

nonesuch



BRISTOL 2015 EUROPEAN
GREEN CAPITAL

Contents

Welcome



John F Kennedy said: 'Change is the law of life. And those who look only to the past or present are certain to miss the future.'

Certainly much has changed for the better at Bristol during the 14-year tenure of Professor Sir Eric Thomas (Hon LLD 2004): new, state-of-the-art facilities now stand beside some of the University's oldest buildings, and the campus is vibrant with home and international students (p14).

In September, during a year in which Bristol celebrates its status as 2015 European Green Capital (p7), the University will welcome Professor Hugh Brady as its new leader, to continue to build on the foundations laid by Sir Eric.

Last December, Bristol both affirmed its position among the UK's top research universities (p2) and celebrated the success of its £100 million Centenary Campaign. You can read about the many ways your donations are having an impact in the supplement enclosed.

On a personal note, I will be standing down after six enjoyable years as Chairman of Convocation and the Alumni Association. I will miss meeting so many interesting alumni, but am delighted that we have received a record level of interest for volunteering at the University.

Finally, I would like to thank everyone who has supported me in this role, in particular all of the Convocation and Alumni Association Committee members, past and present.

With best wishes

Bill Ray

Bill Ray (BSc 1975)
Chairman of Convocation and the Alumni Association

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The nonesuch

The red nonesuch, the 'Flower of Bristol', gave its colour to the University's academic hoods and its name to the University's first student magazine, *The Bristol Nonesuch*, in 1911. *Nonesuch* in its current magazine form was first published in 1991 for 'all those who share a common interest in the University of Bristol.'

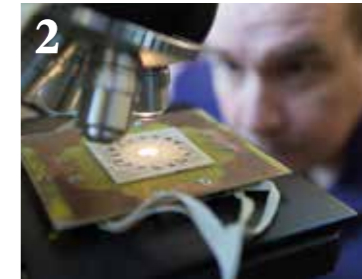


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Features

Bristol's green light	7
Alumni stories	13, 18 and 27
Parting notes	14
Nature and nurture	20
The Holocaust retold	24



Latest from Bristol	2
In pictures	4
Bristol in the news	6



Listings

In memoriam	28
Events	29

nonesuch

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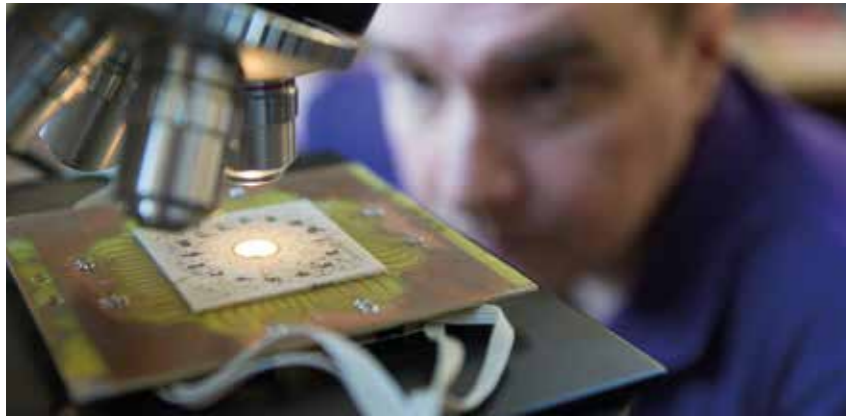
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Bristol in top five for research in the UK

Research

The University of Bristol was ranked among the top five institutions in the UK for research in a new analysis of the Research Excellence Framework 2014 by *Times Higher Education*.

Every six years, institutions are invited to submit examples of their research for independent assessment by the four UK higher education funding bodies. The exercise evaluates both the quality and impact of academic research across the UK and its results can influence how much public funding a university receives in the future.

In 2014, 83 per cent of Bristol's research was rated 'world-leading' or 'internationally excellent', and more than 90 per cent of eligible staff were included in the

University's submission.

Professor Sir Eric Thomas (Hon LLD 2004), Vice-Chancellor, said: 'These results underline the outstanding quality of the world-class research carried out at Bristol. It is particularly pleasing to see the high quality reflected across the broad disciplinary base for which Bristol is known. The impact of our research is clear, benefiting society and the UK economy.'

To read more, please visit bristol.ac.uk/research/assessment/ref2014.

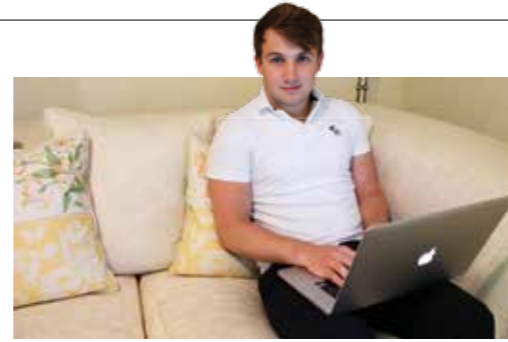
Sparks wins 'Earth Sciences Nobel'

Science

Professor Stephen Sparks FRS, whose work has improved both our understanding of volcanoes and our ability to forecast deadly eruptions, has received the 2015 Vetlesen Prize, widely regarded as the 'Nobel Prize' of Earth Sciences.



In the 1970s, Sparks became one of the first people to apply maths and physics to the interpretation of volcanic deposits, and his methodical, collaborative approach has since produced a long list of discoveries with global impact. Professor Michael Walter, Head of the School of Earth Sciences, said: 'His scientific accomplishments are manifold, and his legacy in terms of his influence on the field of volcanology, Earth Sciences more generally, and the students he has trained during his career, is second to none.' Professor Sparks will be awarded a medal and \$250,000 at a ceremony in New York in June.



University of Life Students

Josh Gare, a third-year Economics student, is one of the University's most successful student entrepreneurs.

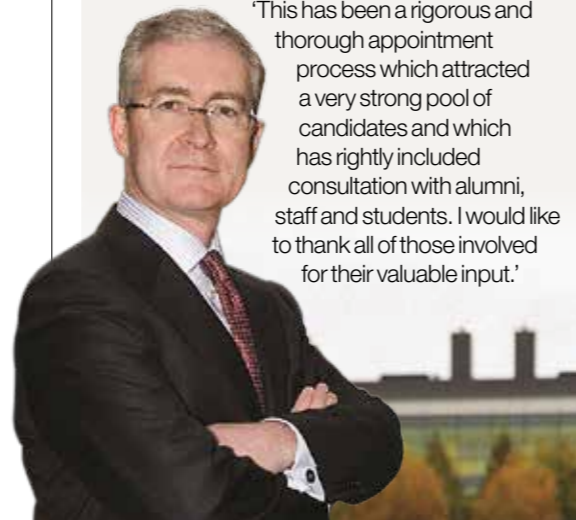
Since the age of 16, Gare has been making mobile apps and his creations, including an emoji app and a music recognition app, now have more than three million users worldwide. In an interview with student newspaper, *Epigram*, Gare explained how his success finally hit home: 'I was in Switzerland on the bus [...] and the lady in front of me was downloading my app.' And entrepreneurial Gare has already moved on to his next venture: setting up his own brand of sunglasses, Snaps.

A new leader for Bristol Leadership

Professor Hugh Brady will succeed Professor Sir Eric Thomas (Hon LLD 2004) as Bristol's next Vice-Chancellor and President in September 2015.

Professor Brady, who is Professor of Medicine and Healthcare Strategy and President Emeritus at University College Dublin, will become the University's 13th Vice-Chancellor. Denis Burn (BSc 1975), Chair of Council, said:

'This has been a rigorous and thorough appointment process which attracted a very strong pool of candidates and which has rightly included consultation with alumni, staff and students. I would like to thank all of those involved for their valuable input.'



In numbers

2.5

number of times a praying mantis rotates in mid-air during a jump, according to research from the Universities of Bristol and Cambridge



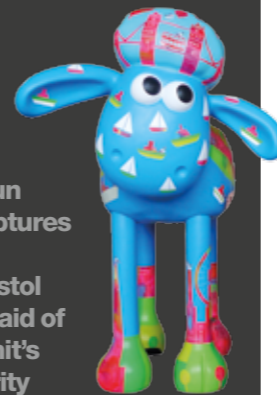
20

number of alumni recognised in the New Year honours list 2015. Find out more at bristol.ac.uk/nonesuch



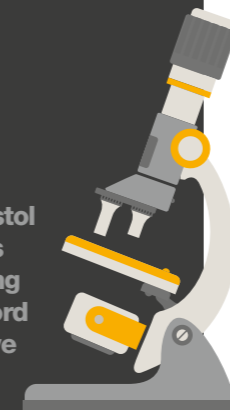
120

number of Shaun the Sheep sculptures to appear in London and Bristol this summer in aid of Wallace & Gromit's Children's Charity



900

number of students who took part in Bristol ChemLabS sessions over two days, setting a new outreach record at 2015 Science Alive in Hong Kong



Broadcast illustration © Alberto Antoniazzi // Research at Bristol © Nick Smith



Sir David Attenborough opens world-class Life Sciences Building

Campus

Last October, Britain's best-known natural history film-maker, Sir David Attenborough (Hon LLD 1977), officially opened Bristol's new £56.5 million Life Sciences Building.

The Life Sciences Building is the University's biggest construction project to date and will provide researchers with one of the largest teaching labs in the country, in which to tackle environmental issues like food security and conservation.

In his speech to staff and students, Sir David said: 'We in Britain have been leaders in understanding the life sciences and you will be the leaders of tomorrow. Understanding the natural sciences and

the processes that brought us here—these things bring joy and resonance and happiness to our lives. This great building will [...] play an important role in tackling the great problems and difficulties that the world is going to face in your generation.'

The building is home to an insectarium, spectroscopy and microscope rooms, a striking vertical garden and a state-of-the-art greenhouse, known as a GroDome, capable of recreating tropical conditions.

Movember discovery

Research

Prostate cancer could soon be staved off with an injection that restricts growing tumours, thanks to a breakthrough by Bristol scientists in November last year.

Pioneering research by academics at the Universities of Bristol and Nottingham and the University of the West of England has shown that drugs known as SPHINX compounds can halt the growth of tumours in patients with prostate cancer. More than 10,000 men in the UK die from prostate cancer each year, but by inhibiting the activity of SRPK1 – a molecule that plays a vital role in helping cancer cells grow and multiply – SPHINX compounds could hold the key to new targeted treatments.



1 Building bridges // City

Thousands gathered to watch a firework display on Brunel's Clifton Suspension Bridge to commemorate 150 years since the bridge first opened on 8 December 1864, five years after Brunel's death.

2 University Challenge // Students

After beating 130 other universities, a team of Bristol students appeared on *University Challenge* earlier this year after giving BBC producers 'the funniest interview they'd ever seen' at auditions in Badock Hall. The team made it to the quarter finals, only to be denied a semi-final place by Magdalen College, Oxford.

3 Into the wild // Alumni

In 2014, Patrick Ayree (BSc 2007) presented his first BBC wildlife documentary, *Super Senses: The Secret Power of Animals*. The series featured familiar animals – birds of prey, cheetahs and bees – but used science to present them in a fresh light. Later this year, Ayree will present *Cats: The Amazing Animal Family* on Sky 1. Read more about Ayree at bristol.ac.uk/nonesuch.

4 Not the Booker // Alumni

Not one but two Bristol alumni, Simon Sylvester (MA 2004) and Mahesh Rao (BSc 1995), made the six-strong shortlist for *The Guardian's* Not the Booker Prize 2014. Both were recognised for their debut novels, but it was Sylvester's *The Visitors*, a haunting thriller about a remote community in the Shetlands, that won the award after a public vote.

5 In a fog // Alumni

Pero's Bridge in Bristol's Harbourside disappeared in a veil of fog this February as part of an art project to illustrate ways a changing climate will disrupt our lives. The installation, by Japanese artist, Fujiko Nakaya, was part of Bristol's biennial In Between Time festival, organised by Executive Director, Dr Anna Rutherford (PhD 2007).

6 Holy cow // Technology

Two Bristol academics, Professor Sarah Baillie and Dr Arthur Richards, demonstrated their new invention at the 2014 Royal Institution *CHRISTMAS LECTURES* on BBC Four. The Haptic Cow is a virtual reality simulator that allows veterinary students to determine whether a cow is pregnant or not using technology that enables them to 'feel' invisible objects in mid-air.



Patrick Ayree ©Kat O'Dwyer / Clifton Suspension Bridge fireworks ©Chris Bahrn

**In brief
Alumni**



Professor Charles McKean (BA 1968), a leading historian who died after battling cancer last year, has been honoured posthumously with Scotland's flagship literary prize, the Saltire Book of the Year, for his epic study of 18th-century life in Scotland, co-authored with Bob Harris.

In November 2014, **Professor David Balmforth (BSc 1968)** was elected the 150th President of the Institution of Civil Engineers. Professor Balmforth is Executive Technical Director at MWH Global Inc, where his work covers urban flood control, pollution management and climate change adaptation.

Two dental graduates have been appointed to presidential roles in professional associations.

Alasdair Miller (BDS 1977) is the current President of the British Dental Association, while **Alastair Nicoll (BDS 1984)** is President-Elect of the Canadian Dental Association.

Sophie McPhillips (MEng 2013) was named New Civil Engineer Graduate of the Year 2014. McPhillips, who now works at Atkins, recently completed a placement in Africa with the charity Engineers Without Borders, helping provide clean, safe water to people in rural villages.



Shaping education

Alumni

Professor Dame Julia Goodfellow CBE (BSc 1972, Hon DSc 2002) will become the first ever woman to lead Universities UK (UUK).

Dame Julia Goodfellow, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Kent, was elected President of Universities UK in December. She will succeed the current president, Sir Christopher Snowden, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Surrey, on 1 August 2015 and will hold the post for two years. Dame Julia is the first woman to lead the

organisation in its near 100-year history, and will represent universities across the UK in talks with government on funding and policy. She will also be the second recent UUK President with a strong Bristol connection: Professor Sir Eric Thomas (Hon LLD 2004) served as President between 2011 and 2013.



Too little, too late

Science

Geoengineering – the deliberate, large-scale intervention into the Earth’s climate system – is not a ‘quick fix’ for global warming, according to the findings of the UK’s first publicly funded studies on geoengineering.

A University of Bristol-led project, SPICE (Stratospheric Particle Injection for Climate Engineering), used volcanoes to investigate the effects of pumping sulphate aerosols into the atmosphere to reflect more sunlight back into space. Dr Matthew Watson, principal investigator for SPICE, said: ‘The potential for misstep is considerable. By identifying risks, we hope to contribute to the evidence base around geoengineering that will determine whether its deployment, in the face of the threat of climate change, has the capacity to do more good than harm.’



Green fingers for Bristol students

Environment

Students at Bristol’s two universities are joining forces to engage in 100,000 extra volunteering hours during Bristol’s year as European Green Capital.

Thanks to £250,000 from the Higher Education Funding Council for England, thousands of students from the University of Bristol and the University of the West of England will have the chance to get involved in local voluntary projects and engage with green issues this year. As well as working with community groups, schools and businesses across the city, students will focus on reducing energy wastage and improving recycling on the two university campuses.



Touching the void

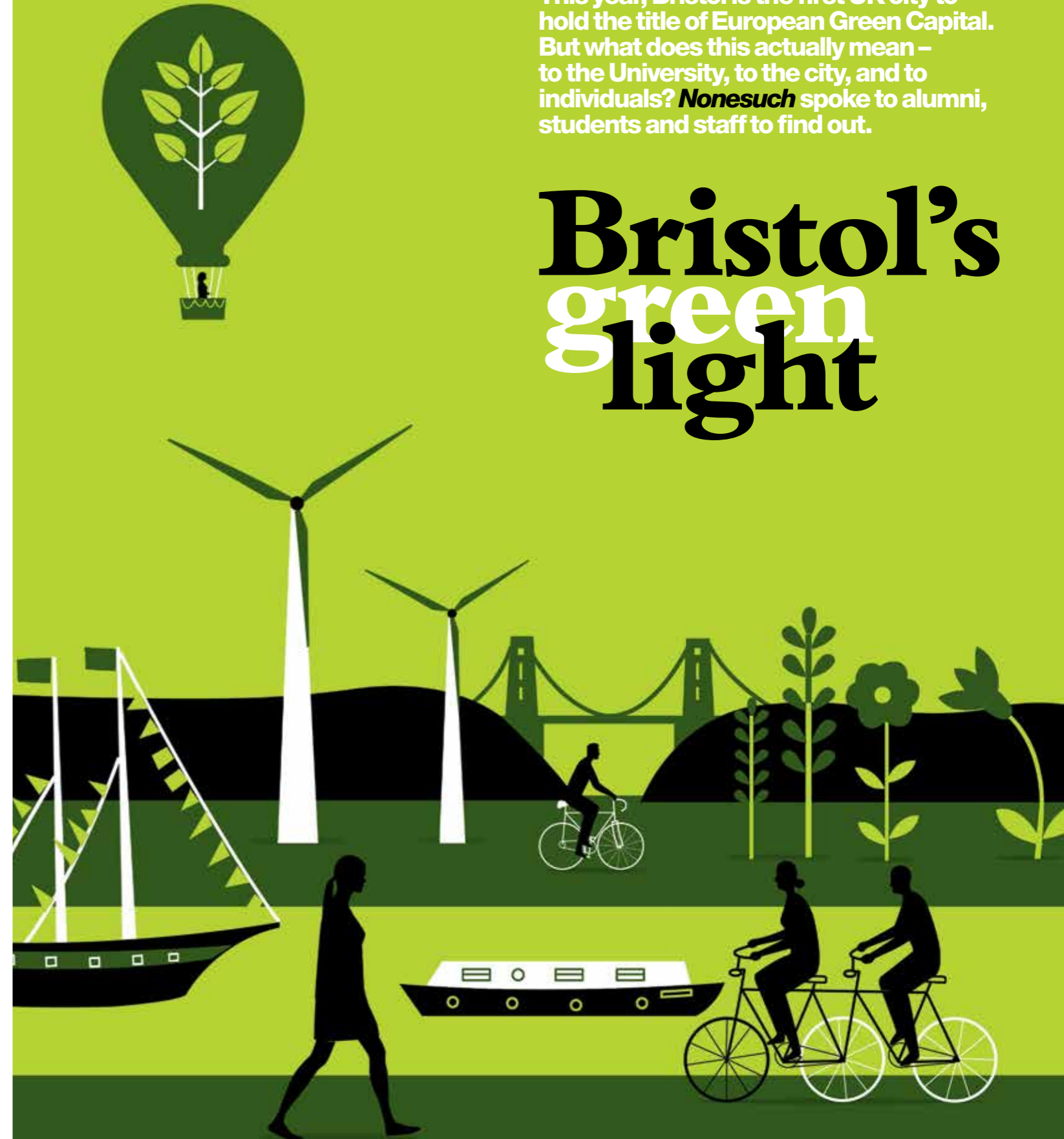
Technology

Researchers have used ultrasound to create three-dimensional (3D) shapes in mid-air that can be seen and felt by a human hand.

Directing the ultrasound device at a thin layer of oil also shows depressions in the surface of the liquid when lit by a lamp. The research, led by Dr Ben Long and colleagues Professor Sriram Subramanian, Sue Ann Seah and Tom Carter from the Department of Computer Science, could change the way 3D shapes are felt and used. They may even enable surgeons to ‘feel’ abnormalities like tumours on CT scans.

This year, Bristol is the first UK city to hold the title of European Green Capital. But what does this actually mean – to the University, to the city, and to individuals? *Nonesuch* spoke to alumni, students and staff to find out.

Bristol’s green light



'THE SPOTLIGHT IS ON OUR CITY, SO WE ALL NEED TO SEIZE THE OPPORTUNITY THAT PRESENTS'



Liz Zeidler (née Nash)
(BA 1991, MSc 2002)

In 2010, Liz Zeidler founded the Happy City Initiative, a campaign to refocus communities, businesses and cities on the wellbeing of people and the planet. She has been Chair of the Bristol Green Capital Partnership since January 2014.

In 2013, I was part of the bid team persuading the European Green Capital jury to make it third time lucky for Bristol. We outlined a city that has many of the same challenges as other cities. We didn't have all the answers. But we believed the spirit of Bristol is to try things out: to take risks, and to share our ups and downs so others can learn from us. I think the jury was excited that we would do things differently, with – in its words – 'a sense of fun'.

Having lived in Bristol since 1993, and studied here, I've always been aware of the breadth and depth of 'green' activity around the city. The Bristol Green Capital

Partnership was set up in 2007 – a year before the EU launched the European Green Capital award – and now includes more than 750 organisations of all sizes and sectors, making it the largest green city network in Europe. It gives Bristol an amazing opportunity not only to create a vision for the city, but also, through collective effort, to turn that vision into reality. The University plays a key role in that: in connecting academics with policymakers and businesses, and engaging thousands of students with opportunities for action.

The European Green Capital award is just that: an award. It's recognition of what years of innovation and activism in the city have achieved, and an endorsement of Bristol's vision for the future. We should be rightfully proud of winning, but we also need to challenge ourselves to live up to the title. Of course there are cynics. But it's not good enough to stand on the sidelines and judge. The spotlight is on our city, so we all need to seize the opportunity that presents.

Being European Green Capital is about building hope and opportunity for a brighter future. Ask any parent, anywhere in the world, what they want for their children – it's for them to be happy. And the real, proven routes to lasting happiness are almost all low-cost and low-carbon – connecting with other people, learning, being active – not, as some suggest, increased consumerism.

We developed the Happy City Index as an alternative to GDP – a way of measuring prosperity that shifts the definition of 'success' away from 'stuff' towards other elements of a flourishing life. Bristol is a pilot for the index this year, before we scale up to other cities in the UK, Europe and further afield.

The outcomes of the year will be many: some immediate, some much longer term. The influx of investment and attention will mean hundreds of local projects get a boost, while innovation in the city's infrastructure will take longer to see. Both will lay foundations for better lives, across Bristol and beyond. bristolgreencapital.org | happycity.org.uk

Professor Rich Pancost

As Director of the University's Cabot Institute, Professor Rich Pancost brings together world-class researchers to tackle some of the most pressing environmental challenges we currently face, including climate change, food security and renewable energy.

One of our priorities at the Cabot Institute is to work with government, industry and community partners – everyone from street artists and filmmakers to Bristol City Council and the Government Office for Science. As academics, we're uniquely and neutrally placed to bring together diverse groups, develop ideas and, perhaps most importantly, critically assess those ideas. In turn, those interactions stimulate and challenge us to conduct ever more creative and innovative research.

Bristol 2015 European Green Capital is a fantastic chance to showcase that collaborative research – research that helps us better understand environmental issues, and the role of green, resilient cities in addressing those issues. But we need to do more than just highlight challenges and celebrate those tackling them. We must reinvigorate conversations around climate change and bring new perspectives to the debate. We must initiate community- and business-led projects. We must not only propose new policies and technologies, but also create the framework in which to test them – in 2015 and beyond.

The Bristol Green Capital Partnership is such an exciting venture, and we've been involved from the start: our Manager, Philippa Bayley, shared the role of Chair with Liz last year. Bristol is the ideal city for disruptive innovation. I expect some big announcements this year – new digital networks, solar technology, driverless cars. But I don't think it's appropriate to get locked into specific outcomes. One-off initiatives aren't necessarily the best indicators of success. A more lasting success will be empowering people from all walks of life to create solutions we haven't yet thought of, and giving them space to test their ideas.

This raises some big questions about the role of our University in inspiring and assessing innovation. That's why we're supporting new initiatives for co-producing knowledge and sharing success – initiatives like the Urban Pollinators project (p20), and Bristol is Open, three fast digital networks that will give residents the chance to interact, work and play with their city. We have many more collaborations in the pipeline too.

We're also connecting with cities further afield: Santiago, Hong Kong, Mexico City, Kuala Lumpur and Singapore. We're a global university and our decisions cannot be made in isolation. Let's innovate and learn together. bristol.ac.uk/cabot

Martin Wiles

Bristol University uses the same amount of energy as Portishead or Tonga. For Martin Wiles, Head of Sustainability, keeping a lid on the University's carbon footprint is a major challenge, let alone reducing it. But it's a challenge he feels Bristol can take on.

As a research-intensive institution, everything we do has a major environmental impact: what we buy, the waste we produce, the water we use. We're already committed to reducing that impact, through lowering our carbon emissions and recycling 80 per cent of our waste. But this year, we've made four additional pledges: to give all students the chance to learn about sustainability, to make our procurement process greener, to reduce our transport footprint, and to aim for a net carbon-neutral campus by 2030. Fulfilling those pledges will be challenging, but is achievable.

We've already installed low-energy lighting, better-controlled heating and improved insulation. We also have recycling systems, bus services and renewable energy installations. And we haven't highlighted one or two buildings as beacons. Instead, we're working holistically – with everyone in every building – even though much of our estate was built before energy consumption was considered an issue. We're also collaborating with Bristol City Council and other organisations on innovative low-carbon projects, including a citywide heat network that will help us save carbon and reduce our long-term costs.

We aim to spend a further £10 million to get us 70 per cent of the way to achieving our targets. The final 30 per cent is likely to involve technologies still in their infancy. Fifteen years ago, we didn't have iPods or social media, and we hadn't experienced 9/11 or the credit crunch. Anything is possible in the next 15 years. As Bill Gates once said: 'We always overestimate the change that will occur in the next two years, and underestimate the change that will occur in the next ten.'

There are two ways we can stay ahead of the curve. Firstly, by harnessing the intellectual capital of our academics to help us tackle the challenges we face here on campus. And secondly, by harnessing the ideas and enthusiasm of our students. When it comes to innovation, they're a real inspiration.

bristol.ac.uk/sustainability



Illustration © Nick Lowndes

Aisling Tierney (PhD 2011-)

Giving all students the chance to learn about sustainability is one of the University's key sustainable pledges, as Aisling Tierney, Student Intern for Education for Sustainable Development (ESD), explains.

Most people think of sustainability as just about the environment, but, at Bristol, we use the UNESCO definition, which includes social and economic justice, cultural diversity, and human rights too. This makes ESD more meaningful for the different faculties. For example, in dentistry, students might learn about the impact of the equipment and chemicals they use. In archaeology, students might learn about indigenous cultures and ecological conflict.

Three years ago, Bristol didn't have a formal ESD strategy, but now we're one of the very few universities in the UK that has international accreditation for our work in this field. My role involves mapping and monitoring what's happening across the University, as well as talking to academics about ways to include sustainability in their subject areas. Often, it's not about big changes – it's about fitting ESD into existing undergraduate courses and postgraduate programmes.

Measuring the impact of our work can be difficult. Our success will be the sum of lots of small, long-term changes, like making sure staff think about ESD when they review their courses each year, and introducing new staff to ESD in their induction. For now, it's a trickle-down effect.

Accountability and transparency are key. Nearly all of our resources are available online, and we know they're well used by people outside Bristol. This autumn, we're hosting an international ESD symposium: 2015 also marks the end of the United Nations' first decade of ESD. The event is a chance to share best practice and incite debate, and we're bringing together people with very different approaches to ESD – some much more practical than others. At Bristol, we like to see results, not just talk about them. bristol.ac.uk/environment/esd

Sam Harris (BSc 2013)

Biology graduate, Sam Harris, set up Pedal Power Transport when he realised working as a cycle courier meant he'd be paid both to keep fit and help reduce CO₂ emissions.

In 2008, Bristol became England's first cycling city, but I still want more people here to take bikes seriously: they're the perfect way to get from A to B. At Pedal Power Transport, we offer a local taxi service, ferry goods between small businesses, and help organisations dispose of cardboard, plastic and used coffee grounds. We also pick up 'last mile' deliveries for national couriers, who would otherwise waste time and fuel negotiating the city centre. Completing these deliveries by bike is not only more efficient, but also helps keep polluting vehicles off the streets too.

My business has more goals than just making a profit. Last year, we created four local jobs and saved 18.5 tonnes of CO₂ emissions. We're on track to save a lot more in 2015. That saving includes the number of miles we travelled (that would otherwise have been covered by cars and vans), how much waste we helped businesses recycle, and the difference in fossil fuel consumption needed to produce bikes locally compared with cars.

Bristol attracts people who want to live in a more relaxed environment and together, the mayor, George Ferguson (BA 1968, BArch 1971, Hon MA 1999), Bristol City Council and the Bristol Green Capital Partnership are helping provide facilities for start-ups. I've always had an entrepreneurial streak, so running my own company made a lot of sense. When I won a University entrepreneurship award, I had the incentive I needed to get started. It was a huge learning curve, but I learnt a lot of valuable business skills through Basecamp, the student start-up support service.

Bristol 2015 European Green Capital is a great opportunity. Let's talk about how great we are, and how much fun we have, to inspire more innovation. For me, success will be more bikes, less traffic, and a happier, healthier city. pedalpowertransport.co.uk



Adela Simonova (LLB 2013-)

Adela Simonova admits that her incentive to get involved with the Students' Union (Bristol SU) Get Green programme was free ice-cream: the reward for signing up everyone in her hall to Student Switch Off, an NUS energy-saving campaign. She's now a Bristol SU Get Green Student Ambassador.

The more I learnt about Bristol SU Get Green, the more I enjoyed all the different projects, and the more I got involved. One of my main roles is encouraging first-year students to think about the energy they use, and how much they can recycle – habits they can take with them when they move into private accommodation. Different countries and cultures have varied approaches to recycling, so I also try to make things less confusing for overseas students.

Last year, I organised a candlelit concert for Earth Hour, and worked as a Project Assistant for Bristol's Big Give. We filled the Victoria Rooms with more than 50 tonnes of unwanted goods – kitchenware, clothes and books – from students moving out of accommodation and raised more than £100,000 for local charities. Both projects were great fun, and I've definitely got to know the city, not just the University. Bristol's a great place to get new projects off the ground – I've found most people here understand the importance of sustainability, and admire the way students engage with the community.

Our Bristol SU Get Green team has really grown this year – there's so much going on. We have lots of local student-led projects, including a community garden where we intend to grow our own food, as well as a national campaigns team that organises events like Fairtrade Fortnight and Global Divestment Day. ubu.org.uk/getgreen

'PEOPLE IN BRISTOL ADMIRE THE WAY STUDENTS ENGAGE WITH THE COMMUNITY'



Sarah Butler-Sloss (BSc 1986) and Mark Sainsbury (BA 1991)

Further afield, Sarah Butler-Sloss and her brother, Mark Sainsbury, will be watching Bristol with interest this year. Sarah founded the sustainable energy organisation, Ashden, in 2001. Eight years later, Mark founded the Sustainable Restaurant Association. Together, through the Ashden Trust and the Mark Leonard Trust, they support environmental programmes and public policy research, as well as community-led projects.

Mark (M) When I heard Bristol had won the title of European Green Capital, I was delighted. I'm a firm believer in shining a light on good practice and rewarding achievement, and know that was Sarah's motivation for setting up the Ashden Awards – to showcase and celebrate pioneers of sustainable energy. Though I'd prefer her not to know, she's probably been my biggest influence. I'm ashamed to say that, at Bristol, I didn't do much more than recycle empty bottles of Hungarian Cabernet Sauvignon and vote Green.

Sarah (S) When I set up Ashden, I wanted to talk about solutions to climate change, not focus on 'doom and gloom' stories. In 2001, our first award focused on the developing world, where 1.5 billion people still don't

have access to electricity and three billion people cook on open fires and smoky stoves. Clean, modern energy is crucial for helping people out of poverty. Light helps children do their homework after dark, and shopkeepers stay open in the evening. Electricity enables fields to be irrigated and medicines to be refrigerated. When our winner, from India, made the front page of the national and regional newspapers, we knew we were on to a good thing. We also help our winners grow and share their expertise: together, they now reach 45 million people and save more than eight million tonnes of CO₂ each year.

M I'm very aware of the 'power of the showcase'. Bristol is unique in the UK – cultural change towards sustainable society has already taken root. The challenge now will be for other cities, including London, to relate to that, and understand that sustainable development is the most effective way to improve living standards.

S It would be wonderful if Bristol could show that 'being green' delivers real benefits to the city and its people. Whether it is the health benefits of reduced air pollution or the economic benefits of using energy more smartly, 'being green' can be a great win-win. If Bristol can demonstrate this, it will encourage others to follow.

Through the Ashden Trust, we're supporting organisations that highlight the relationship between the financial sector and the fossil fuel industry and put pressure on the industry to clean up their act. In addition to making grants, we've divested all our assets away from fossil fuels, and invested in clean technologies instead.

M I'm certainly curious to see how willing major institutions in Bristol, including the University, are to show leadership in areas like divestment. I know first-hand that doing things on your own can be lonely and overwhelming. When I set up Moro [restaurant], I found it hard to find guidance about being sustainable. That's why I founded the Sustainable Restaurant Association: a members' organisation that offers sector-specific advice, puts you in touch with like-minded businesses and helps you draw a road map of priorities. There's no magic bullet to creating the sustainable, equitable societies most of us want. It takes grassroots action, leadership, research and, often, brave individuals prepared to make a stand. ● ashden.org | thesra.org

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- 2 Avon satchel** £130, 100% British leather, available in a range of colours
- 3 Cotton tote bag** £3.99
- 4 Fairtrade women's gym top** £12, made from 60% Fairtrade cotton, available in dark denim or plum, sizes 8, 10, 12, 14, 16
- 5 Credit card holder** £14.99, measures 11cm x 9cm, delivered in a Bristol University branded box

- 6 Pewter kidney flask** £32.99, 4oz flask, supplied in a black box
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- 8 Crested scarf** £25.99, 100% wool scarf
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Feature

Professor Drummond Bowden (MB ChB 1948) studied Medicine in Bristol during the Second World War. In 1945, he was elected President of the Students' Union and the following year, on the heels of British victory, orchestrated a student address from Sir Winston Churchill (University Chancellor, 1929-65).

Alumni stories

Man of words



but all male eyes were on his daughter Mary: she was stunning. On the stage of the Great Hall, I stood to deliver my speech of welcome. It included a paragraph outlining the role of the union: 'as important as lectures, it is an integral part of university education'.

As [Churchill] rose to address the students, the hall erupted in thunderous applause: we may have voted him out of power but we loved him dearly. The formal session over, I led him to the bar; he took a glass of sherry and autographed my Union Week programme. (A valuable item, this autograph is locked away in my fireproof safe.)

Later, in black gown, I walked in the academic procession, and sat on the stage of the Great Hall just behind the Chancellor's chair. In his brief address to the academic assembly, a chuckling Churchill quoted my remark on the equality of union activity and lectures.

Then it was luncheon in the Reception Room. Excellent food and wines, port and a cigar, listening to Winston's witty anecdotes. Desperately late for the Intervarsity debate, I made my unsteady way back to the Victoria Rooms, waved my cigar, gave the V sign, took my place on the platform, fell asleep. ●

This excerpt is taken from Bowden's memoirs, *Wessex, Wales and Beyond: 1941-1952*, which are housed in Bristol's Record Office. Historian Sir David Cannadine will talk about Sir Winston Churchill's tenure as the University's Chancellor as part of the Bristol Talks series on Wednesday 17 June. Please visit bristol.ac.uk/alumni/events for more details.

Through the Vice-Chancellor, I invited Churchill to address the student body – something that had never been done before. He readily agreed. Why did I do this? Less than twelve months earlier I had fought to defeat Churchill at the polls; now, as President of the Students' Union I was to welcome and honour him. I saw no inconsistency: we were paying tribute to a great man, the man who rallied Britain, pulled us through our darkest hour. Moreover, he was our Chancellor: of course we would honour him.

We planned a students' motor cycle escort for Churchill's car as he drove from Temple Meads station to the Victoria Rooms. Our enthusiasm was not shared by Police Chief Maby: his response? A blunt 'no way'.

The black limousine drew up at the front door of the Victoria Rooms. Winston got out,

Park Street, Bristol, June 1925, shortly after the Wills Memorial Building was opened by King George V and Queen Mary. Image courtesy of Special Collections, University of Bristol Library (DM248/20).

Above right Bowden (far right) looks on as Churchill takes the stage

Parting notes



Feature

After 14 years as Bristol's Vice-Chancellor, Professor Sir Eric Thomas (Hon LLD 2004) will step down in August. Here, he reflects on his time in office.

I find it difficult to believe that it is more than 14 years since I was appointed Vice-Chancellor of Bristol. Never has the opening line of LP Hartley's *The Go-Between* – 'The past is a foreign country: they do things differently there' – seemed so apt. I recently re-read the vision for the University that we developed in my first year and was reassured that we would agree with much of it today: our mission hasn't changed, even though the University undoubtedly has.

I was both delighted and a little humbled to come to a university which was already firmly established in the top echelon in the UK. The first thing my predecessor, Sir John Kingman (Vice-Chancellor, 1985-2001), said to me after my appointment was: 'I hope you realise you've just got the best job in British higher education.' He may have been biased, but he was also very close to the truth. It is the best job because it combines the stimulation and challenge of being Vice-Chancellor of one of the world's leading universities with working in one of the UK's most invigorating and entertaining cities – all at a point in history when universities are as important as they've ever been.

Central to Bristol's story has always been the pursuit of intellectual excellence: I have felt that ambition strongly every day. Our academics account for Bristol's position as a world leader in subjects as diverse as aerospace and policy studies. They continue to generate new knowledge – knowledge that both improves the world and illuminates our understanding of it – and our superb results in the Research Excellence Framework 2014 both reflect our current prowess and bode well for our future position as a global, research-intensive institution.

Eleven days after I arrived in Bristol, the World Trade Centre was destroyed. I think of it as the day we all understood what globalisation actually meant. In the 1990s, globalisation was only a small part of daily discourse. After 9/11, it was the new reality.

Bristol began to analyse its place in the world. We joined the Worldwide Universities Network, which now includes 16 universities across six continents, and forged new relationships with other top institutions, like the University of Kyoto.

Our campus is already much more international than when I first arrived: there are now more than 4,000 overseas students studying at Bristol. They bring fresh and diverse perspectives to the intellectual and cultural life of both the University and the city.

I am fiercely proud of all of our students. They make the university: they are its beating



heart, and their values, talent and ambition are mesmerising. Since 2001, the number of undergraduates at Bristol has grown by more than 50 per cent, though our academic quality has not dropped.

From autumn 2015, there won't be a cap on student numbers. Competition among universities will become increasingly fierce, and Bristol won't be immune. Nothing beats high-quality educational provision, or an outstanding peer group, but we still have to portray the Bristol student experience in the best way possible, both in the UK and further afield.

The introduction of tuition fees (£3,000 in 2004 rising to £9,000 in 2012) has certainly created a relationship that is both more personal and more transactional. On the one hand, our students have made it plain that they do not want to be seen as customers: they want to be treated as colleagues. On the other, they are now empowered to lobby us about the quality of the facilities: their learning spaces, their sports amenities and their IT support.

In 2008, the global financial crisis, and its effect on the UK economy, lent different mood music to our plans: there is a natural tendency to be more conservative in times of uncertainty. We decided that was not the way at Bristol, and continued to invest. That risk has paid off.

In today's money, we have invested around £1 billion in the University's estate since 1993. We now have the Centre for Nanoscience and Quantum Information, known to be one of the 'quietest' buildings in the world. And in September, Sir David Attenborough (Hon LLD 1977) opened our new Life Sciences Building (p3). Some of our oldest buildings now stand beside stunning

new structures on Tyndall Avenue.

Last year, Bristol was named the best UK city to live in by *The Sunday Times*, and it is definitely celebrating its unusual characteristics in a very positive way. It has moved from being a mercantile city, through an industrial phase, to become a modern knowledge city, an ideas city, and this year, a green city.

Sir John was right: to be part of a university renowned for its academic excellence in such a dynamic city is an exhilarating mix, and surely one of the reasons why Bristol produces such fantastic graduates year after year.

You are some of the best ambassadors our University has. You are intellectually challenging, creative, and entrepreneurial in every sense, and I have truly enjoyed meeting so many of you over the years. Your advice, your networks and your continued promotion of our excellence are hugely important, and I am keen for you to see yourselves as part of Bristol's future, not just its past.

How would I like to be remembered? For me, the best reward would be for a future Vice-Chancellor to say that the University's leaders in the early 21st century really seized the opportunities available and that Bristol is still reaping the benefits.

It certainly has been a breathtaking 14 years. From September, I shall look on Bristol from afar with admiration, deep affection and many great memories. And I will regularly remind myself that life conspired to give me the great fortune and privilege to lead this outstanding University for a brief part of its great history. From my wife, Narell, and me, thank you all. ●



In your words

'What a breath of fresh air in the serried ranks of vice-chancellors. Forthright, unstuffy and a stalwart supporter of state education to boot. Sir Eric has provided wise guiding counsel to Bristol, to Universities UK and to education more widely still.'

Dame Jane Roberts DBE (MB ChB 1980)

'Sir Eric has been an outstanding leader, communicator and advocate of both Bristol and the UK university sector. He combines sharp intellect, deep thinking and great common sense. He articulates his thoughts with great clarity and simplicity, and his delivery has great personal charm, warmth and modesty. Sir Eric will be sorely missed by Bristol.'

Neill Morgan (BA 1990)

'Hearing Professor Sir Eric Thomas talk to alumni in Kuala Lumpur in January was an enriching experience. As an international student, I always found everyone at Bristol to be encouraging and supportive.'

Kent Khor (BSc 2014)

'I HAVE FELT BRISTOL'S AMBITION STRONGLY EVERY DAY'

Professor Sir Eric Thomas © Bhargesh Suchania

Above left Sir Eric welcomes the President of the Republic of Singapore to the University in October 2014

The Professor Sir Eric Thomas Student Support Fund

Help bring the best and brightest students to Bristol, and celebrate Sir Eric's outstanding service to our University over the past 14 years.

'I can think of few more fitting ways to honour Sir Eric's legacy than by creating student scholarships and hardship bursaries to help students fulfil their academic potential. I do hope you'll join me and make a gift today.'

Denis Burn (BSc 1975), Chair of Council and donor to The Professor Sir Eric Thomas Student Support Fund



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bristol.ac.uk/alumni/give-back



This autumn, **Rob Harris** (1967-69) will revive Bristol's 24-hour pedal car race, once an annual tradition during University RAG week.

Racing back to Bristol

Alumni stories

I was studying Architecture when I joined the School's pedalling team in 1968. I remember little except that it was cold, wet, exciting, exhausting – and an annual ritual. I was fit enough, riding a tandem from Hiatt Baker to Great George Street every day. The car was handed down annually and we raced at the former Whitchurch Aerodrome – foreign territory for most students after the race had outgrown College Green, or so we understood.

I've since learnt from historic copies of *Nonesuch*, the Students' Union paper in which I wrote a music column, that the race originated in 1960 following an exercise for Mechanical Engineering students the year before. It had been expelled from College Green by the 'City Fathers' after excess littering in 1965, migrating to what is now Hengrove Park instead. Later photographs show other venues too: several from 1987 show the Downs by Parry's Lane, while another looks like it could be Eastville.

I was also reminded how, one year, many competitors suffered respiratory problems

from the combination of sunshine, tarmac and tyre rubber. One or two went to A&E, but, thankfully, all survived. When I raced, we didn't have to worry: the weather was foul.

One consistent aspect rings true: Aeronautical Engineering students and apprentices made up many winning teams. I remember this when I took part: a winning team from somewhere called Filton – way beyond Clifton, Stoke Bishop or the University precinct.

I didn't graduate in Architecture (I went to train in theatre instead), but returned to Bristol in 1981 as Stage Manager at the Bristol Old Vic, before freelancing in TV drama. The race didn't cross my mind again until 2013 on a shoot at Berkeley Castle. Asking my assistant if he'd heard of it, I idly remarked: 'They should bring it back.' Three days later, I decided to do it myself. ●

Bristol's 24-hour Pedal Car Race 2015 will take place on Saturday 10 and Sunday 11 October to raise funds for local charities. To enter or sponsor the race, please visit bristol24race.co.uk. You can also follow Harris on Twitter at @pedalcarrob.

Image courtesy of Special Collections, University of Bristol Library (DM0094/08/82)



Nature and nurture



Bumblebee drinking nectar from a lavender flower

Feature

Insects play a vital role in the pollination of many plants, but pollinators – and their natural habitats – are on the decline. The Urban Pollinators project, led by the University of Bristol, is the first comprehensive study to investigate the status of these diligent winged workers in urban areas and consider ways of improving their lot.

By Hilary Brown

For a nation of gardeners, what better way to spend a Sunday afternoon than browsing at the garden centre? But next time you're stocking up on bedding plants, spare a thought for the hoverfly settling on that primrose. Ninety-seven per cent of the UK's wildflower meadows – a rich source of food for many such insect pollinators – have disappeared since the 1930s, giving way to urban development, and agricultural and grazing land.

It's a paradox, then, that for food production we depend on the ecological services of the very creatures whose habitats we compromise: we need pollinators to transfer pollen between crop plants, leading to fertilisation and seed production. So what if we encouraged insects in our cities? Would that help restore pollinator populations in other areas and build more robust local food systems?

Where have all the pollinators gone?

The Urban Pollinators project is part of the wider UK Insect Pollinators Initiative that aims to research the causes and consequences of threats to insect pollinators, and inform future mitigation strategies. It is funded by the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), the Natural Environment Research Council (NERC), the Scottish Government and the Wellcome Trust.

The project, led by Cabot Institute member Jane Memmott, Professor of Ecology in the School of Biological Sciences, is a partnership between the Universities of Bristol, Reading, Leeds and Edinburgh, with collaboration from taxonomists at the National Museum Wales. It is the first large-scale study to compare the suitability

of different landscapes for pollinating insects across the UK – urban areas, farmland and nature reserves – and to build up a picture of pollinator biodiversity across a range of urban habitats.

Dr Katherine Baldock (BSc 2000), who has been the post-doctoral researcher for the project since it began in 2011, explains: 'There's been very little research around urban pollinators. Most previous studies have involved one type of urban habitat – mainly gardens. One of the unique things about this research is that we've systematically collected data in a range of habitats – allotments, gardens, cemeteries, road verges, car parks – to try to identify pollinator "oases" in urban areas.'

'ANY WILDLIFE CONSERVATION PROJECT NEEDS PEOPLE ON THE GROUND'

Working with local authorities and wildlife trusts as well as academic colleagues, Baldock developed the project protocols, and co-ordinated and trained the fieldworkers, who spent three and a half years building up a picture of the community of pollinators in different habitats, and the types of plants they feed on. The team then went on to plant 15 new flower meadows in each of four cities – Bristol, Reading, Leeds and Edinburgh – to assess whether the introduction of new food sources could boost urban pollinator diversity and abundance.

Towards a sustainable food future

Food security is a major research strand at Bristol. Cabot Institute members are involved in a wide range of projects that are helping to build resilient food systems.

Dr Eric Morgan (Veterinary Sciences) is looking at sheep breeds that are naturally resistant to infection in order to reduce routine drug treatment of livestock, while Professor Mike Eisler and Dr Michael Lee have been instrumental in establishing the Global Farm Platform, an international programme examining strategies for rearing ruminant livestock sustainably.

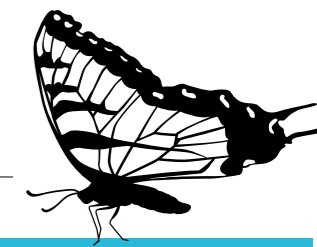
Professor Keith Edwards and colleagues (Biological Sciences) have sequenced a large portion of the bread wheat genome, and are sharing data with other plant geneticists so that producers can improve the resilience of wheat species.

Dr Naomi Miller and Dr Mark Jackson (Geographical Sciences) are working with a rural community in El Salvador and an urban community in Bristol to examine different approaches towards combatting food poverty and guarding against environmental changes that threaten food production.

Dr Patricia Lucas (Policy Studies) is investigating the links between global food insecurity and local food poverty.

bristol.ac.uk/cabot





Bristol in bloom

A Stoke Bishop hall of residence is the site of one of the 15 flower meadows planted in Bristol as part of the Urban Pollinators project. ‘Although the University has a large estate, identifying the location for a pollination study wasn’t as simple as sticking a pin in a map,’ says Alan Stealey, Head of External Estates. ‘It was important to the researchers that we chose a site that could be classified as urban, as opposed to more open space such as parkland, and we also wanted to maximise the visual impact of the meadow and raise awareness of the project among students. We settled on what is almost a natural amphitheatre in the grounds above University Hall.’

The Estates team planted the perennial meadow with a wildflower seed mix containing 12 native plant species specially selected for pollinators. Volunteers continue to collect seeds with the intention of establishing similar displays elsewhere in the University grounds in future years.

Visitors can witness the benefits of plant diversity at the University’s Botanic Garden, which in recent years has established an enviable plant display that attracts a wide variety of pollinators. The Botanic Garden also hosts an annual Bee and Pollination Festival in September.



Sanctuary in the city

The initial project findings were published in February in *Proceedings of the Royal Society B* and found that pollinating insects thrive as well in towns and cities as they do on farmland and in nature reserves. The study also found that bee diversity is higher in urban areas than farmland. ‘Pollinators are driven by the availability of food and suitable nesting sites,’ says Baldock. ‘Urban areas contain a huge variety of plant species, particularly non-native garden plants, which may explain the corresponding richness in pollinator diversity.’

The findings have important implications for pollinator conservation as our towns and cities continue to grow. With the total value of crops pollinated by insects estimated at more than £510 million per year in the UK, there is scope for policymakers to increase the number of urban insect havens and improve the quality of existing green spaces in order to conserve and encourage pollinators.

All together now

The findings are timely in more ways than one. First, they will support the development

of Defra’s National Pollinator Strategy, which was launched in November 2014 and promotes measures that support pollinator conservation. This will give Baldock, who has now embarked on a three-year Knowledge Exchange Fellowship funded by NERC and supported by the Cabot Institute, an opportunity to engage with policymakers.

Second, they will help inform the development of a pollinator strategy for Greater Bristol. Building on partnerships established during the Urban Pollinators project, Baldock has been working with Bristol City Council, the Avon Wildlife Trust, Bristol Friends of the Earth, Buglife, South Gloucestershire Council, and the University of the West of England to draft the strategy, which went out to public consultation earlier this year.

The strategy is a key component of the Get Bristol Buzzing initiative, which will link local activities related to pollinator conservation. ‘It’s a great opportunity to share the science with a wider audience, and work in a structured way with individuals and organisations to create suitable habitats for insect pollinators across the Greater

Bristol urban area – in gardens, public spaces and on business sites, too,’ says Baldock.

Get your green fingers out

That Bristol 2015 European Green Capital year should fall during Baldock’s fellowship is a happy coincidence. Defra has contributed funding to support the Greater Bristol Pollinator Strategy and Get Bristol Buzzing as part of Bristol 2015 European Green Capital. This work will act as a case study to be rolled out to other towns and cities across the UK. Defra is also funding the creation of three flower meadows, one in South Gloucestershire and two alongside the M32 motorway, providing new food sources for insects and contributing to public awareness of pollinator conservation.

But such large-scale projects are only part of the story, says Baldock: ‘For any wildlife habitat conservation project to be successful, you need people on the ground taking action.’ And with between 25 and 35 per cent of our cities comprising gardens – a great potential food source for pollinators – that means bringing members of the public on board. Judging by the experience of

the Urban Pollinators team, that shouldn’t be too difficult. ‘We had no shortage of householders willing to offer their gardens as sampling sites,’ says Baldock. ‘Our fieldworkers shared many a cup of tea with gardeners keen to find out more.’

Who would have known, for example, that there are more than 250 solitary bee species in the UK? And while we’re all familiar with the honeybee, we may not be aware of the many other species – including hoverflies and butterflies – essential for pollinating crop plants, including some of the fruits and vegetables commonly grown in gardens and allotments.

Such was the level of interest that the team set up a blog to keep stakeholders up to date with the project’s progress and provide more information about the intriguing world of insect pollinators. Baldock intends to continue to harness the enthusiasm of communities around the city and get folk planting with pollinators in mind. A thoughtfully sown window box may be all it takes to help pollinators thrive and ensure that there will be ‘honey still for tea’. Not to mention strawberries at Wimbledon. ● bristol.ac.uk/urban-pollinators

In numbers

12
urban areas sampled

36
sites within each area compared

7,412
insects recorded

11
rare or scarce species documented

Source Baldock et al (2015) ‘Where is the UK’s pollinator biodiversity? The importance of urban areas for flower-visiting insects’. *Proceedings of the Royal Society B*, 282: 20142849.

‘URBAN AREAS CONTAIN A HUGE VARIETY OF PLANT SPECIES THAT ENCOURAGE POLLINATORS’

Clockwise from above left Perennial meadow in bloom in the grounds of University Hall, Stoke Bishop; allotments provide ideal habitats for pollinators; hoverfly on red scabious (*Knautia macedonica*)

The Holocaust retold

Feature

The second of two features on the legacy of the world wars introduces the work of historian **Professor Tim Cole**, who is using methods imported from other disciplines to examine first-hand accounts of the Holocaust and give them their place in the landscape of central and eastern Europe.

By Nick Riddle

There was once a man – a Jewish survivor of the Holocaust – who, during a visit to Warsaw many years later, decided to hire a taxi to take him back to Auschwitz. It was a long drive, but when they finally arrived at Auschwitz-Birkenau, the man got out of the taxi, walked in through the gateway of Birkenau, then turned round, walked back out, got into the taxi, and went all the way back to Warsaw.

‘He described this as his moment of liberation,’ says Tim Cole, Professor of Social History. ‘He’d been forcibly evacuated from Birkenau and sent on the “death marches” in 1945, so he decided that he wanted to leave the place again, this time of his own free will.’

Cole’s interest in the story illustrates the main strands of an approach to Holocaust studies that places survivors’ accounts front and centre, and examines them as narratives, each with a specific set of temporal and geographical qualities. Perhaps most of all, it’s the subjectivity of the man’s account that points to a relatively new angle on the subject.

Telling details

Historians have examined mounds of surviving documents in order to establish as objectively as possible the cold facts of the Holocaust, its perpetrators and its victims. But the so-called ‘cultural turn’ in historical studies at the end of the last century brought with it an awareness of subjectivity – its risks, but also its potential for opening up new avenues of enquiry.

‘There’s been a developing conviction that, if you can work with subjective material like oral histories, using some of the tools from neighbouring fields like anthropology and sociology, you might be able to access another set of truths,’ says Cole, who is one of a number of historians making extensive use of oral histories and memoirs in Holocaust studies. ‘I was trained both as a historian and as a geographer, so I try to look at survivor accounts in the context of geography – to peg these stories down into the landscape. I think it’s ethically as well as historically important to work out what those places and experiences were like.’

Cole’s search for the Holocaust’s material contexts has resulted in a major new study, *Holocaust Landscapes*, to be published in 2016. ‘I wanted to examine the Holocaust as something that happened in real places, not suspended in a kind of historical bubble or confined to purpose-built extermination camps,’ he explains. ‘Each chapter of the book focuses on a particular kind of environment – ghetto, cellar, railway, sea, mountain, forest, road, and so on.’

The European road network, for example, became the setting for ‘death marches’, forced journeys such as those endured by the man whose story we began with.

‘The final months of the war were chaotic,’ says Cole. ‘Auschwitz was closed down in January 1945 as the Soviets approached from the east, then the other concentration camps started closing prior to the arrival of the Allies. The Nazis marched these prisoners – mostly Jews but also non-Jews – around an ever-shrinking area of German soil, looking for a camp that would take them. One of the reasons that conditions were so terrible in Bergen-Belsen when the British arrived was that it had become a dumping ground for all of these prisoners from Auschwitz and elsewhere.’

While man-made landscapes such as camps, railways and roads frequently become the settings for stories of unspeakable inhumanity, the natural world often represents something more complex: not the straightforward opposite of the human, but an environment where human and animal merge. Nature is, at worst, indifferent, but sometimes actively benign.

Tales from the woods

Tens of thousands of Jews used the thickly wooded areas of central and eastern Europe as places of refuge, either on their own or in family and partisan groups. ‘They used nature in various ways to help them survive,’ says Cole, ‘but their stories show how complex and varied their relationships with the natural world were.’

Of particular significance is the way survivors tell these stories, and the imagery

and tropes they use to evoke the reality of their experiences. Some accounts stress the benign aspects of the forests – bushes that break their fall, vegetation that conceals them, creatures that ‘teach’ them how to survive – while others highlight the harshness of an environment in which they struggled to stay alive, sometimes for several years, and describe their ‘descent’ into an animal state.

‘The rise of environmental history is forcing historians to expand their focus beyond human actors, which gives us new perspectives,’ says Cole. ‘I think there’s a real value, for example, in thinking about mud, and its different meanings for different people.’

One survivor describes hiding with his father in a hole dug into the soil of a rye field, while heavy rain fell for days; their skin began to peel, but, he recalls, the mud and rye ‘worked as an adhesive keeping intact



Above Three Jewish partisans hiding in Wyszow forest near Warsaw, 1944
Opposite The entrance to Auschwitz-Birkenau

'I TRY TO PEG THESE STORIES DOWN INTO THE LANDSCAPE'



what little skin we had and hastening the drying process'. He goes further, to suggest a breaking down of the division between man and earth, giving his account, Cole suggests, 'an Old Testament quality, as if they're being remade out of the mud.'

Mud often had a very different connotation for survivors of the camps, such as a woman whose narrative uses the opposing motifs of mud and soap to chart her journey.

'She tells the story in terms of the points where she was able to wash and where she wasn't,' says Cole. 'At Auschwitz she could wash, but after she was moved to Belsen she couldn't – she describes almost being submerged by the mud, because things have broken down to such an extent. For her, the moment of liberation is when she's washed by the British for the first time. The imagery that she and other survivors use when they retell these stories sheds a light on their own subjective experience, and says something about how cultural memory is formed.'

Dark places

Cole and his Bristol colleague, Dr Joanna Michlic, recently launched the Centre for Holocaust and Genocide Studies, which will be at the forefront of efforts to study the vast

number of oral histories collected in recent years by groups like the Shoah Foundation. 'I really believe that Holocaust remembrance and education must maintain a close link with new research,' Cole says. 'Good research shines a new light on things, which I want to keep doing, both as an academic and as someone talking to a public audience.'

But it goes without saying that writing about the Holocaust is not a project for the fainthearted; Cole himself is not immune to the effects of working on such dark subject matter.

'The place that I find hardest to write about is the cattle car,' he says. 'It's a difficult space to enter imaginatively: they were extremely overcrowded and profoundly claustrophobic. Survivors tend to talk about the cattle cars as the closest thing to the gas chambers that they escaped. After I work on that chapter, I need a few days off.'

'I want to do justice to those stories, but I don't always know how far to take the reader into a dark place,' he adds. 'For those of us who work on the darker side of humanity, it's hard to know if you've got your own narrative voice right. That's another layer of subjectivity – I'm not just a historian, I'm a human being with my own sensibilities.' ●

Roads and remembrance

In tandem with his book, Cole has written a series of companion pieces about how these landscapes, and the events that occurred there, are remembered now – what he calls 'the performance of memory'. Besides the purpose-built killing sites such as the camps at Auschwitz and Treblinka, some of the more 'ordinary' landscapes have also had their history retraced. Various groups memorialise the death marches by re-walking the roads in question: survivors and their families, groups of young Jews, as well as 'charismatic' Christians, artists and film-makers.

Anthropology can shed light on the importance of ritual in these acts of memory. The man who took a taxi to Auschwitz is not an isolated figure: 'There are many stories of survivors doing similar things,' says Cole. 'Some of them go to touch the barbed wire that's no longer electrified, and take photographs of themselves holding it, or walking out of the gateway. They're enacting these performances of liberation, even of victory over the Nazis, especially when they take their children and grandchildren: they're saying "Look, I'm still alive and I've got all of these descendants to prove it!"'

Memorial © Tim Cole // Star of David © Imperial War Museums (EPH12333)

Above left Memorial at Auschwitz-Birkenau

In March, students and staff celebrated the completion of a £30 million refurbishment to the Richmond Building, home to the Students' Union since 1965. Economics graduate, **Tony Byers** (BSc 1970), reflects on a turbulent time in student politics.



Changing gear Alumni stories

It's not just memories that are triggered by the photos I took for *Nonesuch* in the late 1960s. There's an overall impression of change: Bristol at a turning point. The students are in revolt: demonstrations, sit-ins, resignations, attacks on buildings, and hours of debate, all marking the end of an old order.

On the surface, the annual traditions continued: RAG Queen crownings, RAG processions, sport at Coombe Dingle. But the effect of the 1960s is also apparent. The RAG Ball, a black-tie event, brought Marsha Hunt, fresh from the love-rock musical *Hair* with its West End nudity. Groups that would become international superstars blasted the Anson Rooms with mega-decibels: The Who, The Nice, Joe Cocker. Pink Floyd played the Vic Rooms. No sign of security or bouncers as the students crowded round.

For student politicians, the emphasis switched to democracy and equality: campaigns against cuts in student grants, protestors picketing Enoch Powell, opposition to the war in Vietnam and support for Biafra. Tariq Ali, Edward Heath, Shirley Williams, Lord Caradon, Dr Benjamin Spock, the Archbishop of Canterbury – all helped stimulate debate.

On home ground, there were moves to open up the new Students' Union (the Richmond Building) to students from other colleges.

In June 1968, a long debate was followed by a sit-in. After darkness fell, there was a sudden flare of light outside. Several of us went out and found the remains of what looked like a petrol bomb. Whether it was aimed at the wall or the window wasn't clear.

From memory, this photo is the morning after the sit-in. People went out to get the Sunday papers, and sat around reading them. I'm not sure how it ended. The summer holidays lay ahead so presumably people just drifted home. They even cleared up their rubbish.

As man prepared to walk on the moon, slowly Bristol's bureaucracy took note. Discussion picked up again in the autumn term, culminating in a march on Senate House and the better-known sit-in there. Eventually University staff admitted they needed to be more transparent, and take more notice of student opinion. National media picked up the story: all part of a wind of change that was disrupting Britain's post-war establishment.

The photographs may be just snapshots in time, but somehow the collection captures more than that: the old being replaced by the new, and fresh faces preparing for what lay ahead. ●

You can enjoy an exclusive tour of the newly refurbished Students' Union on Friday 10 July as part of the Alumni Weekend 2015. Please visit bristol.ac.uk/alumni/events for more details.

© Tony Byers

Alumni in memoriam

The University extends its sincere condolences to the friends and families of those listed below for whom we have received notification of death.

- Ian Leckie**
(LLB 1938) died 2014, aged 96
- Dr Geoffrey Young**
(PhD 1938) died May 2014, aged 98
- Mae Glen**
(BSc 1943) died October 2013
- Mervyn Smith**
(BSc 1943) died October 2014, aged 90
- Dr Robert Drewer**
(MB ChB 1945) died November 2014, aged 94
- Harry Nation**
(BSc 1946) died August 2014, aged 88
- William Batten**
(BA 1947, Cert Ed 1948) died September 2014, aged 92
- Barbara Laing (née Williams)**
(BA 1947, Cert Ed 1948) died 2014, aged 88
- Robert Thring**
(BSc 1947) died November 2014, aged 88
- John Aynsley**
(BA 1949) died July 2014, aged 85
- Professor Frank Glockling**
(BSc 1949, PhD 1951) died December 2014, aged 91
- Dr Christopher Linton**
(MB ChB 1949) died July 2014, aged 92
- Maurice Feldman**
(MB ChB 1951) died December 2014, aged 87
- Derrick Waite**
(BSc 1951) died November 2014, aged 84
- Glyn Davies**
(BSc 1952) died October 2014, aged 82
- Dr Richard Hunt**
(MB ChB 1952) died June 2014, aged 86
- Kenneth Penn**
(BSc 1952) died 2014, aged 86
- Margaret Smith**
(BA 1953, Cert Ed 1954) died 2014, aged 82
- Dr William Forster**
(PhD 1954) died October 2014
- Dr Gordon Franklin**
(BSc 1954, PhD 1959) died April 2014, aged 82
- Donald Attenburrow**
(BVSc 1955) died December 2014, aged 90
- Muriel Bente (née Riley)**
(BA 1955) died July 2014, aged 80
- Anthony Newbould**
(BA 1955) died June 2014, aged 80
- Meryl Parry (née Owen-Jones)**
(BA 1955) died September 2014, aged 80
- The Rev Dr Michael Peel**
(BA 1955, MLitt 1973) died May 2014, aged 82
- Norma Bickel**
(BA 1956) died July 2014, aged 80
- Diana Cavalier (née Hulatt)**
(BSc 1956, Cert Ed 1957) died November 2014, aged 79
- Professor Kenneth Easterbrook**
(BSc 1956) died August 2014, aged 79
- Joyce Waites (née Franklin)**
(BA 1956) died April 2014, aged 79
- Dr David Davidson**
(PhD 1957) died October 2014, aged 82
- Dr Philip Cottrill**
(MB ChB 1960) died 2014, aged 77
- John Eachus**
(BA 1960, Cert Ed 1961) died October 2014, aged 78
- Robert Hill**
(BA 1960) died July 2014, aged 74
- David James**
(BDS 1960) died September 2014, aged 78
- John Dear**
(BVSc 1961) died January 2015, aged 77
- Ron Ashurst**
(PGCE 1962, BA 1961) died 2014, aged 75
- Margaret Corcoran (née Diviani)**
(BA 1962) died December 2014, aged 76
- Emeritus Professor Barrie Jones**
(BSc 1962, PhD 1967) died October 2014, aged 73
- Yvonne Brawn (née Smith)**
(BSc 1963) died July 2014
- Christine Byrne (née Joycey)**
(BA 1963) died November 2014, aged 76
- Dr Ian Michael**
(PhD 1963) died October 2014, aged 99
- William Prewett**
(BSc 1963) died December 2014, aged 73
- Dr Chin Hua Yap**
(MB ChB 1963) died February 2014, aged 80
- Barry Clarke**
(BA 1964) died November 2012, aged 69
- Mark Irens**
(BA 1964) died November 2014, aged 71
- Roger Rymer**
(BA 1964) died November 2014, aged 72
- Dr Peter Bramah**
(BSc 1966, PhD 1972) died February 2014, aged 68
- Lyndrea Bradley (née Pomryn)**
(BA 1967) died December 2014
- Elisabeth Briggs**
(LLB 1967) died August 2014
- Roger Winkley**
(BA 1967, BArch 1970) died June 2014, aged 68
- Dr Katherine Clough**
(BSc 1968) died 2013, aged 67
- Simon Dunmore**
(PGCE 1969) died November 2014, aged 67
- Professor Christopher Mee**
(BA 1971) died December 2013, aged 63



Dr Neil Burnie MRCVS (BVSc 1977), vet, died November 2014, aged 60

Neil Burnie, an internationally renowned vet and founder of the Bermuda Shark Project, died in a tragic marine accident in November last year. Burnie was also an ocean wildlife preservationist, fisherman, diver, musician, windsurfer and triathlete. In a fitting tribute to his extraordinary life, dozens of boats and people gathered to commit his body to the sea.

Read a moving tribute to 'the most unusual of veterinary surgeons' from his friend, Robin Revell, online at bristol.ac.uk/nonesuch.

- Dr Andrew Ball**
(MB ChB 1972, MD 1984) died January 2015, aged 65
- Stephen Lloyd**
(BA 1972) died August 2014, aged 63
- Christine Rees (née Young)**
(BSc 1972) died September 2014, aged 63
- Dr Timothy Pestall**
(PhD 1973) died May 2014, aged 69
- Sally Tolpitt**
(BA 1973) died 2014, aged 63
- Edith Cope**
(PhD 1974) died October 2014, aged 92
- Roger Looker**
(LLB 1974) died August 2014, aged 62
- Terence Ronan**
(BSc 1974, Cert Ed 1975) died September 2014, aged 61
- Jayne Mackee (née Hardy)**
(BSc 1976) died February 2014, aged 58
- Peter Swain**
(BSc 1977) died 2014, aged 58
- Julia McEntegart (née Darlington)**
(BA 1978) died September 2014, aged 57
- John Roseaman**
(MEd 1978) died November 2014, aged 75
- John Barron**
(BA 1982) died November 2012, aged 51
- Katherine Farr (née Ferris)**
(BA 1986) died November 2014, aged 51
- Alison Locke (née Holden)**
(BSc 1987) died November 2013, aged 47
- Judith Harrison**
(MSc 1991) died October 2014, aged 67
- Michael Brookes**
(BSc 1993) died 2014, aged 43
- Siza Mabizela**
(MEd 1994) died 2014, aged 54
- Paul Vincent**
(Diploma 1995) died June 2014, aged 65

- David Collins**
(MSW 1996) died 2014, aged 55
- Dr Ian Gilchrist**
(MEd 1997, PhD 2003) died September 2014, aged 65
- Nicholas Talbot**
(BA 2000) died December 2014, aged 37
- Dr John Newman**
(EdD 2002) died September 2014, aged 61
- Renate Ritchie**
(MSc 2002) died October 2014, aged 37
- Bernard Bilk**
(Hon MA 2005) died November 2014, aged 85
- Lisa Plumbridge**
(BSc 2006) died 2014, aged 29
- Dr Graham Robertson**
(Hon LLD 2006) died September 2014
- Richard Milne**
(MSc 2010) died 2013, aged 39
- Aletta Du Plessis**
(BSc 2011) died March 2012, aged 23
- Linda Fletcher**
(MSci 2012) died 2014, aged 62
- Rowland Morgan**, former staff member, died July 2014
- Emeritus Professor John Shepherdson**, former staff member, died January 2015, aged 88
- Emeritus Professor Louis Solomon**, former staff member, died August 2014, aged 86
- Please email any notifications for alumni in memoriam to alumni@bristol.ac.uk

Calendar May 2015 to December 2015

Make sure you're invited to relevant events in your area by updating your details at bristol.ac.uk/alumni/mydetails.



June

Wednesday 17 June
Bristol Talks // *Speaker* Sir David Cannadine, historian, on Sir Winston Churchill // London

July

Thursday 2 July
Bristol Alumni Business Network
// *Speaker* Col Needham, founder and CEO of imdb.com // Bristol

Friday 10 to Sunday 12 July
Alumni Weekend 2015: Best of Bristol
// Bristol
Catch up with old friends, reminisce about your university years and rediscover the beautiful city of Bristol. Enjoy a tour of the newly refurbished Students' Union, hear from Dr David Brown (PhD 1975) on a life in medical research, enjoy a celebratory lunch in the magnificent Great Hall of the Wills Memorial Building, and share memories with friends old and new over dinner in Churchill Hall or Wills Hall.

Saturday 18 July
Cambridge Branch concert // Cambridge

September

Saturday 19 September
Cambridge Branch annual dinner // Cambridge

Friday 25 to Sunday 27 September
Eastern Canada reunion // Ontario

October

Wednesday 14 October
Bristol Pioneers' reception (invitation only)
// London

Thursday 22 October
Wills Hall Association annual reception
// London

November

Tuesday 10 November
London Branch annual lecture // *Speaker* The Rt Hon the Baroness Hale of Richmond DBE (Hon LLD 2002), Chancellor // London

Saturday 14 November
Officer Training Corps annual dinner // Bristol

Thursday 26 November
Alumni Association Student Awards and reception // Bristol

December

Monday 14 December
London Branch carol service // London

Convocation and Alumni Association Elections 2015

Don't miss your chance to vote for your Alumni Association (Convocation) representatives on Court, and on the Alumni Association Committee. You can find out who's standing for election, and vote, at bristol.ac.uk/take-part.

Online and postal voting close at 5 pm on Friday 10 July 2015. If you would like a paper ballot form, please contact the Alumni Relations team on +44 (0)117 394 1051. You will also be able to vote in person at the AGM on Saturday 11 July, part of the Alumni Weekend 2015.

Everyone can leave a legacy

**Please consider leaving
a gift to Bristol in your Will.**

Your gift will inspire generations of students to enquire, innovate, and bring real change to the world we live in.

Contact:

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