

Dental products and services

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Leading dental training charity celebrates fifteenth anniversary

The UK dental training charity Bridge2Aid is celebrating its fifteenth anniversary.

Fifteen years ago, Ian and Andi Wilson met and fell in love while volunteering in Tanzania. Ian was using his skills as a dentist and Andi was working at an orphanage. They agreed to use their skills and networks to help people in the country they were visiting.

These conversations were the genesis of Bridge2Aid and 2019 is the fifteenth anniversary of the charity.

The core of Bridge2Aid is skill sharing – volunteer UK dentists teach rural health workers how to carry out very basic emergency dental work, primarily extractions.

In its 15 years, Bridge2Aid has given more than 550 health workers emergency dental training. During training they have also provided free dental treatment to around 50,000 people.



The charity said it has amassed a great deal of knowledge and expertise and it provides good value for money, with over 85p of every £1 being spent on its charitable work.

Anyone interested in getting involved can do so through Facebook at @Bridge2Aid or by visiting www.bridge2aid.org.

Interdental brush firm launches pilot recycling initiative

TePe, a leading manufacturer of interdental brushes, has partnered with Cannon Hygiene Ltd to introduce a pilot recycling scheme for interdental brushes.

The TePe Environmental Recycling Initiative (TERI) will provide dental patients and staff with the UK's first pilot recycling solution for interdental brushes.

As part of this scheme, used interdental brushes can now be returned to the dental practice for recycling.

The initiative marks a step change in the current disposal process, as it is not yet possible to recycle materials or products that are composed of more than one element in the UK. However, dental practices already have a solution in place to dispose of sharps and contaminated waste.

The TERI scheme will therefore utilise the existing system to dispose of interdental brushes in practice. This waste will then be incinerated to generate energy for heating and bottom ash for road and car park surfacing.

Elaine Tilling, TePe's Head of Projects and Clinical Education, said: 'Plastics and other non-recyclable material are a prevalent issue for the dental profession and the wider dental industry. As a Swedish company, TePe has a long standing and strong commitment to environmental protection and is constantly on the lookout for ways to reduce waste.'

'The TERI pilot is about using an existing system for recycling products that would normally go into landfill. We have had a really enthusiastic response from dental practices

wishing to take part in the pilot and we look forward to working with them to review the uptake over the coming months.'

There will be no cost incurred by the dental practices taking part in the scheme. TePe is calling on participating practices to ensure the disposal bin is placed in a prominent location to encourage patients and staff to make use of this facility.

This follows the recent introduction of the TePe GOOD toothbrush, the UK's first bio-based plastic toothbrush, made from renewable materials and manufactured in Sweden using 100% green energy.

More information is available by calling 01749 608800, emailing karen.kemp@tepe.com or visiting www.tepe.com/uk.