**Afternoon tea for Breast Cancer Now**

BADN Presidential column by **Jacqui Elsden**

August 2021

A year ago, BADN held a Virtual Anniversary Afternoon Tea to celebrate our 80th Anniversary. This was such a success; we have held online monthly Coffee Catch Ups ever since. However, in August we did something slightly different…

9–15 August was Afternoon Tea Week and Breast Cancer Now utilised this opportunity to encourage everyone to hold afternoon tea events to raise much needed funds for the charity. At BADN, we decided to join in, applied for our information pack and held our own Afternoon Tea event online during the afternoon of Sunday 15 August.

Instead of being free to attend, we asked for a £5 donation for Breast Cancer Now from each person who attended. Tea guests chatted with myself and other members of the Executive Committee, together with other BADN members and with our guest speaker Carole Houston.

Carole has been associated with the BADN for a number of years, both through her work as Communications Lead with the NEBDN and later in a similar role for Horizon, Blackpool Council’s drug and alcohol support service when – along with BADN’s Chief Executive Pam Swain and the late Janet Goodwin - she helped to organise two highly effective dental outreach days for the homeless and for people with addiction issues.

In May 2019 Carole was diagnosed with Stage 3 triple negative breast cancer, a rare type of breast cancer that affects around 10-15% of patients. Carole now aims to raise awareness of breast cancer issues, especially triple negative breast cancer, so she was delighted to be part of our Afternoon Tea event where she spoke openly about her treatment, its effect on her dental and mental health, and to answer our questions.

I was humbled to hear Carole’s cancer journey and thrilled that we were able to contribute to the much-needed funds required to support anyone diagnosed with Breast Cancer. Carole was very positive about her experience, and we maintained the positivity with a few quizzes and competitions.

Carol Kukla won a bottle of sparkling wine (courtesy of CFC Underwriting) for guessing the name of the Teddy Bear that joined us for tea. Further prize winners were Carole Houston, who received a Virgin Experiences Voucher courtesy of TRM, Jo Dawson who received a TePe Oral Health Educator Communicator Kit, Anita Stanforth who received a BADN lifestyle voucher from Parliament Hill and Paula Sleight who won an Amazon voucher courtesy of RA Sedation.

We have received some fabulous feedback since the event.

My sincere thanks go out to everyone who attended and contributed to this successful event. We are still collecting donations, therefore please contact BADN on enquiries@badn.org.uk on how to do this. Please write Breast Cancer Now in the subject line of your email message.

**FIRST DENTAL TECHNICIAN SELECTED TO JOIN PRESTIGIOUS ACADEMY**

Andrea Johnson, a dental technician/orthodontic & maxillofacial laboratory manager from Montagu Hospital, part of the Doncaster & Bassetlaw Teaching Hospitals (DBTH) NHS Foundation Trust, has been selected to join the Healthcare Leadership Academy (HLA) Scholars programme - a prestigious scholarship set up to develop and nurture healthcare leaders of the future.

After completing a rigorous selection process, Andrea Johnson will be joining the Academy’s cohort for the 2021/22 academic year.

Founded in 2016, the HLA scholarship recognises healthcare students and professionals with proven leadership ability and gives them the opportunity to take their leadership skills to the next level. The HLA aims to inspire and support healthcare students and professionals to change the world of healthcare through leadership, one small step at a time.

Andrea graduated from De Montfort University with a first class BSc honors in Dental Technology in 2013 and has worked for the DBTH Trust since 2017. She is also the OMFS Deputy Lead for Clinical Governance and a Quality Improvement Coach. Outside of work Andrea is well known for her work helping the homeless through her own dental charity Den-Tech. The first female Chair of the Orthodontic Technicians Association, Andrea is a member of many advisory boards and steering committees, including the College of General Dentistry and the General Dental Council. She is regularly invited to speak at conferences and events both in the UK and abroad.

Andrea said: ‘I am utterly thrilled and honoured to have been selected as the first ever Dental Technician Scholar for the HLA, and I cannot wait to start my leadership journey with them. I have such a drive and passion for healthcare leadership, and I cannot wait to see how I can grow and develop my leadership skills to better enable me to help make a real difference within the NHS that I love.’