

Spring 2011



Denplan

# Wedmore Dental Practice

[www.wedmoredental.co.uk](http://www.wedmoredental.co.uk)



*Did you know....*



**Like fingerprints, everyone's tongue print is different**



**Welcome to the Spring edition of our Practice Newsletter. As always we aim to keep you informed of developments both within the Practice and any 'hot topics' regarding dentistry generally:- if there are any items you would like to see featured, please let us know.**

*Dr. S. S. S. S.*

## Sues' African Adventure



I have just returned home from a very rewarding but humbling trip to Tanzania; I spent 2 weeks with a great bunch of volunteers from all over the UK, Scotland and Ireland with a charity called bridge2aid. My team was made up of 6 dentists and 3 nurses, my role was to sterilise the



instruments using a pressure cooker, (very modern !!) make sure the dentists had everything they needed including drawing up the local anaesthetic as we didn't have the luxury of having cartridges. My duties also included teaching the local clinical officers all about oral hygiene and prevention of disease. The best bit was getting to hold the babies while their mums were being treated ! Bridge2aid's aim is to train the local medical officers to complete basic dental treatment (basically extractions) and also oral hygiene instruction, so that when we left they could at least provide some basic dentistry, which is more than they have now. It was great to know we were leaving something behind so that the very poor and very unfortunate people of the rural areas of Tanzania could get some relief of pain as most of the people we saw had never seen a dentist before and had been suffering dental pain for many months and even years.



restoring smiles • changing lives



**Set a date – No smoking day on Wednesday 9th March 2011 is a good time to stop with millions of other people. Go to [WeQuit.co.uk](http://WeQuit.co.uk) for online support, help and information.**



**A healthier body – after...**

- 20 mins** your blood pressure and pulse return to normal
- 8 hours** nicotine and carbon monoxide levels in your blood are halved
- 24 hours** carbon monoxide will be eliminated from your body and your lungs will have started to clear out the tar that's been clogging them up
- 48 hours** no nicotine left in your body. Your senses of taste and smell are greatly improved
- 72 hours** your breathing becomes easier and your energy levels increase
- 2-12 weeks** your circulation improves and exercise can be easier
- 3-9 months** any coughs, wheezing and breathing problems improve



Where Do Your Fee's Go–  
How do we invest in your dental care?



Training and Registration

**CQC** – As of 1st April 2011 we now have to be registered with the CQC ( **Care Quality Commission**) to legally provide a dental service. We will be monitored and inspected to make sure the service we provide meet essential standards of quality and safety.

**General Dental Council** – All individual team members have to be registered to practice dentistry, and this year they have increased their fees by **33%** for dentists and **25%** for all other dental care professionals ( Hygienist, Nurses, Receptionists, & Lab Technicians )

**Continuing Professional Development** – This is a compulsory requirement over a 5 year cycle: Dentists **250 hours**, Dental Care Professionals **150 hours**.

**Regular training must include:**

- Medical Emergencies
- Disinfection & Decontamination
- Radiography & Radiation Protection

Building Maintenance

Due to the new regulations we will have to adapt the surgery in order to meet the requirements, which will involve the instalment of a decontamination room potentially costing up to **£50,000** (or even having to relocate the practice if this is not possible which could cost up to **£1,000,000**)

Equipment

There has been an increase in VAT on all equipment and material costs. Our sterilizers need to have daily, weekly and annual checks as well as validation tests. The first two are completed by team members, with third party engineers carrying out annual validation inspections. We have had to purchase 1 new sterilizer for the hygienist surgery and will also need to purchase a new sterilizer to comply with new regulations for the handpieces, this alone will be at a cost of around £6,000.

Dental Laboratory Charges

As technicians have increased their charges, due to their registration, CPD costs, and the rise in the cost of gold, we have had to raise our fees where there is a lab charge involved.



Team and Training News

Congratulations to Kate Toon, our trainee Dental Nurse who successfully passed her NVQ Oral

Healthcare examination in December 2010. Kate will now complete her portfolio. Once achieved she will be fully qualified, and able to register with the General Dental Council.

**Would you like a nice white smile ready for summer, please ask at reception about teeth whitening. The tray system we use is simple to use and produces a gradual, controllable change in colour; you simply stop wearing the trays when you reach the shade you are happy with. It is easily ‘topped up’ in the future, by purchasing more**



**whitening gel and wearing the trays again for 3-4 nights.**

