Raising money for charity

Two dentists played alongside ex-international rugby player and Strictly Come Dancing star Kenny Logan, in a game which raised £25,000 for charity. Dr Norman Bloom, who played professionally for eight years.

The two dentists played in the London Wasps Legends team with Come Dancing star Kenny Logan against Hartlepool district where they raised £25,000 for the Hartlepool and District Hospice, which provides palliative care and bereavement support.

In another match, the London Wasps Legends team won 41-7 against a combined channel island team in Guernsey.

Dr Bloom said: ‘We won 41-7 alongside ex-internationals Kenny Logan, Andy Reed, Rob Lusztyk, Mark Denny and Jonny Ufton captained by ex-Wasps captain Mark Rigby. We also raised over £5,000 for the Wooden Spoon society which raises money for children’s charities.’

Cosmetic treatment

The former world champion boxer, Chris Eubank is spending £50,000 on cosmetic treatment and is hoping it will get rid of his trademark lisp.

Mr Eubank has travelled to Ireland to have the work carried out by dentist Barry Buckley.

The work includes closing the gap between his two front teeth to improve the aesthetic nature of his smile.

Mr Eubank said: ‘I’m here to see the best dentist in Ireland and the U.K. Before long nobody will be able to accuse me of having a lisp.’

Dr Buckley is carrying out the work at Clane Hospital, Co Kildare, which will also see all his other teeth slightly lengthened.

Dr Buckley said: ‘We’re getting rid of the gap between his front teeth, adding length to the teeth and widening his smile slightly.

The main purpose of the work is to make his teeth look better. He may not have a set of teeth but they are a little bit worse for wear because of his career.’

Call for funding

NHS dentists in England are calling for extra funding to help them implement the decontamination guidance issued by the Department of Health.

Dentists at the recent Local Dental Committees’ (LDC) annual conference voiced their concerns over the extra time, extra staff and extra equipment needed to implement HTM 01-05.

The Department of Health produced the guidance in response to emerging evidence around the effectiveness of decontamination in primary care dental practices and the possibility of prion transmission through protein contamination of dental instruments.

The guidance for dentists in England was published online in April.

All NHS dentists have 12 months to implement HTM 01-05, from when they receive the hard copy of the guidance, which should be with all dentists over the next couple of months.

Dentists in Wales will also adopt 01-05 with a few modifications of the terminology. But Scotland has decided not to follow the guidance.

Lesley Derry, head of education and standards at the British Dental Association (BDA), who spoke at the LDC conference said: ‘At the moment, Scotland has just cleaning protocols in place and this may be less arduous but I don’t think Scotland is getting much of an easier time.’

Under the guidance, all dentists will have to have an overarching infection control policy. So if a dentist gets a new piece of equipment, he or she will have to show how it will be cleaned.

All practices will have to have a rota in place detailing how all the areas in the dental practices are cleaned.

The guidance also stipulates that single use instruments are used wherever possible.

When cleaning instruments and equipment, manual cleaning is still acceptable according to the guidelines but automated and validated processes need to be used where possible.

Ms Derry said: ‘These are national guidelines but PCTs will be able to adapt them as they see suitable.’

HTM 01-05 gives the Care Quality Commission, the new regulatory organisation for healthcare, the right to inspect all practices and to see if they attain the two standards of essential and best practice.

By 2010, all dental practices in the UK, both NHS and private, will have to register with the Care Quality Commission and will be regulated by this body.

The full guidance can be accessed online at http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/PublicationsandStatistics/Publications/PublicationPolicyAndGuidance/DH_089245
Underground cinema

A dentist is hoping to build an underground cinema under the garden of his home in Lincolnshire.

Morne Gerber, who works as a clinical director of Advanced Dental in Market Rasen, also wants to build an underground tunnel that connects the current patio outside his home to the soundproof cinema.

The plans for his home in Washingborough also include the construction of an open air swimming pool.

Architect Mark Henderson said in the plans: ‘Although it is large the house is compartmentalised by small rooms which the owner feels limits his aspirations for a 21st century lifestyle.’

Other plans for the listed building include the construction of a greenhouse and alterations to an outbuilding to create a pool annex.

Rise in mouth cancer

There has been a huge rise in the number of young women suffering with mouth cancer in Merseyside, according to doctors. In Merseyside, there are now twice as many people developing mouth cancer as the national average.

Professor Simon Rogers, based at Fazakerley hospital, revealed that he is now treating women in their 40s rather than the traditional over-70 age range.

He is urging people to tell their dentist or GP about any persistent soreness, lumps or ulcers. He said: ‘I see the devastation oral cancer causes people in our communities and it is particularly upsetting to see a rising number of younger women being affected. Oral cancer has traditionally affected women over 70, but I am now treating more women in their 40s.’

He blames the rise in cases on the changing lifestyles and habits of women who have been smoking and drinking more heavily over recent years.

Researchers at the hospital and Liverpool University are developing genetic techniques to select better treatments, increase survival chances and reduce side effects.

He also believes that people in Merseyside have a lack of awareness of the symptoms of oral cancer.

This delay in self-referral is leading to around 40 per cent of patients only going for help when they have an advanced form of cancer, he said.

Dental powder mistake

Police have been left red-faced after they claimed to find a stash of 13 kilos of cocaine with a street value of £500,000 in Devon, only to discover after tests it was dental powder.

Police said it was the largest seizure of a class A drug in Devon and Cornwall and arrested five people on suspicion of possession with intent to supply.

However tests then revealed the cocaine was actually benzocaine – a mild local anaesthetic used by dentists to numb gums.

A police spokesman has revealed that no further action will be taken following the raid on the Prince Regent pub in Tiverton.

Police uncovered the stash of white powder following a long-running investigation into a money-laundering operation in Devon.

Around 13 kilos of white powder, which they believed to be cocaine, was found after officers raided the Prince Regent pub, in Lowman Green, Tiverton, and an adjoining garage where they found the powder in a holdall.

Police searched nine further properties following the raid.

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