



'WOW' NOT 'OW' AT NEW BIRMINGHAM PRACTICE

Former *Vital* cover star and dental nurse Mark Thurston (spring 2011 issue) is opening a brand new dental practice at The Custard Factory, Birmingham, in partnership with fiancée Rebecca Gumm, a dental hygienist, and dentist Harman Chahal.

Wowdental is located close to Birmingham city centre and invites patients to try a new experience in an environment which will bring out the 'best in your smile - a "wow" clinic, now an "ow" clinic'. The practice offers patients fresh coffee and free Internet access while they wait; the UK's first cartoon-styled dental chair (pictured); and an inflatable mock-up surgery for children.

Mark, Rebecca and Harman say that their vision for dentistry is that patients shouldn't be nervous of visiting the dentist, that they should understand how to help maintain their own teeth and that there should not be a premium for accessing services to help prevent dental disease.

As well as dental nurse, Mark is the business manager at the new practice and has project-managed the build.

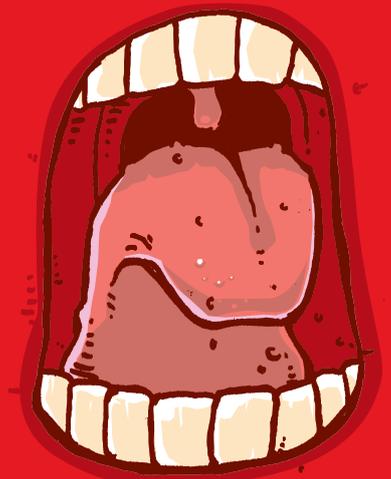
As *Vital* goes to press Wowdental was aiming to welcome the first new patients through the doors this September.

STINKY BREATH WORSE THAN STINKY FEET

Bad breath has been named the third worst bad smell in Britain. A survey of over 2,000 people carried out for a UK-wide waste disposal company revealed that the worst smell as voted for by the British public is babies' nappies, followed by sewers on a hot day.

The complete top ten worst smells are:

- 1 Baby poo
- 2 Sewers on a hot day
- 3 Bad breath
- 4 Wet dog
- 5 Flatulence
- 6 Human sweat
- 7 Rotten food
- 8 Smoking
- 9 Smelly feet
- 10 The 'juice' at the bottom of your bin.



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HYGIENISTS PRESENT TO YOUNG DENTISTS AT FULLY-BOOKED WORKSHOPS

Dental hygienist Shaun Howe and dental hygienist and therapist Amanda Gallie were thrilled to be invited to present a series of workshops both to other dental care professionals (DCPs) and to recently qualified dentists at this year's British Dental Conference and Exhibition in London.

The workshops, 'May the force be with you ... de-mystifying periodontal assessment (screenings)', were fully booked months in advance and over-subscribed and saw a wide range of practitioners from all areas of practice in attendance.

The sessions explored probing the gingivae while carrying out periodontal charting, its importance in record keeping, calibrating probing force and the use of ultrasonic scalers.

Shaun spoke to *Vital* about their experience at the event:

'We had some nerves going into the presentations; the normal ones for anyone involved in speaking such as "are my facts correct?" and "will they enjoy it?" but these things soon wash away once the delegates arrive.

'The groups were limited to 15 or so people so that during the hands-on sessions, delegates could receive our individual attention. Too

many presentations can be "death by slides" so we tried to keep slides to a minimum and focus on interaction.'

Shaun and Amanda were grateful for the support they received during the conference from the British Dental Association (BDA) and from Optident and EMS. Shaun said: 'Any DCP thinking of making a pitch to present at the Conference can do so with the sound knowledge that they will receive tremendous support in all aspects. Information is provided well in advance and allows the speakers to prepare well and there are many support staff available to help on the day.'

Shaun and Amanda also took the time to join the celebration for *Vital*'s tenth anniversary on the *BDJ/Vital* stand where Shaun met fellow members of the *Vital* Reader Panel.

