

President's Column

Jane Dalgarno BSc, BADN President

Life as President of the British Association of Dental Nurses (BADN) continues to be a busy, albeit enjoyable one as we endeavour to move the profession forward. I valued the opportunity to meet with Sara Hurley, Chief Dental Officer, to consider, among other things, the current training profile of dental nurses and how we can ensure that training today is able to meet tomorrow's challenges. I was delighted to share Sara's vision for the future and the possible opportunities for dental nurses wishing to expand their portfolio with NHS England. I also met with the FGDP Dean, Mick Horton, where we deliberated the possibilities for a 'new' mentoring qualification, to further support dental nurses' work-based learning.

I attended the recent FGDP (UK) bi-annual Pendlebury lecture where guest speaker Sara Hurley shared her observations

and views since taking up the role of Chief Dental Officer and her vision for the dental profession.

It was with great interest that I attended the GDC panel debate on reforming professional regulation and their commitment to make the case for and develop an improved model of dental regulation in the UK. It was evident that collaboration with other regulatory bodies is needed to ensure an efficient and effective reform system.

I am delighted to announce that the 2016 recipient of the BADN Outstanding Contribution to Dental Nursing Award is RAF Warrant Officer Pam Daley. This award will be presented at the BDA Honours and Awards Dinner on Saturday 28 May, in Manchester. Many congratulations, Pam! More details are on the BADN website.

To conclude, BADN will be conducting a survey in relation to dental nurse



demographics. Further details can be found on our website, www.badn.org.uk, and I would encourage all dental nurses, BADN members and non-members, to participate, as this will allow us to build up a dental nurse profile which can be used to better tailor our membership offering to the actual needs of dental nurses in the UK.

To remind you, I shall be at the Dentistry Show (NEC, April), the Scottish Dental Show (Glasgow, May), the British Dental Conference & Exhibition (Manchester, May), the BDA Scottish Scientific Conference (Glasgow, September) and BDIA Dental Showcase (ExCel, October), along with other events, and would be delighted to talk to any dental nurses who come along to the BADN stand.

BDHF LAUNCHES NEW TOOTH BRUSHING PROGRAMME



The British Dental Health Foundation (BDHF) launched their new school brushing programme, 'Brush Time', at the Nursery World Show 2016 in February in London.

The oral health charity have developed Brush Time to help nursery and school staff teach children how to brush their teeth

correctly; it provides all the information and tools they need to develop engaging, interactive and informative lessons for their pupils.

Brush Time is also a great resource for dental professionals who currently, or are looking to, visit schools to help deliver important oral health messages to children.

The charity developed the programme, which is free to download, in response to a recently published review by a Cochrane Oral Health Group which found that regular brushing with a fluoridated toothpaste results in 24% fewer cavities than brushing with non-fluoridated toothpaste.

The Brush Time programme has been developed with the help of oral health and education experts to meet the unique needs of children in an educational environment and

hopes to play a significant role in how dental health is taught in the UK.

'Educators will be excited to find a number of activities, songs and resources which they can use to make the children's education fun as well as sample permission forms to get them involved in the programme,' said Dr Nigel Carter OBE, Chief Executive of the BDHF. 'We believe there is a real need for Brush Time; this really is a fantastic opportunity for educators to help young children understand the importance of good oral health and can really help reinforce the message of good tooth brushing behaviour.'

For those who wish to get involved and contribute to students' dental health the programme can be downloaded in full for free from the Dental Buddy website www.dentalbuddy.org/brushitime.