

Welcome to our first newsletter in which we hope to keep you up to date with our developments and news, provide you with dental info, answer your most FAQs and take a lighter look at the (sometimes) very strange world of teeth.

## The show, so far

We have now, incredibly, been operational for 6 months and are beginning to see some of you for the second time around. We must have been having fun because time really has flown by.

## Hours

The practice has continued to expand, not just with familiar faces from our previous lives but new ones too. Our surgery hours have been amended to accommodate patient demand, including offering alternate Saturdays (previously one in four weeks), for dental and hygiene treatments. We have also introduced a 2<sup>nd</sup> late night on Tuesdays, until 7pm, once every 4 weeks. This is in addition to our late evening every Thursday until 8pm. Please note, we consequently close the surgery on Friday afternoons, lest our families should forget who we are!

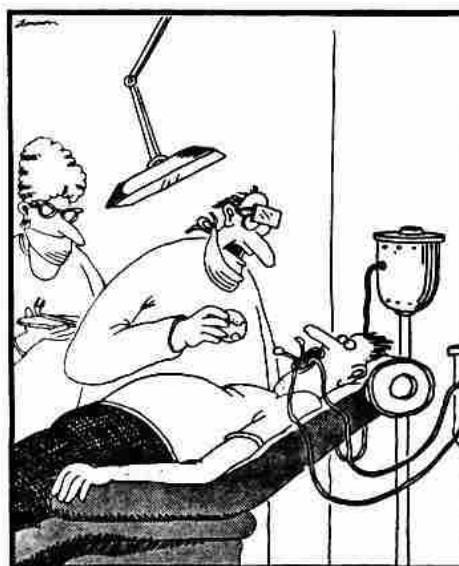
## Award

We are thrilled to be shortlisted in the category of 'Best New Practice' in the

UK-wide *Private Dentistry* awards, having entered the competition only 3 months after opening. The judges are yet to make their final decision....

## Thank you

Thank you for waiting patiently for our practice to open and thank you for your continued loyalty and support.



"Now open even wider, Mr. Stevens. ... Just out of curiosity, we're going to see if we can also cram in this tennis ball."

## Practice Membership Scheme

The launch of our own practice membership scheme is imminent. Three i-teeth Dental Care Plans, devised to accommodate your individual dental needs, will provide a vehicle to spread the cost of your essential dental care (routine examinations, radiographs and hygiene treatment). In addition, any dental or additional hygiene treatments received by scheme members will be discounted by 10-15%. For parents of children (under 18 years of age), the scheme can enable up to 50% discounted fees for your childrens' dental treatments, in addition to two free examinations per year. Please ask any member of staff for details.

## Goodbye and welcome...

Our dental nurse, **Liz**, has now moved to Birmingham University to study dental hygiene and therapy but happily she will re-don her dental nursing hat from time to time to cover our staff holidays. We are delighted she has chosen to continue a career in dentistry and wish her well.

Her replacement, **Zena**, joined us in September. Zena is a qualified dental nurse with additional certification in dental radiography and comes with 5 years' experience in general dental practice.



We also welcome **Kevin McGee, BDS FRDCS**, on a visiting referral basis. He practises exclusively in the field of oral surgery, providing a range of surgical treatments, including the placement of implants, apicectomies and extraction of wisdom teeth.

A patient sits in the dental chair with severely fractured front teeth. After discussing how they will be restored, the patient says, "Before we begin, Doc, I need to know: will I be able to play the trumpet when you've finished?" The dentist answered, "Sure, you will!" "Great," replied the patient, "I couldn't play a note before!"

## What is a dental hygienist and therapist?

A dental hygienist undertakes 2 years' clinical training in a dental hospital, usually following several years' experience as a dental nurse. A hygienist specialises in periodontal (gum) treatments, providing scaling and polishing, root planing and curettage, oral hygiene and dental health advice. Hygienists can also administer local anaesthetic, take impressions and provide fissure sealants and fluoride treatments.

Dental therapists' training spans 2.5 -3 years. Their training is currently being upgraded to a university degree course. They provide a much wider spectrum of treatment: in addition to hygiene treatment, they conduct the full gambit of dental treatments for deciduous (the first set of) teeth, from fillings to pulp therapies and extractions. Their duties also include simple restorative treatment of adult (permanent) teeth, where there is no pulp involvement.

Both hygienists and therapists execute treatment prescribed by a dentist. They cannot treat patients without a prescription validated within the previous 12 months.

Only a small number of dental hygienists and therapists are trained each year and both are in short supply. Dental therapists have only recently emerged into general practice; they are more typically employed in community services.

We are therefore very fortunate to be able to enjoy the services of Claire, our own dental hygienist and therapist. In addition to hygiene treatment, she provides dental treatment for all our child patients but is also available for adult treatments at preferential rates.