A hair/money raising event

As we approach Hallowe’en, we speak to one practice manager who has a haunting way to raise money for charity...

Over the years that I have managed Thompson and Thomas dental practice, I have to admit, I have usually been behind the various situations the team has found itself in, when it comes to team building. From appearing on national television in Test the Nation with Anne Robinson, to scanning our new BDS students during induction their as part of a security procedure... with a product scanner, I like to think these situations make the process more fun, so you would think that letting me know about your fear of ghosts was not a bright thing to do.

So when the time came to organise another event, I wanted to arrange something different. So rather than jumping out of a plane, we found ourselves in a cold and dark haunted jail. I assured the team everything was going to be all right – it was only for one night after all. And although it hasn’t been my brightest idea so far, it’s certainly been one they have not forgotten.

I contacted Derby Jail, which is known for being haunted and booked us all in for the night. One dentist conveniently said he couldn’t make the night I’d booked for, so I expressed my sorrow and rearranged it – it didn’t seem right going without him.

Dutch courage

I must admit we had to have a couple of drinks before we entered. We had the jail to ourselves from 9pm to 4am, with the inclusion of three members of staff from the jail.

On entering, it is a small and dark, damp place; it was certainly eerie, and halfway through the night I doubted my decision, when we heard noises and things went bump in the night. Time went slowly, and 4am seemed like a lifetime, but we made it.

A benefit to others

However, what we didn’t account for was that we would put ourselves through this strange ordeal several more times. I proposed we turn this night into a way of benefitting others, which is why now for the past couple of years the team at Thompson and Thomas have found themselves spending the night in various haunted locations. Between us all, we have raised money for various charities including the Anthony Nolan Trust for Leukaemia, Alzheimer’s Association, Mouth Cancer Awareness, Epilepsy, Diabetes, Help a Hallam Child and Sugar Diabetes.

All the above charities have a connection with various members of our team. We understand that this is a strange way of raising money some may not agree with, but these events have been a talking point with many patients, many of whom have sponsored us, and quite a few contact the practice just to find out how we’ve all got on.

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About the author

I am practice manager at Thompson & Thomas dental practice in Sheffield.