The London Hospital 1984 Graduates 30 year reunion

Saturday October 4th 2014 saw the gathering back in the East End of around ninety medics from The London Hospital Medical College to celebrate 30 years since they graduated. The event was held in the splendid surroundings of the Octagon library in the Queens building on the QMUL site. Medical students who started in 1979 were joined by the Oxbridge cohort in 1981 and some intercollegiate students who mostly graduated in 1984.

The event took about 18 months to organise but thanks to the internet, making the search for people so much easier, and the enthusiasm of attending graduates it was a great success. People travelled from far and wide including Australia, North America and Chile.

The evening started in the foyer with a welcome drinks reception and canapés accompanied by Isabel Patrick playing the harp beautifully. It was amazing seeing old friends enter the building their faces breaking into smiles of recognition. The noise level rose as friendships were rekindled and conversation flowed.

We were then ushered into the magnificent Octagon and eventually persuaded to stop talking quite so much and sit down for a fabulous meal with fine wine and sparkling company. The meal was accompanied by a wonderful live Klezmer band, a 1980s soundtrack and a slide show of archived pictures which brought back memories of the old days at The London Hospital before it was Royal, before it was built of blue glass and before the merger with Barts. Rob Pickard gave a great after dinner speech, many photos were taken by Alistair Raiman’s son, Lewis, and we even had a photo booth to take instant snaps of friendship groups. Lewis has very kindly uploaded the images to a Google drive at [https://sites.google.com/site/lhmc30yearreunion/home](https://sites.google.com/site/lhmc30yearreunion/home).

The evening went far too quickly and it was well past midnight, and our bedtimes, by the time the last stragglers left. We all enjoyed meeting old friends, reminiscing about medical school antics and catching up on our careers, families and ambitions for the future.

A huge thank you to the wonderful staff in the Alumni office, especially Bea Nagy, and to the QMUL Hospitality team led by Melissa Moulton. Bea and Melissa really helped the event run smoothly and we would highly recommend anyone thinking of planning a similar reunion to contact the Alumni office well in advance for their advice and support and to use the Octagon as the venue. Last but not least thank you to all the alumni who came to make the evening such a great and enjoyable success – here’s to our 35th reunion party!

(above review was provided by Sue Smith, Rob Pickard and Caroline Hett)