

OB Scientists

I made a major effort to persuade scientists to write for this Yearbook which also marks the opening of the Sanger Centre. All OB scientists, please get in touch with Alan Shrimpton if you did not receive a letter from him this summer. has@bryanston.co.uk

Bob Acland (Sh '59) - Bob Acland became one of the leading pioneers of microvascular surgery. In his 50s he moved to a second career as a clinical anatomist. His video series Acland's DVD Atlas of Human Anatomy is used by medical students around the world. He is a professor at the University of Louisville School of Medicine.

Alec Bangham (Sh '39) - I became a Biophysicist for which I was elected (FRS) after graduating in medicine (MD London) ending up as a (distinguished) FRCP.

Toby Baring (Sh '94) - Having survived the government's debacle of 'Modernising Medical Careers' by the skin of my teeth, I have just started my higher surgical training in Trauma and Orthopaedics in North London.

James Bevan (H '49) - Now retired from general practice for 6 years but, through the British Medical Association, am involved in preparing for the threatened Avian 'flu Epidemic..

Jonathan Bowen (C '73) - is now an Emeritus Professor at London South Bank University. He is also a Visiting Professor for 2007-2009 at King's College London. During

2007 he has been teaching at University College London and involved in accrediting computing-related degree programmes in the United Arab Emirates. He co-chaired the EVA London 2007 Conference on Electronic Visualisation and the Arts at the University of the Arts London. He maintains a personal website under <http://www.jpbowen.com>. Contact from OBs is welcome.

Mark Brewin (D '91) - I work as a clinical scientist in medical ultrasound research for the NHS at the Royal London Hospital in Whitechapel, London. I am currently trying to write up a PhD thesis but am also involved in a number of other projects as well as teaching and routine quality assurance of ultrasound scanners.

Gordon Brocklehurst (H '50) - The Jumping Frog. The brain is supreme among the subjects of scientific study; as object it both contains and enables the scientific process; as operator it is the essence of existence - cogito ergo sum as Descartes asserted. For some years it had been known that in humans, and many other animals, cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) is secreted within the central brain cavities, known as the ventricles,

and flows slowly through these to emerge through foramina at the back end of the brain, and, in humans, passes over the brain surface to be absorbed alongside the large venous sinus that runs between the cerebral hemispheres. It was also known that obstruction to the flow of cerebrospinal fluid caused it to accumulate, under pressure, within the ventricles to produce the clinical condition of hydrocephalus, with consequent cerebral impairment and death. The development of neurosurgical procedures to remove obstructions to CSF flow, or by-pass them using shunting devices, accompanied increased study of the CSF system and it came to be recognised as important to homeostasis of the brain by the equilibration of the intercellular fluid constituents and intercompartmental hydro-dynamic balance.

During the hundred years that followed the publication of Darwin's Origin of Species the science of studying the human body systems by examining the evolution of their structure and function within the animal kingdom - known as comparative morphology and physiology - developed to include the central nervous system, and, in the 1970s, the CSF system.

In essence these showed that the more primitive animals such as fish and reptiles have a closed CSF system with no free communication between the intraventricular fluid of the brain and that which surrounds and supports it. Free communication is established in the amphibians. Extensive studies in the frog showed that while the tadpole is hatched with a closed CSF system limited to an elaborate ventricular system within the brain, similar to that of the fish, at the stage of metamorphosis foramina appear in the roof of the fourth ventricle enabling the cerebrospinal fluid of the ventricular system to communicate freely with that within the elaborate subarachnoid space that surrounds the brain and spinal cord of amphibians and the higher vertebrates. The freest anatomical communication between the internal and external cerebrospinal fluids exists in the bipeds.

It is tempting to postulate that this development subserves the buoyancy or hydraulic suspension of the central nervous system so that it may function neurologically and withstand rapid changes of momentum within the moving skull of the more mobile animals without concussion and damage to its delicate neuronal structures. It could be said that, with the frog, evolution takes a leap forwards.

Dan Bucknell (Sa '95) - I am currently working for the Gorilla Organization (www.gorillas.org), a medium-sized organisation whose mission it is to secure the survival

of gorillas wherever they naturally occur. As well as overseeing traditional conservation projects, our programme includes long-term poverty alleviation and environmental education projects in the poor communities around gorilla habitat, providing viable alternatives to the unsustainable use of forest resources. Having started as a trust and statutory fund-raiser almost five years ago, I now manage the field programme of more than twenty-five projects. At present our programme concentrates on mountain and eastern lowland gorilla populations in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda and Uganda. Working in such a troubled area can be extremely frustrating, in terms of the scale of work that's required and the fact that it can be rapidly undone when fighting escalates. However, the work can be equally rewarding when a little can go a long way and transform someone's life in a very short space of time. While strengthening our current activities we are looking to expand our programme to protect other gorilla populations wherever the need is greatest, and this could include Cameroon where I began my career working at a primate sanctuary and then as a research assistant on a gorilla research project. I should therefore be instrumental in the ongoing development of the Gorilla Organization before eventually moving on, potentially to something more field-based again!

Clive Carré (staff 1960-64) - mulberryhouse@talktalk.net
I was on the staff at Bryanston, teaching Biology with Dick Harthan from 1960 to 64. Robson Fisher and Dick kindly agreed to find me time to complete my Masters, on the fungal decomposition of the cupules of the Beech (*Fagus sylvatica*). I was most grateful to those boys who assisted me, in their free time, to collect the cupules with minute colourful Discomycetes growing on them. I seem to remember that the pay was in ice cream.

Leaving Bryanston, I enjoyed four years at the University of Sydney, in the School of Biological Sciences, teaching first year undergraduate courses. At that time we had about 1200 students in first year, so the lectures were on closed circuit television, in four large lecture halls. The speed at which TV delivered complex ideas meant that some students found the subject difficult. I was pleased to develop a series of audio-tutorials on the most difficult topics. I also had time to research in Zoology, and investigated the venous return of blood in the Port Jackson shark.

Returning to England in 1985 I decided that I had become more interested in Science Education than in teaching Biology at tertiary level. I lectured for a short time at Portsmouth College of Education, and then in 1971 was appointed Lecturer at the School of Education, University of Exeter. I was responsible for the post-graduate course for secondary

school biologists.

After taking early retirement I took on the role of a Senior Research Fellow, working on projects that involved major surveys of science teacher education and teachers' classroom practice. I have always been particularly interested in the contribution subject matter knowledge makes towards effective teaching, and the core skills developed in higher education.

I am in regular contact with Rodney Dingle, who lives close by, and would love to hear from anyone who remembers me.

Robin Catchpole (F '62) - Thanks to Thorold Coade, who must have detected some faint spark, I came to Bryanston in autumn 1957, with no Latin, no French, no aptitude for ball games and no ability to spell. That spark was ignited by my first sight and smell of the old Science Labs, then occupying what was to become Forrester House and when I joined the Astronomical Society and the Car Club.

The teachers who inspired me were my tutor Arthur Bull (AJB), who ran the Astronomical Society and taught Maths, John Tribe (JWT), my housemaster and Maths teacher and most important of all, Philip Chirgwin (PLC) who taught Physics. We were the first year to use the then brand new science labs and PLC not only taught us with humour and understanding but encouraged us to do our own experiments. I well remember experiments on atmospheric

electricity, attempts to measure the ratio of the electromotive to electrostatic force, Schlieren imaging and an attempt at electrophoresis, which worked well with ink but could not be made to work with chlorophyll. These were not experiments set out in some work sheet but our own invention, so they did not always work but were an excellent preparation for a career in astronomy, at a time when we still built and maintained our own instruments. I am sorry I never thanked PLC for the wonderful start he gave me in a life of science.

Chemistry might have been just as much fun but for Miss Wilson's justified concern for our welfare in the laboratory. But I will always remember her very first class, in which a large Tate and Lyle syrup tin, sealed while still full of steam and allowed to cool, spent the rest of the class writhing and creaking as it was slowly crushed by the weight of the Earth's atmosphere.

The car club, next to the metalwork shop did not teach me much about cars but in my early days provided some undemanding hobbies evenings as well as the raw materials for bomb-making experiments. Our first attempt using petrol failed to explode but our second, aided by a squirt of oxygen from the metalwork shop, made one of the finest and most satisfying bangs I ever heard. We detonated it remotely from behind the blade of a bulldozer parked close to the unfinished science labs. By the time various stripes converged on the scene there was

nothing left but a bit of wire and a completely flattened petrol can that we rightly guessed they would not recognise could have been flattened by an explosion.

The Astronomical Society had just finished building a 10-inch Newtonian reflector housed in its own observatory, complete with rotating roof. There was also a portable double telescope designed for aircraft recognition that with suitable filters could be used for drawing sunspots. The 1957 solar cycle still stands out as the most active since records began 200 years ago and I remember one night seeing the red glow of an aurora. The observatory was sited just beyond the end of the Tribe's garden (Four Winds) and one of the sweet pleasures of observing the Sun was the possibility of a few minutes conversation with JWT's wife Phyl, whose warmth, kindness and good taste have stayed with me ever since.

Although Bryanston seemed to hold the arts in the highest esteem, there was still a place for scientists and it was the place for me. I hated rugby, hockey and cricket but enjoyed rowing and even became captain of Cross Country. Like most of the team, I only took up cross-country running after being talent spotted on a punishment run.

An outing to the Royal Greenwich Observatory, organised by AJB, gave me the idea of writing to the Astronomer Royal and asking for a job. This was 1962, when jobs were there for the asking and in July I exchanged the country

club atmosphere of sixth form Bryanston for the Observatory at Herstmonceux Castle.

After a year at the RGO, where I found that real astronomy was all about physics and not the dull bits of amateur astronomy, I went to University College London to do a degree in astronomy, returning each summer to Herstmonceux Castle to earn some money for the forthcoming academic year.

In 1966, I graduated and returned to permanent employment at the RGO, but before I started, the Astronomer Royal rang me at home and asked me to go to S. Africa. There were two possible answers, either yes, or I resign. So I went, initially for 2 years but stayed for 25, during which time I worked at observatories in Pretoria and Cape Town, obtained a doctorate at the University of Cape Town and married a South African sculptor. There were many highlights great and small, including mapping the centre of our galaxy in infrared light, observing the brightest Supernova since the invention of the telescope and walking in the Namib desert.

In 1991 I returned to the RGO, which by then had moved to Cambridge and although continuing research, I became increasingly involved with the media and giving popular lectures.

In October 1998 the government closed the RGO and I transferred to the Royal Observatory in Greenwich as Senior Astronomer, to provide a professional presence and contact

for the media. My main contribution to Greenwich is the truncated cone, clad in 33 tons of bronze that caps the Observatory's new planetarium. Its design marks out the celestial equator, zenith, meridian and celestial pole.

Since retirement, I am fortunate to have an office at the Institute of Astronomy in Cambridge, from where I give summer schools, travel about giving lectures to all kinds of groups including schools, game reserves and cruise liners. My current architectural project is designing a dial for the Solar Pyramid, the idea of two Derbyshire architects who hope it will be the biggest sundial in the world.

Jeremy Cobbold (D '95) - After graduating in Medicine from Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge (with Zoë Fritz) and University College London, I spent three years as a junior doctor training in a number of medical specialties in London. I obtained a national training number in Gastroenterology and General Medicine in the North-West London region. I am now working towards a PhD at Imperial College London, looking into the assessment of liver fibrosis (scarring), while continuing to practice as a clinician part-time to help pay the bills...

I would be delighted to offer advice to anyone considering a career in Medicine. Its still great, despite all you read in the papers!

Tilly Collins (Hn '82) - After the birth of my second child I gave up research in favour of a teaching position in the Biology Department at Imperial College. This is fantastic as I can be in close contact with the wonders of academic science & still be around to have fun with my (now 3) kids in the holiday periods. I teach aspects of Entomology (my PhD), Conservation Biology (my BSc) and increasingly vast amounts of statistics (a recently discovered talent).

Dr. Sir Clive Elliott (Sa '63) - I am a consultant in the migratory pests of agriculture, especially bird pests in Africa including the Red-billed Quelea (*Quelea quelea*), and insect pests including the Desert Locust (*Schistocerca gregaria*), and the Red Locust (*Nomadacris septemfasciata*). I retired in 2006 after 31 years in the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, approximately half of which time was spent in various parts of Africa, and half at the FAO HQ in Rome. At the end of my career at FAO, I was Senior Officer, responsible for the Locust and Other Migratory Pests Group, Plant Protection Service. My greatest challenge was steering the Group during a plague of Desert Locusts which affected 22 countries, in 2004 and 2005.

Robin Falcon-Steward (H '55) - From 1955 to 1958 I studied at the Camborne School of Metalliferous Mining, and qualified as a mining

engineer (ACSM). This was followed by National Service in the Royal Engineers, in which I served in a tunnelling unit in Gibraltar. In 1961 I started work as a mine surveyor with Geevor Tin Mines Ltd., and later as resident geologist, until 1965 when I joined ECLP & Co. Ltd (later to become ECC International Plc). My work was in Research and Development in industrial minerals process engineering, specialising in ultrafine comminution. I retired in 1997.

For many years I have been a Council member of the Cornish Institute of Engineers, also serving as President in the 80s. I continue to be very much involved in this in retirement.

Andy Fleet (C '68) - Since last putting pen to paper (now index fingers to keyboard) in c1975, I have gyrated around London: from Milton Keynes (4 years helping to set up the Open University's first oceanography course) via New Cross (a year teaching geochemistry at Goldsmiths' College) and Sunbury (15 years with BP) to South Kensington. On the way in 1976 I married Susan Adamson, then a forensic scientist – always good for dinner conversation – and later we had Catriona (Allan '06) and Iain (currently in Connaught). Teaching OU students was fun, someone always knew far more about something than you did, while Monday 9am lectures to 90 first years at Goldsmiths' was generally like waking the dead.

Research with BP provided an excellent education in the mysteries of oil and gas formation and memorable trips worldwide, not to mention the Dorset Coast. BP was in the vanguard of 'outsourcing' research in the early 1990s and I found myself heading off to the Natural History Museum in 1996 where I enjoy the gloriously 18th century title, Keeper of Mineralogy. Collections, exhibitions and the department's research bring me into contact with, among other things, diamonds, gold, meteorites, mud and nanoparticles.

Michael Flindt, FFOM, (H '41) - Bryanston was very good to me. I won the Major Competitive Bursary to the School, and, on leaving, was offered the Parents' Scholarship, tenable at Oxford or Cambridge. However, although I had a place at Oxford, I reluctantly declined the scholarship and went instead for my medical training straight to St Thomas's Hospital, London. It was wartime, and the Oxbridge training took a year longer to complete.

On qualifying, I was House Physician and Chest House Physician at St Helier Hospital, Carshalton, and House Surgeon and Resident Anaesthetist at St Thomas's. I then returned to St Helier as Senior Casualty Officer and Admissions Officer. After a short spell at the Victoria Hospital for Children, I went overseas as Medical Officer (Surgeon) to the Shell Oilfield Hospitals in Sarawak and Brunei in Borneo.

After 3 years in Borneo, for the most part as sole doctor to a 100-bed hospital with a massive outpatient load, I returned to England. By this time I had a wife and two young children, so, after temporary jobs at St Thomas's, economics dictated that I became a partner in general practice, which was an anticlimax after my work in Borneo.

I left the security of this to take up an editorial post on the Medical World. This did not prove secure, and I then spent 13 years with the Unilever factories on Merseyside as an Industrial Medical Officer. Here I managed to ensure the elimination of silicosis in the manufacture of abrasive scouring products, and also to identify the asthma hazard from biological detergents.

I then spent 17 years as an academic in Occupational Medicine, at the University of Manchester, where I was engaged in postgraduate teaching, clinical work, and research. I became a Senior Lecturer, and Honorary Consultant to the Manchester Royal Infirmary and associated teaching hospitals. I retired as an Honorary Fellow of the University.

My main research publications related to the discovery of the asthma hazard from enzyme detergents, which led me to lecture to learned societies in England, and to cross the Atlantic four times to speak at International and National meetings in the United States and Venezuela. Other research publications related to

asthma hazards from other enzymes and to lead poisoning.

Nigel Hepburn ('51) – My degree was in Dental Surgery at Guy's Hospital. On qualifying I did a 6-month job as the Resident Dental House Surgeon and immediately following that I was called up to do two years National Service in the RAF. I applied for Christmas Island and am thankful that I wasn't given the job because I would probably have died of leukaemia long ago. I was sent to Nicosia and then on into the desert to the RAF staging post of El Adem outside Tobruk, where on one occasion the King required dental treatment. On completing my National Service I married Judy in March 1960, then worked for one year as assistant to a dental surgeon in Wells, Somerset, and then bought my own practice in Barton-on-Sea, where I worked under the NHS for 10 years in single-handed practice. In 1971 I left the NHS and ran my practice privately for 17 years, and then semi-retired. Judy and I would welcome any OBs, their families and friends at any time. Just phone 01202-842696. It would be good to hear from some of you again!

Robin Husband (Sa '54) - Medicine, GP for 25 years, senior partner for 20 years of five-man partnership in Hythe, Hants, retired 1996 since when, practising privately part-time, one of my long term 'medical hobbies', musculo-skeletal medicine and osteopathy,

from home and at a weekly clinic in London where I trained in osteopathy, qualifying in 1999.

Jonathan Ledermann (C '71) - Fond memories return as I see pictures of Bryanston that has changed so much since I left. From time to time I come across Old Bryanstonians in medicine - both older and younger than me - but increasingly more of the latter. Having completed postgraduate training in medical oncology (cancer medicine) in London and Toronto I was appointed to the academic department of Oncology at University College London and its associated teaching hospitals. I am now a Professor of Medical Oncology at UCL and Director of the Cancer Research UK and UCL Cancer Trials Unit, running national and international cancer trials. My main research interests are in Gynaecological and Gastrointestinal cancers, and I spend half my time as a clinical consultant at UCL Hospitals. Academic and clinical work is a very satisfying mixture with plenty of opportunity to travel.

Adrian March (H '50)

A Varied Career

At Bryanston, although I was intended to be an academic, I found time for several years to light all the dramatic productions, and to redesign the stage lighting.

At Cambridge, after two years my degree was assured, and I was free to decide how to spend my third year. Physics, chemistry and

metallurgy were competing for me to do my Part II degree with them, but I opted for electrical engineering: a complete change of faculty. This I enjoyed, and was invited subsequently to do my PhD at the Engineering Lab.

My first job in industry was with Sperry Gyroscope Company, working on a revolutionary concept of a spherical gyroscope floating in mercury. I left to become Head of R & D at Drayton Regulator and Instrument Company, a firm redolent of history, operating in a wide range of industrial and commercial heating controls. Fortunately my position left me free to develop new products

I then took up a position as Technical Manager at W C Youngman, a company in Crawley with an interesting dichotomy of products: timber ladders, steps, trestles and stagings on the one hand, and industrial trailers of all sizes on the other. I became responsible for the development of a remote controlled electric tractor, a five wheel trailer which could be towed in long trains with each trailer following precisely the same path, a reversing trailer which enabled the driver of the towing vehicle to reverse without having to consider the behaviour of the trailer, and I was able to invent the type of ladder which had aluminium rungs in wooden stiles..

The next phase of my business career came when Youngman decided to move into the field of prefabricated timber buildings, but

made it clear that my assistance in this direction was not required, and that I should remain with the work I was already doing. However, I could see where the prefabricated building project was going astray, and on my own account developed a new roofing system. Since the company had made it clear that this was not part of my job, I was free to patent it myself, and left to become a freelance consultant employed to develop the system.

Then came an unexpected call from the engineer in whose team I had been working at Sperry, who by then was chief engineer of Ferranti Aircraft Equipment Department. It was a request to help in the design of a gyro-stabilised telescopic sighting system, for use in the control of guided missiles. I was shown a prototype, and asked to help with the gyro-stabilisation design. That would have been interesting, but since we had worked together on advanced gyro design I felt bound to reply that I didn't feel I could teach that particular engineer anything. His face fell, until I added: "But I think your optics are so awful I could do a lot for them". Since the team had no one with any knowledge of optical design I was commissioned on the spot to take over this aspect of the project.

At about this time someone in the Ministry of Defence (MoD) realised that they were paying for my services, plus Ferranti's profit margin, so while remaining on good terms with Ferranti I became

a consultant to the MoD.

I was then commissioned by Solartron to examine and suggest improvements to their Simfire tank gunnery simulator system and this led to another contract from the MoD to work on the control of tank gunnery systems.

During the period which I have described, when my children were young I became interested, as do many parents, in swimming teaching, and I obtained my Amateur Swimming Association teaching certificates. I found this extremely interesting, and ultimately qualified to train teachers in swimming, diving, and aqua aerobics, and coaching competitive swimmers. At the same time I was accepted as a tutor by the National Coaching Foundation, and trained sports coaches in a wide range of disciplines, including anatomy and physiology. My own sport was none of these things: it was power-lifting.

These latter activities were to prove particularly useful after I was diagnosed with cancer, and found myself with a colostomy. I received solemn warnings about the fact that I now had an abdominal weakness, and shouldn't lift anything. Fortunately I had a consultant who was a man after my own heart; when, a few weeks after surgery, I asked him when I could resume weight training, his response was simply "What's wrong with this afternoon?" The ultimate outcome was that I am probably the only power-lifter who

has a colostomy.

One of the most interesting aspects of my career has been the fact that in the course of every project I have been learning more about the subject, and very frequently I have been able to apply this knowledge in a subsequent project. This has never been more true than in 2005, when I became one of the founding trustees of the new Colostomy Association. As a consequence of my experience of sports coaching, and teaching anatomy and physiology, I have since become an adviser on colostomy management, and (apparently) a principal adviser on resuming sport after abdominal surgery.

David Mayor (D '66)
– see 1965-69 section.

Stephen Panke (Sh '65)
On leaving Bryanston in 1965 I headed off to Germany to undertake a mechanical engineering apprenticeship in a machine tool factory in the South-West area of Baden Württemberg. It was a good opportunity to hone my German language skills as well as learning about a fascinating area of technology.

Following this I came back to the UK to take a Business Studies degree and then join the family business, selling a wide variety of metal-forming technologies to the aerospace, automotive, packaging, and medical industries. We have, over the years introduced a variety of technological firsts into the UK

and our equipment makes the turbine discs and blades for Rolls Royce jet engines, produces and decorates the majority of whiskey bottle closures for the Scotch whiskey industry, and manufactures a variety of medical implants and equipment.

We also sell equipment for testing the coefficient of friction between contact lenses and eyelids, and measuring the stability of gravestones with the market-leading ToppleTester!

I have served on two occasions as President of the Manufacturing Technologies Association and continue to be very active in the fight to persuade politicians and finance capital of the vital importance of the engineering and manufacturing sectors to the health and welfare of the British economy (did you know that despite manufacturing only representing about 17% of GDP it is responsible for about 65% of our export earnings!) Manufacturing is not a luxury but a necessity and above all can be a fascinating and rewarding career.

During my Presidency I instigated a ground-breaking design and build competition that brought technology to a wide variety of school children across a range of school disciplines and excited children, teachers, governors and parents and I hope introduced many to the joys of making things. The Manufacturing Awareness Challenge attracted political interest and approbation and John Major, as Prime Minister,

was one of our inaugural prize-givers.

It is great to see the emphasis that Bryanston is putting on Science and Maths with the opening of the Sanger Centre and I hope that many more engineering based students will flow from its classrooms.

Halcyon Pope (née Wood – G '83) - Halcyon works as a part-time GP in a practice in Abingdon, Oxfordshire. She has been a partner here since 1997 and occasionally supplements her income by doing sessions for the local OOH service (out of hours).

Ann Robertson (G '79) - I completed my training in Emergency Medicine in 1999. Following this I did some locum consultant work whilst taking the Diploma in Tropical Medicine and Hygiene. I then worked for the Ministry of Health in Malawi for 18 months, from Feb 2001 to July 2003, helping a friend set up a Children's Emergency Department at Queen Elizabeth Central Hospital. On my return I took a consultant post in Emergency Medicine at Macclesfield DGH and I now also job share the Clinical Tutor post for the Trust still try and visit Malawi every year for 1 or 2 weeks.

Helen Roskell (née Perry – Hn '92): My most recent work has been at the Luther Street Practice which serves the homeless of Oxford. Amongst the 600

registered patients, damaging experiences from the early years are prevalent, confidence, self esteem & life skills in short supply, drug and alcohol problems, prostitution and prison terms endemic. The self-destruction is tragic, but the climbing out seemingly unreachable in an Everest summit like way is attained every year by a small handful. As one patient is quoted as saying "You're not a failure until you stop trying". The purpose-built premises is adjacent to the purpose-built night shelter, so a collection of inebriated folk greet you as you arrive at work. The practice is set up to welcome people whose potential for chaotic, unruly behaviour would see them excluded from many surgeries. The care delivered is non-judgemental, patient-centred and unhurried. It makes a welcome change from targets and red tape. I stumbled across this work quite by chance but for any GPs out there looking for something to re-ignite their love of General Practice I couldn't recommend this more wholeheartedly.

Peter Simpson (Sh '64) - From Bryanston, I went to Bart's Medical School and subsequently trained in anaesthesia and intensive care in London and Oxford, before becoming a Consultant in Bristol in 1978, with a particular interest in thoracic and neuro-anaesthesia and intensive care. I've just retired after a very happy and fulfilling career in the speciality, which has allowed me many opportunities to

become involved with anaesthesia and in particular education and training, at both local and national level in the UK and in Europe. I was very fortunate to be elected President of the Royal College of Anaesthetists and of the European Society of Anaesthesiology, a post which I still hold until the end of 2007 and to be knighted for services to the NHS in 2006.

Apart from our Bryanston ‘family’, I still keep up with David Cheek, David Brennand-Roper (Raper), Anthony Warley and occasionally John Salt and would be delighted to catch up with others too. (pjsimpson@blueyonder.co.uk)

John Smyth (P ’63) – see pages 113-4 of the last Yearbook.

Philip J Stewart (Sa ’57) - “A New Science called Ecology...” When I was 12, I fell in love with chemistry in the form of a spiral representation of the periodic system of the elements, depicted in a huge mural by Edgar Longman in the Festival of Britain Science Exhibition of 1951. Arriving at Bryanston the following year, I was bursting with enthusiasm to become a chemist. However, the spectacular spiral was nowhere to be seen. Disgusted, I dropped all sciences after O-levels, not being allowed to take my favourite subject, biology, without chemistry.

Dick Harthan, my tutor and housemaster, was disappointed to see me drop his subject, so he made a proposal: “There’s a new science called ecology which looks

at how living things interact. Would you like to do a study of the effect of myxomatosis on the vegetation of the field above the Hangings?” It may seem strange that he called ecology “new”, when it dated back to the 1860s, but he had just read *Fundamentals of Ecology* (1953) by Eugene Odum – the first person to integrate the ecology of plants, animals and humans. The idea of looking at the effect of a rabbit disease on plants was indeed novel. Anyway, I jumped at the chance. It counted as one day a week of pioneering, the other three being forestry, and that is how I became a ecologist.

I did Oxford degrees in Arabic (for the human side) and forestry (for the biological side), worked as a forester in Algeria for seven years, then came back to Oxford. There were no ecology posts, so I took a job lecturing in economics for forestry and biology students, but I was also able to teach cultural ecology to them and to students reading Human Sciences. I never forgot the periodic spiral though, and succeeded in getting it republished three times. Eventually I set out to improve on Longman’s design, and the Royal Society of Chemistry bought 8500 copies of the poster to send to schools. People ask how does that fit in, but it’s all part of what I call the ecology of ideas.

Charles Swithinbank (H ’44) - As the only glaciologist on the list, I will define my subject. It is the

study of snow and ice in all its forms – of the cryosphere in today’s jargon. It is pursued both in the field and in the laboratory, and we take on graduates in physics, chemistry, geology, mathematics and engineering. My own career in the subject has concerned aspects of the Antarctic ice sheet, and to a lesser extent, Arctic sea ice.

Though now retired, ancient (four score years) and no longer at the cutting edge, I am always willing to lecture or to give advice on how to get into what—for me – has offered an immensely satisfying career.

In retirement I travel. In the last 2 years I have visited Antarctica, Australia, Burma, Chile, China, Russia, Switzerland, Tibet, and the USA.

Julian Tanner (P ’94) - is Research Assistant Professor of Biochemistry at the University of Hong Kong. He is in the throes of publishing a book with Professor Andrew Miller of Imperial College London where he himself completed his Ph.D. It is entitled *The Essentials of Chemical Biology*, pub. Wiley. Julian was married to Alison Wong in 2004 and they now have a son, Alexander, born in Hong Kong in July 2006.

We would like to thank everyone who has contributed to this section and apologise for the extensive editing due to space constraints!