The 11th annual Dental Awards

Dental practices and their teams across the UK celebrated the best in the profession at the 11th annual Dental Awards. Hosted by the author and broadcaster, Gyles Brandreth, the event was a night of celebration for winners for categories such as Dentist of the Year, Team of the Year, Laboratory of the Year and Dental Team Support.

Lisa Townsend, chair of the judging panel said: ‘The awards evening was a fantastic night. I’d like to commend everyone who entered, but special congratulations go to all of our winners – you set an example of professionalism and care for your patients for us all to follow.’

The Dental Awards 2009 was organised by Purple Media Solutions Ltd, and the British Dental Health Foundation. The event was sponsored by Denplan, The Dental Web, Dentsply & Dentith Dental Practice, and The Wrigley Company. The winners in each category were as follows:

**Dentist of the Year**
Northern Winner: Mike Heads – The Dental Healthcare Centre, Stockton on Tees

Highly Commended: Michael Cahill – Cahill Care Centre Ltd, Bolton
Southern Winner: Bhavin Bhatt – Smile & Wellbeing Dental Care, Bishops Stortford
Highly Commended: David Bloom – Senova Dental Studios, Watford
National Winner: Mike Heads – The Dental Healthcare Centre, Stockton on Tees

**Hygienist of the Year**
Winner: Karen Halls – The Dental Healthcare, Stockton on Tees
Highly Commended: Joanna Louise Jones – Andrew Kay and Associates, Covent Garden and Smile@Kingshill

**Team Support**
Winner: EL-Nashar Dental Care Ltd – Newton Abbot, Devon
Oral Health Promoter of the Year
Winner: Emma Clithero – Dentith & Dentith Dental Practice, Rutland
Highly Commended: Julia Wilkinson – Oral Health Promotion, Nottinghamshire

**Practice Design & Interior**
Northern Winner: The Dental Healthcare Centre, Stockton on Tees

**Dental telephone service for Devon**

People in Devon looking for a NHS dentist can now use a new helpline giving information on how to access dental services. The new helpline, which has been launched by Devon Primary Care Trust, opened on 1 May, and is available on weekdays between 8am and 6pm.

During evenings and weekends, there is an answer phone message directing patients to out-of-hours dental cover. The helpline is available for all dental enquiries for patients living in or visiting the Devon Primary Care Trust (PCT) area. Andrew Harris, Devon PCT’s dentistry lead, said: ‘We are sure that people who wish to access an NHS dentist will be pleased that they will now be able to get instant advice over the phone. We have listened to our patients and this step will ensure they have greater access to information about NHS dental services.’

For more information contact the dental helpline number on 0845 002 0034 or email devon-dentalhelpline@nhs.net.

**Competitions and events**

Roger Holdsworth Dental Care in Bradford is holding ‘how clean are your teeth?’ competition. While in London, the Ultrasmile practice in the Dockland is holding a large event distributing 3,000 packs to commuters at Canary Wharf. It is also offering free dental check-ups on 30 May. The check-ups, which would normally cost £95, includes an oral cancer check utilising the latest ViziLite technology.
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Calling all dentists

The Mouth Cancer Foundation is calling on people to take part in a giant sponsored walk to raise much needed awareness of mouth cancer.

Dr Vinod Joshi, the founder of the Mouth Cancer Foundation, is encouraging dental, medical and health care practitioners, friends and family from all over the UK to sign up and take part in its fourth annual 10km walk.

The event is being held on 26 September at 2pm in Hyde Park, London. This walk is being supported by pop star Natasha Hamilton, who used to sing with the band Atomic Kitten. Ms Hamilton said 'Mouth Cancer is a disease that has affected my family as it is how my Nan died. The Mouth Cancer Foundation plays a pivotal role in counselling and supporting patients and families who have to go through the horrors of Mouth Cancer through its online support group and telephone support service. Without them there would be no support for Mouth Cancer sufferers. It is vital that the charity can continue to support those that need them.'

Dr Joshi of the Mouth Cancer Foundation called the walk ‘a great opportunity for mouth cancer survivors, their families and friends, the public and health professionals to come together in a fun outing that will make a big noise in Hyde Park London about mouth cancer, loud enough for everyone to take notice!'

There will be free mouth cancer screening on the day, plus prizes available for top individual and team fundraisers as well as top individual and team awareness raisers. Money raised from the walk will help the Mouth Cancer Foundation improve its support for patients and carers.

To take part in the Mouth Cancer Foundation 10K Sponsored Walk visit www.mouthcancerwalk.org. Every 3 hours someone in the UK dies from Mouth Cancer. Mouth Cancer kills one in two people diagnosed due to late detection.

Symptoms include:
1. An ulcer or white or red patch anywhere in the mouth that does not heal within 3 weeks
2. A lump or swelling anywhere in the mouth, jaw or neck that persists for more than 3 weeks
3. Difficulty in swallowing, chewing or moving the jaw or tongue
4. A numbness of the tongue or other area of the mouth
5. A feeling that something is caught in the throat
6. A chronic sore throat or hoarseness that persists more than 6 weeks
7. An unexplained loosening of teeth with no dental cause

More information about Mouth Cancer is available at the Mouth Cancer Foundation website www.mouthcancerfoundation.org or by emailing info@mouthcancerfoundation.org or calling our helpline: 01924 950 950.

‘Routine check-ups save lives’

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Headscarf hearing

A dentist is up again before the General Dental Council (GDC) for refusing to treat a woman unless she wore a headscarf. Omer Butt, 32, told a man he would not register his family at his Lancashire practice unless his wife covered her head, it has been alleged.

Two years ago Mr Butt was reprimanded by the GDC for telling an Asian mother-of-two he would not register her unless she wore the Muslim hijab. Now he faces another two charges relating to a further two women who complained about their treatment in 2006 and 2007.

One patient said she had to leave the Unsworth Smile Clinic in Bury in pain in June 2007 because she would not wear the religious headdress.