce responsible for the construction of the building they were standing in. But then, we were in the presence of someone who was already in short trousers by the time Queen Victoria died.

Henry Patch was born in Coombe Down near Bath in 1898 (the same year, incidentally, that William Ramsay, Principal of the University of Bristol, and his colleague, Morris Travers, discovered neon). His father and grandfather were stonemasons, but he became a plumber’s apprentice after leaving school in 1913. While the Great War loomed and then broke over Europe, Harry learned his trade – until 1917, when he was called up.

After basic training, Harry joined the 7th Battalion, Duke of Cornwall’s Light Infantry, as a machine gunner. An older brother, wounded at Mons, had reassured him that the war would be finished by the time he was old enough to fight; but although most of the major battles were over by the time Harry joined his regiment in Rouen, there was one battle yet to come. ‘Its name has entered the British national consciousness as synonymous with endurance, sacrificial courage and slaughter,’ explained University Pro-Chancellor Peter Durie in his oration for Harry’s Honorary degree.
‘Passchendaele. Harry Patch was in the middle of it.’

On 22 September, 1917, at the beginning of his fifth month on the Western Front, Harry was seriously wounded by a German shrapnel shell that killed the other four members of his Lewis Gun team. After three months in hospital and a spell in a convalescent camp, Harry returned to England. For him, 22 September is Remembrance Day, for his three fallen friends.

He married in 1918 (he and his wife, Ada, were together for 58 years until her death in 1976) and re-entered civilian life to resume his trade as a plumber. Thus it was that he came to spend over a year working on the construction of the Wills Memorial Building. He was among the 30 or so people at the topping-out ceremony of the Tower, and remembers placing the newly minted coins under the lead sheeting covering the trapdoor at the top of the tower. He was also present at the formal opening of the building by King George V and Queen Mary on 9 June, 1925.

During the Second World War, he worked as a plumber for the Army and as a fireman. He retired in 1961 and now lives in Wells, although to call his retirement ‘quiet’ would be to ignore his recent celebrity after appearances in Great War documentaries such as the BBC’s The Last Tommy. Indeed, Harry has been so much in the spotlight that, in February 2006, he retired a second time – from public life.

Harry himself spoke little about the war until the late 1990s, when journalists and documentarians began to knock on the doors of the few remaining Great War veterans. When the historian Max Arthur was collecting reminiscences from these surviving veterans, he visited Harry Patch. One of Harry’s accounts, which appears in Arthur’s book, Last Post: The Final Word from our First World War Soldiers, describes a haunting experience on Pilkem Ridge during the third battle of Ypres:

‘I can still see the bewilderment and fear on the men’s faces as they went over the top. They crawled, because if you stood up, you’d be killed’

Meanwhile, less than a month after Harry Patch received his Honorary degree in the Great Hall, the Wills Memorial Building – which is some two decades younger than Harry – was again wreathed in scaffolding, this time for essential repairs and cleaning. The building is only one of two major legacies that Harry has had a hand in: the other is a clear-eyed, humanist account of the horror of warfare that found its first voice in the trenches of First World War, and has sounded as clearly as the Great George Bell ever since.

‘The most sacred word in the English language’

He has stated … that he doesn’t wish to talk about the war anymore

Harry receiving his Honorary degree from Bristol

‘Recently, he has been simply overwhelmed by requests, with people even walking in off the street to meet him,’ said a statement issued by his care staff, which went on, ‘He has stated … that he doesn’t wish to talk about the war anymore.’

Psychologically, this announcement made perfect sense: in 2004, Harry told a journalist that, had he not closed off that part of his life for so long, he would have died long ago.
It all started with a £1,000 student loan and a great idea. Ten years on \nLiftshare – the internet liftsharing scheme that matches up people who are travelling in the same direction – is turning over £700,000 and is providing thousands of people with an environmentally friendly travel option. But it hasn’t all been easy. 

Eve MacFarlane finds out how Ali Clabburn (MEng 1998) turned his idea into a reality.

Ali first saw car-sharing in action as an 18-year-old travelling through Germany in his gap year. He discovered a network of car-sharing bureaux at major train stations that provided a cheaper way of getting around than the train or bus. He immediately saw the benefits and on his return to England tried to find a similar scheme. But there was none. Ali was amazed. ‘It seemed such a simple solution to overcome not just costly travel, but congestion and pollution as well,’ he says. Like many students, Ali travelled frequently between his home town (Norwich) and his university town (Bristol). ‘The train was so expensive,’ remembers Ali. ‘And I knew that someone must be making the same journey in a car who would really appreciate being able to share the costs. I realised it was a whole market that no one was servicing.’

During his second year at Bristol, Ali took his first steps towards setting up Liftshare. ‘I talked to friends, family and advisors, and found ways of piloting the idea without spending any money,’ explains Ali. ‘Money was something I didn’t have.’ It was around this time that the internet was beginning to take off and Ali saw its potential. ‘I knew we couldn’t copy the German model of liftsharing – opening up offices at railway stations would have meant a high investment for no guaranteed return – but the internet meant we could set the scheme up virtually for free,’ he says.

It seemed such a simple solution to overcome not just costly travel, but congestion and pollution as well

He may not have had much money, but he did have lots of friends who believed in his idea and were willing to help him out: a computer scientist friend built the initial website as a project for part of his university course; someone produced marketing materials for free; and a small band of friends helped him launch Liftshare at six Freshers’ Fairs throughout the country, including Bristol.

He remembers the first Freshers’ Fair. ‘First thing in the morning we charged people £10 to join the scheme. Then by lunchtime we were offering it for free. Students loved the idea but they didn’t want to part with a tenner.’ Lots of people signed up, but Ali was left with one important question: how do I make money from this?

And more money was desperately needed for development. Ali applied for government funding, but didn’t get anywhere. He worked in the post office from 4 am until lunchtime and then worked on Liftshare in the afternoon. Two work experience students built the next version of the website and the following year they promoted it at even more Freshers’ Fairs. Lots more people joined and more and more people were getting matches. But still no income.

Then in 1999, Glastonbury Festival got in touch with Ali. Thousands of people descend on Glastonbury every summer for the festival and it was causing huge congestion on the local roads, which in turn upset local people and meant festival goers were spending a lot of their time sitting in traffic jams. The organisers asked Liftshare to build them a branded car-share website so that people travelling to the festival could...
share lifts. It was a huge success and has saved an estimated 35,000 car journeys to the festival each year. It was also a breakthrough for Liftshare. It showed how it could make money and highlighted the importance of finding people with a common link. This has served as the basis of Liftshare’s business model: allowing the public to sign up free to the national car-sharing scheme, while earning revenue from clients who pay a one-off sum plus a regular licence fee for setting up a scheme for their employees or customers.

Word began to spread and they continued to develop the software and fine-tune their business plan. Then in 2000, Liftshare won its first big commercial contract, providing a liftshare scheme for a group of businesses in South Gloucestershire. Since then the organisation has grown substantially and now works with almost 600 clients across the UK, including local authorities, hospitals, universities, schools and communities, building branded and private car-share schemes. All kinds of organisations have come on board, from football clubs to corporate giants like IKEA.

It is estimated that the scheme saves approximately 21 million car miles per annum and reduces carbon dioxide emissions by over 4,000 tonnes per year. But it is not just the environment that has benefited. It has made a difference to people’s lives as well. For those living in rural areas, where transport is poor or non-existent, it has provided a lifeline. ‘They use the scheme for everyday things like visiting the doctor, shopping or going to church,’ explains Ali. It has quite literally brought people together. One liftsharer was amazed to meet their next-door neighbour through the site. And after the bombings in London in July 2005, Liftshare helped thousands of people get home when Transport for London posted an emergency news flash on its website encouraging people to use the service. ‘The feedback afterwards was amazing,’ says Ali. ‘People emailed to say: “What a great idea, what a brilliant service. But why haven’t we heard of you before?”’

I’d go to conferences and listen to people talk about spending billions on buses and trains when there were millions of empty seats in cars on UK roads

Liftshare has also driven car-sharing up the Government’s agenda. ‘It feels like every day momentum is gathering,’ says Ali. ‘Three years ago, car-sharing wasn’t a transport option or talked about as part of a transport policy. I’d go to conferences and listen to people talk about spending billions on buses and trains when there were millions of empty seats in cars on UK roads. Now car-sharing is up there among the top two or three issues. And that’s down to what we’re doing. We made the case for it and made it happen.’

A number of recent awards have helped to raise the profile of Liftshare. Ali won the 2005 UK Enterprising Young Brit of the Year Award, and Liftshare bagged the 2005 Chamber of Commerce Award (Business Commitment to the Community), the 2004 Chamber of Commerce Award (The Microsoft Award for Innovation Through Technology) and the Business in the Community Big Tick Award for Excellence in Environmental Performance. ‘Winning awards is great,’ says Ali. ‘As well as getting lots of publicity, it gives the team a real boost knowing that other people believe in what we are doing.’

Ali has built a small but focused team up around him. ‘There are only ten of us in the office and we’ve a lot of clients,’ he explains. ‘I don’t believe in long working hours, so we need to be really efficient as a team. We minimise the time it takes to do things by automating as much as possible.’ The business also has a flat management structure. ‘I believe in giving people freedom to think for themselves,’ he explains. ‘We have our vision and objectives that everyone works towards, but beyond that it’s up to them to run their own projects.’ As a business Liftshare also practices what it preaches: three people car-share to work, three cycle and two work from home.

Ali believes that the single most important thing that helped Liftshare succeed is passion. ‘We’re passionate about what we do and totally believe in it. We’ve never focused on the financial reward. That came because we believed in our product.’

And his vision for the future? ‘We want to be providing effective and efficient mobility for all. It’s about much more than just car-sharing. It’s about providing cost-effective and sustainable solutions to travel issues.’

The Chancellor, Gordon Brown MP, presenting Ali with the 2005 UK Enterprising Young Brit of the Year Award

Now Ali is seeing his success, he looks back on all those years of hard work fondly. ‘I thought it would take about six months to get as far as we’ve got today. It took eight years. But every day has been fascinating,’ he says. ‘If what you’re doing makes you happy, then it doesn’t matter if you don’t make money. You learn something every day and you enjoy doing it.’

www.liftshare.com
‘The district of Masindi grapples with the problem of supporting displaced children who have fled insurgency in northern Uganda. These are children who have seen horrors most people cannot conceive’

In July, Lizzie Nyeko (Pharmacology 2003- ), Mallory Earnshaw (Biology 2004- ), Sahar Batti and Harry Voerhoeven travelled to Bweyale in the Masindi district of Western Uganda with the intention of teaching 300 children. On the first day, almost 3,000 turned up, and the Ugandan Children Aid Project (UCAP) was born.

Within ten days of arriving, the team had acquired land from the Bishop of Masindi and a new teaching facility rapidly took shape. ‘The local community really rallied round to help us with the building,’ recalls UCAP founder, Lizzie Nyeko. The team attributes this success to its careful consultation of religious leaders and the elders of local villages to ensure their approval of the project. ‘Our meetings took place under a mango tree where all significant deals and negotiations for the village have taken place for years,’ Lizzie says. ‘Because we respected their traditions and opinions, the community supported us every step of the way.’

During its month in the village, the UCAP collective taught everything from English and art to jewellery-making and HIV awareness. Its work within the classroom rippled out into the

rebuilding a ugandan community

While many students spend the long vacation seeking sunshine and adventure in foreign climes, one group of Bristol undergraduates invested last summer in something that will last long after suntans and photographs have faded. Lara King reports.
The teaching facility takes shape as local people help with the building.

community: one afternoon of face-painting triggered a village trend which saw normal paint being used when nothing else could be found. Most importantly, though, the colourful posters designed by the children in their malaria information classes were displayed where their families could also learn from them.

Despite it being the summer holiday, the local children arrived at school dressed in their uniforms every morning and had to be persuaded to leave at the end of the day. From maths to premiership football, they were desperate for knowledge. ‘There were so many students that we had to get rid of the tables and chairs and sit them on the floor to create more space,’ Lizzie recalls. The absence of the most basic resources made teaching a struggle. One bright boy was so frustrated by the lack of pens and paper that he would sneak into school to steal chalk and practise maths and English on the blackboard.

The challenges of Bweyale were greater than just teaching supplies, however. ‘The district of Masindi grapples with the problem of supporting displaced children who have fled insurgency in northern Uganda. These are children who have seen horrors most people cannot conceivable,’ Lizzie explains. Out of the 3,000 children attending the primary school, around 2,000 have been child soldiers, and at least 30 per cent are infected with HIV. Around half are orphans, due to war, HIV or malaria. Frequently this means assuming responsibility for younger siblings. None is older than 15.

The scars of these traumas are visible. ‘You can tell from their writing and drawing who’s coping with their experiences and who isn’t,’ says Lizzie. ‘We got illustrations of children being abducted, or shot at by government helicopters, or their houses being burnt down.’ The team tried recording interviews with the former child soldiers describing their experiences, but had to cut the project off. ‘It’s one thing reading about these things, but hearing it directly from these children was too much to handle,’ recalls Lizzie. ‘Despite everything they’ve been through, they showed remarkable empathy. They didn’t like to tell us things that they thought would distress us.’

Lizzie’s ultimate goal is to make the school self-sustainable. ‘If we can raise enough money, it will run itself without need for future funding,’ she says. ‘The only input from the Bristol side will be continued improvement of the syllabus and resources. The school needs to be able to run when we’re not there. Our influence is severely limited unless we can do this: we come in, change everything for a month and then leave again.’

However, £9,000 is urgently needed in order to make this possible. Back in Bristol, fundraising has begun in earnest, but although a sell-out fashion show that ran for three nights in Bristol and London raised awareness for the project, it did little for its bank balance once venue fees had been paid. This term has seen the team focus on smaller fundraising ventures such as bag-packing in supermarkets and pub quizzes in hall bars. Deloitte has donated £1,000 to the cause, and Lizzie is now organising a photography exhibition and auction.

If enough money is raised, though, the sky’s the limit. One of Lizzie’s dreams is to be able to afford shutters for the classroom windows.

If enough money is raised, though, the sky’s the limit. One of Lizzie’s dreams is to be able to afford shutters for the classroom windows. ‘The rainy season arrived while we were there and there was water gushing into the classroom,’ Lizzie recalls. ‘The sound of the thunderstorms terrified the kids. We tried singing songs to distract them but the water was pouring in so much we had to stop. They were devastated that the bits of paper with their drawings and posters on had been ruined. Paper is so precious to them.’

UCAP is now registering as a union society in order to ensure that every year there is a group of students to run the project. As the summer approaches, the team’s numbers have swelled to 15 and the flights back to Bweyale have been booked, but Lizzie knows that the project is at a crucial point. ‘It’ll be a real pity if the school can’t continue,’ she sighs. ‘We made so much progress in that first month. Who knows how much more we could achieve?’
Vets on a mission

For the second year in a row, newly qualified Bristol vets are using their skills to tackle the severe overpopulation of cats and dogs in the town of Cernavoda in Romania. Under the supervision of the area’s local vets, groups of students spend up to three weeks neutering dogs and cats caught from the local streets.

Organised by final-year Bristol Veterinary School students Amy Calam, Marissa Evans, Andrew Bitmead and Pip Skinner, up to thirty veterinary students will embark on the trip over the course of the summer, gaining crucial surgical experience before beginning their professional careers. Amy Calam said: ‘We were very encouraged by the success of last year’s trip and feel that the trip is going to be extremely worthwhile, for both the animals and students involved’.

Students campaign for penal reform

Bristol undergraduates have established a student branch of the Howard League for Penal Reform to campaign for change within the criminal justice system. The group has designed the ‘Bristol Student HeLPeR’ programme, which aims to place up to 50 trained student mentors among local offenders.

As the prison population in the UK continues to rise, evidence is also rising that imprisonment is relatively ineffective in reducing the likelihood of reoffence, and the project aims to tackle this by matching newly released prisoners to student mentors who will provide practical guidance during the crucial early weeks. If successful, the scheme may be extended to Bristol’s young offenders institution, Ashfield.

Detecting breast cancer early

Funding has been secured to develop a safer technique to test for early breast cancer. The new technology, which utilises an innovative radar system developed from landmine detection, has been pioneered by Micrima, a University spin-out company. The technique will enable women to be tested regularly without the risks of conventional x-rays.

BU DE TANG PROJECT GRANT

The Bu De Tang Project, a Medical Students International (Medsin) voluntary teaching programme that takes place in South East China every summer, will be able to buy better teaching equipment thanks to a £300 grant from the Alumni Foundation.

Each year, five students from Bristol travel to China as part of the project to teach English to children in rural areas.

AWARD FOR BRISTOL’S WOMEN IN SCIENCE

The University has been awarded a Bronze SWAN (Scientific Women’s Academic Network) Charter Award. The Charter is underpinned by the belief that science cannot reach its full potential unless it can benefit from the talents of the whole population, and until women and men can benefit equally from the opportunities it affords. Bristol was one of the founder members of the scheme in 2005 and is among only 17 institutions currently signed up to the Charter.
NEW ENTERPRISE COMPETITION 2006
A record number of staff, students, postgraduates and alumni have entered the University’s 2006 £30,000 New Enterprise Competition. A total of 76 projects were entered, and winners will be revealed at the University’s enterprise gala dinner on 6 July.

ORDER FROM CHAOS
A new book offering guidance on responding to traumatic events has been published by the University’s Policy Press. In the context of recent natural disasters and global terrorism, a new and updated edition of Order From Chaos has been published in association with the British Association of Social Workers (BASW).

NEW UNDERSTANDING OF DNA REPAIR
A mechanism by which genes are repaired has been described in detail for the first time by scientists from the Department of Biochemistry. The results of the scientists’ study have been published in the prestigious journal Cell, and may, in the long term, provide the scientific foundation upon which therapies to treat genetic diseases or cancers can be built.

Garden shapes up

As the first signs of spring began to appear, the University’s new Botanic Garden at The Holmes rapidly took shape. With four main plant collections – Evolution, Mediterranean Plants, Useful Plants, and Rare and Threatened Native Plants – the new garden is being planted in a contemporary and inspiring way. An Angiosperm Phylogeny display inspired by, and reflecting, the newest DNA-based classification of flowering plants will be a unique feature of the new garden. A sunken dell is being developed to plot the evolution of land plants from green algae through mosses and ferns to the conifers and first flowering plants. A large pool near the garden entrance will eventually be home to many rare and threatened local aquatic and marginal plants.

Boost for community sports volunteers

A £3,000 grant from the Alumni Foundation has gone towards Bristol’s Community Sports Volunteer Scheme, which teaches staff and students the skills needed to lead groups in safe sporting and recreational activities. It provides training in sports first aid and child protection, and free access to coaching qualifications, all with the aim of improving participation opportunities for the wider community.

The grant will be spent on a range of community sports projects, including a Panathlon Challenge for 800 children from local inner city secondary schools (won by St Bede’s RC School pictured above), and a Disability Panathlon for over 200 disabled young people from 12 special needs schools across Bristol. Assistance at both events will be provided by students who have completed their Community Sports Leaders Award as part of the scheme.
RECOGNITION FOR HEALTH INITIATIVE
A Bristol service for people with rheumatoid arthritis has been held up by the Department of Health as a national example of the best ways to support people with long-term health problems.

The ‘Direct Access’ system at United Bristol Healthcare Trust’s Rheumatology Unit was inspired by John Kirwan, Professor of Rheumatic Diseases at Bristol, and consultant nurse Dr Sarah Hewlett. The scheme enables sufferers to get advice and arrange outpatient appointments at their convenience through a dedicated helpline, and the Department of Health study found patients required 38 per cent fewer appointments under the system.

BEDI ON THE MOVE
Professor Raman Bedi (BDS. 1976, Hon DSc 1993) has joined Oragenics as senior consultant and has agreed to organise and chair its International Advisory Committee of world-leading experts in oral health care.

Dr Bedi became Chief Dental Officer for England in 2002, following a distinguished academic and professional career. He retired from the post in October 2005 and is returning to his chair at King’s College London. He has published over 185 scientific papers and authored four books.

RAG week raised £100,000
Two days of prize-winning beers and ales, abseiling in the snow and five-a-side until 5 am: it could only be RAG Week. This year’s RAG (Raising and Giving) event spanned ten days, involved 30 events and raised £100,000 for charity. One of the highlights of the week was the 81st annual RAG procession, which brought the city to a standstill on February 18 as a collection of GWR Black Thunders, American trucks, Harley Davidsons, army vehicles, Mini Coopers, vibrant floats and even a Chinese lion troupe headed from the Downs to Whiteladies Road and across Park Street and Broadmead. All the money raised will be used to benefit local charities.

Rowers’ Atlantic record
A Bristol rower has sailed into the record books by becoming part of the youngest team ever to row across the Atlantic Ocean. Tom Bright (MEng 2005) and teammate Charlie Bainsto completed the challenge after 59 days, 12 hours and seven minutes at sea in their ocean-going rowing boat Atlantic Warrior, and were the seventh pair to finish the Atlantic Rowing Race. During the voyage they had a lucky escape when a freak wave capsized the boat, trapping Tom underneath and knocking Charlie unconscious. The pair also endured electrical storms, 20ft waves and even the loss of an oar during their record-breaking voyage. Now back on dry land, Tom and Charlie are both due to join the Royal Military Academy at Sandhurst.

SCA dinner dance
One of Student Community Action’s (SCA) most popular events has been able to take place again this year thanks to a contribution from the Alumni Foundation.

More than 100 of Bristol’s senior citizens put on their dancing shoes for the Annual Dinner Dance in February and were treated to a sherry reception, jazz band, dinner and performances from the Bristol Latin America and Ballroom Dancing Society display team, before taking to the floor themselves. SCA volunteers acted as door-to-door escorts, providing transport for those who could not get to the Union themselves.
Brunel is a prime example of the well-rounded 19th century innovator who had knowledge of and interest in a wide variety of fields. His career embraced civil, structural, mechanical and marine engineering, architecture, art and design. His breadth of intellect, imagination and practical skill was typical of the period, yet he stands out from his contemporaries by the way in which he has captured the public’s interest. His work influenced the way people lived their lives and how they perceived and interacted with their changing physical environment, and he continues to be an inspiration to innovators everywhere.

Brunel liked to become personally involved in every aspect of his projects, insisting on the highest standards of workmanship throughout. As engineer to the Great Western Railway, for example, he negotiated with clients and contractors, secured financial and political backing, recruited, motivated and managed staff, surveyed the route, determined the gauge, wrote specifications for the engines, devised radical solutions to engineering problems, designed the stations right down to the smallest decorative detail and decided the colour of the livery. He took on many major projects at a time and his punishing workload is likely to have contributed to his early death in 1859.

Brunel 200 celebrates a man, his work and the achievements of the past, and also looks to inspire the Brunels of the future. The programme includes exhibitions, learning programmes, publications, walks and trails, arts projects, competitions, debates, media programmes and talks. It is a national celebration that focuses on Bristol and the South West, the city and region Brunel transformed with his revolutionary transport and communication systems, including railways, steamships, bridges, tunnels and other feats of engineering. Brunel opened up the possibilities of business, trade, tourism and leisure, as well as providing a technological base for engineering and innovation activity that continues today. His contributions range from the large to the small-scale, from the world-famous to the hidden gem, and reflect the diversity of his astounding talent.

Some of Brunel’s most significant projects were based in Bristol. These include his magnificent Clifton Suspension Bridge, his mould-breaking transatlantic steamships the ss Great Western and ss Great Britain, the Great Western Railway terminus at Temple Meads, now home to the British Empire and Commonwealth Museum, and the improvements to the docks. Although he never lived in Bristol, he is often considered a ‘favourite son’ who has come to personify the city’s past successes and now serves as a symbol of the potential for rejuvenation and regeneration through creativity.

Brunel has come to personify Bristol’s past success and now serves as a symbol of the potential for rejuvenation and regeneration through creativity.

Below: the Clifton Suspension Bridge at night.
Other programme highlights include:

- **The Nine Lives of I K Brunel** at the *ss Great Britain* Maritime Heritage Centre: an exhibition telling the story of significant moments in Brunel’s personal and professional life using a range of original artefacts, some small-scale interactive exhibits and a full-scale replica of the broad-gauge locomotive, the *Iron Duke*.

- **The Forces That Made I K Brunel** at Explore At-Bristol: an exhibition graphically illustrating the forces Brunel harnessed in his ambitious – and often dangerous – projects through a series of large-scale interactive exhibits.

- **Brunel and the Art of Invention** at Bristol’s City Museum and Art Gallery: an exhibition of nationally important artworks highlighting the creative links between art, science and industry.

- **Bridge!** at the Royal West of England Academy: a collaborative exhibition between Bristol School of Art, Media and Design, and Bristol’s design agencies that explores the value of art and design in people’s everyday lives.

- Nearly 30 new arts projects, including plays, workshops, music, a mural, a book, exhibitions, talks, film, poetry, dance pieces, installations, short stories, a radio adventure series, sculpture and even a commemorative drinks can.

- A schools’ programme that provides engineers in residence, creative workshops, resource packs, teacher networking and training days, subsidised transport to visit exhibitions, participation in arts projects, and much more.

- A graphic biography of Brunel, written by Eugene Byrne of *Venue* magazine with illustrations by Simon Gurr, which tells the story of Brunel and his world as well as demonstrating the engineering techniques and scientific principles underlying his creations.

Elsewhere in the South West, Brunel 200 is co-ordinating and promoting a varied programme of performances, local history projects, workshops, exhibitions, art installations, publications, interpretative trails and other activities that will celebrate Brunel’s links with the region and address wider issues associated with his work. Thousands of people are already joining in the South West Great Reading Adventure, reading Jules Verne’s *Around the World in Eighty Days*, a classic novel that conveys all the excitement and drama brought by 19th-century travel. Among the south-west locations particularly associated with Brunel outside of Bristol are: Swindon, chosen by Brunel and his colleague Daniel Gooch to serve as the base for the GWR engine house and works; Watcombe near Torquay, where Brunel hoped to retire to his country estate; Dawlish and Newton Abbot, associated with his ambitious but ultimately unsuccessful attempt to build an atmospheric railway; and Saltash, scene of his last engineering triumph, the Royal Albert Bridge.

Brunel 200 is a partnership initiative led by Bristol Cultural Development Partnership (Arts Council England South West, Bristol City Council and Business West). It is supported by funding from the National Lottery, including over £500,000 from the Urban Cultural Programme (Arts Council England and the Millennium Commission), a grant of £1,500,000.
from the Heritage Lottery Fund, and sponsors that include Discovery Channel, First Great Western, Osborne Clarke and Bond Pearce.

The Brunel 200 organisers are particularly pleased to have the involvement of the University of Bristol, which holds a unique archive of Brunel material, including sketchbooks, letters, diaries, drawings, original submissions for the Clifton Suspension Bridge competition and drawing instruments. Items from the archive have been photographed to use as illustrations in Brunel 200 publications and marketing material, including the book *Brunel: In Love with the Impossible*, published in April, a major collection of newly commissioned essays on Brunel with contributions from three members of the University staff.

The side panel outlines other University connections to the Brunel 200 programme in 2006, including activities organised by the Faculty of Engineering, the Department of History of Art (Lifelong Learning) and the Public Programmes Office. Looking further to the future, the Brunel Institute is currently being developed in a partnership between the University and *ss Great Britain*. This will create a new centre for public learning and enjoyment in purpose-built facilities overlooking the ship.

**The Royal Albert Bridge**

Through the 2006 celebrations, Brunel 200 aims to promote Bristol as an attractive visitor destination by highlighting its Brunel-linked heritage. It also aims to encourage people who live, work and study in Bristol – or who have lived, worked or studied here in the past – to reflect on the significant contribution Brunel made to the city’s development and to take pride in his achievements, which continue to have resonance today. Details of the Brunel 200 programme and background information on Brunel and his work can be found at www.brunel200.com.

Left: the *ss Great Britain* today
Below: the launch of the *ss Great Britain*
Bristol is home to the world’s leading Brunel archive, housed in the University’s Special Collections department. The original collection, given to the University by Brunel’s granddaughter, Lady Celia Noble, in 1950, comprises Brunel’s letter books, sketchbooks, calculation books, documents and drawing instruments for the period 1830-66.

Additions since then include the original drawings submitted by Brunel for the competition to design a bridge across the Avon Gorge, long thought to be lost, and letters from Brunel to Daniel Gooch and Charles Alexander Saunders about the Great Western Railway from 1837 to 1853.

The University is currently working on an exciting project to digitise this collection and make the images freely accessible online. With the help of several UK archiving and imaging services, around 6,500 pages from the collection are being photographed and electronically catalogued.

Below, Dr Kate Devlin, from the Department of Archaeology and Anthropology, who is leading the project, describes the process.

‘The University holds 33,000 pages of Brunel’s source material. These are an important scholarly resource, but they are fragile and not easily accessible in their physical hardcopy form.

The Arts and Humanities Research Council funded a pilot initiative to digitise the sketchbooks and loose letters to provide an online, freely accessible, searchable repository of digital images of the original papers. An e-catalogue has been created, and a fully interactive, custom-built web database is now established.

This electronic format opens the information to a wider community, with the additional benefit of reducing the need for physical contact with the original material, thus aiding conservation. It has already been used to supply digital images for the Brunel 200 celebrations and associated exhibitions and publications.

A website providing access is awaiting launch later in the year. It is hoped that this will provide an educational resource for all levels, from primary through to the higher education sector, and will be a source of great interest to Brunel enthusiasts.’

**Sketches**

1. Brunel sketch of paddle engine
2. Notes in design of bridge
3. Brunel sketch of Paddington Station
4. Brunel submission for competition
5. Sketches of yew trees
GIVING CAREER INSIGHTS
Why not give current students and recent graduates a helping hand in planning their working lives?

• Contacts Scheme
This scheme enables students to get in touch with Bristol graduates involved in the type of work they might wish to pursue. Contact Lesley Castens. Tel: +44 (0)117 331 7074, email: l.d.castens@bristol.ac.uk.

• Work experience
The demand for careers-related work experience is high. Contact Graduate Recruitment @ Bristol. Tel: + 44 (0)117 928 8234, email: G-R@bristol.ac.uk.

• 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. Contact Vivienne Saxon. Tel: +44 (0)117 928 8226, email: vivienne.saxon@bristol.ac.uk.

PROVIDE ACCOMMODATION
The following groups of students often need short-term accommodation:
• Some first-year students who need temporary accommodation until places in University accommodation become available.
• Around 300 European exchange students who spend part or the whole of the term at Bristol.
• Students who are attending one of the many short courses.

Visit www.bristol.ac.uk/accom for more information.

SUPPORTING OVERSEAS STUDENTS
Moving to a new country isn’t always easy. If you’re based in Bristol, here are some ways in which you can help overseas students feel at home.

• Hosting overseas students
The University is a member of Hosting for Overseas Students (HOST), a countrywide organisation which brings together international students at universities and colleges in the UK with British residents who welcome students to their homes for a short visit. For more information about HOST, visit www.hostuk.org.

• Welcoming overseas students
Join other alumni running the welcome lounge for overseas students. Here the students are given a friendly welcome, refreshments and any advice they may need about the University and Bristol.

CONVOCATION
Convocation is the formal name for the graduate body and acts within the University as a voice for alumni. Members of Convocation are elected to sit on the University’s Court and on various committees of Council to represent alumni. For more information, contact Julie Gough. Tel: +44 (0)117 928 8612, email: convocation-alumni-office@bristol.ac.uk.

REUNIONS, EVENTS AND GROUPS
Social events for alumni take place throughout the year in Bristol and beyond. You can return to your University every summer for our Convocation Reunion Weekend. You could also organise a reunion yourself – we’re more than happy to give you help and advice with this.

There is a whole range of alumni groups, including Hall Associations, departmental and overseas groups. You can find the full list at www.bristol.ac.uk/alumni. If you can’t find a group near you, then why not start one? Contact Julie Gough for more information. Tel: +44 (0)117 928 8612, email: julie.gough@bristol.ac.uk.

MAKE A DONATION
Join thousands of other Bristol alumni who make a regular donation to the University. To find out more, visit www.bristol.ac.uk/alumni.
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.

UNIVERSITY FACILITIES

Did you know that after you have graduated you can still use some of the University’s facilities, including the gym, the library and the Union?

Gym membership

Keep fit by using the University’s top-of-the-range sports facilities for just under £5 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 contact the reception desk at the centre. Tel: +44 (0)117 928 8810 or visit www.bristol.ac.uk/sport.

Library

Alumni can use the library for reading and reference free of charge. You can also borrow books (subject to recall) on payment of an annual fee of £54.00. For further information contact: Eileen Simpson. Tel: +44 (0)117 928 8003 or email: eileen.simpson@bristol.ac.uk.

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 5861, email: president-ubu@bristol.ac.uk or visit www.ubu.org.uk.

Accommodation

Why not take advantage of the ten per cent discount offered to alumni on the cost of a self-catering flat in the University and have a holiday in Bristol? The flats are available to rent during the summer vacation at Goldney Hall in Clifton (contact Natalie Parsons on +44 (0)117 903 4873) and University Hall in Stoke Bishop (contact Debbie Thom on +44 (0)117 903 3730). For further information about staying in any of the University Residences visit www.bristol.ac.uk/accom/residences.html.

Visiting Bristol during the week? Five rooms at the Hawthorns are available throughout the year, on Monday to Thursday nights. For more information, visit www.bristol.ac.uk/hawthorns.

Careers service

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

KEEPING IN TOUCH

Publications

The alumni magazine, Nonesuch, and twice-yearly newsletter In Touch 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.

Bristol Alumni Online

We’ve recently launched Bristol Alumni Online, the new interactive website for
Bristol alumni. As well as providing you with latest news and events, you can update your details and choose how much of this information to make available to fellow alumni, search for lost friends in the extensive directories, sign up for email for life, join in online discussions and find out what other alumni are up to in the ‘your news’ section. We will be inviting you to join individually over the coming months; however if you would like to sign up straight away, visit www.bristol.ac.uk/alumni and register using your activation code (printed on the front of your alumni update form).

Finding lost friends
Lost touch with you University mates? Help is at hand! We’ll forward messages on to them on your behalf, or we can help you organise mini-reunions. Or you might be able to find them using Bristol Alumni Online.

Reunions and events
There are regular social events held throughout the year for Bristol alumni and with dozens of alumni branches around the world, you’re never far from a friendly Bristol face. 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. See our events diary on page 58.

BECOME A FRIEND
The Botanic Garden
Get privileged access to the Botanic Garden and seasonal guided tours by becoming a Friend of the University’s Botanic Garden. The subscription is £20 a year, and members will receive the garden’s seed list and can choose ten free packets a year. Contact Nick Wray for more information on +44 (0)117 973 3682, or visit www.bristol.ac.uk/depts/botanicgardens.

The Theatre Collection
The Theatre Collection is an internationally renowned research centre and has recently become a fully registered museum. It costs £5 each year to become a Friend of the Theatre Collection. Friends receive newsletters and have the opportunity to attend events. For more information contact Jo Elsworth on +44 (0)117 928 7836, or visit www.bristol.ac.uk/theatrecollection.

ENTERPRISE AND NETWORKING

If you are a budding entrepreneur, there is a number of ways in which the University can help you:

- **BUBA (Bristol University Business Angels)**, a student-run company which provides funding and support to student and graduate entrepreneurs.
- **Bristol Enterprise Network** supports knowledge transfer among the high-tech, high-growth business community.
- The annual New Enterprise Competition is open to graduates of the last five years.
- **SETsquared** supports early-stage technology-based businesses and has space for up to 50 entrepreneurs.

For more information contact RED (Research, Enterprise and Development) on +44 (0)117 928 8876 or visit www.bristol.ac.uk/research.
MISS LING CELEBRATES HER 100TH BIRTHDAY

Hilda Mary Ling (BA 1927) celebrated her 100th birthday on 14 July 2005 with a family lunch. Former pupils from her long teaching career at Bridport Grammar School presented a memoir of her years there illustrated with reminiscences and photographs.

MAURITIUS ALUMNI PARTY

The cocktails flowed and there was dancing late into the night as the Bristol University Alumni-Mauritius Association (BAU-MA) celebrated the end of the year in style. Around 50 people came to the party, which was held at the Pearl Beach Hotel on 25 November 2005. The Association, started by Tayab Daureeawoo only two years ago, has seen its numbers swell from 12 to more than 40. Members of the Association have been working closely with the University to increase the number of students from Mauritius attending Bristol.

REMEMBERING ED PRITCHARD


‘Ed arrived in Bristol in 1951. He came with an enormous zest for life. During his second year he edited, with great flair, the student paper Nonesuch News. Often, following a night-long session in the editorial office at the Victoria Rooms, Ed’s tall figure, wreathed in pipe smoke, would stride along Queen’s Road to make an early tutorial or lecture before Great George struck the hour.

After Bristol, Ed joined two northern papers, before moving to the Press Association in London. Ed always had an instinct for a good news story, but a compassion for the misguided and the underdog sparked his interest in the Probation Service. Ed threw himself unsparingly into this second career. When he retired, he became a Director of Relate Bromley. There, he set up a programme for the treatment of depression called ‘Making Life Better’. It was a goal Ed pursued with passion throughout his life.’

Jonathan Wheatley (BA 1959) sent this photograph of the Union Council 1958/59 to Nonesuch. This was the year that the University celebrated its Jubilee.

Friends, family, staff, students and graduates celebrating the life of Simon Spencer-Jones (MSc 2000, MB ChB 2005) at an event held in his memory. Simon tragically died in a mountaineering accident in Tajikistan last year.

Cpt Lawrence Koh (BEng 2002) and his team setting the Singapore sky-diving national record.

BOOKS


J D Bernal was a scientist of dazzling intellectual ability and a leading figure in the development of X-ray crystallography, he was a polymath and a fervent Marxist, and was much admired worldwide. Andrew Brown (BSc 1972) has had unprecedented access to Bernal’s papers and diaries, and this biography includes previously unpublished material on Bernal’s role during the Second World War.


In this meticulously researched study of the British criminal justice system, David Fraser (MPhil 1996), a Probation Officer, offers an analysis of how and why the country faces the spiraling crime figures it does today.


If you don’t know a plonker from a slapper or a berk from Joe Soap, this is the book for you. Written for Americans moving to the UK, it covers everything from shopping, childcare and the workplace, to common British phrases.


Beautifully illustrated, this is a wonderful resource for archaeologists, museum staff, art historians and those studying design. It is based both on tiles found in situ on Somerset sites, and collections in Somerset museums.
MARRIAGES


Alexander AvellA (BSc 1999) married Charlotte Davis (BVSc 2000) on 28 April 2006 at the Church of St Gregory the Great, Cheltenham.

Jeremy Barr (BA 1994) married Charlotte Great, Cheltenham.

2006 at the Church of St Gregory the Great, Aberystwyth.


Eleanor Beck, daughter of Richard Beck (MSc 1999), was born on 7 October 2005.


Mohammed Aaron, son of Muzaffar Hisham (BSc 1995) and Lisa Hisham, was born on 15 February 2004.

Sh io, daughter of Tomoyuki Iwasaki (JYA 1996-97) and Shigemi Iwasaki, was born on 24 June 2005.

Elise Van Anh Quan Yue, daughter of Dr Sven Mathis Kern (Law 1994-95) and Quynh Kern, was born in Geneva, Switzerland on 13 September 2005.

Ryan, son of Clinton Le Roy Fenwick (MEng 2001) and Jessica Anne Law (BSc 1996), was born on 29 July 2005.

David Jasper Neef, son of Dr Markus Neef (Engineering 1996-97) and Daniela Neef, was born on 9 June 2005.

Isabel Clare Slade, daughter of Charlotte Slade (née Haines) (BSc 1990) and Mike Slade, was born on 30 January 2005, a sister for Emily (4).

Jeron See Hoe Wan, son of Jimmy Wai Meng Wan (BEng 1999) and Christina Wan, was born on 11 February 2005.

BIRTHS

Luke Akehurst (BSc 1993) has had his first child, Jed Augustus George, on 7 October 2005.

Professor John David Wragg (Hon DEng 1993) married Margaret Frances Harwell Ware on 16 August 2005 at St Bartholomew’s Church, St Andrew’s, Bristol.

ELEANOR BECK, DAUGHTER OF RICHARD BECK (MSc 1999), WAS BORN ON 7 OCTOBER 2005.


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Send us your news

Ever wondered what your old class mates are up to? Where they’re working? Where they’re living? What they’ve done with their lives?

They’re probably wondering about you too. Here’s your chance to keep them informed.

Send your news to alumni-publications@bristol.ac.uk and we’ll do our best to include it in next year’s alumni update.
1940s
The Revd Gaythorne Teague (MB ChB 1948, Diploma in Public Health 1953) was awarded an MBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours for services to the community in North Bristol.

Dr Derek Smith (BSc 1948, PhD 1952) took early retirement from ICI Plastics Division in 1981. Since then, he has been a voluntary administrator with the European Missionary Fellowship in Welwyn, Hertfordshire.

Dr Rae Stratton (MB ChB 1945) was awarded an MBE in the New Year Honours for services to the community in Fordingbridge.

1950s
Roger Anstey (BSc 1958) is studying for a BSc in Social Science with the Open University.

Eur Ing John Blatchford (BSc 1958) has, in his retirement, assembled over 80 large items of engineering machinery. He demonstrates them to GCSE students.

Irma Bowes (BA 1956) has lived in Australia since 1961. She has lost touch with her friends from Bristol, but would love to meet her year again.

Edward Johnson (BA 1956). Chair of the New Forest Committee, was awarded an OBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours for services to the New Forest.

Peter Rex (BA 1952) has retired but now has a second career as a writer. He has had three books published: English Resistance, Hereward the Last Englishman and Harold II: the Doomed King.

Margaret Schofield (BA 1951) is Secretary of the Unit Management Committee of the Buxton Sea Cadets.

Heather Trees (Testamur in Social Studies 1955) runs a weekly club for the elderly. She is also a committee member of Esth Moor's Abbeyfield Ltd.

Brian Wicks (BVSc 1952) recently celebrated 50 years of marriage to Judith Bates. Ivor Doney (MB ChB) attended the celebrations and said: 'Brian is fit and well. He is an intrepid theatre goer and enthusiastic gardener.'

Diana Witts (BSc 1955) has written Sprinngs of Hope, which covers her life from a war-time childhood through to 25 years of ministry with the Church Mission Society.

1960s
Surgeon Commodore Nicholas Baldock (MB ChB 1969) has been appointed President of the Central Air and Admialty Medical Board at HMS Sultan, Gosport.

The services of Canon Dr Christina Baxter (Cert Ed 1969), Principal of St John's College, Nottingham, to the Church of England were recognised by the award of a CBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours.

Dr Gillian Bickley (née Workman) (BA 1965, MLit 1969, Cert Ed 1966) has written Moving House and other Poems from Hong Kong.

Professor Dame Carol Black (BA 1962, MB ChB 1970, MD 1975, Hon DSc 2003), President of the Royal College of Physicians, was awarded a DBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours for her services to medicine.

Ernest Camden (LLB 1960) has written End Splice, a novel that deals with human rights and race relations. The story is set in Southern Africa and Bristol.

Dr Roy Cecil (BSc 1966, PhD 1969) has spent all his career working for BP, and now works as a part-time HSE consultant for the company. He married in 1967 and has two grown-up children and two grandchildren.

Sarah Jones (née Newton BSc 1961) and Alick Jones (BSc 1960, PhD 1964) have written Seashore Life in the Caribbean, published by MacMillan in 2005. They are about to embark on their next book, Seaside Plants and Seaweeds of the Caribbean.

William Jones (BSc 1963) is Learning Area Leader in Mathematics at Aurora College in Invercargill, New Zealand. Previous to that he was based in South Canterbury, New Zealand, as Principal of Pleasant Point High School.

Bernard Kite (BSc 1962) Chair of the Rivelin Valley Conservation Group was awarded an MBE in the New Year Honours for his services to conservation in South Yorkshire.

Dr Bernard Lamb (BSc 1963, PhD 1966, DSc 2000) works part time at Imperial College, London. He enjoys wine-making, wine-judging and wine-tasting and recently put on a tasting of 'Treasured Wines' for the London branch of the International Wine and Food Society. He is chairman of the London branch of the Queen's English Society.

Neil Hornick (Cert in Drama 1966) has an active working life. As his theatrical career dwindled, a parallel career as a consultant literary editor grew. He also maintains an archive of miscellaneous material relating to the arts and printed ephemera.

Charles Dr MacFadden (BA 1966) has spent most of his working life in developing countries. Since 1992 he has worked on complex emergencies in countries including Iraq, Indonesia and Afghanistan.

Janet Moore (BA 1966) is currently working part time at Nottingham University, teaching classical Greek to a beginners' group. She retired from teaching at a local independent school in 2004.

Dr Foad Nahai (BSc 1966, MB ChB 1969) went to the United States after graduation, where he trained first in general surgery, then in plastic surgery. Following his training, he remained at Emory University School of Medicine as Professor of Plastic Surgery for 20 years. Eight years ago, he left the University and is now in private practice at Plastic Surgery in Atlanta, Georgia. Over the length of his career, he has co-authored seven text books on plastic surgery and has travelled extensively to lecture on all aspects of plastic surgery. He is currently the Vice-President of the American Society for Aesthetic Plastic Surgery, 2nd Vice-President of the International Society of Aesthetic Plastic Surgery, and a Director of the American Board of Plastic Surgery.

Margaret Powell (BSc 1960) is married to a vicar, and is closely involved with her local community. She has worked as a seasonal volunteer information desk and sales assistant at the Welsh Wildlife Centre/The Wildlife Trust of South Wales in Tlgierran.

Jane Read (née Pomerance) (BA 1966) worked in industrial personnel management for over 40 years. She now works part time as a consultant on job evaluation, but has hugely enjoyed taking up other pursuits for which full-time work left no time (travel, singing and theatre-going to name but three). She has been a governor of her old school, Frensham Heights, for 25 years. Married for over 35 years to John, a former marketing director, they live in the Cotswolds and have one son, Michael, a sound engineer.

Professor Paul Robinson (BSc 1962) has worked at universities in the UK, Canada, USA, Ireland, Singapore and Hong Kong. He has established departments of Physical Education, Movement Science, Biomechanics and Sports Science at the institutions and set up a college to train specialist Physical Education teachers in Singapore for the Singapore Government.

Brenda Speedie (BA 1960), though officially retired, is busy as a tutor in Melbourne, Australia.

Dr Michael Trotti (BA 1968) has written The Life of Richard Waldo Stithorp; Evangelical, Catholic and Ritual Revivalism.
in the Nineteenth-Century Church.

Dr Anne Weyman (BSc 1965, Hon LLD 2005) gave the 36th Convocation Spring Term Lecture on the subject ‘75 years of sex’ to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the Family Planning Association.

Dr Anthony White (BSc 1960, PhD 1963, DSc 1989) is retired, but has done some work for NASA connected with infra-red detectors used in the currently deployed spitzer (deep space infra-red) telescope, which follows the earth round the sun.

1970c

Her Excellency Deborah Barnes Jones (BA 1979) has worked for the Foreign Office for 25 years. She was ambassador in Georgia for three years, and is now governor of a small Caribbean island with a live volcano. She is married to an American and has twin 15-year-old girls.

Professor Richard Blundell (BSc 1975), Professor of Economics at University College London, was awarded a CBE in the New Year Honours for his services to social science.

The services of Dr Manju Bhavnani (MB ChB 1971), Consultant Haematologist, were recognised in the New Year Honours by the award of an OBE.

Steve Clarke (BSc 1971) is Chief Executive of Four S, the first public–private partnership for education services between VT Group and Surrey County Council. Previously he was Deputy Director of Education for Surrey where he created the first public–private partnerships for schools. He lives in Surrey with wife Chris and son James and would welcome hearing from friends.

Dr Zena Cook (BSc 1971) moved to Boise, Idaho, from Washington DC ten years ago and married an Idahoan with similar interests in natural resources and outdoor sports. In recent years she has spent time exploring wilderness areas by raft in Alaska and Idaho. She works in the area of water economics: forecasting water demand, water markets and salmon restoration. She is planning to retire in two years and spend some time in England.

Dr Martin Crossley Evans (BA 1978, PhD 1990) is currently Chairman of Council of the Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society.

Sir Liam Donaldson (MB ChB 1972, Hon MD 1999), Chief Medical Officer of England, will be the guest of honour at the Wills Hall dinner on Saturday, 22 July (see Convocation Reunion Weekend brochure for more information and booking form).

Professor Annabelle Glassier (MB ChB 1976) Director, Family Planning and Well Women Services, Lothian NHS Board, was awarded an OBE in the Queen’s Birthday Honours.

Anthony Goddard (BSc 1973), has retired in order to look after his wife who has Multiple Sclerosis.

Sir John Muir Gray (Diploma in Public Health 1972), NHS Director of Knowledge Management and Programme Director of the UK National Screening Committee, was awarded a Knights Bachelor in the Queen’s Birthday Honours for his services to the NHS.

Colin Green (BSc 1971, Hon DEng 1997), President of Defence Aerospace at Rolls Royce plc, was awarded a CBE in the Queen’s Birthday Honours for services to the defence industry.

Paul Hampson (BSc 1977) is currently a mathematician master at Marlborough College.

Two Bristol alumni, Professor Charles Harvey (BSc 1972, PhD 1979) and Professor Jon Press (BA 1974, PhD 1978), have published Business Elites and Corporate Governance in France and the UK. Jon Press is Lead Consultant with Tribus Technology, and Professor of Business History and Management at Bath Spa University. Charles Harvey is Dean and Professor of Business History and Management at Strathclyde Business School.

Sally Healy (BSc 1974), former Senior Principal Research Officer of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, was awarded an OBE in the New Year Honours.

John Hopkins (BSc 1970) is actively involved in the Muscular Dystrophy Campaign. John and his wife lost a son, Mark, to the condition in 1997.

Ian Hudson (BSc 1971, Cert Ed 1972) has been a member of Mensa since 1976 and edited the south-east of England Mensa regional newsletter from 2000 until 2005. He is now an artist and paints abstract art inspired by mathematical ideas.

David Jackson (LLB 1974) has been appointed Company Secretary of BP plc.

Melanie Jameson (BA 1976) has just moved to Melvern near Worcester after many years in Lancaster. Although dyslexia is now her field, she keeps her languages ticking over. While at Bristol, she was part of the large Christian Union group at Hiatt Baker but has now settled with the Quakers. She hopes to attend the 2006 reunion and meet up with former friends.

Robert Jennings (BSc 1976), Managing Director of UBS Investment Bank, was awarded a CBE in the Queen’s Birthday Honours for services to the finance sector and to the transport industry.

Dr Richard Phillips (BSc 1971, PhD 1974), Programme Director of the British Council, was awarded a DMG in the New Year Honours.

Captain Michael Tarr (BSc 1979) was awarded an OBE in the Queen’s Birthday Honours.

Dr Celia Miller (BA 1976, PhD 1980) retired from paid employment in July 2003 and her husband, Colin, retired at the same time. They moved from Gloucestershire to Norfolk shortly afterwards and are now living happily in Reeth, a small village on the banks of the River Yare, midway between Yarmouth and Norwich. She is currently researching the life and times of a gentlewoman who lived in Norfolk between 1774 and 1815, principally from her extant correspondence in the Norfolk Record Office.

Anthony Newman (BSc 1971) retired from the field of education last year after five years as Vice-Principal at Colombo International School in Kandy. Having been involved in tsunami relief work, he now runs a tourist villa in the hill country of Sri Lanka. More details at www.nangalihouse.com.

Gerald Pengelly (BA 1977) has worked as Deputy Head and Director of Studies at Rossall School in Lancashire since 1992. Then he moved to Morrison’s Academy in Perthshire as Rector and Principal in August 2004. In 1977 he married Louise, a Bristol historian of the same vintage. They have three grown-up sons. After Bristol and a brief dalliance with accounting, he studied for a PGCE at the University of London, Institute of Education and has been in education ever since. In addition to running a busy independent school, he enjoys history, fine art, gardening and mountaineering.

Simon Tomson (BA 1978) has been appointed Field Director for the Pontefract and District Archaeological Society.

Ruth Smith (BA 1976) teaches at the Bethlem Tertiary Institute, Taungrua, New Zealand, a Christian-based institute with degree and diploma programmes in teaching and counsellor education. She gained a Masters in Education from Waikato University. She is still married to...
Andrew Smith (BSc 1974), who is Programme Leader for the counselling programme at Bethlehem Tertiary Institute, The Revd Christopher van Straaten (BA 1977) will be conducting the annual service for alumni on Sunday, 23 July at the Dame Monica Wills Memorial Chapel, Wills Hall (see Convocation Reunion Weekend brochure for details).

Jane Thomas (BSc 1978) has worked overseas since 1982 in Germany, Norway, Saudi Arabia and the USA. Now working in the Research and Development arm of Baker Atlas, she is responsible for the development of software to process and interpret wire line log data.

Patricia Watt (BED 1976) taught religious education and English literature in a number of different schools. In her last post she was Head of Religious Education in Wellington High School for Girls. At BS she gained a Masters Degree at King's College. She retired to Gloucestershire with her husband. She cared for him until January 2002, when he died of cancer. In 2004, she married her brother-in-law. He is a Canadian citizen but British by birth and they spend their time travelling between the two countries. Five of her children are married and she has ten grandchildren.

1980s

Nicola Alexander (BSc 1985, Cert Ed 1987), runs a small village school in the Chouf mountains of Lebanon.

Christopher Allison (BSc 1983) Commander, Metropolitan Police Services was awarded an MBE in the New Year Honours for services to the police. Dr Jacqueline Coule Bleakley (BA 1982) had an article published in the November 2005 edition of Clinical Psychology about prison in-reach work.

Susan Foulds (BSc 1981) has worked continuously for BT in the London area since graduation. She married Mick in 2003 on holiday in South Africa, on horseback. She has one grown-up stepdaughter and three horses, and enjoys Western riding and Polo Crosse.

Sheridan Greenland (LLB 1981) was awarded an OBE for services to the police. Sarah Wallis (BA 1989) has recently been promoted to the position of Associate Consultant Dermatologist at the National Skin Centre of Singapore.

Mohamed Jaber (BSc 1993) obtained a PhD from the Eastman Dental Institute, University of London. Since then he has worked in many hospitals, including University College London, Whittington, Newport South West, Bcomfield and St George, Chelsmford. He is now Head of Department of Surgical Sciences.

Dr Roy Jones (BSc 1992, PhD 1996) has worked for the World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA) as Wildlife Project Officer in Asia for the past 12 months. He is currently based in Bangkok, and does lots of travelling around Asia co-ordinating animal welfare projects on, for example, dancing bears in India and bear baiting in Pakistan.

Stephen Knight (BSc 1999) has been seconded to the Cabinet Office for two years as Private Secretary to Sir Richard Mottram, the Permanent Secretary and principal adviser to the Prime Minister on security and intelligence matters.

Paul Oakley (LLB 1989, MSc 1990), former Chairman of Greater London Young Conservatives, was Conservative Parliamentary candidate for St Helen's North in the 2005 general election. Peter Yin Loong Ong (LLB 1998) has made regular appearances in Singapore (Goro in Madam Butterfly, King Kasper in Amahl and the Night Visitors) and has sung in a solo recital of Schumann’s Dichterliebe and other songs by Britten and Quilter. Following a month’s study at the Sydney Opera House, he is currently appearing in a new opera in Kuala Lumpur called M. He will return to Singapore in August for recitals in Kuala Lumpur, then performs as Alfredo in Die Fledermaus in Kuala Lumpur and Manila.

Loukia Papanikolaou (BA 1999) has worked for the NHS as a Speech and
Language Therapist. She isn’t working at the moment as she has just had a baby.

Anne Pinney (BA 1993) is a freelance policy researcher, advising the Government on education and disability issues.

Emily Price (BA 1999) has been appointed Keeper at Tredegar House, Newport.

Annabel Rhys (BA 1992) has painted ever since graduating. This culminated in 2003 with an exhibition of her work from the past ten years (www.artannie.co.uk). She is now working for AGI Media as an art worker. The company produces DVD covers for Warner, Disney and Universal.

Bryan Shave (BEng 1995) moved to Germany after working in the UK for six years. He then moved to the USA to launch a new BMW product in the production facility.

Dr Susan Steer (BA 1998, PhD 2004) is a part-time History of Art lecturer at Bristol.

Eliza Taylor (BA 1995) has worked for the BBC for nearly five years. She is currently a director on the pre-school channel CBeebies (part of Children’s BBC). She is hoping to rise to the giddy heights of producer one day. She lives in north-west London with her boyfriend, but is hoping to move back to BBC Bristol in the future as she really misses the West Country ways.

Major Jane Thompson (PhD 1995) has been awarded the Commander-in-Chief’s Certificate for Mentionable Service for her work with the University of Bristol Officers’ Training Corps and wider academic community during the past 18 years.

Matthew Tosh (BSc 1999, Cert Ed 2002) has been appointed Ringing Master at Bristol Cathedral.

Daniel Wiles (BSc 1998) has been appointed Vice-Consl at the British Embassy in Budapest.

Dr Jennifer Chai Lin Yong (BEng 1999, PhD 2004), former Sub Warden of Manor Hall and Convocation Representative on Court, has been appointed to a senior position as a derivatives trader in CitIB, one of Malaysia’s b一向ies.

Guy Whatley (BA 1996), an organist, has recorded a CD entitled Triptyque Renewal with trumpeter Jean-Christophe Dobrzelewski. Renewal is a mingling of cultural influences. The opening idea in the trumpet is drawn from the soundings of the shofar at Rosh HaShanah, the Jewish New Year, inspiring the title.

2000s

Thomas Balch (BA 2001) has worked as a printer, film location scout and ICT technician since graduating. He runs his own photography company, works as a cricket coach at Sexey’s School, Bruton, and works on various film projects. He recently acted in HTV drama series Till the Boys Come Home and directed the filmed footage for a spin-off heritage initiative, produced by fellow Bristol graduate Jon Layzell (BA 2001) on North Somerset mining entitled A Miner’s Tale.

Suzanne Batters (BA 2005) is working as a production runner for a media company. She is working on a film called Flight 93, which is being shot at Pinewood. ‘I’m having a blast and learning a lot about the industry,’ she said. Acting remains her passion and she plans to attend auditions in between running jobs next year.

Clement Becache (MSc 2003) works as a commercial manager for BEXIS Consultants, ‘finding missions for computing engineers and finding freelance engineers to execute these missions’.

David Bell (Dip in Social Sciences 2003) has been elected onto Filton Town Council.

Scott Bell (MA 2000) went on to earn a graduate fellowship at California State University (CSU) Stanislaus. He has taught university and community college-level courses on a part-time basis and has taught at a primary school for the past three years. He is now on a teaching credential course at CSU Sacramento.

Charlotte Best (BSc 2005) travelled in Australia for four months. She is now studying for a Masters course and has been on a work placement at an environmental consultancy since March 2006.

Professor Patricia Broadfoot (DSc 2000), Pro Vice-Chancellor of the University, was awarded a CBE in the New Year Honours in recognition of her services to social science, and takes up her post as Vice-Chancellor of the University of Gloucestershire in September 2006.

Lydia Chase (BA 2005) is training to be a lawyer and will be joining Lories in 2007.

Stephanie Cole (Hon MA 2002) was awarded an OBE in the Queen’s Birthday Honours for her services to drama, elderly people and to mental health charities.

Christopher Chee Eng (LLB 2002) won a research prize at the International Insolvency Institute Conference at New York in June 2005.

Georgina Curry (BSc 2005) still plays lacrosse, and is currently playing for Wales.

Jyoti Dhar (MB ChB 2004) has just launched a brand new art gallery in Dubai, where she is currently living with her husband Govind. They specialise in Indian contemporary art. ‘It is wonderful to finally be in the right profession for me,’ she said.

James Dowler (BSc 2005) is currently a director on the pre-school channel CBeebies (part of Children’s BBC). He is hoping to rise to the giddy heights of producer one day. He then moved to the USA to launch a new BMW product in the production facility.

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obituaries

1920s


1930s


Griffith (née Griffiths), Mrs Joan Gabriel (BA 1940, Dip Ed 1941), died 14 November 2005, aged 86. Hanby, Mr Norman Herbert Elliott (BSc 1942), died 21 June 2004, aged 80.

Hesketh, Mr Harold Roscoe 'Harry' (BA 1947, Cert Ed 1948), died 5 January 2006, aged 84, President of the Wills Hall Junior Common Room 1941-42, President of the Union 1942-43, Convocation representative on Court 1990-2003 and 2004-05.

Hobbs, Dr Ronald William (BEng 1943, Hon DEng 1996), Convocation representative on Court 1990-2003, member of Council and the Board, Chairman of the Buildings Committee, died 5 January 2006, aged 82.

Hornisberger (née Wegg), Mrs Joan Elizabeth (BA 1947, Cert Ed 1948), died 30 January 2005, aged 78.

Jay (née Hannaford), Dr Pamela Irene (MB ChB 1948), died 18 December 2004, aged 80.

Jerome, Mr Edward Humphrey (BA 1947, Cert Ed 1948), died 9 April 2005, aged 81.

Keil, Mr Robert Christopher (BSc 1948), died 11 April 2005, aged 79.

Kennedy, Mr John Gwyn (BA 1942, Dip Ed 1943), died 11 April 2005, aged 86, President of the Wills Hall Junior Common Room 1941-42, President of the Union 1942-43, Convocation representative on Court 1990-2003 and 2004-05.

Libra, Miss Evelyn Mary Edith Florence (BA 1945, Dip Ed 1946), died 23 December 2004, aged 81.

Le Liivre, Dr Audrey (BA 1944), died 20 October 2005, aged 82.

Pardoe, Dr James Leslie (MB ChB 1942), died 23 July 2005, aged 87.

Parker (formerly Pisinger), Dr Robert (BSc 1946), died 8 September 2003, aged 77.

Poole, Dr David Frederick George (BSc 1949, PhD 1952), died 21 October 2005, aged 77, Sub Warden of Hiatt Baker Hall 1966-82 and Warden 1982-1989, Research Assistant, Departmental of Dental Surgery 1951-52, Director of the MRC Dental Group at the University of Bristol.

Putt, Mr Harry Brian (BA 1949, Cert Ed 1950), died 28 April 2005, aged 81.

Rogers, Professor Gordon Frederick Crichton (BSc 1943), formerly Lecturer in Mechanical Engineering and Professor of Engineering Thermodynamics (1946-82), Dean of Engineering, died 25 December 2004, aged 83.

Rowland, Dr Peter Reginald FRSC (BSc 1943, MSc 1948), died 28 March 2005, aged 83. Small, Dr Frederick Ivan Gordon (BSc 1946, PhD 1949), died 22 December 2005, aged 80.

Smith, Mr Roderic Edward Norman Ren (BA 1948), died June 2005, aged 83. Secretary for Commerce and Industry, Gilbert and Ellis Island 1967-75.

Spence, Dr Margaret Elizabeth JP (MA 1945), died 12 November 2004, aged 90. Storey (née Lawrence), Mrs Naida Isabelle (BA 1945, Dip Ed 1946), died 16 November 2000, aged 77.

Taylor (née Tyler), Mrs Joan Margaret (BA 1949), died 15 May 2005, aged 78.

Thomas, Miss Eda Elizabeth Constance (BA 1947, Cert Ed 1948), died 28 March 2005, aged 78.

Thres (née Andrew), Dr Grace Veronica (MB ChB 1945), died 8 July 2005, aged 85. Trott (née Parry), Dr Ann Coard (Medicine 1944-53), died 24 December 2003, aged 77.

Walker, Dr Michael Peter (MB ChB 1949), died 20 August 2005, aged 80.

Westlake, Mr John Bernard (LDS 1943), died 8 September 2005, aged 83.
The University extends its sincere condolences to the friends and families of those listed below for whom the University has received notification of death. Further information about some of those named below may be available from the Convocation Office.

1950s
Anisley, Mr Trevor William (BSc 1954), died 20 June 2005, aged 72.
Brown, Mr John Ewart Carr (LLB 1951), died 17 January 2005, aged 78.
Charlton, Mr Stanley Ernest (BA 1950, studied History for an MA 1952-54), died 11 July 2004, aged 83.
Coombes, Dr James David (BSc 1953, PhD 1957), died 6 September 2005, aged 73.
Cooper, Dr John Steel (BDS 1950, PhD 1961), died 28 August 2005, aged 77.
Downing, Dr David Francis (BSc 1956, PhD 1964), died 29 June 2005, aged 72.
Downing, Dr David Francis (BSc 1956, PhD 1964), died 29 June 2005, aged 72.
Edwards, Mr Geoffrey Alan (BSc 1950), died 26 July 2004, aged 81.
Farrington, Mr John Patrick (BSc 1950, MSc 1952, Cert Ed 1953), died 21 September 2004, aged 75.
Frohlich, Mr Andrew George (BSc 1950), died 26 January 2006, aged 74.
Gibson, Mr David Rex (BA 1955), died 1 May 2005, aged 72.
Gilbert, Mr Graham (BSc 1959), died 22 August 2005, aged 73.
Graham, Mr Kenneth (BA 1952, Cert Ed 1955), died April 2003, aged 72.
Grunsell, Emeritus Professor Charles Stuart Grant, CBE, Professor of Veterinary Medicine 1956-1980, died 26 May 2005, aged 90.
Hanna, Mr Arthur Cecil Bunter (BA 1950, Cert Ed 1959), died 10 January 2006, aged 82.
Harrison, Mr Andrew (BA 1959), successively Lecturer, Senior Lecturer and Reader in the Department of Philosophy 1963-2003, died May 2005, aged 67.
Harrison, Mr Richard John Mullens (BSc 1955), died 28 July 2004, aged 74.
Hickman (née Weinberger), Dr Hannah Gertrud (CerEd 1950), died 2 April 2005, aged 77.
Honeybourne, Professor Colin Lucas, FRCS (BSc 1959, Cert Ed 1960) died 29 August 2005, aged 76.
James, Dr Brian David (PhD 1954), died 21 January 2006, aged 76, a pioneer in the microelectronics chip industry in Silicon Valley, and co-founder of the semiconductor maker Signetics.
Jenkins, Mr Leslie Charles (BA 1950, Cert Ed 1953), died 8 April 2005, aged 75.
Jochem (née Fuss), Mrs Edith Erna (BA 1952), died 6 March 2005, aged 74.
Jones, Mr Ronald (BSc 1958), died May 2000, aged 62.
Kent (née Larkin), Mrs Elisabeth Myra (BA 1959), died 11 August 2005, aged 70.
Knight, Mr Donald (BA 1955), died January 2004, aged 72.
Lloyd, Dr Alan Thomas (MB ChB 1956), died 29 December 2003, aged 73.
Lloyd-Jones, Mr Charles Peter (BSc 1952, studied Agriculture and Horticulture 1953-56, Lecturer in Physical Chemistry, Long Ashton, 1959-68, died 22 December 2004, aged 75.
Macdonald, Dr Archibald Jeffery ‘Jeff’ (MB ChB 1953), died 6 October 2005, aged 81.
Merritt, Mr John Comely (BSc 1953, Cert Ed 1954), died 26 March 2005, aged 73.
Musters, Mr Rodney Michael Aucsmith (BSc 1951), died October 2005, aged 81.
Norman (née Allen), Mrs Gwenyth Jones (BA 1952), died 14 December 2005, aged 74.
Orchard, Mr Peter Frederick (BSc 1950), died 15 May 2003, aged 78.
Outen, Mr Francis Alan ‘Frank’ (BA 1959), died 25 January 2005, aged 73.
Sabine, Mr Colin Rowland (BSc 1958), died 24 May 2003, aged 66.
Shute, Mr Ernest Gordon (BA 1950, Cert Ed 1953), died 21 September 2004, aged 75.
Shute (née Bowles), Mrs Norah Elizabeth (BA 1950, Cert Ed 1951), died 12 March 2005, aged 75.
Spiers, Dr Roger Charles (BVS 1962), died 24 April 2005, aged 65.
Wicks, Dr Malcolm John (BSc 1950, MSc 1956) died 16 April 2002, aged 73.
Williams, Mr Bryan Bill (BA 1959), died 15 January 2001, aged 62.
Williams, Dr Robert Clive ‘Bob’ (MB ChB 1957), died 17 March 2005 aged 67.
1960s
Bailey (née Herford), Mrs Rosemary Anne (Testamar in Social Study 1961), died 12 October 2004, aged 66.
Behan (née Hughes), Professor Wilhelmina Mary (MB ChB 1962, MD 1966), died 19 March 2005, aged 66.
Bromhead, Professor Peter Alexander, died 25 October 2005, aged 86, appointed the first Head of Department when the Department of Politics was established in 1964, Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences 1970-72, retired 1980.
Criswick (née Singer), Mrs Mary Sheila (BA 1967), died 8 October 2004, aged 59.
Dahlgren Jorgenson (née Carew, formerly Jorgenson), Dr Janice Maureen (MB ChB 1964), died 19 October 2004, aged 68.
Eastoe, Miss Daphne Rosamund (BA 1968, Cert Ed 1972), died 22 August 2005, aged 73.
Fletcher, Mr Roger William (BA 1964), died 26 September 2000, aged 64.
Gottlieb, Miss Vera Anne Ruth (BA 1967, MLitt 1979), died 5 February 2005, aged 58.
Grant, Dr Christopher John (Associate Member of Convocation), died 11 July 2005, aged 69, Assistant Lecturer in Botany 1965-66, Lecturer 1966-77 and Senior Lecturer 1977-2001 also Overseas Liaison Officer 1990-2001.
Hazelwood, Mr Thomas (BSc 1959, Cert Ed 1962, studied Social Administration part time 1973-76), died 8 July 2004, aged 79.
Helsby, Mr Peter Denis (BA 1967), died 16 April 2004, aged 68.
Hodgkiss, Mr Thomas (Cert Ed 1965), died 18 October 2005, aged 75.
Holdsworth, Mr Peter James (BSc 1964, PhD 1968), died 23 April 2001, aged 57.
Hunt, Mr Michael Lawrence (BA 1960), died 8 October 2000, aged 62.
James, Dr Maurice (PhD 1964), died 8 April 2005, aged 65.
Josey, Mr Martin Frank (BSc 1962), died 18 March 2001, aged 60.
Kelly, Mr David Michael (BA 1966), died 8 September 2004, aged 60.
Knight, Mr Terence Frank (BA 1963), died October 2000, aged 59.
Millward, Dr Adrian (BSc 1961, MSc 1979), died 28 August 2005, aged 66.
Newby, Dr Martin Raymond (BSc 1963, PhD 1971), died 9 February 2004, aged 61.
Oliver, Ms Jill Elizabeth (BA 1968), died 15 October 2001, aged 54.
Pascoe, Mr John (BA 1967), died 4 March 2003, aged 58.
Peck, Mr Michael John (BSc 1966), died 9 September 2002, aged 57.
Tizzard (née Georgeson), Mrs Helen Diane (BA 1960), died June 2004, aged 65.
Tresham (née Gough), Mrs Anne Elizabeth (BSc 1968), died 4 February 2005, aged 58.
Quansah, Dr William Akon (MSc 1965), died 25 October 2002, aged 82.
Rose, Mr Michael Frederick (BA 1960), died 22 Jul 2001, aged 62.
Scott Langley (formerly Langley), Dr Antony Gordon (MB ChB 1960), died 26 December 2004, aged 82.
Smith, Mr Vernon Lionel (BA 1963), died 30 June 2000, aged 58.
Steinvon, Mr Guy Tadeusz (BA 1967), died 22 February 2001, aged 53.
Tinklin, Mr Richard (BSc 1963), died January 2002, aged 61.
Tuppen, Ms Jane Margaret (BA 1966), died July 2002, aged 56.
Warne, Mr George Keith (BSc 1962), died 7 December 2002, aged 82.
Williams, Mr Keith Alfred (BA 1962), died 1 November 2000, aged 61.
Williams, Mr Graham (BSc 1961), died 11 December 2004, aged 66.
Wilson, Mr Robert James (BSc 1960), died December 2004, aged 65.
Wood, Mr Barry (BSc 1964), died 2 January 2005, aged 62.

1970s
Abumere, Professor Sylvester Ithurumudoro (PhD 1976), died 30 November 2005, aged 61.
Bayliss, Mr Michael Thomas (BSc 1972), died 21 January 2005, aged 55.
Biscoe, Ms Daphne Miriam (Cert in Health Visiting 1975), died 4 April 2005.
Bonner-Thomas, Miss Eileen Sarah (BA 1974), died 3 October 2004 aged 51.
Carlisle, Mr Ian Trevor (BSc 1975), died 2003, aged 48.
Clark, Mrs Valerie (BSc 1976), died 17 January 2005, aged 53.
Edge, Mr Walter John (MSc 1977), died 7 July 2004, aged 51.
Hogg, Miss Maureen (BSc 1973), died March 2000, aged 51.
Keefe, Mr Richard Julian (BSc 1970), died 3 October 2000, aged 51.
Meteyard, Mrs Albertina 'Tina' (Cert in Residential Child Care 1973), died April 2000, aged 56.
Muhuideen, Miss Helen Arnema (MSc 1975, PhD 1980), died 27 May 2001, aged 48.
Norton, Mr David Stephen (BSc 1972), died 2 October 1999, aged 49.
O'Brien, Dr Rosalind Mary (PhD 1975), died 21 Jun 2002, aged 57.
O'Callaghan (BSc 1978), Mr Lindsey John, died 8 June 2002, aged 46.
O'Connell, Mr Timothy William (BSc 1973), died 23 September 2000, aged 48.
Ovens, Mr Geoffrey Gardner (BA 1978), died 26 October 2001, aged 57.
Richardson, Mr Paul (BSc 1977), died September 2002, aged 47.
Scowcroft, Mr Alan (BSc 1974), died 22 November 2000, aged 48.
Seagrave, Mr Paul William (Cert Ed 1970), died 11 Nov 2002, aged 56.
Smith, Dr John William (PhD 1975), died October 2001, aged 52.
Styles, Mr Derek Charles (BA 1972), died January 2005, aged 56.
Taylor, Mr Bryan Cowan (BA 1973), died 13 August 2005, aged 54.
Temple, Dr Nigel Hal Longsdale RWA (MLitt 1978), died 4 November 2003, aged 77.
Twite, Dr Barry Richard (BSc 1971, PhD 1974), died 26 January 2006, aged 56.
Walters, Mr Denis Alfred William (BEd 1975), died 25 June 2003, aged 79.
Watkin, Dr Julia Mary Emily (BA 1973, PhD 1980), died 24 January 2005, aged 60.
White, Mr Stephen Charles (BA 1970), died 25 September 2005, aged 57.
Wilkins, Dr Peter Hendy (MB ChB 1970), 22 May 2005, aged 57.

1980s
Chambers, Miss Helen Mary (MLitt 1981), died 29 June 2005, aged 90.
Finney, Mr Richard (MSc 1982), died 25 July 2004, aged 50.
Fischer, Mr Antony Steven (BSc 1982), died 11 July 2002, aged 42.
Gooding, Mr Paul Michael (Cert in Social Work 1987), died December 2002, aged 51.
Horton (née Selby), Mrs Margaret Isabella (MSc 1982), died 15 October 2005, aged 68.
Khan, Miss Kareen Maryam (BA 1989), died 16 October 2004, aged 38.
Mead, Mr Anthony William (BSc 1983), died 26 March 2005, aged 43.
Moss, Mrs Elizabeth Myra (Cert in Social Work 1982), died 30 April 2002, aged 57.
Powell Davies, Mr Jolyon Tharp (BA 1980), died 18 September 2005, aged 45.
Raven, Mr Andrew Owen Earle OBE (BA 1980) died 2 October 2005, aged 46.
Ross, Mr Christopher David (BA 1983), died 11 December 2005, aged 44.
Stebbins, Mr David Roger (BA 1983), died June 2001, aged 39.
Tucker, Mr Stephen John (BA 1983), died 14 March 2004, aged 43.

1990s
Hitchcock, Mr Peter Neil (BEng 1995), died 16 March 2003, aged 29.
Hudson, Mr Daniel Paul (BA 1997), died 26 March 2005, aged 32.
McGeorge (otherwise Duval), Miss Adèle Anne (BSc 1995), died 20 November 2003, aged 39.
Mills, Mr Alan Michael (MSc 1992), died 11 July 2005, aged 61.
Newstead, Mr Richard Charles (MSc 1994), died 20 April 2005, aged 59.

2000s
Delve, Dr Susan Helen (EdD 2002), Convocation representative on Court 2003-05, formerly Costing and Pricing Accountant at the University and Tutor in Hiatt Baker Hall, died 29 June 2005, aged 40.
Ramage, Mr Daniel John (BSc 2003), died 16 April 2005, aged 24.
Woollams, Miss Catherine Louise (BSc 2000), died 1 January 2005, aged 26.
21 to 23 July 2006

Convocation Reunion Weekend 2006

Have you been reminiscing about your student days and wondering whatever happened to your old friends and colleagues? Would you like to see what’s changed at Bristol? All alumni are warmly invited to the 2006 Convocation Reunion Weekend. Additionally, there will be special celebrations for those who graduated 25, 30, 40 and 50 years ago. More details can be found on pages 30 and 31 or online at www.bristol.ac.uk/alumni.

22 July 2006

Geology (Earth Sciences) Reunion 2006

The Department of Earth Sciences is organising a reunion for all its graduates during the Convocation Reunion Weekend. Come and see the developments in the department and enjoy a programme of tours, lectures, a dinner and a building stones walk. For more information, email Dr Liz Loeffler at liz.loeffler@bristol.ac.uk or visit www.alumni.gly.bris.ac.uk/events.html.

22 July 2006

1966 Civil Engineering Reunion

Robin Whalley (BSc Civil Engineering 1966) is organising a celebration dinner for former classmates and their partners during the Convocation Reunion Weekend. For more information, contact Robin on +44 (0)1342 314412 or email rwhalley@aol.com.

17 October 2006

Visit to the Magic Circle, London

Join Bristol alumni for a visit to the headquarters of the most famous magical society in the world. Enjoy a close-up magic show, a presentation on the history of magic and a visit to the Magic Circle Museum. Tickets cost £28 per head, and this includes a welcome drink and light refreshments. For more information, contact The Revd Colin Calcott-James (BSc 1948) on +44 (0)20 8788 6591 or email magic@4088.co.uk.
The University has an extensive programme of events which alumni and their guests are very welcome to attend. Here are just a few of the highlights.

10 June 2006
From the Iron to Victorian Age: Burwalls House and Gardens with Anita Sims
A tour of this mid-19th-century house and the remains of its Iron Age fort, followed by cream tea and a discussion of the site’s history.

13 June 2006
Dangerous Routes 1: The Slave Trade in Bristol with Elvyn Griffiths
Explore this important aspect of Bristol’s history: the ship owners, the crew, the enslaved and those who fought for abolition.

21 June 2006
The Future and Beyond: Plans for the University with Mark Lawrence
A guided walk around the precinct to explore the architectural plans for the University, which include conserving historic buildings on St Michael’s Hill and enhancing important landscapes like Royal Fort Gardens.

21 June 2006
Gala Concert on Midsummer Night, Victoria Rooms
The University’s Chamber Orchestra, Chamber Choir and Symphony Orchestra play a programme including Mozart’s Piano Concerto no.23 in A major with Arian Aghababaie, Nielsen’s Symphony no.4, ‘Inextinguishable’, royal music by Purcell and Handel, and the premiere of a new composition.

22 June 2006
Changing the Guard? Politics and the British Army in a Transforming World
Holding the military to account is more contested than ever before and this lecture explores the tensions in the relationship between the British armed forces, the government and society. This lecture forms part of a workshop on ‘Politics, the Military and Society’ organised by the Department of Politics.

24 June 2006
Bristol’s Unique Garden with the Friends of the Botanic Garden
The new Botanic Garden opens this year. See the latest growth in Bristol’s exciting new teaching resource and cultural attraction.

27 June 2006
Goldney Gardens and Grotto
Built in the early 1720s as the country home of the city merchant, Thomas Goldney. See the Grade I listed grotto with its exotic shells, corals, rocks and fossils and hear about the long history of the house.

Travel Dates

2 to 8 July 2006. See the Burgundy Canal from an exclusive hotel barge. Enjoy sumptuous cuisine, wines of the region, and visits to the area’s villages and vineyards. Led by Michael Liversidge. (IMA)

23 November to 4 December 2006. Cruise to see the colonial cities and stunning scenery of the Galapagos Islands and Ecuador. Led by Bristol ecologist Dr Andy Bennett. (IMA)

14 March to 2 April 2007. Explore the tropical paradise of Costa Rica. Experience the lush rainforests, magnificent waterfalls, endless coastlines and the diverse ecosystems in a truly unique location that preserves its delicate ecology for all to enjoy. (Collette)
A group of committed graduates is helping to make a real difference to life at Bristol University. Hannah Ford explains.

Founded to recognise those making an exceptional contribution to the University, Bristol Pioneers is a group of individuals who, through their significant gifts of £1,000 or more in an academic year, make a vital difference to students and staff. The Pioneers have a huge impact on the quality of Bristol’s teaching and research, both in and out of the classroom and laboratory. Leading the way by philanthropically supporting the University, the Pioneers encourage others to contribute, making every pound count in more ways than just its face value.

Geoffrey Rowley (BA 1958) lives in Massachusetts and became one of the first Bristol Pioneers from America. He says: ‘I had a wonderful experience during my three years at Bristol University and I give to Bristol because I want others to have the same opportunity.’

These exceptional contributions are essential in helping the University develop its facilities and student resources in the most powerful and efficient way. Combining Pioneer gifts with donations from all those who give to the Annual Fund is crucial in underpinning Bristol’s success and ensures that students get the most out of their time at university.

One area where Pioneer and alumni donations are helping students in the most fundamental way is student bursaries and scholarships. With 47 awarded during the current academic year across all subjects from Social Policy to Medicine, it’s easy to see how important the Annual Fund and its activities are to Bristol.

‘A good education is the best chance anyone has of being able to do what they want to do and improving their chances in life, so it is important to support high-class institutions like Bristol that are capable of providing it,’ comments Euan Major (MSci 2001), Bristol’s youngest Pioneer.

Furthermore, last year, £167,500 was allocated specifically to a range of new and exciting University projects. This included £28,000 to make much-needed improvements to the Students’ Union foyer and £20,000 to the University Botanic Garden to help develop the area for the public.

Alumni contributions also give directly back to the students through the Alumni Foundation, which is fast becoming an important source of support for the many student societies and clubs that make Bristol such an exciting University to study at. Already this year, the Students’ Union newspaper Epigram has been awarded funding for essential improvements. Kate Quilton, the editor of Epigram, said: ‘The grant we received from the Alumni Foundation has already started to make an impact on Epigram. Not only have we been able to widely improve the quality of our photography and news items, but it’s really helped motivate the writers and editors who put such an enormous amount of time and effort into its production.’

The 2004/05 academic year saw an amazing 76 friends and graduates of Bristol demonstrate their commitment to Bristol by making an outstanding gift of £1,000 or more.

The Bristol Pioneers are leading the way in giving back to Bristol. Making a one-off gift of £780 plus Gift Aid, or making 12 monthly donations of £65 plus Gift Aid will make you eligible to join the Pioneers, although a gift of any size will contribute to the huge difference the Annual Fund is making. To make a donation please visit our new online giving facility at www.bristol.ac.uk/alumni.
IMA has pioneered alumni travel in the UK, and alumni from Bristol have travelled with us all over the world. Our tours are designed for people with a general interest in the featured country, but all our itineraries have a strong educational element which is provided by our accompanying expert Bristol lecturers.

For a brochure giving full details, contact

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Mughal Emperors and Maharajah’s palaces – a history of Rajasthan
19 to 31 March 2007
Bristol lecturer: Prof Stephen Howe.

£1,890 sharing including full board and flights from London*

Northern India recalls two millennia of history – the pre-Islamic Rajputs, the Moguls, Maharattas and the British Raj.

Our first stop is the ‘Lake City’ of Udaipur, where our hotel is the Devi Garh Palace. This spectacular 18th-century palace nestles in the Aravali Hills of Rajasthan. On a crest of the Aravali Hills stands Kumbalgarh, a dramatically sited fort. We continue to Jodhpur to stay at the Ummed Palace Hotel, an authentic Rajasthani palace right in the centre of the city.

Another highlight is the Pink City of Jaipur, where we visit the City Palace, Jantar-Mantar Astronomical Observatory and the Amber Fort.

On the edge of the great Thar Desert we shall stay at the superb Khimsar Fort from which we will visit the huge fort of Nagaur.

No visit to India is complete without a visit to Agra to see Fatehpur Sikri – the Emperor Akbar’s deserted capital. We will also visit the Red Fort, the Tomb of Itmad-ud-Daulah and the inimitable Taj Mahal.

Cruising through Alsace Lorraine – medieval history and haute cuisine
9 to 15 June 2007
Bristol lecturer: Michael Livesidge.

£1,490 sharing including full board, all wines with meals and flights from London*

The cruise begins outside Strasbourg at the village of Kraft where our hotel barge, the ‘Lorraine’, will be waiting.

We shall be cruising on the Canal du Rhône au Rhin, a peaceful waterway. We shall visit Colmar and enjoy its medieval and Renaissance buildings, 13th-century collegiate church and waterside ‘little Venice’ area.

In Strasbourg itself, we visit the Cathedral of Notre Dame, the Musée d’Art Moderne and ‘Petite France’.

At Saverne we see the summer palace of the Rohan family. After a stroll in the town, we visit Haut-Barr, a ruined château from the 11th century with magnificent views of the plain of Alsace.

Royal Africa’s big game – a unique ecological and historical safari in South Africa
26 August to 7 September 2007
Bristol lecturer: Dr Steve Morris.

£2,200 sharing including full board and flights from London*

Once the hunting preserve of the Zulu kings, the coastal and highland wilderness of KwaZulu/Natal are the key areas for viewing Africa’s big game. The floodplains of the Pongola river affords superb habitat for crocodile and hippo, and the richest diversity of bird life anywhere south of the equator. Our safari offers the best wildlife against a backdrop of the vibrant culture of the Zulu nation.

Our first encounter with big game is on the Pongola River at White Elephant Lodge, a first-class tented lodge on Lake Jozini. At Mkuzi Falls, a private five-star reserve on the Mkuzee River, we will see rhino, lion, leopard, buffalo, elephant, cheetah, nyala, impala, wildebeest, giraffe, zebra and others.

In the mountainous landscape of Itala Reserve there are both white and black rhino. The finale is the Buffalo River, where the Anglo-Zulu war took place. We will visit Isandlwana and Rorkes Drift.

for booking information call (+44) 020 8940 4114 or visit www.imatravel.com
I have often wondered why more graduates do not think of assisting their university later in life when they have funds to spare. I know full well, from many of my former students, that life on leaving university can be financially difficult … but once they are settled in life, then that is the time they could help the younger generation,’ wrote William P (Bill) Coldrick (BSc 1945).

When Bill Coldrick died on 19 February 2004 at the age of 80, his generous legacy propelled the University’s research and teaching in astrophysics and genomics into a new galaxy.

And by releasing some of his bequest to the University before his death, Bill was able to watch as his gifts changed the skyline of the city and the experience of its students. He funded the construction of a six-metre diameter radio telescope on the roof of the Department of Physics and the installation of a small optical telescope under a dome, which provides many first-year students with their first opportunity to observe the sky. Bill also established two William P Coldrick Chairs: one in Cosmology and Astrophysics, and one in Genomics.

Bill believed in education, and he believed in ensuring that every generation of students has access to the best facilities, the latest research and the finest teaching staff. Bill’s generosity has made a real difference to the University, and his love of astronomy lives on in the students who have been inspired by his gifts. The bequests of Bill, and others who remember the University in their will, have helped make Bristol University what it is today: a University to be proud of, where students and staff thrive.

Bill Coldrick is seen above between ‘his’ two professors, Patty Kubawara (Genomics) and Mark Birkinshaw (Cosmology and Astrophysics), and with the radio telescope.

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

If you would like further information about how to make a legacy to the University, please contact Siôn Lutley on +44 (0)117 928 9903 or email sion.lutley@bristol.ac.uk.