Orthodontist changes a boy’s life

A specialist orthodontist has won first prize in a national competition for changing a boy’s life through orthodontic treatment.

Orthodontist, John Costello at Total Orthodontics in Tunbridge, Kent, was awarded the trophy for ‘Against the Odds’ at the British Orthodontic Society’s annual conference.

Mr Costello was given first prize for his orthodontic work on 14-year-old James McAuliffe.

James first visited Mr Costello a few days before his 11th birthday in early 2004 when it was discovered he would not develop four adult teeth - the two either side of his contrasting large front teeth. James was so worried for a year during the day and had a brace head at night which was designed to make more space conditions but everyone did manage to carry on working under stringent conditions set by the GDC.

HeNhadsomefarsetteethaffixedtoit.

Mr McAuliffe created an orthodontic appliance with a fixed plate that was moulded to the top of James’ mouth, which again had false teeth affixed to it.

The first thing, Mr McAuliffe did was make James a temporary removable retainer brace which had four false adult-sized teeth fixed to it.

The false teeth were shaped in such a way that they slotted over James’ milk teeth and gave him the appearance of a complete dentition and to anyone else he looked like any normal 11-year-old boy with a retainer brace.

James wore the retainer for about a year during the day and had a brace at night which was designed to make more space conditions but everyone did manage to carry on working under stringent conditions set by the GDC.

James said: ‘My teeth now look absolutely amazing. It’s so hard to put into words what a difference my treatment has made. It’s a shame that so many people are orphans or are disabled. Most of the children have HIV and are working in rubbish tips to survive.’

Many patients from the Tower Bridge Road practice gave money to help finance the trip.

In 2005, during her final year at King’s Dental Institute at Guy’s Hospital in London, Ms Pink ran a mobile dental clinic in Vietnam with two fellow students. On their trip they performed a hundred extractions and filled 150 teeth. None of the children had seen a dentist before.

Ms Pink is planning to return to Cambodia in six months. Anyone wishing to donate towards further equipment can contact Lydia Pink at thepinkdentist@googlemail.com.

London dentist treats Cambodians

A London dentist has just spent two weeks in Cambodia treating orphan children who have never been to a dentist.

An ex-dentist is turning medical practices into one-stop health complexes offering people access to dentists, doctors and opticians all on the one site.

Philip Lunnon of Ettrick Health Ltd ran several dental practices in Tyneside, before selling the business in 2005 to concentrate on the development of health and social care premises.

He is developing Low Grange Health and Residential Care Village at Greater Eston, a ‘one-stop integrated health and social care complex’ that will include a health village and eventually residential care facilities.

The first phase of the £17m scheme - a partnership between Ettrick Health, Redcar and Cleveland Primary Care Trust and Redcar and Cleveland Council - will consist of four GP practices, a pharmacy, optician’s and an NHS dental surgery.

This is expected to open in April 2010.

The second phase, which is due to open in March 2011, will provide residential care, nursing care and specialist care for the elderly and young people with disabilities. When fully completed, the scheme will provide more than 70,000sq ft of healthcare, residential and public service facilities.

Mr Lunnon has revealed there are plans for similar developments in the pipeline.

Cycle ride raises £5k

Cyclists raised over £5,000 for the oral health charity Den- laid by completing the G2C cycle across the north of the UK.

The ride was organised as part of the Denplan partnership, with the majority of the riders from Denplan practices.

It followed the famous 140 mile route, starting in Whitehaven travelling through the northern Lake District and finishing in Tynemouth.

Jenni Phillips, part of the support team for the cyclists said: ‘The nine cyclists not only battled some huge hills, but also the harsh elements, as they continuously faced heavy rain, gales and flooding. I would like to say a big thank you to everyone who supported Denplan and took part in the bike ride, it was great to see everyone’s enthusiasm and commitment to the ride and Denplan’s work. There were some tough conditions but everyone did amazingly well.’