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GRADUATION 2012



Welcome

It is a pleasure to welcome you to another edition of Eclipse.

In the following pages, you will find news and features that will bring you up to date on all of the latest developments at the Royal Veterinary College, at home and abroad.

It has been a terrific year for us: An outstanding accreditation report from the American Veterinary Medical Association, a huge increase in the satisfaction of our students, record numbers of cases in our clinics and research outputs in the most renowned scientific journals. And all this underpinned by our strongest financial performance for years.



When I last wrote, I hinted at the uncertainty that the new funding environment had brought to the sector; uncertainty relating to how the next generation of students would view their life choices and the options in higher education. Absolute clarity is still a few years away, but I am happy to report that our recruitment is stronger than ever and, by all indicators, RVC is becoming the place of choice to study. The figures are supported by the fact that, when compared to those schools which are similarly affected by the new funding regime, RVC is now ranked first in the Complete University Guide.

All of this does not happen by accident. One of the things that has impressed me more than anything else has been the concerted effort by all our staff – supported and encouraged by our Council – as we have pulled together to ensure that our College rises to meet new challenges and, wherever possible, leads the way in educational, clinical and scientific innovation. I am immensely grateful to all my colleagues for stepping up and going the extra yard.

And so I hope you enjoy the articles that follow – for those of you who would like more on our performance, I refer you to our Annual Review (www.rvc.ac.uk/annualreview).

I hope that wherever you may be reading this, whether at home, overseas, online or with a copy in your hand, you feel a little bit closer to life here at the College.

Thank you for your interest in our activities and for being part of the RVC's extended family and circle of friends. I have enjoyed meeting many of you at the various events I have attended and hosted, both at home and overseas. Your contribution to the RVC as referring vets, CPD participants, donors and contributors to the student experience is vital to the future of the College and for that I thank you.

We appreciate it greatly.

With all best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Stuart Lewis". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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RVC Success - American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA)

The College successfully underwent its American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) re-accreditation visit in October 2012. As a result, the RVC remains the only veterinary school in the world to hold full accreditation or equivalent recognition from the AVMA, RCVS, EAEVE (covering most of Europe) and the Australasian Veterinary Boards.

The visitation report was approved by the AVMA's Council on Education on 3rd March 2013, and confirmed re-accreditation for the maximum period of seven years. The report contains commendations relating to all 11 of the standards against which AVMA judges veterinary colleges, and lists an unprecedented 25 strengths in total. The commendations cover all aspects of the College's work - from facilities to curriculum, research and clinics, staff and students, the student experience and student support.

Many of you will have experienced the excitement and tension of previous AVMA visitations, and this one was no exception. As before, the AVMA came to the RVC with a large, multinational team including observers from Australia as well as highly experienced members from the USA, Canada and the UK. The team was led by Dr Sheila W Allen, Dean of the University Of Georgia College Of Veterinary Medicine. The recent changes in the BVetMed curriculum, in particular the introduction of new off-campus clinical rotations, made this visitation even more challenging than most. AVMA asked to see the Westpoint Farm Animal rotation in Sevenoaks, the Farm Animal tracking rotation in Dorset, the abattoir at the University of Bristol, and an example of a PDSA practice used for EMS - all within the normal five day visit. Anyone who has been from Hawkshead to Bristol, inspected an abattoir, and been back in time for lunch, knows what a tall order that is, but it was well worth the effort on everyone's part, as the value of the off-campus rotations was highlighted in the visitation report. The College is grateful to the staff at all our external clinical sites, many of whom are RVC graduates.

Alumni also played an important role in the programme of round-table meetings that the visiting party held on

campus. A dozen recent graduates, including four who had flown in specially from North America, met the visitors for an hour and a half, a meeting that was followed by dinner with staff who were eager to hear how their former charges are faring in the world of work.

The Principal commented on how the College, including students both past and present, worked together to show the visitors the best of the RVC, enabling it to achieve this outstanding outcome:

"I am absolutely delighted at the result of our accreditation visit and I pay tribute to all those involved in securing this recognition. As a consequence RVC graduates are able to work worldwide, knowing that RVC has signed up to and met internationally recognised standards. For our North American graduates it ensures they can practice back home on the same basis as peers from schools in the USA and Canada. It also guarantees that our students experience the highest quality education available and it emphasises our commitment as a global force in academic and clinical leadership."



RVC & Buckingham Equine Vets - improving equine education

The RVC has been busy further developing its collaborative links with the local veterinary community.

The RVC and Buckingham Equine Vets (BEV) have commenced an educational partnership designed, via the development of an Intra Mural Rotation and RVC investment in the development of new facilities at BEV, to increase the quantity and quality of educational experiences for those undergraduate BVetMed students with a special interest in equine practice. The partnership combining the expertise of the RVC and BEV, will undoubtedly result in better learning opportunities and an even higher quality of care for patients.

Additional benefits of the partnership include the development of referral caseload for the RVC Equine Referral Hospital and mutually beneficial information exchange and educational collaboration between the RVC and BEV.

RVC 'Lates'

2012 saw the launch of the first ever National Biology Week. The most popular event of the week took place at the RVC Camden Campus, and was a collaborative effort involving RVC staff and students, the Francis Crick Institute and the Society of Biology. 175 members of the public descended on the RVC for an evening of scientific discovery and learning – the inaugural RVC Late!

For the evening, the Lightwell Café was transformed into an arena demonstrating research techniques. Visitors tried their hand at staining proteins and extracting DNA from fruit cells and could learn about many areas of RVC research, including zebrafish development, flight mechanics and haptic technology. The Anatomy Museum was host to artistic talent, with people drawing their favourite specimen for the chance to be featured on our website (www.rvc.ac.uk/wp/RVC-Late) and Student Ambassadors were on hand to make it all run smoothly. Our Ambassadors came in for particular praise in the feedback, with one visitor saying that their work was “reminiscent of the Olympic spirit.”



The highlights of the evening came thanks to a lecture by Dr Holger Volk and a dissection demonstration by Andrew Crook and Sarah Nicoll. Holger explored the differences and similarities between epilepsy in dogs and humans whilst Andrew and Sarah wowed the crowd with their full dissection of a horse. These two events caused the Late to trend on Twitter and the most common comment we received afterwards was “Do it again!”

With research increasingly coming under scrutiny in the public eye, events like this can transform people's opinion of what it actually entails. Features in local papers and a mention in Timeout Magazine showed that the appetite for events like this is enormous and we are looking forward to continuing to host Lates in the future!



If you would like to know more about the RVC Lates then please contact Jim Cannon on jcannon@rvc.ac.uk.

'One Health' Programme - New for Autumn 2013

THE first students on a new 'One Health' postgraduate programme, developed by the RVC and London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (LSHTM), are set to start this autumn.

The One Health (infectious diseases) MSc and diploma is designed to support animal and human health by producing graduates who can study, monitor and respond to diseases in the developing world that impact on animals and communities.

The One Health paradigm addresses the relationship between health and disease in human and animal populations. It is a worldwide, multidisciplinary effort to improve the health of animals, humans and the environment.

The concept has become an important focus in veterinary and medical science and policymakers recognise its value

in resolving complex health, social and economic challenges.

Many diseases pass between animals and humans, while food production, human diet and community stability are jeopardised by diseases that infect livestock. Changing environmental, social and agricultural conditions are a threat to animal and human health and welfare. Emerging diseases underline the threat posed by these changes. Significant amongst these are the influenza virus H5N1 (bird flu), pandemic human influenza H1N1 (swine flu), Ebola and Nipah virus and SARS coronavirus.

The MSc and diploma programme builds on previous collaborations between the RVC and LSHTM. It will be delivered at RVC's Camden campus and the LSHTM site in Bloomsbury.

The full-time MSc is completed over one

year and the full-time diploma takes seven months. Part-time study takes between two and three years.

The course is open to individuals with degrees in veterinary science, medicine, public health, biological sciences, social and environmental sciences, wildlife health, statistics or economics. For further information see www.rvc.ac.uk/Postgraduate/Courses/One-Health



RVC Graduate Diploma VN contribute to an emergent profession

Students and graduates of the RVC's Graduate Diploma in Professional and Clinical Veterinary Nursing (GDipVN) course are making an important contribution to a growing body of knowledge for veterinary nursing practice.

Tangible evidence of this can be seen in the number of articles which GDipVN students, past and present, have had published. Six students have had work published in *The Veterinary Nurse*, with seven alumni going on to have material published in *The Veterinary Nurse* and other VN publications.

The *Veterinary Nurse* is a new clinical, professional and educational journal for veterinary nurses. As the first international peer-reviewed journal providing informative evidence-based articles relating to a wide-range of topics explicitly focusing on veterinary nursing issues, it plays a significant role in the development of an emergent profession. A fundamental aim of the Graduate Diploma course is to provide an environment in which a community of critical thinkers can develop. This

community are not only dedicated to the provision of high-level nursing care to patients, but also actively contribute to the growing body of knowledge and development of the veterinary nursing profession. Publishing in academic journals, particularly those that assimilate best practice, is of significance for the wider veterinary nursing community, aiding the adoption of evidence based approaches to the care and welfare of patients. Sue Gregory, the RVC's Professor in Veterinary Nursing, has emphasised that the achievements of our students in this sphere is something that the RVC should be proud of.

In recognition of the importance in helping VNs develop the necessary skills to publish articles of a high academic standard, The *Veterinary Nurse* sponsors a graduation prize each year for the most promising writer on the Graduation Diploma in Professional and Clinical Veterinary Nursing course. Last year, the prize was awarded to Claire Lewis (nee Thomas), from the Wylie Veterinary Centre Upminster for her two care

reports titled '*A care report of a feline sacroiliac and coxofemoral luxation following a road traffic accident*' and '*Extended care report after graft surgery for a descemetocoele*'.

Congratulations to Claire and all GDipVNs who have already been published, as well as those who will do in the future thus contributing to the development of a flourishing professional community.



Fantastic new collaborative courses at RVC

The RVC has opened two new collaborative postgraduate courses in the academic year 2012/13.

The **Postgraduate Certificate in Intensive Livestock Health and Production**, launched in September 2012, is led by the RVC in partnership with Newcastle University, University of Cambridge and University of Edinburgh. This is a part-time online distance learning course that will be of interest to those working within the agri-food sector and will promote the development of advanced level skills in pigs and poultry. Graduates are expected to contribute further to the intensive livestock industries in the veterinary, public health or production sectors.

The educational provision is tailored to meet the specific needs of industry partners, and embraces the whole "animal and food production team", including business managers, food and animal scientists, and veterinarians. Participants are encouraged to consider the intensive food system from a holistic perspective, understanding it as a whole rather than the sum of its parts.

The **Postgraduate Certificate in Risk Analysis in Health and Food Safety**, launched in March 2013, is jointly delivered by the Veterinary Epidemiology, Economics and Public Health Group of the RVC and EpiX Analytics, a leading US firm specialised in probabilistic modelling. This course, the first recognised qualification in risk analysis in health and food safety, is aimed at providing the skills for cutting-edge and in-depth practice in quantitative risk analysis in health and food safety.

The course is designed to accommodate the work schedules of professionals from research institutions, governmental and international agencies; agricultural, food, pharmaceutical and related industry; and academic staff and post graduate students. It offers candidates the opportunity to develop hands-on work skills and tailor their studies to their own professional development needs.

Further information is available on the RVC website: www.rvc.ac.uk/postgraduate

MSc in Veterinary Education - A Time for Celebration



Once again the MSc Veterinary Education team at the RVC have been busy. Without doubt the highlight of the academic year came on Graduation Day in July 2012. After two years of hard work, staff were able to congratulate and celebrate alongside the first cohort of MSc graduates.

Also, all those who successfully completed the Postgraduate Certificate will now become Fellows of the Higher Education Academy, increasingly a probationary requirement of many UK universities. Student numbers continue to increase across the board and in 2012/13 we have 21, 20 and 3 students studying for the Certificate, Diploma and MSc respectively.

The launch of the Distance Learning programme has also proved highly successful and the global interest and response sparked by this initiative has been considerable. It

is clear that the MSc in Veterinary Education fills a need felt by many international veterinarians and student recommendations and further marketing campaigns have already led to a significant rise in new enquiries for the coming academic year.

However, it was not only students but also staff who have had cause to celebrate. In July 2012, Course Director, Dr Ayona Silva-Fletcher, was awarded a National Teaching Fellowship from the Higher Education Academy (HEA). The National Teaching Fellowships are the most prestigious awards given for excellence in higher education teaching and support for learning. This award is a real mark of distinction for one of our most dedicated educators and we offer her our heartiest congratulations!

For further information on the MSc in Veterinary Education go to www.rvc.ac.uk\MscVetEd

(L to R) Dr Renate Weller, Mr. Kim Whitlestone (staff), Emma Davies, Dr. Vicki Dale (staff), Hilary Orpet, Charlotte Lawson, Raymond Macharia, Nicki Coombes, Rachel Lumbis, Dr. Ayona Silva-Fletcher (staff), Prof. Stephen May (staff).

Complete University Guide – RVC is the Leading English Veterinary School

An influential independent guide has ranked the RVC as the leading English veterinary school.

The Complete University Guide takes into account entry standards, research ratings, graduate prospects and levels of student satisfaction to produce the annual ranking of degree courses.

The RVC was compared to the other six British institutions offering veterinary medicine degrees. The College gained an overall score of 99.7 out of 100, finishing ahead of the other four English schools, Cambridge, Liverpool, Nottingham and Bristol.

RVC - Engaging London's Schoolchildren

The RVC and City & Islington College (CiC) have signed an agreement that will pave the way for more local students on Extended BTEC Diploma and A-Level courses to progress to veterinary degrees.

Staff from the two institutions met at RVC's Camden campus on March 14th 2013 to watch RVC Principal Stuart Reid and CiC Principal Frank McLoughlin sign the Progression agreement (pictured below).



Under the agreement, City and Islington staff will advise their students about degrees offered by the RVC and encourage them to apply. RVC staff will in turn provide activities, including teaching sessions and open days, to support CiC students with their education and ambitions.

As well having a strong track record of student success on A-Level and BTEC Diploma courses, CiC offers a number of Access to Higher Education courses to prepare students for medical, veterinary and scientific degrees. City and Islington recruits students from a number of inner and outer London boroughs, including Islington and Camden.



It is hoped that the agreement between the two institutions will lead to more City and Islington students taking places on the RVC's veterinary medicine, bioveterinary science and veterinary nursing programmes.

Professor Reid said: "Throughout our history we have done our level best to associate ourselves with organisations that stand out as leaders in their sectors. Today it gives me great pleasure to be coming closer to an organisation that is just that. City and Islington leads its field – it's the best in its particular sector in London and one of the best in the country."

"This agreement marks our commitment to young people – wherever they start in life - to progression, life-long learning and articulation, and to offering people from a diversity of backgrounds opportunities at every level of education."

Mr McLoughlin added: "Who we are associated with is critically important. Many of our students are the first generation of their families to go into higher education. Their knowledge of the higher education landscape is thin and so we have to help them make sure they can get to the best places they can get to."



He also said: "We hope this is a long term relationship. It's fantastic for our students and all of our staff to feel associated with one of the most prestigious veterinary colleges in the world. That helps the circle to turn because the expectations of students get higher and we can assist them more."

'Building the Body' - Widening Participation

Wellcome Trust funded Widening Participation Haptic workshops a success...

In 2011 the RVC won a Wellcome Trust People's Award to develop biomedical science workshops to engage Key Stage 4 young people in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) subjects through the use of haptic technology. Since the award we have successfully run five workshops.

Haptics, pertaining to the sense of touch (and specifically the human-computer interaction through virtual reality robotic devices) is a fantastic tool for engaging young people. It is very hands on and always provides the 'wow factor'.

bovine anatomy. Feedback has shown that the Cow was one of the 'best parts' of the day and the participants particularly appreciated learning about the similarities and differences in the anatomy of humans and animals. This was discussed in the human anatomy task which followed, in which the students were required to identify an organ by its size and shape and then move it, using the haptic device, into the correct 3D topographical position within a human abdomen. Two further tasks were created by Neil Forrest, a haptic software developer, based on stakeholder (teachers and staff at the RVC) consultations: a pulse task involving identifying different species' pulses, and a cells task, involving creating a cell from organelles. The

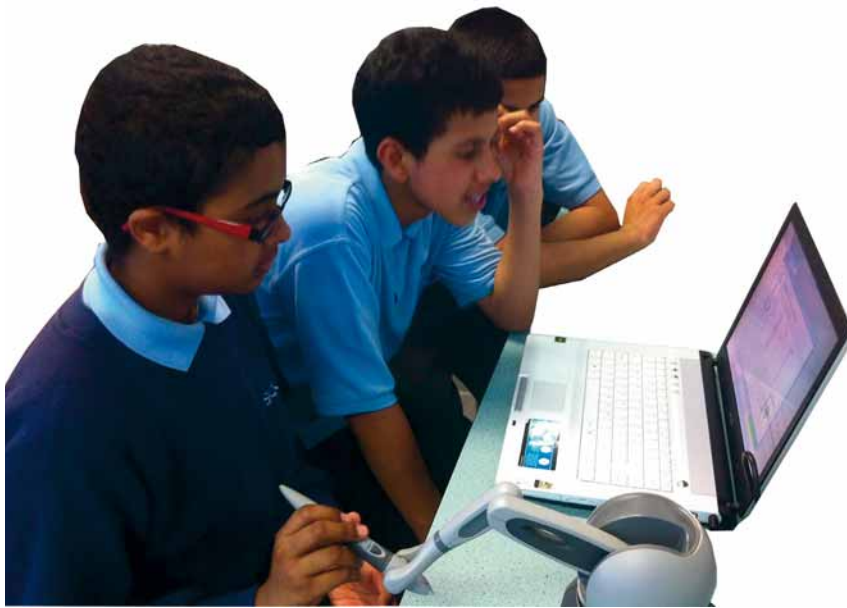
workshops ended with small groups of students creating their own ideas for using haptics, either in school to aid learning, or as a commercial initiative.

The groups presented their ideas to the rest of the class, with the best idea winning a small prize.

Over the course of the workshops 87 young people have used the simulators. Workshop evaluation demonstrated an increase in knowledge in areas such as the importance of a red blood cell's shape and the links between pulse characteristics and species size. The vast majority of the students rated the workshop as fun. The project will reach more than those individuals who took part during the five days, as the Wellcome Trust funding has provided each of the participating schools with a haptic device and the software required to continue to use the 'Building the Body' simulations.

The workshops provide an opportunity for young people to experience a new technology and to appreciate the importance and excitement of science, this is represented by one young person's comment: "The workshop made me think science is even cooler! It made me even more interested".

For more information on the project please visit the LIVE Centre's website or contact Tierney at tkinnison@rvc.ac.uk



Recent RVC alumni will know haptic simulations through using the Haptic Cow, the most famous of the veterinary haptic simulators, developed by Professor Sarah Baillie and used in the RVC's Clinical Skills Centre.

The Haptic Cow formed an integral part of the workshops, demonstrating to the young people the blend of science, technology and innovation, as well as specifically considering basic internal



Mark Evans speaks at RVC's Online Veterinary Anatomy Museum (OVAM) Launch



On Tuesday 20th November, a RVC collaborative project launched the Online Veterinary Anatomy Museum (OVAM) marking a major development in online resources available to learners of veterinary anatomy the world over.

Mark Evans graduated from the RVC in 1987 from the BVetMed and has since gone on to have a career in Television. He has been involved in creating, presenting and producing a variety of programmes such as Pet Rescue, Barking Mad, Absolutely Animals, Garden Invaders, House Call in the Country, The Wild Bunch and High Tech Vets. Mark came back to the RVC to launch OVAM and has described the online museum as "the most exciting thing to happen in veterinary anatomy for the last 250 years".

Being the world's largest online veterinary anatomical resource collection, OVAM will not only support the education of veterinary students, but hopes to inspire learners everywhere to engage with animal anatomy and science in an inspiring, interactive and informative way.

OVAM offers learners free access to

resources including:

- Interactive and annotated diagrams and images of specimens
- Three dimensional imaging of skeletons, radiographic imaging and interpretation
- Podcasts and potcasts of anatomical specimens
- Anatomy with a clinical relevance and an anatomical link to WikiVet content
- Comprehensive videos of dissection techniques which will greatly reduce the need for duplication of procedures

The project, which has been funded by the Joint Information Systems Committee (JISC), began in November 2011. It is an example of exceptional collaboration within the higher education sector, both in the UK and overseas as well as between the public and private sectors. Led by a small team based at the RVC, the project involved all seven of the UK's vet schools as well as international institutions, educational trusts, commercial publishers and web developers. Student Curators were recruited from the partner institutions involved, enabling students to develop new skills and, of course, contribute to this fantastic resource.

The collaborative nature of the project - along with its links with

the already successful veterinary reference site WikiVet - is what makes OVAM particularly unique. Through collaboration the duplication of effort in the creation of resources is minimised and students have access to a wider variety of reliable, high quality resources.

Project Director, RVC's Nick Short said: "The teaching of anatomy forms a core part of the veterinary curriculum in every veterinary school in the world. With digital media increasingly used to enrich and support conventional lectures it therefore makes sense to share what we have to provide students with the best possible support for their studies.

"More than that the online museum will help to bring the world of veterinary anatomy alive not just for veterinary students but also for anybody with an interest in knowing more about animals' structure and function. OVAM provides access to some of the most amazing virtual resources contributed from all over the world. Here you can explore the 3D anatomy of a horse's foot from London, view beautiful animations of the abdomen of a pig from Spain or watch a selection of lectures from India!"

You can visit OVAM at www.onlineveterinaryanatomy.net

Cell Phones revolutionizing Kenya's Livestock Sector



Photo: FAO/Thomas Hug

Prevention, preparedness and early response are powerful concepts that when translated into tools can be effectively used against infectious diseases, thereby safeguard people's livelihoods, fend off hunger and, in some cases, human illness.

Farmers and veterinarians across Africa are increasingly using cell phones to issue alerts quickly about possible animal disease outbreaks at a very early stage and to track wide-scale vaccination campaigns.

The Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) has partnered with the RVC and Vetaid Kenya to support the pilot testing of a mobile phone application developed by researchers at the Imperial College London's School of Public Health. The application, called EpiCollect, helps to track animal vaccination and treatment campaigns. The application

would allow users to access and monitor vaccination data in real-time, and could potentially be made available not just to veterinarians but to animal health workers and village elders.

The widespread adoption of this technology has revolutionised the livestock sector. Up until five years ago, veterinarians would have to travel to remote locations, record data and then travel back to district-level offices to process the paperwork. The data – for example on the total number of livestock in a herd and the number of animals vaccinated – is stored and then relayed to the project location on a project-specific website.

The RVC has a long standing association with East Africa. The College has many experts who have worked in the area and continue to conduct research and provide in country support. There are also a number of educational links with students coming to study particularly at postgraduate level in the UK – however there are now just as many UK students who elect to spend some time in Africa as part of their clinical experience. The link between the RVC and Vetaid Kenya came about partly as a result of funding received from the UK government to promote development awareness. This enabled students and recent graduates from the UK to travel to Kenya and work with Vetaid Kenya colleagues in the field. In return, vets from Kenya have visited the RVC and had the opportunity to work on collaboratative teaching projects such as the pilot scheme for mobile phone apps.

RVC's BSc Veterinary Nurses have plenty to celebrate

In July 2012, eleven RVC students celebrated becoming the first cohort of VN BSc students to graduate from the RVC.

The degree comprises the traditional three year VN degree after which students can register as a VN with the RCVS. The fourth and final year focuses on research and academic projects, requiring them to write a scientific dissertation on a VN topic of their choice. Once passed the fourth year students then qualify with a BSc in Veterinary Nursing.

"The results were excellent" comments Hilary Orpet, Senior Lecturer in Veterinary Nursing at RVC "with one student obtaining a first, eight with 2:1's and two with 2:2's". The College is currently looking at getting some of their projects published and one RVN Sarah



Hancill won an RCVS Charitable Trust award.

Sarah won the trust's Driving Practice Innovation competition with her idea for a peripheral venous catheter care checklist. The rationale behind the creation of Sarah's checklist is that, although intravenous catheter insertion has become common practice, breaking the skin barrier alters the host's defence against infection, which increases the risk of local infection or bacteraemia with

more serious complications, such as septicaemia. Sarah's peripheral venous catheter care checklist is intended to increase patient safety. It consists of 14 quality indicators, repeated every 24 hours, over a 72 hour period.

Veterinary nurses are uniquely placed to see how day to day practice can be improved. The checklist is a practical solution that provides potential for a standardised approach and the hope is that it will contribute to improving the quality of patient care.

Exciting Changes at t



THE last year has brought some exciting changes within the College's Queen Mother Hospital for Animals (QMHA). These include the expansion of clinical services, key staff promotions and developments in how the hospital communicates with the wider veterinary profession.

To improve the way it engages with the profession, the hospital has repositioned itself as '**RVC small animal referrals**', with the creation of a clear identity for RVC clinical services, distinct from that of the teaching institution.

dedicated primarily to individualised patient care."

Dr Volk is supported by Sian Griffith, who has become Operations Director. Graham Milligan, who was previously Director of the Clinical Services division, is now Vice Principal (Clinical Services).

The launch of a new website www.rvc.ac.uk/small-animal-referrals and supporting campaign to reach out to practices in London and the South East, includes the development of regular e-newsletters and free CPD taster evenings. Subjects covered include dermatology, cardiology and emergency and critical care.

Hitting the headlines

Advanced techniques developed and performed by RVC specialists have attracted the attention of the national and international press in recent months. In November a procedure carried out at QMHA was featured in The Guardian.

RVC specialists were the first vets in the UK to carry out hypophysectomy surgery on a cat. The team conducted the operation for the first time last



Holger Volk (pictured top left), who was recently appointed as Clinical Director, explains: "It's all about strengthening our relationship with the profession and presenting the accessible and friendly face of QMHA. As a teaching hospital, we are absolutely committed to developing the best vets of the future but we also want to help vets in practice give a better service to their customers. We are being more proactive in letting people know that we are a centre of excellence boosted by teaching and research,



the Queen Mother Hospital

spring and this prompted a Guardian journalist to visit the QMHA in September to witness neurosurgeon Patrick Kenny perform the procedure for the second time.

The operation, which involved removing the pituitary gland and a tumour via the roof of the mouth, successfully treated a cat called Harry suffering from acromegaly. The condition, which is usually caused by a pituitary tumour, is characterised by the overproduction of growth hormone.

The surgery was aided by the Brainsight neuronavigation system. The RVC is the only veterinary centre in the UK to have the device, which allows surgeons a high level of precision when planning and performing surgery. The hypophysectomy team is led by internal medicine specialist Stijn Niessen.

RVC specialists also treated a puppy with a rare congenital heart condition that would have killed her if left untreated. Kayla was diagnosed with a heart murmur at four months and QMHA specialists identified that it was caused by double-chambered right ventricle. RVC small animal referrals is the only veterinary service in Europe offering surgery for the condition. Kayla is the third dog with the condition that RVC specialists have treated.

Outlining the case, Daniel Brockman, leader of the cardiac surgery team within the soft tissue surgery service, said: "The assessment was that Kayla had very severe disease that would be predicted to lead to heart failure within 12 months. This condition does not respond to non-surgical intervention and so she underwent surgical treatment under cardiopulmonary bypass to allow the open-heart manipulations required to treat this disease. During the operation, the right ventricle is opened and the obstruction to blood flow relieved by suturing a patch of polytetrafluoroethylene across the narrow part of the ventricle."

Professor Brockman added: "Kayla

is now able to have a normal quality of life and it is anticipated that her lifespan will also be normal now."

Other advanced techniques where RVC specialists are at the cutting-edge of practice internationally include Continuous Renal Replacement Therapy (CRRT) and laser lithotripsy.

RVC small animal referrals is the only veterinary centre in the UK to offer CRRT, which is a pioneering blood purification treatment that can save the lives of poisoned animals and those with renal failure and autoimmune disorders. Specialists at the QMHA conducted the procedure, on a dog called Breck, for the first time this January.

The internal medicine service at the QMHA is one of a small number of veterinary centres in the world and the only service in the UK offering laser lithotripsy. The minimally-invasive treatment breaks up and allows the removal of stones that form in the urinary tract. The laser can also be used for the removal of polyps, relocation of intramural ectopic ureters and for biopsy of neoplastic lesions within the urinary tract.

Expansion and enhanced services

The ophthalmology referral service has doubled in capacity since being established at the start of 2012. The demand for the service in small animal and equine ophthalmology is so high that the College expects to recruit an additional ophthalmologist this year.

The service was created after the RVC appointed Rick F Sanchez, a diplomate of the European College of Veterinary Ophthalmologists (ECVO). When Rick joined the RVC he was the only board-certified veterinary ophthalmologist working at a British veterinary school.

Rick was joined last October by Màrian Matas Riera, who recently gained her ECVO diploma qualification. The team is supported by veterinary-specialist-in-training Charlotte Dawson, who is the first

person to join the RVC's EU-recognised specialist training program in veterinary ophthalmology.

The small animal dermatology referral service expanded earlier this year and is now available at the Beaumont Sainsbury Animal Hospital (BSAH) in Camden as well as the QMHA.



The RVC has the largest and most experienced team of specialist dermatologists in the UK and it has been enhanced in January with the appointment of Dr Andrea Volk. Dr Volk, who completed a three-year European College of Veterinary Dermatology-approved programme at the Queen Mother Hospital last summer, offers consultations at the BSAH two days a week.

Commenting on the expansion of the dermatology referral service, Ross Bond, who heads the team, said: "The BSAH has recently undergone significant development and its central location makes it easy to get to for many Londoners. Routine dermatological investigations and treatments are available in-house and close links with the QMHA at Hawkshead provide the full spectrum of advanced facilities for more complex cases."

If you are a vet or veterinary nurse and would like to register for the small animal referrals e-newsletter please email rvcnews@rvc.ac.uk.

Olympic Fever Hits the RVC

SPECIALISTS at the Queen Mother Hospital for Animals got into the Olympic spirit last summer by dressing in their national colours.

RVC small animal referrals which is based at the hospital, has clinicians from 22 countries, many of whom you may recognise, and they dressed up on the last Friday of the Olympics.

Explaining the colourful event, David Church, Australian national and Vice-Principal (Learning & the Student Experience), said: "We wanted to do something to remind everyone how truly international we are here at the RVC."

We have staff from all over the world and we are extremely proud of that."

The Olympics coincided with some new sports facilities opening at the Hawkshead campus. As a result of the opening of the new Teaching and Research Centre, a former teaching lab has been transformed into a gym. Users of the sports field also have new changing facilities.





A New Gym for Hawkshead Campus

The Old Lecture Theatre at Hawkshead has been transformed into a gym for RVC staff and students and offers the following facilities: rowing machines, treadmills, cross-trainers, bikes, free weights, and other equipment such as an Olympic bench press, chest press, weight machine (multiple attachments) and changing and shower facilities.

RVC Alumni are allowed to use the new facilities but will need to have had an induction at the gym and complete a form to give them access to the site. For further information about the facilities please email development@rvc.ac.uk in the first instance.

There will also be a new gym at the Camden campus soon, work will start this summer.



Active Students

Participation in sports by RVC students is encouraged by a partnership with the University of Hertfordshire, called Active Students.

The organisation is funded by Sport England and enables all RVC and University of Hertfordshire students to take part in non-competitive, professionally run and FREE sports and leisure activities; from White Water Rafting to Zumba and Weightlifting.

Various classes are run at the RVC Hawkshead campus in the new fully equipped gym, and at the University of Hertfordshire. Classes are run by professional instructors and trainers and are proving very popular here on campus.

Research at the RVC - How you can be involved

The RVC's Clinical Investigation Centre recently introduced two new exciting studies investigating canine osteoarthritis and canine idiopathic epilepsy.

Both studies are being conducted in collaboration with two leading animal health companies, and both aim to progress the way in which these conditions are managed in practice.

The osteoarthritis study investigates the efficacy of a new nutraceutical, Yumove®, in reducing the clinical signs associated with the condition, and is being conducted by Dr. Matthew Pead and the RVC's Orthopaedic service. Talking about the study, Dr Pead said "There are numerous nutraceuticals given to dogs in the UK to help them with their osteoarthritis. However, many of these have very little in the way of good scientific evidence to support their efficacy. We are proud to be running a study where a company is prepared to put money into a high quality study into one of these products".

Dr. John Howie, nutritionist and co-founder of Lintbells says "Lintbells have built the company's reputation on designing nutritional supplements that work, giving owners confidence that they are making a difference to their pets. Yumove® has a unique formulation, including omega-3 and green lipped mussel, an ingredient which has strong scientific evidence for improving joint health. Whilst we know that dogs respond well to Yumove®, it is important to have clinical evidence of the benefits and this is the justification for the study. We believe that the unique formulation will have a clear effect in the study, and that good quality, proven products should be a financially viable option for owners."

Novel technology in the form of activity monitors is being used to assess dogs' activity levels whilst receiving Yumove® as a placebo, allowing invaluable data to be recorded.

"Activity monitoring gives us an objective measurement of something truly representative of the dogs' quality of life and represents a step forward in the trial of substances designed to increase mobility" added Dr. Pead.

Owners can benefit from free radiographs if necessary and there is no cost incurred for being involved. Eligible dogs will be aged two years or more, weigh 10kg or more and have



a history of lameness that is visible on examination. Each dog will be enrolled for 12 weeks, and will be required to visit the RVC on three occasions in this time.

The canine idiopathic epilepsy trial is being carried out by Dr. Holger Volk and Ms Emma Davies, and is investigating the efficacy of a new diet in reducing seizure frequency in dogs with idiopathic epilepsy. Talking about the study, Dr. Holger Volk said "I am very excited about this study. This is the first food trial which looks not only at reducing seizure frequency but also at improving quality of life in dogs with epilepsy. My own dog had epilepsy and I really hope that we can help our epileptic pets"

This study has the benefit of providing owners with six months free food in addition to free monitoring and blood work, which is completed on each of the three visits. Eligible dogs will be aged between six months and 11 years, weigh at least 4kg and have had an MRI scan and CSF analysis. Dogs need to be receiving phenobarbitone and/or potassium bromide treatment and need to have had at least three seizures in the last three months.

In addition to these studies, the Clinical Investigation Centre (CIC) is also involved with two IBD studies, one specifically for German Shepherd Dogs, and a study investigating the use of a new chemotherapy drug.

More information can be found on the CIC website at www.rvc.ac.uk/CIC

If you have any cases you think would be suitable please contact the CIC. Telephone: 01707 666605 or email: cic@rvc.ac.uk

Flight formation in migratory Ibises

Dr Steven Portugal is a postdoctoral researcher at the RVC working on a CARDyAL: Co-Operative Aerodynamics and Radio-based DYnamic Animal Localisation project. His research has recently involved him working with a charity that is re-introducing an extinct bird back into the wild.

Flight formation in migratory Ibises

When birds take to the air in a large group, they customarily fly in either a V-formation or a cluster-like swarm. Both flocking approaches have their benefits. One of the main theories that has persisted to explain this distinctive 'V' formation is that birds are attempting to conserve energy by taking advantage of the upwash vortex fields created by the wings of the birds in front. Aerodynamic theory has subsequently been used to predict where birds should optimally position themselves in relation to other members within the V, to maximise these energy savings. These predictions, however, are based on a fixed-wing principle, like that of an aeroplane for example, very different from the scenario of a flying bird and flapping wing. Many migratory birds fly in a characteristic V formation. Previous investigations into V formation flocking have been largely restricted to theory or the use of photography to examine flock-member positioning. The use of lightweight sensors now makes it possible to collect more detailed data on the cooperative behaviour of migratory birds flying in V formation.

His studies have been equipping the birds with mini logging devices to investigate V formation flight. The research is focusing on two migratory flights of the critically endangered Waldrapp Ibis (*Geronticus eremita*).

This opportunity was made possible by human-led migrations taking place in Austria as part of a reintroduction scheme, whereby imprinted young ibis are taught to follow a microlight.

Short daily flights help the birds learn the migration route from where they were hatched in Austria to their wintering grounds in southern Italy. See www.waldrapp.eu/waldrappteam/



Technological challenge

The aerodynamics of flocks present the most complex technological challenges of the project. The objective is to localise individual birds in the 3D environment of a free-flying flock using sensors that are light enough not to affect their flight characteristics (ideally less than 5% of body mass).

Data measurement and protocols

Lightweight data tags have been attached to all 15 birds in a flock to record the positioning and wingbeat frequency of each bird.

This has enabled questions to be asked:

Where does each bird position itself in the flock?

Where does each bird position itself with respect to other birds?

Is there a consistency of pattern and shape to the formation?

Are there clear leaders and followers within the group?

Does the use of a "V" flight formation result in a conservation of energy?

This is the first time such measurements of been made in situ of free flying birds undertaking long migratory flights. Preliminary results suggest that a small number of birds take the majority of the leadership duties – which is interesting as all birds are of the same age and none have any prior experience of the route.

Outcomes

These data allow us to explore aspects of 'V' formation flocking relating to distances and angles between individuals, and the interactions these have with flap-frequency. Moreover, it allows comparisons to be made between 'V' formation flight and cluster flocking. The findings of such investigations have many potential applications include collective flying of airplanes, unmanned aerial vehicles and initiating a desired motion pattern in crowds or groups of animals.



RVC research highlights the most urgent welfare issues for pet dogs

Research from the RVC, commissioned by the RSPCA, has highlighted the most urgent issues that need to be rectified for the improvement of pet dog welfare in Britain.



These include owners' lack of awareness of welfare needs, poor health due to obesity, inherited disease or exaggerated physical features, intensive and unregulated puppy rearing and a lack of appropriate provision for behavioural needs.

The research published in the *Journal of Animal Welfare* surveyed the opinions of stakeholders working in various different capacities with British companion dogs and found that rather than having a 'good quality of life,' the majority of those surveyed considered them more likely to have only 'a life worth living,' meaning that there is room for improvement.

Over 200 stakeholders took part to find out what they perceive to be the welfare concerns that exist

for companion dogs – defined as a domesticated pet, living as part of a family unit and not kept primarily for sport or work. These included veterinarians, veterinary nurses, behaviour specialists, welfare scientists, breeders, trainers, pet insurance representatives, members of government advisory bodies, welfare inspectors, dog wardens and charity staff.

Stakeholder categories had differing views regarding the quality of life of companion dogs in Great Britain. Industry and grooming parlour staff, breeders, exhibitors and judges rated their quality of life the highest, saying that British companion dogs have 'a good life', while welfare officers scored it lowest.

Although all stakeholder groups agreed on the important welfare issues, there were notable differences between these groups on their relative importance.

Veterinarians and Veterinary Nurses viewed puppy farming as of less importance (though relatively still important) than other groups of stakeholders. In particular, Industry considered puppy farming as highly important and urgent to rectify, perceiving the impact on the individual dog as higher and (together with those working in the charity sector) scoring its prevalence higher than Veterinary professionals.

In contrast, veterinary professionals perceived exaggerated physical features as relatively more important; significantly more so than Government, Industry or Charity sector stakeholders.

Veterinary professionals also perceived obesity to be of higher importance than did Industry and Charity sectors. Stakeholder differences in perceptions of quality of life and priority welfare issues are likely to relate to differences in practical knowledge and direct experience of these particular concerns, highlighting the importance of consulting a range of stakeholders to build a comprehensive picture of significant threats to canine welfare.

Views were not all negative. Factors perceived by stakeholders to enhance dog welfare included the quality of veterinary care, exercise, educational resources available for owners, responsible ownership and the work of rescue and welfare organisations.

RVC Researcher Emma Buckland, said: "We have a special relationship with dogs, and the view generally held by society is that dogs should have 'a good life'; however, on average, stakeholders suggested that companion dogs in Great Britain may have a poorer quality of life, and described over 30 welfare issues that may affect them."

"The study sets out future priorities. Addressing the most pressing welfare issues and maximising positive experiences can improve companion dog welfare and quality of life".

Recent work estimates the companion dog population to be approximately ten million in the United Kingdom. In the past, surveillance of welfare standards within the companion animal population has received relatively little scientific attention compared with farm and laboratory species.

Do hens have friends? — It seems not!

A study at RVC has found that hens reared in commercial conditions do not form friendships and are not particular about who they spend time with.

The research published by Applied Animal Behaviour Science on 15th January 2013, was carried out to discover if the welfare of chickens

could be improved by taking advantage of 'friendships'.

The RVC's Dr Siobhan Abeyesinghe, said: "We investigated the possibility that domesticated egg-laying hens form distinct 'friendships' by examining whether or not individual chickens were particular about who they spent

most time with. This is not so odd a question as you might think: in humans and other species, friendships have been shown to enrich life positively, buffer against stressful experiences and even improve reproductive success. "

The movements of eight identical

US Military Robotic Cheetah Faster than Usain Bolt



The world's fastest robot has now left the world's fastest man behind.

Scientists at RVC have studied the cheetah in the African wild for over five years, to create the world's fastest robot. Funded by the US military, the Robotic Cheetah has now beaten the fastest man Usain Bolt.

RVC's expert of locomotor biomechanics Alan Wilson said the robot has now clocked 29 miles per hour compared to Bolt's speed of 27. A real cheetah can clock 70 miles per hour.

Robot designers Boston Dynamics look to nature for inspiration for the

design of a dynamic free four legged robot.

Alan's role in the Cheetah project was to study the animal in the wild and translate the mechanics of cheetah locomotion into engineering principles that can be used by robot designers.

Alan said "we studied the cheetah's speed for over five years to understand the basic principles of how animals run, remain stable and use their muscles. This would help make legged robots that are faster and more capable on varied terrain." Dr John R Hutchinson, Professor of evolutionary bio-mechanics at RVC added "the cheetah robot can greatly help military technology.

It can help create fast vehicles with manoeuvrability in all types of terrain. A machine inspired by this robot can one day outrun a normal soldier, or tank and even help in rescue and search operations."

The experts studied cheetahs from several sources - including the wild - high-speed video cameras and motion sensors (attached to collars).

Dr Hutchinson adds that the battery on the collar were solar powered which helped scientists follow and study the cheetahs for years without a break. For this work the team used a 30 gram GPS inertial measurement unit

attached to a collar on the cheetah. The data from the unit gave measures of speed, position, acceleration and orientation.

From these measurements angular velocity and acceleration can be calculated during the many twists and turns that the cheetah performs when hunting, the scientists said.

Alan who is leader of the Locomotion (muscle, tendon and biomechanics) Research Group, has been awarded a grant of £600,000 to study the dynamics and energetics of hunting in the cheetah, in order to identify what enables cheetahs to sprint so fast.

The collars monitored where the cheetah is and what it is doing - resting, walking, and most importantly, hunting and only collects detailed information when the cheetah is moving quickly (logging data up to 300 times per second).

"From the data, we reconstructed the exact movement of the cheetah during a hunt," Alan added.

groups of 15 laying hens were monitored over eight weeks examining whether pairs of birds were found together more often than expected by chance when they were active and when roosting at night.

"We found no evidence to suggest that modern hens reared in commercial conditions form such friendships, even when they are housed in small groups where it is possible to know every other bird. This suggests that, at present, fostering of friendships cannot be



used as a way to improve the welfare of chicken." More research is now required to determine whether this apparent lack of 'Best Friends Forever'

(BFFs) is true of the chicken's ancestor, the Red Junglefowl, or whether the early social experiences of domesticated hens affect their formation of specific friendships in later life.

The research was funded by Biotechnology and Biological Research Council (BBSRC).

RVC Farm Animal Society (RVCFAS)

The RVCFAS have recently been awarded a grant from the Alumni Annual Fund to extend the barns for their stock. Here are some photos of them building the barns. Thank you to all alumni who donate to the Annual Fund and enabled the club to be able to accommodate their award winning Aberdeen Angus herd through the winter and securely enclose their newly calved cows.



Turkey Dissections

For the second year running students and staff came together in the New Lecture Theatre on the Friday before Christmas to enjoy a lecture on how to carve a turkey.



This essential life skill was demonstrated by the RVC's Richard Prior, butcher by training, who now works in the Postmortem room at Hawkshead and was commented on by Dr Sarah Williams, Lecturer in veterinary anatomy and Dr Renate Weller, Senior Lecturer in diagnostic imaging (and yes, they all washed their hands and changed clothes before the carving...!).

The enormous turkey was provided by our very own Bolton's Park Farm and we can attest that it tasted delicious. This talk is part of the 'RVC - Life Skills' series. The lectures provide vital skills that are not part of the veterinary curriculum but always handy to have (vet or no vet) and have included things such as how to change a car tyre.

If you have any ideas on what should be included in this series then please contact Renate on rweller@rvc.ac.uk, she would love to hear from you.



RVC footballers win through to land first-ever VIFA Cup

We are well known for the quality of our veterinary graduates, but it appears our footballers are pretty handy too.

In November, the College staged the first European Veterinary Students Football Championship with teams from Liège in Belgium and Zaragoza in Spain competing for the inaugural VIFA Cup.

However, despite the quality of the international opposition, it was the RVC lads who made home advantage count after powering their way to the final before beating Liège 2-0 to land the coveted cup.

RVC FC sports correspondent Matt Link said: "Overall the day was a huge success, players from each team swapped shirts and many friends were made. Already the wheels are in motion to make the tournament a regular occurrence, something that would be welcomed by all those who participated in this year's event."



Although RVC entered two teams in the competition it was the "firsts" who did the damage with Tom Mcparland opening their account with a 35-yard thunderbolt in a 3-0 romp against Zaragoza.

In their next match, RVC 1 took on RVC 2 where, thanks in large part to a hat-trick from Alex Hirst, they booked their place in the final with a comfortable 5-0 against their severely subdued stablemates.

Liege were waiting in the final and it turned out to be a sizzling showpiece with the Belgians playing some pretty football before the home side snatched the lead when Robert Pope lashed

Siddharth Sudunagunta's cross into the top corner from just inside the penalty area.

With their opponents reeling, RVC wasted no time pressing home their advantage when Charlie May slotted home his second of the tournament to make it 2-0.

Liège battled gamely to find a foothold, but with the RVC back four of Nick Ibbotson, Liam Barnet, Chris Snow and Jamie Cole in superb form, there was no way back for the beleaguered Belgians.

'Alien' – Prize winning photograph

An image created by an RVC PhD student, in collaboration with staff at the University of London's School of Pharmacy, has won a competition.

The image of the head of an embryonic zebrafish, by RVC's Kim Wager and David McCarthy and Annie Cavanagh of the School of Pharmacy, was one of the winners of the 2012 FEI Image Contest. The photo entitled 'Alien', was the September/October winner in the natural world category of the competition.

Commenting on the image, Kim said: "The image is of a four day-old zebrafish larvae and was taken using scanning electron microscopy. It was then pseudo-coloured using photoshop pixel by pixel. I am researching neurodegeneration and this healthy larva was imaged alongside a mutant to compare their morphology."

Kim is currently developing a disease model that will be used for drug discovery and could open the door to a treatment for JNCL (Batten Disease) patients. It's such a rare disease that it lacks decent levels of funding, so cheap and novel methods to search for therapies are crucial if we are ever going to be able to treat this debilitating, fatal childhood disease.

Kim has also recently won an oral presentation award at the 2nd International Juvenile Neuronal Ceroid Lipofuscinosis (JNCL) PhD Symposium in March. Kim was asked to present his talk entitled: A Novel Zebafish Model of JCNL' at the 7th European 'Brains for Brain' meeting in Frankfurt.



John Fishwick (RVC Staff)



In October John Fishwick was appointed the Head of a new academic department at the RVC which came into existence in January this year - The Department of Production and Population Health

The department has brought together our work in sustainable animal health production, population medicine and public health with our skills in epidemiology, welfare science and economics. It will focus on a wide range of issues contributing to the major global challenge of feeding a growing global population through sustainable and ethical farming methods.

We wish John well with this exciting new initiative. Hopefully we will catch up with John in the next issue of Eclipse to learn about the latest developments in the new department.

The College has also been designated a Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) Reference Centre in Veterinary Epidemiology and is one of only two such centres in the world and the only one of its kind in the UK.

Lance Lanyon made Honorary Fellow of the RCVS

Lance Lanyon, former RVC Principal, has been made an honorary fellow of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS).

Professor Lanyon, served as Principal from 1989 until 2004 and is a professor emeritus of the RVC. He is also a visiting professor at the University of Bristol.

During his time as Principal, the intake on the College's BVetMed degree increased from 70 to more than 200 and the RVC's veterinary nursing degree was established. Professor Lanyon also presided over building work at the College while working to ensure the institution received independent funding from the Higher Education Council. The clinical caseload at the College increased significantly during Professor Lanyon's time as Principal, allowing the RVC to train more postgraduate scholars.

RCVS honorary fellowships are awarded to veterinary surgeons whose service to veterinary science far exceeds the standards ordinarily required of members of the profession. The selection process involves an election after nominations have been made.

Professor Lanyon received the honour at RCVS Day, at the Royal College of Physicians in London in July last year. During the awards ceremony, Professor Lanyon was praised for his "very valuable contributions" to the RCVS, within which he has served as a council member and a member of visitation groups. As a member and sometimes chair of RCVS visitations groups, Professor Lanyon has travelled around the UK, Africa and Australia to ensure other veterinary schools are functioning well.

Many congratulations to Professor Lanyon.



Peter Jinman OBE (1974)

Peter Jinman's career since leaving the RVC in 1974 has gone from strength to strength. He has recently been chosen as one of three members of the public appointed to the House of Commons Committee on Standards which is set up to investigate complaints about MPs.

As lay member of the committee Peter will undertake training in the culture and practices of Parliament and the committee will sit on an ad-hoc basis as and when there is an issue to consider.

Our congratulations to Peter in this new role.

Mark Spurdens (1988)

Chair of trustees of The Jean Sainsbury Animal Welfare Trust



Mark finds time between managing a mixed practice in Shropshire to be Chair of the Trustees of The Jean Sainsbury Animal Welfare Trust. Mark also interviews candidates for the BVetMed degree each year. We spoke to him about his career.

When were you at the RVC and what have you done since?

I started at RVC as a graduate entrant into the second year of the BVetMed course in 1984, having completed a degree in physiology at The University of Liverpool. I was president of the Students' Union Society in 1987 and graduated in 1988.

After a year in mixed practice in Cheshire and two years in Maidstone, I moved to Ellemere in Shropshire in 1991. I became a partner in 1995 and am now the managing partner in a five vet mixed practice. I have maintained contact with the RVC via the alumni office and take part in the annual interview process for the BVetMed course.

How and when did you get involved in the Trust? What is your current role?

In 1987 I was asked to show two visitors around the newly-completed first phase of the Queen Mother Hospital at Hawkshead. The visitors were Mr and Mrs Sainsbury. Mrs Sainsbury had made a substantial donation to the hospital. Two years later, Mrs Sainsbury wrote to me asking if I would be interested in joining the trustees of her animal welfare charity. I was the first vet to join the Board of Trustees. I took over as Chairman of Trustees last November.

Jean Sainsbury had an extraordinary life - tell us about the influences on her character and decisions.

Jean Sainsbury (nee Lyttle) was estranged from her father – an American newspaper proprietor – for many years. She had a successful career in publishing and edited a film magazine. She met and married Cyril Sainsbury, who worked in the Bank of England, and they had a comfortable but not extravagant lifestyle.

Her life changed when she received news of her father's death and also that she was the main beneficiary of his substantial estate. Jean then spent the next 20 years giving away the money. She sought out and visited her American cousins and gave each of them some money and gave the rest to her three favourite causes: children, animals and opera.



She gave a million pounds to the Wishing Well Appeal at Great Ormond Street Hospital and set up the Jean Sainsbury Royal Opera House Fund, which continues to sponsor a production each year at Covent Garden.

The Jean Sainsbury Animal Welfare Trust, established in 1982, gives grants to smaller animal rescue and rehoming organisations.

Whilst Jean and Cyril (known as Squib) also enjoyed life after her inheritance, they both took great interest and pleasure in the charity she established. Her profound generosity to so many good causes is a lesson for us all.

Two of the trustees are veterinary surgeons - did Jean Sainsbury make it a requirement that there are always veterinary trustees?

The original trustees were a small group of Jean's friends. This was expanded over the years and I became the first vet trustee in 1989. Michelle Allen (nee O'Brien) is also an RVC Graduate. She is the granddaughter of Jean's cousin and joined the trustees in 2006. There is no requirement for vets to be trustees of the charity but clearly a veterinary input is useful to an animal welfare charity (as is the legal and financial expertise which other trustees bring).

People within the College and alumni will be aware of the trust's support for the Beaumont hospital. What other key projects has the trust funded?

The charity's main objective is to support smaller registered animal welfare charities with grants of £2000 to £10,000 for general day-to-day running costs as well as small number of grants of £10,000 to £30,000 towards capital and building projects. However, the Trust has supported the Beaumont for many years with grants to help subsidise the cost of veterinary treatment for those on low incomes.

Jean always had a soft spot for the Beaumont and so after her death the trustees decided to make a one off donation of £1 million to the hospital in her memory. Together with further funds from the RVC, this allowed the complete refurbishment of the hospital. It was officially re-opened on 18th May 2011 - on what would have been Jean's 86th birthday - as 'Beaumont Sainsbury Animal Hospital'.

How many applications for donations does the Trust get each year?

The Jean Sainsbury Animal Welfare Trust celebrated its 30th birthday in October 2012 and marked the occasion by passing £7 million pounds of grants awarded. With a fund value of over £12 million and annual income of over £400,000, grants are awarded to over 100 charities each year.

Mark is also currently organising a reunion on 21st and 22nd September for the 1988 graduating year as 2013 celebrates their 25th anniversary. If you are interested in attending please contact Mark to register your interest at spurdens@supanet.com.

RVC success at the RCVS

2013 saw one of the highest turn outs for voting in the RCVS elections in over ten years, with nearly half of the vets who did vote selecting the RVC's Dr Tom Witte. Tom becomes the fourth person from the RVC to sit on the current council joining our other members Prof Stephen May, Prof Stuart Reid and Prof Peter Lees. The other five vets elected to Council were all standing for re-election.

This brings the total number of RVC graduates or staff on Council to 9 (21%).

Professor Stuart Reid



From July 2014, the RVC's Principal Stuart Reid will become the RCVS junior Vice President. Professor Reid will be Vice President for a year before serving as RCVS President from July 2014 until July 2015. He will continue his role at the RVC throughout the presidential term.

"We must ensure that, as a profession, we are dedicated to new knowledge discovery, its dissemination and its application for the good of our animals and the broader public, at the same time as maintaining the highest standards of quality and governance. These ideals sit more than comfortably beside those of RVC and, with recent changes in the executive structures at RCVS, I look forward to the challenges."

Lord Curry of Kirkharle, Chairman of Council added: "I am delighted to hear of this news as it demonstrates that RVC is engaged with the profession and is committed to having its most senior staff serve the profession in leadership roles. As a Council, we congratulate our Principal and the reflected esteem this appointment brings to RVC."

Stuart said "I am delighted and honoured. I have been aware for some time that it is important that those of us in academia support and contribute to the body that regulates the profession. We have a duty to work with those from practice – both vets and nurses – and other branches of veterinary medicine to ensure we serve society as best we can."

Professor Stephen May

In 2012, Stephen was elected to serve on the RCVS Council. Stephen commented "It is a huge honour to be elected to the Council by members of my profession. As all who know me can testify, I feel strongly about the responsibility of RCVS for the profession, and look forward to the challenge of working with and balancing the interests of all stakeholders in these difficult times".

Stephen currently chairs the RCVS Legislation and Advanced Practitioner Working Parties and is also a member of the Day One Competences Working Party.

Professor Stephen May, Deputy Principal (formerly Vice-Principal for teaching and learning at the RVC), has also been presented with the prestigious Betts Prize in recognition of his commitment to excellence and his contribution to the advancement of the RVC.

Professor May received the award at Graduation last July. Paying tribute to Professor May, RVC Principal Stuart Reid said: "It is fitting that Stephen, who has had a career life long commitment to the teaching of veterinary surgeons, nurses and bioveterinary scientists, should receive the Betts Prize. Together with our colleagues, Stephen continues to promote innovation and excellence, reflecting the ethos promoted so well by former Principal Betts, in whose honour the award is presented."



Dr Tom Witte

Dr Tom Witte has been elected onto RCVS Council with the highest number of votes in many years. We asked Tom about this achievement and his new role.

Having received the highest number of votes in the election, how do you feel?

Obviously, I am very pleased but also humbled by the support of members and to be part of such an important institution. I am passionate about our profession and believe it is in a position of strength but also that it can be so much more than it currently is. That is what I tried to imbue and what I hope I can help to achieve. I am particularly grateful to all alumni of the RVC. This group was clearly actively engaged with the process and could be relied upon to provide insightful and stimulating comments and questions during the election period. I am proud to call the RVC my Alma Mater.

As a council member, what are your aims for the coming year?

The first year on council will largely be arranging which committees I will be involved in and working with the existing council members to continue the good work of the RCVS. I will be getting involved in the existing projects and tasks that are continuing and hopefully instigating some new ones. I hope also that over the next four years I will be able to convey the story and life of being on Council back to the profession so we can all have a bit more understanding of what is involved.

What are your long-term hopes for the RCVS?

That is quite simple! That we continue to go from strength to strength and excel at being the first rate regulator we want to be.

What will be at the top of your priorities as a Council member?

There are many things I would like to see the RCVS Council achieve, and it will be prudent to wait until I have met all of the other members and found what my skill set can bring to the existing dynamics. But of top priority, no matter what else is achieved, is to ensure that the two way communication is improved between Council and the profession. I should like to determine the best way of doing that.

How do you feel your work as a practising veterinary surgeon has prepared you for your role on the Council?

My background is varied, having been a practicing vet, a researcher and a teacher at the RVC. All of these positions have helped me in different ways. Our profession is varied



and so Council needs to reflect that. My experiences in both general and referral practice really have led me to hone my communication skills which are of vital importance when dealing with clients and other members of the profession.

Having been elected, how do you feel about the changes ahead for the RCVS, as it embarks on the first-rate road to reform?

I have to say I am excited and hopeful. The staff at the RCVS who I have met or I have heard of through reputation have always been exceptionally positive and proactive in their work. Belgravia House is filled with exceptional people and so I can have no doubt about our future. They have set their new mission of evidence based veterinary medicine which will without any doubt be one of the most important endeavours of our profession.

Is there anything else you would like to say to RCVS members?

Just a very large thank you for your support, I am truly humbled by it, and that I will set out and try to do exactly what I have promised. Please do not hesitate to contact me to bring forward any issues via email: tomwittemrcvs@gmail.com

Our congratulations to Tom.

Honours for RVC Staff and Alumni

Viv Heys BEM (1982)

Long-serving RVC staff member and alumna Viv Heys, has received a New Year honour for her services to higher education and animal health.

Vivienne Heys, as many of you will know, has worked at the RVC for 38 years, initially as a technician and subsequently in various teaching and research roles. Her current position is Departmental Superintendent.

She is the recipient of a British Empire Medal (BEM). The award had not been given since 1993, but was revived in 2012 for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. As well as senior members of the College, the nomination for the award was supported by London Fire Brigade and the Society of Biology.

Vivienne has been involved with training London Fire Brigade firefighters in livestock handling, on behalf of the College, since 2001. The collaborative course, drawing on her extensive experience teaching students how to handle animals, was the first such programme in the country.

The course led to Vivienne helping to design a training DVD and, in conjunction with LFB officers and RVC colleagues, developing a large animal rescue kit.

She has been involved with the Society of Biology (and previously the Institute of Biology) for more than 40 years, having joined as an undergraduate zoology student. Vivienne is passionate about nature and has a particular interest in bats and their conservation. This interest has led to her becoming a prominent member of the Bedfordshire Bat Group and leading regular 'bat walks'.

Commenting on her BEM, Vivienne said: "I have been at the RVC for 38 years and involved in research,



Viv Heys with the Lord Lieutenant of Bedfordshire, Mrs Helen Nellis

teaching, health and safety and, more recently, in a more administrative role but I still like to be outside in the barns teaching horse handling to first years whenever I can. I am proud to have been part of the training of London Fire Brigade firefighters in livestock handling for over 11 years to hopefully make their interactions with horses and cattle in a rescue situation a little safer."

She added: "I am delighted to have been awarded the BEM in the Diamond Jubilee year and wish to thank everyone who made it possible."

Ruth Lightfoot-Dunn (1981)

Ruth graduated from the RVC in 1981. She worked initially as a House Surgeon at the Beaumont Hospital. After a brief period in private practice she undertook a PhD at RVC studying an inherited retinal dystrophy in the dog. Since then Ruth's career in the biopharmaceutical industry has spanned more than 20 years working in both the UK and US.

She has been influential in driving international regulatory policy guiding the preclinical development of human biotherapeutics in the US, Europe and Japan. Ruth's career was featured in the last edition of Eclipse and is an inspiration to many.

She was awarded the Doctor of Veterinary Medicine honoris causa of the University of London at the 2012 Graduation ceremony at Freemasons Hall in London for her outstanding



contribution to research and development within the pharmaceutical industry, providing a role model for students of the RVC.

Eric Wynn Jones (1946)

Professor Eric Wynn Jones was appointed an Honorary Fellow of the RVC at the 2011 graduation ceremony at Guildhall in recognition of his support to the College's alumni and the development of veterinary education, particularly within North America.

Wynn graduated from the RVC in 1946 and went on to work as a House Surgeon for the College at Streatley. Apart from a period working at Bristol School, he has spent most of his professional life as an anaesthetist in US veterinary schools.

He has been heavily involved in the development of facilities at Oklahoma State University and Mississippi State University. He has shaped and designed veterinary medicine programmes and continued to innovate and assist new veterinary schools through advisory roles with architects. Professor Jones can be said to have helped build

much of the US veterinary capacity. The combined projects had a capital value of over \$267,000,000.

Professor Jones retired in 1992 as Emeritus Professor from Mississippi State but worked on consultancy roles until 2009. During these later years in particular he has been a reliable and devoted advocate of the RVC and a champion for our US alumni. His has been a truly distinguished career characterised by life-long devotion to the profession and an unstoppable drive to

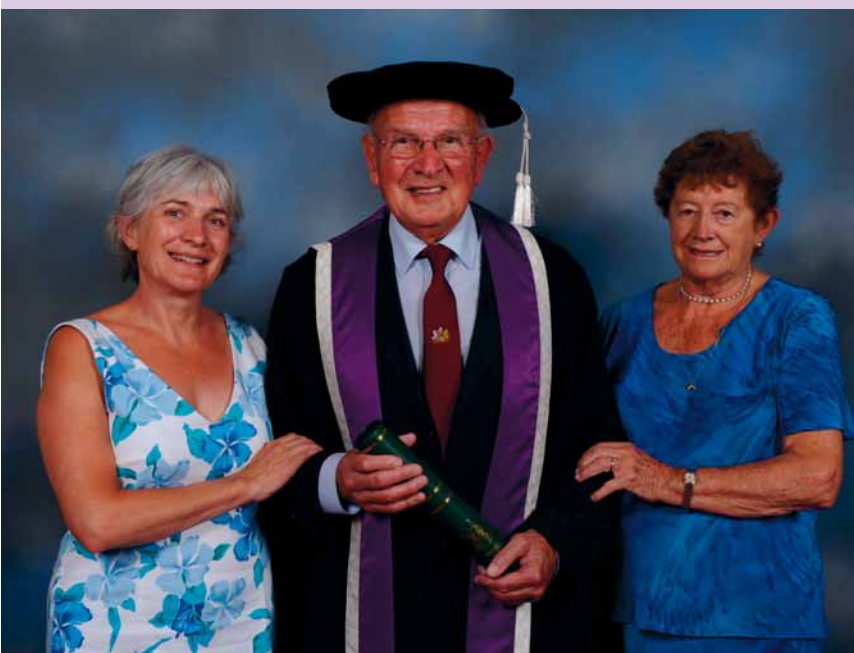
ensure that veterinarians are provided with the very best education that can be delivered.

Professor Jones and Professor Tavernor are lifelong friends and Wynn surprised Derek by coming along to see

Derek receive his Honorary Fellowship at the 2012 graduation ceremony.



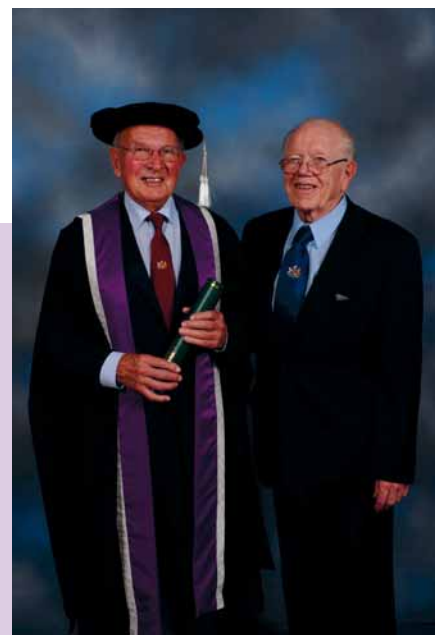
Derek Tavernor (staff from 1957 to 1970)



In July 2012, at the RVC's Graduation ceremony, Professor William Derek Tavernor was awarded an Honorary Fellowship of the RVC in recognition of the outstanding service given to the College and in particular, within the field of animal health and welfare.

Professor Tavernor joined the RVC as a lecturer in Surgery and left as a Senior Lecturer in 1970. Whilst at RVC he obtained a PhD and attained a Fellowship of the RCVS. He was appointed a member of the RVC Council for 25 years from 1975 to 1999 and was very closely involved with all the developments at the RVC.

His career has seen him working for the Home Office, being a visiting Professor at the Justus Liebig University in Giessen and a Visiting Research Professor at Oklahoma State University. He has been President of the BSAA and BVA, a member of the RCVS Council and Master of the Worshipful Company of Farriers. Professor Tavernor has also dedicated 30 years to the Home of Rest for Horses as a Trustee and Honorary Treasurer. He is married with three children and his eldest daughter (pictured to his left) Dr Angela Susan Tavernor is a 1984 RVC graduate.



The 65 Club

Philip Underwood writes:

The 65 club annual reunion took place at Oundle between the 25th -28th October. It was attended by about 32 members and wives.

Our hosts on the spot were Ann and John Kendrick. John was able to give us a tour of the Oundle School from the perspective of an enquiring parent. We were all very impressed with the facilities on offer. They even had an electron microscope! We also spent a day in Stamford and visited a local brewery. The rest of the time was spent reminiscing, wining and dining. The next year we shall be at Wells and Colin Duncan will be our local man on the spot.

In 2015 it will be our 50 year reunion so watch this space!



SAVE THE DATE

Alumni Open Day - Saturday 19th October 2013

Did you graduate in 1938, 1943, 1948, 1953, 1958, 1963, 1968, 1973, 1978, 1983, 1988, 1993, 1998, 2003 or 2008?

Whether it be 75 years since graduation or 5 - we are opening up the RVC to all of you to celebrate these milestones in your career! We would love to host a reunion party for you all - bring along your family, meet up with friends and classmates and see how the College has changed.

Stars in the making...

Michael and Davinia Woodhouse graduated from the RVC in 2006. They specialise mainly in large animal work (85%) and are Directors of Bainbridge Vets in North Yorkshire. They recently featured in the BBC's Countryfile (February 2013).

Countryfile set about following in the footsteps of Britain's most famous vet, Alf Wight who was better known by his pen name, James Herriot. He enthralled readers with his many tales of working in rural Yorkshire

during the 1930s, 40s and 50s.

Countryfile presenter Jules Hudson set out to discover if the colourful

characters of the novels can still be found in the area. They joined Michael and Davinia as they went out on farm rounds through the Dales.



Sophie Ignarski (2010)

Sophie is currently on an intensive management training programme called Darley Flying Start. The programme, which prepares professionals for careers in the thoroughbred racing and breeding sector, has taken her around the world.

When were you at the RVC and what have you been doing since you left?

I graduated from the BVetMed course in July 2010, and shortly afterwards took up an internship position at the Sharjah Equine Hospital, a clinic in the United Arab Emirates providing services mainly to endurance horse clients. While I was in the UAE I applied for the Darley Flying Start programme and commenced that in Ireland in August 2011.

What is Darley Flying Start and why did you choose to join the programme?

It's a two-year international management training programme specialising in thoroughbred racing and breeding. Twelve trainees are selected each year and it is sponsored by the ruler of Dubai, Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum.

The programme involves academic study and practical work in five different countries - Ireland, England, USA, Australia and Dubai. Trainees are exposed to every aspect of the thoroughbred industry, from completing a full breeding season in Kentucky to attending the Melbourne Cup. There is a significant emphasis on personal development, leadership training and business skills.

I chose to join the programme because my interest in the thoroughbred industry had grown significantly during my time at the RVC, mainly as a result of the extramural studies placements I had completed (including the National Stud and the Animal Health Trust) as well as my family's own interest in breeding and racing thoroughbreds. I wanted to get a broader and more in-depth experience of all facets of the industry - not just the veterinary side - as well as have the chance to learn about different racing jurisdictions globally.

Many people on the programme are not vets so what advantages do you think you have on the course with your background?

Our group of twelve is extremely diverse with seven nationalities represented and a range of different career aspirations, so it makes for a good mix of backgrounds and experiences.

Several vets have completed the course in the past and have taken up a range of jobs in the industry, from racetrack practice to working in stallion nominations and bloodstock management. It has been very useful to come into the course with a veterinary background, giving me a better understanding of certain issues, such as why a horse may get vetted out at a sale and the impact on performance of problems like lameness or bleeding. It's also helped me to get a better grip on many topical issues affecting racing, such as the use of medications in the USA.

RVC is extremely progressive in relation to business skills education - how has this helped you on the Flying Start programme?

The core business modules that I did during my time at the RVC prepared me well. Over the remaining few months of the programme we have to produce a full business plan and in preparation have attended lectures in Dubai on a range of subjects, including finance and marketing. One memorable



aspect of the course was having to pitch a business idea to a panel of real investors in America (Dragons Den style). It was nerve-wracking - to say the least - but a great experience looking back on it.

When do you complete the programme and what do you intend to do afterwards?

We graduate from the programme in Ireland in July. I am interested in all aspects of the industry, including sales and bloodstock, so hopefully something in that area.

The course involves extensive travel and new experiences - what have been the highlights for you so far?

It's difficult to sum them up as there have been so many. Attending the Kentucky Derby was an unforgettable experience. Last year I was fortunate to be able to complete a work placement with the Hong Kong Jockey Club which was a great opportunity to learn about one of the leading racing organisations in the world.

One of the best aspects of the course is being able to have access to key industry figures that you would otherwise never get to meet. One particular highlight was meeting Sir Mark Prescott at his yard in Newmarket, where he showed us his spectacular facilities - which were all designed as if from the horse's perspective - as well as providing us with a very memorable and colourful account of his career history and life as a trainer.



Peter Laing (1952)

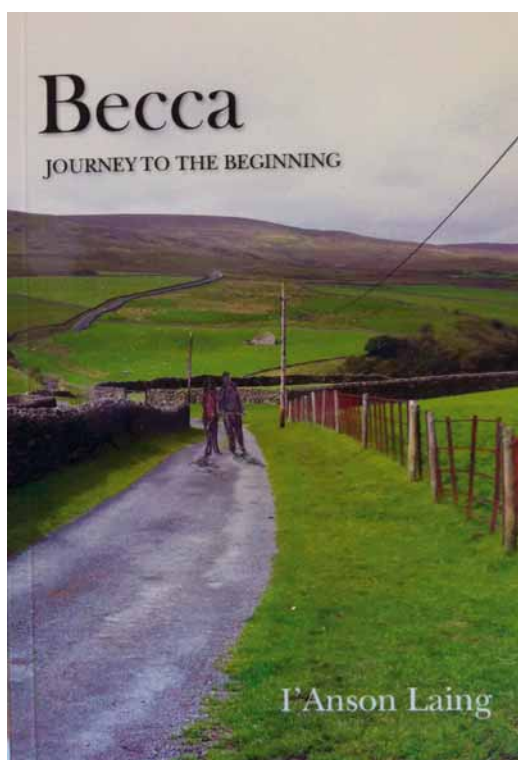
Peter Laing has recently published a book, 'Becca, Journey to the Beginning,' written under an old family Christian name of I'Anson Laing. It is 'a different kind of veterinary book' and is a serious romantic novel in a veterinary and university setting.

He has always had close contact with the RVC; as a student qualifying in 1952 and then as a junior member of staff at the college practice in Wallingford under Joe Holmes and later external lecturer in poultry pathology with Calvert Appleby, both of whom became lifelong friends. Other major RVC personalities who influenced his career included the charismatic Professor Amoroso, Les Vaughan, Geoff Arthur, and Ernest Cotchin who with Reg Lovell fired his special interest in pathology.

Over forty years practicing in Herefordshire he developed a diagnostic and food hygiene laboratory (Favlabs), lectured at Harper Adams Agricultural College under Harold Temperton, ran courses and examined in Poultry Meat Hygiene for the Royal Society of Health, was a national tutor for the ATB and also undertook consultancies for the British Council and British Executive Services Overseas, most recently in Northern China. He also wrote a poultry veterinary textbook. Always involved with conservation and animal welfare, when his children were young he started a Panda club in Leominster for the World Wildlife Fund's early days with Peter Scott and has written widely in agricultural and countryside magazines and even occasionally featured on television.

When asked about 'Becca, Journey to the Beginning,' he said: "It was a book that I just had to write. I felt that during the last thirty years some aspects of veterinary work and teaching had become increasingly depersonalised and 'slick'. The importance of allowing time to build empathy between the vet, the animals and the farmers and owners in order to reach a holistic diagnosis was becoming devalued and I wanted to try to capture and record some of the magic and empathy with animals and people that is part of the real 'art' of being a vet. Also, in my association with

young people I had become concerned that many grow up in a culture in which depersonalisation, the undervaluation of in-depth relationships, and the trivialisation of sex are increasingly the norm. But it all looked horribly patronising and dated for a book until I suddenly thought that the threads could be brought into a romantic novel where the central developing deep relationship between two ambitious young people was woven into an authentic veterinary and university background. From that moment the book wrote itself. The characters completely took me over and told me exactly what to write and it was actually really weird! But when I wrote the last word I thought it had turned out OK."



A donation to the RVC Animal Care Trust is included in every copy sold.

The book is available at £12.50 (£15 delivered within UK) through the RVC Animal Care Trust's online shop at www.rvc.ac.uk/act or by calling on (01707) 666237 or from Peter at The Old School House, Staunton-on-Arrow, Leominster, Herefordshire HR6 9HR.

Royal Veterinary College Graduates Association (RVCGA) News



Saturday 16th June 2012 was quite a significant day for the RVCGA.

Trevor Turner writes:

Over 25 of us plus a number of members of the Odiham Society gathered outside

the historic George Hotel to celebrate the unveiling of a Blue Plaque acknowledging the role played by the Odiham Agricultural Society in 1785 when they agreed to fund the development of scientific farriery in order to provide a sound basis for the diagnosis of treatment of disease in livestock.

This in essence was how the first veterinary college in the country started at Camden, then on the outskirts of London, which opened in 1791.

The Association's grateful thanks go to the Odiham Society because without them it is likely that we would have had a very much more difficult job, and indeed, may not have been successful since a similar plaque

commemorating a totally unrelated event was already adorning the outside of the George, which is a Grade 2 listed building. Our thanks to the Odiham Society.

That was not the only piece of luck! Immediately after the unveiling it started to pour with rain but luckily I managed to secure a few photographs before we all hurried in out of the downpour.

We then held our AGM and afterwards had time to chat with various members of the Odiham Society. It was altogether a pleasant afternoon followed by an equally enjoyable dinner at the hotel, a fitting celebration to mark a very important piece of history as far as the British profession is concerned.

Spring Meeting – April 2013

President Arlene Couslon reports

As far as we know, the 18th April is only a commemorative National Holiday in Zimbabwe (celebrates independence from the UK in 1980) but this year it also marked a distinctly commemorative feeling at the RVC.

The Spring Meeting of the RVCGA was held at the Camden site and came in three parts: a tour of the Beaumont Sainsbury hospital; a tour of the Camden facilities and dinner at the Farmers Club. Around 30 alumni gathered in the now enclosed – formerly open-air – courtyard which is the Lightwell at the RVC. Graduates from the 1980's, 70's, 60's, & 50's were then guided by a cohort of RVC Student Ambassadors to the newly refurbished Beaumont Sainsbury Animal Hospital. Being guided was a definite need: as some of the delegates had not set foot in the RVC since the 1950s – and some of them had not seen each other for almost as long!

Thanks to the courtesy and time given by Anne Richings (Hospital Manager) and her team we barely recognised the site now extensively re-furnished, re-equipped and re-populated by a team of over 20 staff (plus weekly allocations of students undertaking clinical rotations!). It is somewhat chastening to remember that the original Beaumont Hospital was founded 80 years previously thanks to the generosity of a Yorkshire lady in memory of her father, Mr J Beaumont of Huddersfield, and the modern hospital was renamed in memory of Jean Sainsbury – a generous benefactor to the College in modern times.

The major changes to teaching, research and leisure facilities at Camden – a former staff common room is now the 'bone room'; the Great Hall is now a tiered lecture theatre, etc – have in large part been driven by the increasing student numbers, with a final year now running at around 240 undergraduates. Part three of the Meeting was a dinner at the Farmers Club in Whitehall Court held in the Eastwood Room and enjoyed

by all. The Association's guest of Honour was the RVC's Principal, Professor Stuart Reid, who presented both an account of the many changes in the financial (improving); academic (strong); and student (increasing and demand led) positions at the College. A wish to work closely with alumni and graduates of the College was emphasised – and reciprocated from many of those present during question time.

Our thanks go to Prof Reid, Vicki Laing and her team of Student Ambassadors, Anne Richings and colleagues at the Sainsbury Beaumont Animal Hospital and of course to Peter Jinman for facilitating the dinner venue; but most of all to those alumni who joined us to celebrate some of the more significant changes at the RVC's Camden site.

For further details on the RVCGA contact Arlene:
dvrarlene@btinternet.com

Laura McFarlane (2012)



Volunteering in Bangladesh has been an inspiring and life-enhancing journey for an Australian vet, who was afforded the opportunity to experience working in a less developed country.

Sharing knowledge and technologies

Laura Macfarlane, a Veterinary Officer with the State Government of Victoria, Australia had always wanted to volunteer overseas to share her knowledge with those in less well resourced countries and in turn gain an insight into disease control in an endemic, low-income context.

Her employer was very supportive of her desire to work overseas and granted her leave from her job so she could accept a volunteer role in Bangladesh with the Australian Volunteers for International Development program, an Australian Government initiative.

Laura was placed as a Disease Surveillance and Epidemiology Officer in Bangladesh with the Food and Agricultural Organisation of the United Nations where she was involved in a project to strengthen emergency preparedness and response for highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI).

Avian influenza impacts both animal and human populations in Bangladesh and can cause high mortalities in susceptible poultry populations. It therefore threatens the livelihood and even the very existence of farmers and their families.

Laura was motivated by the fact that improvements in livestock production, such as disease control measures, have been shown to help alleviate poverty in vulnerable groups, such as women smallholders. In turn, increased female wealth has been shown to have a positive influence on childhood education rates, health and population control. "I have a fundamental belief that it is important for people in developed countries to transfer knowledge and technologies to low income countries as this can quickly improve living standards and self-sufficiency".

A commitment to personal development

While she was working in Australia Laura started studying for her Masters in Veterinary Epidemiology and Public Health, which she completed while living in Bangladesh. This programme is developed and managed by the RVC and

can be studied worldwide by distance learning. One of the reasons Laura chose the course was because it was both internationally recognised and also very flexible, enabling her studies to be fitted around her work commitments.

Laura believes that the best part about being a student was being challenged to learn on a daily basis, and then being able to apply that to her job. 'What I enjoyed most about this course was how practical it was, both in applying it to my job in Australia, and my volunteering in Bangladesh.

Being prepared for the challenges of a different culture

When thinking about the challenges in taking on an assignment in a new country, Laura feels that effective communication can be a challenge. 'In Australia, communication, both work and personal, is often electronic, whereas in Bangladesh it is very important to talk to people face-to-face or by phone. I have come to value the more personal Bangladeshi approach in this respect.' For anyone, considering volunteering in a low income country, Laura advises undertaking thorough background research on the organisation you are planning to work in.

Laura found that living and working in a new country is very rewarding but it can also be challenging. 'Learning about the culture, customs and country before I left Australia helped prepare me (to a degree!) for Bangladesh. It is also a good idea to try and learn at least a little of the language of the country before you go there. I am really lucky to have friends in Australia who were born in Bangladesh so I could talk to them about what I should expect and learn basic (very basic) Bengali.

New perspectives on accountability

Participating on the volunteer programme has given Laura some invaluable insights. 'Instead of trying to maximise profits as with private organisations, non-government and intergovernmental organisations are focused on maximising benefits to stakeholders such as communities or farmers. While there are similarities between working in government and with an international organisation, there are also noticeable differences. The focus has shifted to project-based work rather than ongoing periodical tasks, and accountability is to donors rather than taxpayers.

The experience of a life time

Volunteering in Bangladesh has been the experience of a lifetime for Laura. She has particularly enjoyed the opportunity to work directly with the Government of Bangladesh veterinary epidemiologists, providing support, advice and assisting with capacity building. Working for the United Nations in-country I have also gained an incredible insight into the role of intergovernmental organisations on both a global and a local scale. What Laura has enjoyed most about volunteering is the passion her colleagues have about their work and how this can positively impact their local communities.

For more information on postgraduate programmes in Veterinary Health by distance learning please see www.londoninternational.ac.uk/rvc

RVC Annual Funds - Where have the funds been spent?

A huge thank you to everyone who donates to the Annual Fund. Over the past year the fund has helped a variety of student initiatives and awards.

Alumni Awards

In the 2012/13 academic year 2 awards were made to students about to enter their 3rd year of study. The awards are £1,000 each and help those awarded with the transition to final year for BSc students or the move from Camden to Hawkshead for the BVetMed students. The award has helped ease the financial burden at vital stages of a course.

The RVC Farm Animal Society

received an award of just over £2,800 from alumni annual funds to extend the accommodation for their Aberdeen Angus herd (see pictures on page 20).

SU Minibus

The SU were awarded a grant of just under £10,000 towards the cost of a new minibus. The 'Frean Machine' as it is known by students is a 16 seater minibus which can be hired for use by any club or society and now joins 'The Steadman' minibus; together the SU minibus fleet! The SU are extremely grateful to alumni for their support.

Clubs & Societies

There are a number of clubs and societies that have benefitted from matched funding awards made from the Annual Fund, these include:

The Undergraduate Research Team (URT) who received a grant of £1,500 towards their trip to Madagascar to research African Swine Fever Virus (ASFV) - the team raised funds from their Mr RVC 2013 night which took place at Scala in London's Kings Cross. The 2013 winner was Jonny Fair.

The URT would also like to thank ex-URT members. These alumni donated a total of £863.03 to the cause. If you would like to follow the team's progress visit: rvc.ac.uk\URT



The RVC Boat Club received a grant of £180.26. The team fundraised by holding a dinner in February for members.

There are still applications in the pipeline for grants for the RVC Women's Rugby team and the RVC Badminton Club.

How YOU can help current RVC students

The Annual Fund supports four key areas across the College:

Promoting Academic Excellence - to support teaching and research projects aimed at promoting academic excellence.

Attracting the best - to award bursaries, scholarships and grants to potential students, lessening the financial burden of studying.

Enhancing the student experience - to provide additional educational and recreational resources and support student clubs and societies.

Principal's Priority Fund - a flexible fund enabling us to react quickly to the needs of students at the RVC.

If you would like to donate to the Fund or set up a regular gift to support the RVC please contact the Development Office development@rvc.ac.uk or call (01707) 666237.

You can make a real difference for our students.

Other types of support:

The RVC is enormously grateful to all alumni who support the College financially, however, there are a number of other ways you can help RVC students and have a positive effect on their futures.

Some of the areas where we need your help are:

Facilitating an EMS placement
Providing accommodation for students on placements
Advertising Graduate Jobs

We also often call on our alumni to act as ambassadors or represent the RVC at various events.



If you are able to help, please contact Vicki Laing on 01707 666965 or e-mail development@rvc.ac.uk

The RVC is very proud of its Alumni and we pay tribute to all those no longer with us who have devoted their lives to the veterinary profession.

Myra Clarke (1938)

Second woman in the world to gain the FRCVS

Myra Louisa Clarke (nee Bingham) died on June 4th 2012, at the age of 95. Entering the RVC in Camden Town before her 17th birthday, she had been attracted to the profession by Sir Frederick Hobday's recent campaign to recruit more women. She threw herself into college life with huge enthusiasm, gaining a gold medal in her 1st year, captaining the women's swimming club, and becoming President of the Women's Union in her final year. Graduating MRCVS in 1938, she was offered a lecturer's post in parasitology at the RVC, initially in London but presently evacuated to Streatley (Reading) where she remained until after the war. During this time, she worked on her parasitology thesis which led to her becoming – in 1952 – the 2nd woman in the world to gain the FRCVS – narrowly beaten to 1st place by the late Joan Joshua.

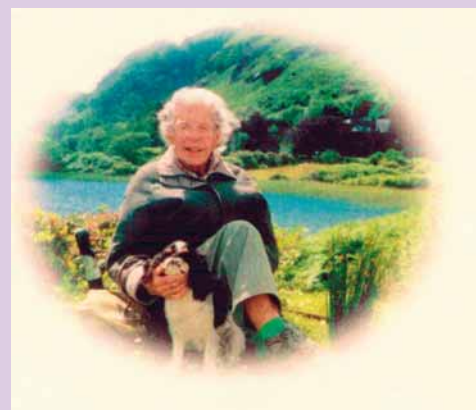
During the war she met her husband to be, Dr George Clarke, already lecturing in chemistry at the college, and later to become Professor of Chemical Toxicology, gaining international distinction in many fields. Together, they revised Garner's Veterinary Toxicology in the 60's which led to "Clarke and Clarke" becoming for years a standard reference book on many surgery shelves.

After the arrival of their daughter Jean, later to enter medicine, she joined forces with a former college friend, Sally Stuckey: together they started from scratch a small animal practice in rural Berkshire, which grew and thrived for over twenty years. A fascinating collection of anecdotes for those days was planned for publication, but Alf Wight (Herriot) beat her to it! However, they survive in her memoirs.



George's death and retirement to Sandwich led to a final chapter in her career, when during the 80's she worked for Pfizer, collating data from recent "Paratect" trials in cattle.

Until her last few months she kept up avidly with veterinary reading, and with attendance at every possible Alumnus activity with her lifelong close friend, the late Mary Brancker. She will long be remembered for her unbounded enthusiasm and huge capacity for friendship.



Andrew Madel

RVC Staff

Jet Jones, Huw Williams, Hugh Reed, Viv Heys and David Noakes write: As friends and former colleagues it is difficult to think of a teacher in any veterinary school who had a greater positive influence on, and was held in such high regard and affection by students, than Andrew Madel.

Andrew was born in Whitchurch Shropshire in 1944. After completing 'A' levels he was admitted to the Cambridge Veterinary School in 1963 and graduated in 1969; he always used to comment that he was one of a year of 12 students. He joined Nigel Carter as an assistant in practice in Herefordshire, before leaving in 1971 to work in Australia as well as in New Zealand. It was in the former, that he met his wife Ros; they married in 1973. They subsequently returned to the UK and in 1974 he enrolled on the post graduate Diploma in Animal Health (subsequently the MSc) which had been established at the RVC in 1966. On completion, he was an assistant in farm animal practice in Frodsham Cheshire before being appointed a Lecturer in the Department of Animal Husbandry at the RVC in 1976.

He was promoted to Senior Lecturer in 1987, a post he held until he retired in February 2005; in the latter years because of his physical disability this was on a part time

basis. Thus he loyally served the RVC for 29 years and 9 months. In 1974, Andrew was diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis, but despite what must have been a devastating prognosis, Andrew continued with the same enthusiasm and commitment in his many academic roles at the RVC. In 1985 he completed a part time course at the Institute of

Education in the University of London for the Diploma in Teaching and Course Development in Higher Education. He was the first and only member of academic staff at the RVC to do this. As an outstanding natural and inspiring teacher, I remember asking him why he did the course, he replied "because I want to be a better teacher."

One of us witnessed at first hand on many occasions outside on a cold winter's day Andrew cheerfully supervising foot-trimming classes at Boltons Park Farm from his wheelchair. His teaching was stimulating and challenging, although it was sad to see his frustration at not being able to wield the hoof knife and clippers himself. Andrew's teaching forte was the small group tutorial. Long



before it became fashionable for role playing as a teaching method, Andrew would assume the role of a cantankerous sheep or dairy farmer, or a knowledgeable wealthy horse owner or a concerned dog owner and the student would assume the role of the veterinary surgeon. Many students will remember his signature 'Madelisms' to

emphasis a point such as "rare as hen's teeth", which quickly became part of student folklore at the RVC.

During his years at the RVC his outstanding services to the College were formally recognised by the award of the Betts Prize in 1993 for outstanding service and contributions to the College. In 1997/98 he was awarded the James Bee Teaching Prize in recognition of his outstanding teaching. Whilst in 2001 he was elected an Honorary Fellow of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons for his contributions to veterinary education. Despite his health problems, he always maintained his interest and expertise in farm animal clinical science. In 1987, he was one of the first cohort to be awarded the RCVS Certificate in Sheep Health and Production by examination. He was a very active member of the Sheep Veterinary Society, being Secretary for 5 years, President for a year and in recognition of his outstanding contribution to the Society was Elected Honorary Life Member in 1991.

Andrew was an active and enthusiastic member of the 'Kings of Herts' Barber's Shop Chorus, which brought him great pleasure and camaraderie; he was no 'make weight' as he had a very fine voice. They (and he) performed at a 'low key' (his request) retirement tea party at Hawkshead, providing a fitting farewell. At the same time, typically he requested no presents but donations to his favourite charity 'Send a Cow to Africa' of which he was great supporter, having currently raised £46,910 for "Andrew's Herd" to date.

Andrew is survived by his wife Ros, his two daughters Catherine and Heather, and two granddaughters and one grandson. The love, care and support which he received from Ros and family during his long and debilitating illness is an inspiration to us all.

Eric Winstanley (1949)

David B L George writes: Eric was born in Bolton in 1931, the son of a railway clerk, he was a Lancastrian through and through. On leaving school Eric served his period of national service in the RAF, where he was trained as a navigator. Having completed his service, in 1954 he entered the RVC where he shone academically. He graduated in 1959 with a first class honours degree and the final year medal in surgery. He also captained the cricket team.

After graduating, Eric worked in several practices, including that of Alf Wight (better known as James Herriot) in Thirsk. In 1961 he moved to the Naylor and Perry practice in Brecon. His enthusiasm for his work was infectious. Eric was a great naturalist and he would talk about the wildlife he had seen and the photographs he had taken and sketches he had made. He could readily have become a wildlife photographer or, indeed, a wildlife artist as he also had genuine artistic ability. In line with his knowledge as a naturalist, Eric was a wildlife vet par excellence. He was a veterinary surgeon of the highest order. There was nothing in practice that he could not do. He was one of a disappearing breed - the complete all-rounder. His knowledge and personality made him extremely popular with

clients, both large and small animal. He was a wonderful small animal surgeon and I particularly admired his orthopaedic skills which were up to the standard I had experienced at vet school.

Eric left the Brecon practice in 1963 to work in a practice in the Midlands. In 1964 his career took a change of direction when he was appointed Veterinary Education Officer for Uganda. He remained there for 3 years but had to relinquish his position due to what was thought to be a tropical illness. This was eventually diagnosed as acute ankylosing spondylitis, for which he suffered for the rest of his life.

He did not return to practice but once he was able to work, he was appointed lecturer in surgery at Trinity College Veterinary School (now the Dublin School). He remained at Dublin until his retirement in 1996, obtaining in the 1970's a doctorate - his thesis being on aspects of wound healing in small animals. Trinity College also paid tribute to his work by awarding him an MA degree (*honoris causa*).

So passes a truly remarkable man who brought distinction to his profession.

Tony King (1945)



Donald Kelly & Peter Biggs write: Tony King, was an outstanding veterinary anatomist, teacher, research worker and university leader. He was educated at Felsted School where he was a notable rifle marksman. During his time at the RVC Tony was evacuated from London to the University of Reading where he met his future wife, Zoe, in a physics practical class. He graduated BSc and MRCVS in 1945 and joined Professor Jimmy McCunn as a junior lecturer in anatomy at the RVC. During this period Tony undertook research on the phylogeny and ontogeny of cranial nerves under the supervision of the redoubtable Professor E C Amoroso FRS.

For this research, he was awarded a PhD. Later academic awards included a DSc and a second DSc (*honoris causa*) from the University of Khartoum. His PhD research later formed the basis of long-remembered and intellectually stimulating lectures to generations of veterinary students at the RVC, Bristol and Liverpool.

In 1950 he moved to the newly established School of Veterinary Science at the University of Bristol, where Tony was one of the leaders of functionally based anatomy. His teaching was structured and precise.

In 1960 he spent a year as a Fulbright Fellow at the School of Veterinary Medicine of the University of Pennsylvania, before moving to the University of Liverpool in 1962 as Professor of Veterinary Anatomy. There, he continued his inspirational teaching to veterinary undergraduates and developed, with Mert Goldberg, a departmental cottage industry producing a series of invaluable teaching guides on the anatomy of the major organ systems.

There is no doubt that Tony's innovative approach to teaching transformed anatomy and illuminated the

morphological basis of animal health and disease.

As well as undergraduate teaching, Tony developed, with his wife, a rich stream of morphological research centred on the avian nervous system with special reference to chemo and baroreceptors. This research involved a number of overseas research students. Many of them now fill senior academic positions throughout the world.

Tony published more than 100 research papers on cardiovascular and respiratory anatomy and physiology, in addition to the University of Liverpool editions of *The Thorax, Head, Abdomen and Central Nervous System*.

He served the University of Liverpool as Dean of the Faculty of Veterinary Science and as Pro-Vice Chancellor, retiring in 1987.

For many of his students and colleagues, including ourselves, he was an admired and inspiring mentor.

Jack Walsby (1948)

Bary Johnson, Arlene Coulson and David Noakes write: Jack Walsby was born in 1926 in Twickenham. He entered the RVC in 1944 and after qualifying in 1948, he entered a mixed practice in Norfolk. He moved from Norfolk to the Welsh borders of Shropshire and then purchased a one-man practice in Somerset where he remained for 35 years, at the end of which the practice had grown to require six people.

Jack spent his whole professional life in practice. Always interested in the wider activities of the profession, Jack joined the Mid-West Division of the BVA and in 1964, served as the division's President. He was a member of the Society of Practising Veterinary Surgeons from 1952 and became President in 1979. He was also on the BVA Council for 20 years and made a BVA life member in 1985. In 1982 he received the CVet

Award for meritorious services to the profession.

Jack founded a veterinary wholesale company in 1964, and was its chairman for 26 years. He held a longstanding interest in veterinary pharmaceuticals and serviced on several government committees. For many years he represented the BVA on the Animal Medicines Training Regulatory Authority.

For 10 years he was also chief executive of the Veterinary Defence Society. He played a considerable part in its development from a small, part-time organisation to a fully authorised insurance company.

Elected to the Council of the RCVS in 1983, Jack served on most of its committees before being elected President in 1991. In 1998 he was

awarded an RCVS Honorary Fellowship for services to the profession.

Having retired from practice and the RCVS, he became a consultant to a national poultry company and an Official Veterinary Surgeon in white meat. He was keenly interested in the profession's increasing and rightful involvement in food hygiene.

Jack was vice-president of the Veterinary Benevolent Fund and also a member of the Court of the Worshipful Company of Farriers, responsible for the training and examination of farriers.

Jack was very proud of being an RVC Alumnus; he was one of the regular, if diminishing, attendees at the year of 1948 reunion dinner in London and was a very committed member of the RVC Graduates Association. We will miss his contributions immensely.

Ian "Tim" Cheyne (1958)

John Bowen writes: Ian "Tim" Cheyne knew from an early age that he wanted to be a veterinary surgeon. He was awarded a state scholarship and went to the veterinary college of his choice, the RVC. Tim was an active member of the student council.

On graduating in 1958 he joined the veterinary practice of Bell and Ticehurst in Berkshire. After a spell there he joined the pathology department at the newly established field station of the RVC at Hawkshead, where he set up a clinical pathology section, a novelty in its day.

While at the RVC, he was asked by the Ministry of Defence, which had taken over the island of St Kilda as a firing range, to investigate why the sheep on the island were dying in large numbers. His work showed that the overpopulation of the island's sheep had led to an equal overproduction of the intestinal parasite *Haemonchus contortus*, which was the cause of the deaths.

Having got a taste for working abroad, Tim was next asked by the Ministry of Overseas Development to go to what was then British Somaliland to aid in improving animal husbandry. He was recalled home for his own safety after having been suspected of being a spy when he strayed over the border into Ethiopia during some research.

Returning to the RVC, he continued with his pathology teaching until asked to go to Cajamarca in the Peruvian Alps, where he introduced the Cash captive bolt pistol to improve the animal

slaughter methods being used by the indigenous people. From there he moved to Bangladesh and then to Qatar in 1985 to run and organise the Al-Attiya dairy herd, which he managed until 1996. During the Gulf War, he was involved in designing gas masks for the dairy cows. The dairy was closed in 2002 and he then joined the Umm Qarn farm, owned by Sheikh Abdullah Bin Khalifa Al Thani, which was being enlarged to accommodate the breeding and training of Arabian and thoroughbred racehorses. Tim turned his attention to this new population, enlarging his active pathology laboratory to cater for the increased workload.

Tim's calm demeanour and his natural curiosity, coupled with his dry sense of humour, allowed him to take things in his stride. He was once asked to go to Mombasa to assist with the arrival of a large cargo of dogs, which he thought was a little odd, only to find out that the cargo consisted of a shipment of shoes - Hush Puppies!

His persistence and attention to detail masked a determination to do what was right and fair, traits that were evident in his student days. To this he added a wealth of knowledge and a natural curiosity that lasted throughout his life.

He will be greatly missed by many.

Gill Ogden (1948)

Gill Ogden was one of only eight women entering the wartime-evacuated RVC in Streatley in the autumn of 1943.

For over 40 years after qualifying, she worked nearly continuously, usually in mixed practice and always taking her fair share of equine and bovine work as well as small animals. Her intuitive skills with animals became legendary. She was never interested in the bottom line or in the management responsibilities of veterinary practice, all her concentration was on the animals and owners in her care - a manner that brought those clients back again and again. Indeed, word of mouth filled surgeries wherever she was.

Her departure leaves a huge gap in many lives.

Ben Ingledew

Ben Ingledew was a current BVetMed student who was killed in a tragic accident in May 2013. His death came as a terrible shock to the staff and students of the RVC and he will be greatly missed. A minute's silence was held at both campuses in memory of Ben.

Ben's funeral took place on Friday 31st May at Hanworth crematorium. We extend our very deepest sympathies to Ben's family and friends both here at the RVC and at home in Surrey at this very sad time and our hearts and thoughts are with them all.

Vivienne Bowler (1948)

Bill Bowler writes: My mother was a part of a small group of pioneering female veterinary surgeons who started to enter the profession after the Second World War. Veterinary surgeons of that era were generally expected to be male and women faced prejudice not only from clients but also from fellow professionals. Even her own mother thought veterinary work most unsuitable. Despite this my mother followed her vocation to train as a veterinary surgeon. Before she was 30 years old, she was a part-owner of her own veterinary practice - a remarkable feat during that era.

Veterinary practice has changed enormously in the intervening years and it was people like my mother that blazed the trail for women in the profession.

We also proudly remember:

Mellis Victor Archard (1949), Arthur Ogden (1948), Bernard Weitz (1942), George Somerwill (1947), Doreen Bateman (1944), Robert Crowther (1938), Edwin Wilkinson (1959), Rowland Hill (1948), Gerald Ford (1952), Peter Batt (1949), Jonathan Woodhall (1979), Peter Waters (1951), Kodikara Seneviratna (1958), Edwin Roberts (1942), Eric Pilgrim (1941), Ronald Hollands (1948), Mary Holt (1980), Peter Luff (1975), Thomas Smithson (1949), Michael Price (1951), Anthony Basher (1981), John Gray (1947), James Threlkeld (1950), Malcolm Corner (1970), John Malseed (1952), Bryan Down (1955), Christopher Harris (1967), Judith Beckett (1951), John Webster (1964), John Nicol (1948), Neal Farr (1962), James Crouch (1964), Francis Trawford (1946), Peter Mann (1958), William Shipley (1952), Clare Main (1992), Reginald Green (1938) and our other RVC Alumni who are sadly no longer with us.

Creating a Lasting Legacy

Leaving a gift in your will is a valuable way of helping us with our vital work. Throughout the RVC's history, generous legacy donations have helped us to treat sick and injured animals, research cures into animal diseases and train the next generation of veterinary professionals.

A gift in your will is one of the simplest and most enduring ways to donate to the RVC and often enables an individual to make a larger contribution than they can in their lifetime.

A recent legacy donation has enabled us to fund a PhD student who is looking at risk factors for cancer in practice - attending dogs in the UK. She is collecting clinical data recorded by vets in practice, which will allow her to look at factors, including breed and age, associated with cancer in dogs and additionally to explore possible environmental risk factors using postcode data. For example are dogs more likely to get cancer if they lived near a waste management centre? The latter work will be of relevance to co-habiting people, who also are likely to be exposed to the same risks. Additionally, she will be looking at risk factors for cancer in dogs attending the Queen Mother Hospital for Animals and other UK referral hospitals.

When you make or update your will, it's only right that you think of your loved ones first. After making provisions for your family and friends, please consider leaving a gift to the RVC. No gift is too small to make a difference work that we do and allow us to continue to invest in the next generation of veterinary professionals.

More information on leaving a gift in your will can be found on our website www.rvc.ac.uk/legacy or you can call for a confidential conversation on 01707 667024 or email legacy@rvc.ac.uk. If you have decided to remember the RVC in your will, thank you for your kindness and generosity, it is very much appreciated.

In Loving Memory

We are always extremely touched when we receive donations in memory of someone special and we would like to say a heartfelt thanks to those of you who have thought of us at this difficult time.

Collecting charitable donations for the RVC, in lieu of flowers at a loved one's funeral, is a wonderful tribute and helps us to continue our vital work. If you would like further information about donating in this way please contact us on 01707 667024.

Calling All 2012 Graduates! RVC Equine Referral Hospital - Workshop Day Saturday 6th July

We at the RVC Equine Referral Hospital invite you to attend a case workshop day exclusively for the RVC class of 2012. The event is to take place on Saturday 6th July, based around key areas of first opinion practice. The day is aimed at any of you involved in mixed practice, or equine practice, or any of you that would like to be! The plan is to run the day as a case workshop, using cases from the clinic but most importantly cases you have all seen in your first year of equine practice! Guest speakers from Bell Equine and Buckingham Equine Vets will join members of the RVC clinical staff for what should make for an informative and most importantly enjoyable day.

The cost of the day is just £10, and includes a BBQ with beers at lunchtime, and a party in the buttry during the evening with free pizza and drinks, so you can all catch up and talk about your first year in practice. Those who attend will all receive certificates of attendance for your records.

Unfortunately places are limited to 70 people, so please book in early to avoid disappointment! If interested please contact development@rvc.ac.uk and we will send you a registration form which will need to be completed and returned to:

Ben Jacklin, Equine Referral Hospital, Royal Veterinary College, Hawkshead Lane, North Mymms, Herts, AL9 7TA.

Once the places are filled we will contact delegates in order to gather cases you would like to discuss in the following areas:

Back Pain and overriding dorsal spinous processes, Sinus and dental disease, Laminitis, The post-partum mare and foal, recurrent Airway Obstruction

We look forward very much to welcoming many of you back to the RVC in July! If you have any questions relating to the day please do not hesitate to contact me at bjacklin@rvc.ac.uk

Join our groups and pages on the following social network sites:



'Royal Veterinary College Alumni network (RVC4Life)' and 'RVC Alum' and 'RVC ACT'



Royal Veterinary College Alumni Network



The Royal Veterinary College's Animal Care Trust (RVC ACT) also has a twitter account

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