

« For many years during the late eighteenth century, Whalley's house in Royal Crescent had been a centre of social life in Bath. Here he entertained many influential visitors and became a close friend of the actress Sarah Siddons, the romantic poet Anna Seward, the abolitionist William Wilberforce, the polymath Erasmus Darwin (grandfather of Charles Darwin) and the playwright, philanthropist and social reformer Hannah More.

Chris published a book on Whalley's life in 2014, *The Reverend Dr Thomas Sedgwick Whalley and the Queen of Bath*.<sup>2</sup> He was then asked to talk about Whalley's life on local radio and through that met Anthea Page, a producer of Redcliffe Films, who was about to shoot a film of Hannah More's life.

Chris said: 'I suggested to [Anthea] that this would be incomplete without mentioning the important role Thomas Whalley had played during their 40-year friendship. Much to my surprise she agreed and then asked if I had done any acting.'

With experience taking part in the Axbridge Pageant (see photo), Chris was signed up to play the role of Whalley.

He reflects: 'It was a wonderful experience to be working among professionals, many of them future stars no older than final-year dental students.'

Filming completed, the film was eventually released in 2018 (<https://redcliffefilms.co.uk/hannah-more-film-production/>). Since then, it has been a finalist in seven international film festivals. As a result, Redcliffe Films applied for a British Board of Film Classification and Hannah More received a PG classification in 2021.

The film was first screened in May this year and was due to be shown in Bristol on 9 June at the Orpheus Cinema.

Chris believes himself to be the first Emeritus Professor of Dentistry to appear in the credits of a film available on general release and says 'one can have a lot of fun in retirement.'

#### References

1. Quinlan K. From teeth to walls. *Br Dent J* 2021; **231**: 273–274.
2. Stephens C D. *The Reverend Dr Thomas Sedgwick Whalley and the Queen of Bath*. Cardiff: Candy Jar Books, 2014. ✧

## Somanda to hold in-person meeting this October

The Society of Manchester Dental Alumni (Somanda) is hosting a biannual general meeting on Friday 7 October 2022 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Manchester. The event will include lectures on leadership in dentistry, burnout and resilience in clinical practice, reconnecting with old dental school peers and a nostalgic tour of the dental school with dinner and social events in the evening.

Somanda look forward to welcoming you, in person, in October.

For more information and to book tickets visit <https://www.somanda.org.uk/biannual-general-meeting-announced/>. ✧