

**Houseshare**  
Montpellier

Left: Detail of one of the many accommodation ads in the local weekly magazine, *Venue*



# Students

## RAG

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Students at the University raised around £80,000 for national and local charities in 2002/03 through their RAG (Raising and Giving) campaigns. Events included an 80-strong jail break in which 'prisoners' had to get as far away from Bristol as possible in 36 hours with no money of their own for transport. They reached places as far afield as Arizona, Athens and Bahrain and covered more than 20,000 miles in total.

All money from RAG events, such as RAG week, goes to local charities, while money raised from street collections every Saturday across the country goes to national charities.

## STUDENT COMMUNITY ACTION

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For nearly 30 years, Student Community Action (SCA) has helped students work as volunteers in the community. SCA currently has 700 members and 23 projects across Bristol.

New funding from HEFCE has enabled the creation of a new post, Student Volunteer Development Co-ordinator, to help students to set

up new community initiatives. This could be a one-off event or could become a long-standing SCA project. The first holder of this post, Jess Britton, has provided a full training programme to ensure students are fully prepared for their work. Accreditation for volunteering was another new development this year, through the Community Work Experience Award and Millennium Volunteers.

Recent projects include 'Decks, Drums and Rock 'n' Roll', started by a group of students to pass on their musical skills to young people in Bristol, and a new initiative to train students as Peer Educators to go into schools and youth groups to run sessions on sexual health. Also hitting schools shortly is an 'Environmental Ground Force' team, helping children transform their school grounds.



STUDENT DEVELOPMENT UNIT

'...one of the best places  
in which to be a student'

The Guardian University Guide 2004

STUDENT DEVELOPMENT UNIT



### GEMILANG 2003

The Malay Cultural Society of Bristol presented its event of the year, Gemilang 2003, in January. Many members of the organising committee are students in Engineering. Special guests included the Deputy High Commissioner of the Malaysian Embassy. The event, co-funded by the Alumni Foundation, featured a traditional lion dance (left), a gemilang performance, a Malaysian dinner and a play.

→ SNAPSHOT

### STUDENT DEVELOPMENT UNIT

The Student Development Unit is a new initiative run by the Students' Union. The Unit offers training and support for students involved in Union activities. These include Union officers, Student Community Action volunteers and club and society officers. The Unit also provided a major programme of key skills training for all students in spring 2003, and trained over 800 students in more than 30 different skills and practices.

Two staff members run the Unit with the help of a committee of student volunteer and sabbatical officers. They work closely with the Careers Advisory Service to develop employability and skills awareness among students.



### DEAF STUDIES TRUST PRIZES

**Clare Smith** (below left) and **Susannah Barnett** (below right) have been awarded this year's Deaf Studies Trust Annual Prizes of £100 each. Susannah's award was for a dissertation as part of her MSc in Social Sciences, and Clare's was for academic excellence at the end of the first year of her BSc in Deaf Studies.



The 2003 Patricia Tingay Memorial Award of £100 went to **Anna-Marie Reilly** as the student who has done most to create value in student life and in the deaf community within and outside the University.

### BRISTOL REDS

The Advisory Group on Sport and Recreation approved the following Athletic Union nominations for the award of Bristol Reds, the University's highest award for sporting achievement:

**Sula Young** (Cross Country) Fifth Year, fourth at AAA Half Marathon 2003, 22nd at AAA Cross-Country Champs 2003, 37th at Inter-Counties 2003, third in BUSA 10,000m final 2002, first in Tour des Dents du Midi Half Marathon 2002, second in Robin Hood Half Marathon 2002, first female in University Half Marathon for last three years.

**Alastair Kemp** (Hockey), Second Year, player in the National League since age 17, 1st XI Firebrands (National League), reached the final 30 of the English Universities Squad

2001/2, selected for the English Universities Hockey Team 2002/3, played every match at British University Games, won the overall championships.

**Nick Reid** (Surfing), Second Year, 2003 BUSA Surfing Champion, 2002 Bronze Medal at BUSA Championships, third place at the Welsh Under-20s Surfing Championships.

**Mike Thomas** (Waterpolo), Second Year, represented England 2002/3, won North Sea Cup 2003 with British Team, Player of the Year at 2002 BUSA final, England Juniors 2000/1.

**Alasdair Macdonald** (Skiing), Third Year, represented English universities at Anglo-Swiss Champs 2003, represented English universities at British Universities Parallel Slalom Champs 2003 (Snow), selected for English Universities Dry Slope Team 2002/3.

**Julian Nelis** (Fencing), First Year, competed for GB in the World Cup Event 2003, ranked 13th nationally, ranked 150th in the world, member of the South West Fencing team.

**Jane Foster** (Lacrosse), First Year, Senior England B Squad 2002, Under-19 England Team Captain 2002-3, member of Under-19 World Cup Squad 2003, playing in the USA this summer.

**Kevin Gadd** (Biathle, Athletics), Masters, competed for Cross-Country, Athletics and Triathlon clubs, won University Half Marathon and broke the course record, 17th in the 2002 World Biathle Champs, March 2003 – 6th in the 2003 World Biathle Champs (first British finish).

**Stuart Lemanski** (Cycling), Third Year PhD, third at BUSA 10-mile Time Trial Champs 2003, sixth at BUSA 25-mile TT Champs 2003, 20th at National Circuit TT Champs 2002, seventh at National Time Trial Series 2001.



From top, left to right:  
Alasdair Macdonald | Skiing  
Alastair Kemp | Hockey  
Athol King | Sailing  
John Clifton | Sailing  
Sula Young | Cross Country

Jane Foster | Lacrosse  
Julian Nelis | Fencing  
Kevin Gadd | Athletics

Mike Thomas | Water Polo  
Nick Reid | Surfing  
Stuart Lemanski | Cycling

**John Clifton** (Sailing), Third Year, First Team captain, selected for USA tour, selected for GBR Challenge team for the Americas cup (and was subsequently offered a professional contract), selected for RORC Admirals Cup Team in July 2003.

**Athol King** (Sailing), Second Year, Fleet Racing (BUSA) – 1st 2001/2; 5th 2002/3, top 10 European ranking in 420s sailing, 13th at 420 Open Worlds (Tavira), 13th at Kiel International Classes Regatta, selected for RYA Invitation Training Squad 2002.

## SNAPSHOT ←

### MENTAL ILLNESS EXHIBITION

To mark World Mental Health Day on 10 October, the University's Students' Union hosted a photographic exhibition as part of an awareness-raising campaign to encourage a positive attitude towards mental illness. The '1 in 4' exhibition, by Brian Moody, was a collection of portraits of people who have experienced mental health problems, including comedian Paul Merton, actor John Hannah, and actress Stephanie Cole (right), who received an Honorary degree from the University in February 2002.

