

ASSOCIATION NAME CHANGE ANNOUNCED

The Dental Practitioners Association has rebranded itself as the Dental Professionals Association (DPA) and will be opening up membership to all GDC registrants as well as other members of the primary care team such as receptionists, practice managers and suppliers.

The DPA List website at www.uk-dentistry.org is a free reference for clinical governance and health and safety issues for dental professionals and through it all DPA members will receive free CPD. It also features a section <http://www.uk-dentistry.org/phpBB/viewforum.php?f=146> where the DPA will upload its reaction to and comments on breaking news.

RECORD CPD ONLINE

The General Dental Council's eGDC website has now gone live. GDC registrants can use the online facility to track and record CPD hours over their five-year cycle at the click of a mouse. The site shows how many hours they have to complete, and re-calculates this when further hours are added. Visit www.eGDC-uk.org for details.

VOLUNTEER FOR CRISIS CHRISTMAS

Volunteers are urgently needed to offer dental services to homeless people in London over the festive season as part of Crisis Christmas, running from Wednesday 23 December to Wednesday 30 December 2009.

The Crisis Christmas Dental Service relies on qualified volunteers to provide a range of routine dental treatments including check-ups, scale and polish and fillings as well as providing basic dental health advice and education.

Crisis is looking for qualified dentists, dental nurses and hygienists to help run the Dental Service at Crisis Christmas this year, to build on the success of 2008 when over 200 patients received dental treatment. Shifts run from 8.30am to 6pm from Thursday 24 December through to Tuesday 29 December with volun-

teers required to work a minimum of two shifts.

Bianca Payne, a senior dental nurse and volunteer at Crisis Christmas 2008, said, 'I was immediately affected by the warmth of the place. The dentistry was carried out in fully equipped vans. There were people everywhere holding steaming hot cups of tea and coffee, engrossed in wholesome conversations and having a good laugh. We all worked hard but had plenty of time to sit down, have a chat with the guests and other volunteers sharing stories. At the end of three days I wished my day-to-day work was as much fun as this.'

To find out more about volunteering email volunteering@crisis.org.uk, apply online at <http://www.crisis.org.uk/volunteering> or call 020 7426 3874.

NOTHING BUT THE TOOTH

Dame Margaret Seward, former editor of the *BDJ*, President of the GDC and then Chief Dental Officer, was delighted to see a stand for Bickiepegs at the BDA conference in Glasgow and later at the BSDHT Conference in Bournemouth.

Over 35 years ago Margaret made a film about Bickiepegs, the children's teething product, after mentioning the product in her Masters thesis. As secretary of the British Paedodontic Society, Margaret put forward the film to the International Children's Dentistry Association in Paris in 1973 for the 4th International Congress of Dentistry.

Bickiepegs donated £2k towards making the film and



Dame Margaret Seward meeting the owners of Bickiepegs, Hazel and Tony Cowan

Margaret was able to employ a filmmaker to prepare a script while a friend's flat in Potters Bar became the location. It was completed with the help of the Royal

Society of Medicine Film Unit.

The 14 minute colour film was named *Nothing but the tooth*. It was a runaway success, translated into several different languages

and shown around the world, winning many awards.

Bickiepegs are made in Aberdeen and promoted as a healthy way to help babies teething.