

Extractions



The quarterly newsletter of the oral health charity Dentaid

Winter 2006/7

HAPPY 10th BIRTHDAY DENTAID!

Dentaid celebrated its tenth anniversary this October and chose to share this exciting occasion with many of its dedicated and valuable supporters at the recent BDTA Dental Showcase.

Thanks to the support of key sponsors (see picture), Dentaid had its biggest stand ever, enabling the charity to raise the profile of oral health needs overseas, appropriate responses and the charity's work through graphics, video and demonstrations. Conversations were aided by Dentaid giving out free pieces of birthday cake throughout the three-day exhibition and on the Saturday Chief Executive Luke Wordley was joined by key corporate supporters in a cake cutting ceremony. He thanked all those who had supported the charity over the years whilst making it clear it was the only time Dentaid would condone eating cake!

History - Dentaid was started in 1996 with one person, a garage and a £10,000 grant. Ten years on the charity has grown to become one of the leading oral health charities in the world, having helped over 150 charitable projects overseas to improve oral health for the needy communities they serve.

As Dentaid continues to grow it has also begun to broaden its activities in the developing world, embarking on major new initiatives in oral health promotion, training, advocacy and campaigning, as well as expanding its traditional work of supplying dental equipment and resources to regional clinics. Many of these programmes are highly innovative and have the potential to improve oral health for disadvantaged communities in an unprecedented way.



Luke Wordley with representatives from stand sponsors (from left to right) Denplan, A-dec, Kodak Dental Systems, BDTA, Dentaid, Dentists' Provident Society, J&S Davis, Admor



The Dentaid stand

Bruce Gollings, a founder trustee of Dentaid says:

"Thank you to everyone who has supported Dentaid over the years. Since Dentaid started we estimate the charity has helped relieve the dental pain and improve the lives of over a million people in 50 countries. However, studies have shown that in some low income countries, 95% of children aged 11-14 with tooth decay remain untreated and it is estimated that still only 20% of the world's population have access

to appropriate fluoride in any form! We still have a lot of work ahead of us and donations and fundraising are essential to maintain and expand this life saving work, which we couldn't do without your continued and generous support."

Luke Wordley, Dentaid's Chief Executive, adds:

"The Dentaid team is very excited to be celebrating its ten year anniversary! In this new phase of Dentaid's life we are continuously striving to develop new and innovative ways of improving the oral health of disadvantaged communities around the world.

In many parts of the world there is little or no access to a trained dental professional. This can mean enduring the pain and suffering of toothache, abscesses and other complications day in, day out, with no hope of relief. Daily fluoride tooth brushing is beyond the means of most people. Many do not even understand the causes of their pain and oral health problems.

Over the next ten years, with your support and the new strategies we are pursuing, we are hopeful that we can achieve unprecedented improvement in oral health for many millions living in disadvantaged communities around the world."

Uganda's first dental engineer training course hailed success by all!



Training in action

When a dentist's equipment breaks down in the UK, it normally takes little more than a phone call and a few hours frustrating wait before an engineer arrives, the surgery is hopefully fixed and ready to see patients again. In the

developing world, things rarely run so smoothly. In countries where there may only be 50 dentists in the whole country, the chances of even one specialist dental engineer locally are virtually non-existent. As a result, equipment in vital regional treatment centres often stands un-repaired for weeks, months or indefinitely.

Dentaid has long been trying to address this problem and for a number of years has given training to individual engineers from partner projects overseas. However, Dentaid's engineers had a vision for a larger and more strategic training programme, dedicated to equipping general hospital technicians with the necessary skills to maintain, service and repair dental equipment.

And in October, 2006 this vision became a reality. Fourteen hospital technicians and engineers from mission and government hospitals in Uganda, Rwanda and Burundi gathered at the Mildmay Hospital and Training Centre near Kampala, Uganda to take part in Dentaid's inaugural residential dental engineer training course. Believed to be the first of its kind designed specifically for the developing world, Dentaid's engineers had designed the ten-day course to be, above all, practical and hands-on. Thus, not only equipping the students with necessary technical knowledge but also giving them the practical skills and confidence needed to investigate and diagnose potential problems with dental equipment.

Richard Grapes, Dentaid's Head of Engineering and course leader reports:- "The course participants were conscientious, hard working and always had a smile on their faces. Most said that this was the first hands-on training that they had ever received, which in terms of equipment maintenance was more than a little surprising."

On completion of the course all students were awarded a certificate and a comprehensive tool kit at a formal presentation



A graduating student

ceremony. Her Majesty's Consulate, from the British High Commission in Uganda, was present at the ceremony to congratulate the successful candidates and to formally open the dental surgery installed at Mildmay by the Dentaid team and used during the training.

Dave Effamy, Dentaid's 2nd engineer delivering the course added:- "The reactions of the engineers at the graduation ceremony was the most satisfying part of our time at Mildmay. They were so grateful for the time and effort we had invested in them. Sometimes, hospital engineers and their vital role don't seem to get the support and recognition they should, and so we were delighted to help in this way. One engineer told me that he was expected to provide his own tools for his job, but only had a few random spanners, which he kept in a carrier bag. He said he would have had to save up for 10 years to afford a toolbox like the one he had just received. I think that everybody learned a lot, including us, and I am looking forward to doing it again..... soon!"



British consulate approves new clinic at Mildmay

Luke Wordley, added:- "The course was a great success and a huge tribute must be paid to Dentaid's engineers who worked virtually day and night for weeks in preparation for the course. This type of initiative is a major step forward in improving

the sustainability of dental services in much-needed regional treatment centres in Africa. As a result of this course, we believe Uganda, Rwanda and Burundi now have their own trained and equipped dental engineers for the very first time, and we hope to hold similar courses in other regions in the future."

A significant by-product of the course was that two new clinics have also been established at charitable hospitals, serving HIV patients at Mildmay Hospital and disadvantaged communities surrounding nearby Bunawona Health Centre.

Due to the success of the training programme Richard and Dave are now planning a similar programme in the Cameroon in January 2007. Dentaid still requires £1500 to fund the trip, therefore if you can help please contact Dentaid.

Denplan pledges support

Those reading the dental press may have seen that Denplan, the dental payment plan provider, has pledged to try to raise £1 million for Dentaid over the next 5 years. Denplan aims to raise the money by working with its 6,500 member practices and Denplan employees to promote Dentaid's cause.

Stephen Gates, Managing Director, Denplan

commented:- "We are delighted to be supporting Dentaid and its vital work. Many of our member dentists already support the charity and have raised considerable amounts of money through events such as sponsored cycle rides, treks and fancy dress days and I'm sure they will want to get involved in the exciting events programme we have planned over the next few years."



Luke Wordley & Stephen Gates

More Training

Dentaid's Director of Oral Health, Robert Yee (see back page) was also overseas in October, running a workshop in Myanmar (Burma) for government and key dental workers in fluoride advocacy and national oral health strategy. He also delivered a course in China teaching trainers to teach rural health workers in basic dentistry for remote communities beyond the reach of dentists and clinics.

Dentaid trekkers complete the 3 volcanoes challenge in Italy

Dentaid's annual challenge trek proved a great success again this year. The team of 29 trekkers climbed all 3 volcanoes Mount Vesuvius, Stromboli and Etna over 5 tiring, but exhilarating days, which proved to be the experience of a lifetime for those involved.



Natural fireworks on Stromboli

With over £30,000 raised so far and more sponsorship still to collect, the money raised by this event will help towards Dentaid's goals of developing major new initiatives in oral health promotion, training initiatives, advocacy and campaigning, which the charity believes are key to improving oral health in the developing world.



Trekking group sitting in a lava flow, Mount Etna



Facing the challenge head on

Here are some of the highlights from the trip log, which can be viewed in full at www.dentaid.org.

Reaching the top of Mount Stromboli where the group enjoyed the best theatre seats in the world, as they sat on the edge of the crater looking down upon exploding lava just 300 metres below. *"The exhilaration was unbelievable as one after the other, three nearby craters would suddenly explode into action firing burning gasses or molten lava high into the night sky. It was the greatest natural fireworks display you could ever wish to see."*

A visit to one of the greatest and most famous archaeological sites in the world – Pompeii. *"Elvira, our Italian guide graphically brought alive to us the drama and catastrophe that had engulfed the city and its inhabitants when Mount Vesuvius 'blew' one fateful day in AD79. As we walked down street after street of magnificently preserved Roman remains, it was hard to believe that this enormous ancient city had remained buried under metres of ash for almost 1700 years. While trying to imagine how the nearby volcano, which looked so dormant, had in minutes ended thousands of lives and literally buried one of the greatest cities of ancient times, it gave us fresh perspective and respect for the volcanoes we were planning to 'conquer' over the coming days."*

Climbing Mount Etna. *"While a cloudless day may have allowed us the most amazing view, just hearing the continuous explosions from the crater two hundred metres away, and knowing it erupted just a couple of weeks earlier, was a terrifying yet exhilarating feeling none of us will forget... As we climbed back down through the clouds it was amazing to see the changing flora and fauna as we came from barren 'moon scape' near the summit, to the first signs of lichen clinging to volcanic rocks, to hardy plants unique to Etna, before eventually giving way to thick pine and birch woodlands."*



But it wasn't all hard work; the group relaxed in the evenings enjoying traditional Italian cuisine and on the last night were treated to an authentic Sicilian experience where they spent time reminiscing over the past 5 days and marvelling at their achievements.

Lisa Robson, who with her Eastman colleague Julia Brewin took part in the trek, wrote a week after returning:-

"Julia and I were back in harness at Eastman's yesterday - the students were very excited to hear about the trip, especially as we had prised money out of them on their minimal bursaries! We both agreed that the trek was one of the most exciting enterprises that we had ever accomplished. We were however, coming down fast from a great high - scaling teeth is not quite the same as scaling volcanoes! For me the trek represented the best bit of dental teamwork I have encountered in 25 years and we feel very proud to have been part of it and to be associated with such a worthy cause. So a big thank you - it was a tremendous success."

Challenge 2007 - With such positive feedback from all involved we are now planning next year's challenge, of climbing Mount Sinai in Egypt (see flyer), so if you're looking for an adventure and think you've got what it takes to raise money for Dentaid and help us improve oral health around the world, then please contact fundraising assistant Daf at info@dentaid.org

A huge thank you from Dentaid to all of you who participated



Welcome Robert!

A big welcome to Robert Yee, who joined Dentaid in August 2006 as Director of Oral Health. Robert, who has spent most of the last ten years living and working in Nepal, is a well-respected figure within the field and is in charge of developing Dentaid's oral health programmes. Read more about Robert's work in Extractions Extra next month, which will outline some of his groundbreaking initiatives in Nepal and around the world.

Don't just bin your empty printer cartridges ...They're worth money to Dentaid!



Since 2000 Dentaid has raised over £15,000 from cartridge donations, so each one you send to us really does count. Thank you to all of you who have contributed over the last 6 years. Visit our website for more details on recycling your inkjet or toner cartridges.

Fundraising

Your support - While uptake of our fundraising events is better than ever, more and more of Dentaid's vitally needed income is being raised by supporters doing their own activities and events in aid of Dentaid, some of which are featured below. A first occurred recently when a long-term supporter and fiancée asked for gifts to be given to Dentaid in lieu of wedding presents! Please consider Dentaid if you are planning a new or existing event or celebration - we will be delighted to support you if required with sponsor/donation forms, personalised posters and collection boxes etc!



Dentaid Annual Golf Day grows again

An amazing 16 teams took part in Dentaid's 3rd annual golf day at the fabulous Hamptworth course in Wiltshire, raising almost £2,000. Congratulations to the winners of the Golden Molar Trophy, husband and wife pairings Cindy and Roger Brown (left) and Jo and Tony Chapman (right). The title of 'nearest the pin' was awarded to Victor Holden and winner of the longest drive was David Chessmann from dental distributor, Henry Schein. Thanks to Kodak Dental Systems as lead sponsor and all hole sponsors for your support. The 2007 golf day will take place on 22nd June 2007. Book early to avoid disappointment!

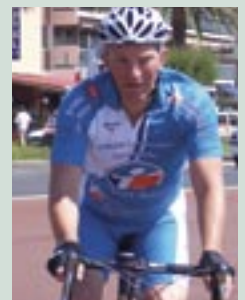
Keep on Running



We would like to say a big thank you to all our GNR runners, with a special mention to Paul Harrison from Swallow Dental Supplies who raised over £2000 for Dentaid.

Vous êtes formidable!

On Monday 10 July 2006, at 7.00am, Dentaid supporter Richard Whatley set off among 7,548 riders on the 14th edition of the Etape du Tour organised by Vélo Magazine, to cycle one of the toughest stages of the Tour De France. The first 60km was largely downhill and Richard bowled along at a speed of over 35kmph. By 8:00am a heat haze was already shimmering along the road and a cruel headwind added to the enormity of the challenge.



Climbing through the Guil gorge for 17km, at Arvieux the gradient kicked up sharply at the start of the climb. The views from the summit were magnificent. The swift descent down to Briançon, reaching a top speed of 74.2kmph, was exhilarating, but all too soon Richard was climbing again heading toward the Lauteret. All around him, fellow riders were showing

the effects of the very hot conditions.

The next five hours passed by in a haze of exhaustion as long descents were followed by relentless switchbacks in the afternoon heat. Richard finally reached the summit and finishing line with 50 minutes to spare, safe in the knowledge that he'd honoured the commitment to his many sponsors. He finished 4442nd, in 10 hours 7 mins and 58secs, having burned up a staggering 7,314 calories.

A big thank you and "well done" to Richard on his amazing effort. With the help of Sheree (wife, chief fundraiser and rider support team!) Richard's effort has raised a staggering £6932 to date for Dentaid's work overseas.

More Dressing Up Antics!

More than thirty practices from Devon to the Shetlands participated in Dentaid's annual Dress up Day on 7 July 2006. Themes and costumes ranged from Fairies to Pirates, and from Beachwear to 'Babies Bedtime'. After much deliberation (and chuckling!) the following winners were chosen:-

'Best Theme/Costume' category went to the Smile Style team from Stafford (pictured) who dressed up as the characters from the Wizard of Oz.

Best Dress up Day event - Oxford House team from Milton Keynes who dressed up as months of the year for a calendar that they will sell in aid of Dentaid. To purchase a calendar please contact Neil Harris on 01908 375500



Top Fundraisers - St Helens Dental Practice in Cumbria raised a fantastic £688.31 through collections and competitions on the day.

Next years event will take place on 6 July 2007. Contact Daf at info@dentaid.org for an application pack!



Dentaid would like to say a very big thank you to Admor who print all Dentaid's newsletters and stationary free of charge. Please contact them for a quote! 01243 553078