



Practice manager Gillian Fisher with patients waiting to be seen by the Dental Mavericks in Morocco

MAVERICKS TREAT 156 IN MOROCCAN MOUNTAINS

Dental practice manager Gillian Fisher from Withernsea in East Yorkshire travelled to the remote Rif Mountains region in Morocco in September to help treat 150 Moroccan children as part of the Dental Mavericks team.

Gillian travelled to Morocco with colleague Chris Branfield, principal at Castle Park Dental Care in Cottingham, and a group of seven dentists from throughout England. The group spent seven days at a remote school in a fishing village with 650 children, a high intake of honey and sweet mint tea, and no access to dental services.

This year the Mavericks treated 156 children and carried out restorations on 20.

Chris is the co-founder and trustee of the Dental Mavericks charity and helps organise the annual expedition to Morocco. Cally Gedge, another co-founder and trustee from Dental Mavericks, said: 'This is our third year, and this Moroccan community now

relies on UK dentists to rid them from the daily pain of decayed teeth.'

Gillian, who now plans to speak to local groups about her experience to help raise money for the Dental Mavericks charity, said that it was 'truly the most overwhelming experience of my dental career and an expedition I will never forget'. She was particularly struck by the beautiful landscape, the friendliness of the people and the 'awful' levels of dental decay in the patients seen.

The Mavericks have a long term goal to fund a nurse who will visit the Moroccan school weekly and educate children on oral health, and also to bring in a dentist once a month from the nearest town, which is two and a half hours away. It will be called the El Jebah Teeth for Life programme.

For more information visit www.dentalmavericks.org or www.castleparkdental.co.uk/charity.html.

PAM CELEBRATES TWO DECADES AS DENTAL NURSE AMBASSADOR

On 4 September 2012 Pam Swain celebrated 20 years with the British Association of Dental Nurses (BADN) with a drinks reception at the Mayfair Exchange in London.

Former President Angie McBain MBE spoke on behalf of the Association's past presidents, emphasising not only Chief Executive Pam's dedication to the BADN and the changes she made to what was a small, niche association to bring it into the twenty-first century, but also the endless support Pam has provided to past presidents, the BADN Council and BADN members.

Pam was presented with a pearl necklace, a gift from BADN Council, at the drinks reception which was attended by many of the people Pam has worked with over the past two decades. Pam thanked everyone for attending and their kindness and reminisced about the concern had caused 20 years ago due to her business rather than dental background.

Earlier this year Pam received the Outstanding Achievement Award at the 2012 Dental Awards and she is also the 2012-2013 President of Soroptimist International Blackpool & District.

DENTAL TEAM TAKE THE REINS OF WELSH PRACTICE

Philip Guest, who runs a well established dental practice near Wrexham, has become the first dental practice owner to transfer the ownership of his business to its employees. Gwersyllt Dental Care near Wrexham is now part of Future Health Partnership.

The Future Health Partnership enables dental professionals to put patients and employees at the heart of dental practices by allowing the whole dental team to have a stake in the way the practice is managed and run, as it is their own business.

Dr Guest explained: 'Employee ownership is something which I have been aware of for many years in other sectors, but I just didn't know where to start. When I heard about the Future Health Partnership, I realised that there was an immediate fit for

myself, my employees and our patients. I have a real sense of doing the right thing and giving something back to everybody who is associated with Gwersyllt Dental Care.'

Synonymous with businesses such as John Lewis Partnership, the Future Health Partnership is the first employee-owned company to successfully emulate the model for the dental sector.

The adoption of the Future Health model is likely to appeal most to dental practice owners who are disillusioned with the increasing burdens of practice management and administration, allowing them to refocus on improving patient care and enhancing the working environment for all staff, as well as benefitting financially from the transfer of ownership.