

# DICK VET NEWS

NEWSLETTER FOR THE ALUMNI & FRIENDS OF THE ROYAL (DICK) SCHOOL OF VETERINARY STUDIES, THE UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH



3 Life Friends on board.



3 Joe's happy to see our Patron.



5 'Mary' takes wing.

## *'Excellent' in teaching, '5' in RAE, 'Accredited' by AVMA*



G Philip, Sky News 2000

The Easter Bush site.

*Our staff, students and graduates do us proud.*

The Dick Vet goes from strength to strength. Our staff, students and graduates do us proud. This issue of the newsletter contains a lot of the good news that has given shape to life here in the last year or so. The most recent event is the arrival of Accreditation from the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA). Clearly, this is the successful culmination of a great deal of effort on the part of staff and students. We had every confidence that our standards of veterinary education were as good as the best in the world, and that our hospital facilities were second to none. We are pleased to now have this international recognition of quality

to add to the national awards of 'excellent' in teaching and '5' in the recent Research Assessment Exercise (RAE). Based on this strong foundation we are currently making sequential revisions to our undergraduate curriculum to further enhance its quality. Teaching facilities are also being enhanced with the recent refurbishment of the dissection room, the Cairns lecture theatre and the Ainsley Iggo undergraduate laboratory at Summerhall. These are to complement the completion of the new large animal hospital and small animal hospital at Easter Bush. Further developments are still to come on both sites. The improvements will continue.

## THE DEAN'S COLUMN



Colin Warwick

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

After the horrors of foot and mouth disease, and the many difficulties – not to mention ethical dilemmas – with which those assisting in the control of the outbreak were faced, I have the feeling that the dawn of a new Spring offers us an opportunity to look forward and to dwell on the positive.

This indeed has been a remarkable year for the “Dick Vet”. Firstly, along with all the other UK schools, we were awarded a “5” in the Research Assessment Exercise. This signifies a marked improvement in the research performance of each of the schools. However we returned 24% greater numbers of research active staff than did any other school, and thus on these criteria, our research performance was arguably the best – and by a wide margin. There was some doubt, however, as to whether this would translate into increased funding from the Scottish Higher Education Funding Council (SHEFC). The funding notice came out some weeks later, and we were delighted that Edinburgh was to receive an increase in funding amounting to >15%.

Secondly, we heard at the end of March that we had received unconditional approval by the American Veterinary Medical Association for the maximum period of seven years. This is indicative of the very highest international standards in veterinary education.

This sort of success does not happen by accident – it is the result of careful strategic planning, and a very great deal of effort by all of our excellent and dedicated staff.

This will be my last contribution to the Dean's column, as I will retire from the University at the end of this academic year.

It has been both an honour and a pleasure to have served in various roles at the “Dick Vet” over the years. Much has been achieved in the past 15 years or so. In the early to mid 1980s, there was a hiatus in senior management with premature deaths and early retirement robbing departments of their professorial leadership. We had a very patchy research performance, the worst clinical facilities of any UK veterinary school and a curriculum that was highly traditional. We now have arguable the strongest research programme and the best clinical facilities. We have an innovative, integrated curriculum that is continually being fine-tuned and updated, and which includes both electives and an element of tracking. Most important, of course, is that we graduate students who are both well-prepared for the current needs of practice, and are also able to rise to future challenges and make contributions to the advancement of veterinary medicine.

Thanks to the commitment and dedication of all of our staff, and to the support of both the University and the Faculty Group, I believe that the ‘Dick Vet’ has never been stronger. But standing still is not an option. Veterinary education and research is becoming increasingly competitive, and we must continually adapt to maximise our opportunities and ensure that we not only maintain our position of strength, but that we also build upon it.

I am confident that the dreams and aspirations of our Founder are very much alive. William Dick's veterinary school will continue to be a leading light in the years ahead.

**RICHARD HALLIWELL**

*...we graduate students who are both well-prepared for the current needs of practice, and are also able to rise to future challenges...*



Colin Warwick

It is a matter of some pride to us at the Dick Vet that it was one of our recent graduates, Craig Kirby, who first identified the foot-and-mouth outbreak. Professor Mark Woolhouse in our Centre for Tropical Medicine subsequently acted as a government advisor during the crisis and was awarded an OBE in the New Year's Honours list for his role in the control of infectious disease. Professor Woolhouse has since been appointed Director of the Centre for Infectious Diseases in Edinburgh which brings together a diverse range of internationally recognised research groups in the University's veterinary and medical schools.

Craig Kirby in 1992.

## Life Friends



Colin Warwick

In April of last year, the Roll of Honour plaques located at Summerhall were updated to include the latest Life Friends of the Dick Vet. A total of 105 names were added (*see page 6*). Included in this list were the staff members (left to right) John Clark, Aileen Cameron and Anne Kennett, seen here standing in front of the plaques and behind Professor Emanuel Hackel and his daughter Janet who have also become Life Friends. We now have over 300 Life Friends whose contributions have provided invaluable seed-corn funding for major building developments over the past 10 years.

*For details on how to become a Life Friend, please contact Mrs Beverley Montgomery at the Faculty Office (tel: 0131 650 6149 or email Beverley.Montgomery@ed.ac.uk).*

## Our Princess Visits



Jonathan Littlejohn

Professor Joe Mayhew and the Princess Royal.

In her capacity as patron of the Dick Vet, the Princess Royal visited the Large Animal Hospital at Easter Bush on the 23rd October last year. Professor Joe Mayhew met Princess Anne and showed her first round the new Equine Out-patient Clinic and Examination Area. "It was very pleasant to have an informal visit. Everybody felt relaxed and the discussions were quite informative," he said. "Some very astute questions were asked about the horses' health and the diagnostic techniques being used." After touring the rest of the Large Animal Hospital, the Princess then opened a University of Edinburgh co-funded Laboratory at the Moredun Research Institute. The Moredun is an Associated Institution of the University, and was established to improve the health and welfare of farm animals world wide through distinguished scientific research. "The new laboratory is a further embodiment of the closeness of the links," said Professor Declan McKeever, whose chair was established to facilitate such interactions. The research of the lab will concentrate on the intracellular parasites of ruminants, an enormous problem to sheep and cattle world wide.

## Animal Award Nominee

The veterinary category of the first BBC Animal Awards programme attracted the nomination of Helen Munro as one of the final three nominees. Together with Mike Thrusfield, she carried out veterinary survey work investigating 'battered pets'. The result has been to bring into the daylight details of the various non-accidental physical injuries found in dogs and cats (*see Journal of Small Animal Practice (2001) 42*). The similarity between the physical abuse of children and of companion animals is alarming and indicative of a link between animal cruelty and family violence.

## Travelling Fellowships

This year two staff at the Dick Vet have secured travelling fellowships from the Winston Churchill Memorial Trust. Joyce Kent will be going to New Zealand and the United States to gather further information on the welfare issues associated with livestock mutilation. Dr Penny Barber will be going to the United States to see how advances in veterinary medicine over there are improving feline welfare.

Last year, at a ceremony in California, two of our postgraduate students, Emer Garry and Vicki Wallace were recipients of the '2001 Women in Neuroscience/Eli Lilly Travel Awards' in recognition of their scientific excellence.

## *Visit of AVMA team*

The visiting AVMA team, here photographed around William Dick at the Easter Bush Veterinary Centre, comprised, *(left to right)*: Dr Sylvie Latour from l'Ordre des Médecins Vétérinaires du Québec; David Murdoch, a practitioner from the Wirral; Dr Donald G. Simmons from the AVMA; Dr Jenks S. Britt, a practitioner from Kentucky; Dr Lee M. Myers, the chair of the site visit team, from the Georgia Department of Agriculture; Emeritus Professor Michael Clarkson from the University of Liverpool and Dr Janver D. Krehbiel from Michigan State University. The foot-and-mouth outbreak delayed their arrival from May until December of 2001. The site visit consisted of a tour of our teaching, library, farm and hospital facilities, which was then followed by two days of meetings with a wide cross-section of Faculty staff and students, spending one day at Summerhall and one at Easter Bush. The outcome was full approval for a period of seven years. The group found that our students are committed, articulate, and pleased with the educational experience provided at the Dick Vet, and that our staff are enthusiastically devoted to student success.



Tudor Jones

*The group found that our students are committed, articulate, and pleased with the educational experience provided...*

## *His Efforts will be Rewarded with Success*

*Extracts from the report of the examination at the Edinburgh Veterinary School, June 14th, 1844.*

**“The Pupil.** A pupil who has not before been in the profession is required, as we were informed by Professor Dick, to attend two courses of Lectures, each occupying six months in delivery, with the Summer six months intervening, thus generally inducing eighteen months attendance. Those who have served an apprenticeship or have a Medical Diploma have to attend one course previous to examination. The Pupil who passes the best examination and the one who produces the best preparation has each a silver Medal presented by their Professor.”

**“The Professor.** Professor Dick did not in the slightest degree interfere in the

examination of the pupils, except in calling on the two gentlemen to examine each pupil. Professor Dick appeared willing and even anxious to carry out any suggestion that might be offered for the improvement of his school and judging from the respect and attention he received from the leading Medical Gentlemen of Edinburgh, including several of the University Professors by whom he was surrounded, we have no doubt but that when once he has fairly commenced these improvements, his efforts will be rewarded with success, and the valuable aid he has already rendered to the Veterinary Profession in Scotland confirms us in this belief.”



Picture of William Dick aged about 50 years.

## Ultrasound Appeal



*The support of the animal loving public is essential if we are to continue to achieve our goals.*



The Dick Vet's determination to provide the very highest quality of veterinary care means heavy expenditure on state-of-the-art equipment. So, when the staff at the Small Animal Hospital heard that they might be considered by the fundraising committee at Mary Erskine's school in Edinburgh, as a suitable charity for sponsorship by their pupils, they were delighted with the prospect. A general poll of the clinical services, produced a 'wishlist' of equipment, headed by a new ultrasound machine.

To help with our fundraising appeal, 'Mary' has kindly agreed to don her favourite tutu and sprout wings to become our 'good-wish' fairy and help us achieve our target of £80,000. For those of you not familiar with these two great characters, they were first introduced to successfully help the Dick Vet raise the funds necessary to build our new Small Animal Hospital at Easter Bush. Known as 'Bill and Mary', they were named after the faculty's founder, William Dick, and his dedicated sister. A third character, by the name of Harry the Hoss, has since been added.

The support of the animal loving public is essential if we are to continue to achieve our goals. We were deeply touched by the generosity of Mr and Mrs Lucas-Herald, clients of the Dick Vet, who got our appeal off to a fine start by donating an infusion pump from the 'wishlist' of equipment. This donation was made to mark the wonderful life of their golden retriever, Max.

## Alumnus Award

Our congratulations to PhD alumnus Dr Malleshappa Rajasekhar, Bangalore, India who in May in Paris, is to be given an OIE (Office International des Epizooties) meritorious award for his outstanding contributions to Veterinary Public Health and Animal Disease Control.

It is not often that 'Dick Vet' experiences the stimulation of such a large number of changes in senior positions of management. Janet Hackel moved to Inverness last year to take up the post of Head of Registry at the UHI Millenium Institute (creating the University of the Highlands and Islands). She is replaced by Jim Nisbet from the Planning Section, Old College. The Principal of the University, Lord Sutherland of Houndwood retires in October and is to be replaced by Professor Tim O'Shea who is currently Master of Birkbeck College at the University of London. The Faculty Group will be superseded by the College of Medicine and Veterinary Medicine at the beginning of August, and its head is due to be appointed shortly. Professor Halliwell has indicated that he is retiring this session, and the new Head of the Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Medicine is due to be appointed before the summer.

## New Leadership

## CONTACTS

### Faculty of Veterinary Medicine,

The University of Edinburgh,  
Summerhall,  
Edinburgh EH9 1QH

#### Dean of the Faculty

Professor Richard Halliwell

#### Associate Deans

##### Research

Professor Mark Woolhouse

##### Students

Mr Colin Stead

##### Teaching

Dr Graham Pettigrew

#### Admission Enquiries

Undergraduate  
0131-650 6130

Postgraduate  
0131-650 6134

#### Faculty Office

Fax: 0131-650 6585

E-mail: [Dick.Vet@ed.ac.uk](mailto:Dick.Vet@ed.ac.uk)

#### Small Animal Clinic

Easter Bush  
0131-650 7650

Summerhall  
0131-650 6061

#### Large Animal Practice

0131-445 4468

The **Dick Vet News** costs £1.65 per copy, but is distributed free to over 4,500 Alumni and Friends of the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine world-wide.

The next issue will be published in **Spring 2003**.

#### Dick Vet News

Editor: Dr Alastair A Macdonald  
E-mail: [AAMacdonald@ed.ac.uk](mailto:AAMacdonald@ed.ac.uk)

Designed and produced by  
Susan Halero, Visual Resources,  
The University of Edinburgh

#### Printed by

Nevisprint on Elementary  
Chlorine free paper

## Life Friends of the Dick Vet

### 1993-1997

Mr Richard J Alexander (1964)  
Dr Euan C Anderson (1961)  
Mr William I Atkinson (1960)  
Mr George Blake (1961)  
Mr N N L Butcher (1983)  
Mr Colin J Calvert (1977)  
Mr William A Campbell (1985)  
Mr David B Carnegie (1963)  
Mrs Heather F Causey (1951)  
Mr Simon J Cherry (1970)  
Prof William T Clark (1958, 1973)  
Mr Kenneth Coutts (1956)  
Mr John A Fleming OBE (1948)  
Mr John M Gittins (1950)  
Mr John V Goodyear (1970)  
Mrs Anne B Gordon-Gillies  
Mr Roy R Hands (1954)  
Mr Gretar H Hardarson (1978,  
1980)  
Mr Michael R Hill (1962)  
Mr W Stuart Imray (1966)  
Dr Eric R Jackson (1966)  
Dr Anne T Lambie  
Dr Gordon H K Lawson (1959)  
Mr Andrew P Lean (1990)  
Mrs Anne F MacMurray  
Mr Martyn J Marriott (1966)  
Mr Ami M Mathiesen (1983)  
Mr Andrew M McDiarmid (1988)  
Mr J A McDowell (1965)  
Mr Norman J McKinnon (1968)  
Mr Alastair McLean (1957)  
Mrs Jayne McNeil  
Mrs Liana M Middleton (1963)  
Mr Basil Moring (1946)  
Miss Gladys B Ogilvy-Shepherd

Mr John E F Rankin (1951)  
Miss Moira J Read  
Ms Frances R Richardson  
Mr Halldor Runolfsson (1973,  
1984)  
Mr Hugh M Scott OBE (1944)  
Mr Nigel Snodgrass CBE (1947)  
Mr R Bruce Stevenson (1954)  
Mr Alan R Taylor (1954)  
Dr William P Taylor (1962, 1963)  
Mr Philip Thomas (1947, 1979)  
Miss Marina Thomson  
Mr Thorvaldur H Thordarson  
(1982)  
Mr B G Tiedeman  
Mr Philip T Williamson (1950)  
Dr Alan J Wilson (1963, 1968)

### 1998-2000

Dr Margaret G Auld  
Mr John H Boyd (1969)  
Mr Robert Brewis  
Prof Duncan Brown (1958)  
Mr Kenneth Brown (1957)  
Miss Janet L Burden  
Mrs Aileen Cameron  
Prof Anthony D Care (1959)  
Mr William Carstairs (1965)  
Mr Archibald W Chalmers (1934)  
Mr John M Clark  
Mr William A Currie (1967)  
Dr D Forbes (1961)  
Mr Kenneth A K Gill (1960)  
Mr Bob Gillespie (1981)  
Prof Emeritus Timothy D Glover  
(1950, 1975)  
Prof Emanuel Hackel

Marchioness of Hartington  
Mr Thomas H Houston (1942)  
Mrs Joan M Jackson  
Dr Michael R Jackson (1965, 1972)  
Mr Norman W Johnston (1976)  
Mr & Mrs A M Keable  
Mrs Marie Keay  
Mrs A Kennett  
Prof Bong Hwan Kim (1976)  
Mr Pat Kirk  
Dr Ian H Kunkler  
Mr Alan P Laursen-Jones (1959)  
Dr Robert P Lehner (1974, 1977)  
Prof Karl A Linklater (1962, 1971)  
Ms Margaret Lourie  
Mrs Jacky Low-Mitchell  
Mr S W Dermot McIlveen (1960)  
Mr Kenneth F McNaughton (1976)  
Mrs Barbara E Mills  
Mr Kenneth E Morton (1951)  
Mr John G Nicol (1984)  
Mr David D Owen-Pawson (1951)  
Mr David B Pepper (1968)  
Mr David S Ramsay (1980)  
Mrs Nicola Reed (1988)  
Brigadier S P Robertson MBE  
Mr Keith S Senior (1970)  
Mr William B Shaw (1942)  
Miss Christine F Shield (1983)  
Mrs A Smith  
Mr John H C Smith (1946)  
Mrs Mabel Smith  
Mrs Isobel H Stammers  
Mrs Bridget Taylor (1984)  
Dr Peter W Wells (1969)  
Mr & Mrs B N Wood  
Mr John Yeaman (1964)  
Miss Barbara E Yorke (1974)

*This issue of the Dick Vet News was sponsored by*

## THE MARY MILBURN BEQUEST

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