

LANCASHIRE LAUNCHES THERAPY PROGRAMME

A new orthodontic therapy programme for dental nurses will be launched at the University of Central Lancashire, Preston, in January 2009.

The one-year programme, based at the postgraduate dental centre in Preston, will be led by orthodontist, Hemant Patel (pictured), and successful participants will be able to register as orthodontic therapists with the GDC.

Dr Patel said: 'This exciting new programme will ensure the nurse can play a much more active role within the dental team.' Clinical work will predominantly take place in the student's practice.



DENTAL PATIENTS POSE NUDE FOR CHARITY

Dental patients from across the North East are proving they have plenty to smile about by baring all for a charity calendar, in a move reminiscent of hit movie 'Calendar Girls'. The ten individuals who feature in the appropriately named Wearing Nothing But A Smile calendar 2009, are all patients at Riveredge Cosmetic Dentistry in Sunderland and Newcastle.

They include rugby league star and former Great Britain captain Paul Sculthorpe, who features in the calendar as Mr June, with only a strategically placed rugby ball to protect his modesty. He is pictured alongside nine other brave Riveredge clients, including an artist, a care worker and a chemical

process technician, whose ages range from 22 to 74 years.

They are joined by Riveredge dentist Dr Ken Harris, a dentist accredited by the British Academy of Cosmetic Dentistry (BACD), who was the brain behind the original idea. He is pictured in his treatment room and stars as Mr April.

The calendar ends 2009 on a high, with a montage of photographs featuring Riveredge staff to mark December.

Riveredge's 2009 charity calendar is available from Riveredge's Sunderland and Newcastle clinics or via telephone on 0191 567 1020 priced at £10 each and proceeds will be split between two cancer charities.

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TREKKING FOR CHARITY

Oral health charity Dentaaid is celebrating the success of another overseas trek as supporters climbed the highest peak in Northern Africa, Mount Toubkal, at the end of September.

The trek has so far raised a significant amount of money for Dentaaid. One of its most significant projects at present is looking at the issue of Infant Oral Mutilation, known as IOM. This is a practice mainly prevalent in African communities whereby infants' milk teeth are removed with bicycle spokes, finger nails or something similar, as they are believed to be worms or maggots in the mouth.

This can cause serious effects, from infection to long term damage to adult teeth. Dentaaid is currently researching this issue with a view to combating it. The fundraising will also benefit Dentaaid's dental surgeries and its schools programme.

