

Summer Newsletter

June 2008

A busy year!

Not content with just treating patients to our usual high standards, we have worked hard in a number of areas to keep our practice at the forefront of developments.

In the surgeries, we have a couple of projects on the go involving all the staff to improve the quality of patient care; for example, one project aims to help patients who have particular difficulty with tooth cleaning. We have developed a new method to do this using digital photography.

We have also been installing more surgery space upstairs, and plan to make various other improvements to our building and land which will provide an even better environment for all.

We are very proud of what we achieve at

Chesterfield Orthodontics, and hope that you agree. However, if you do have any comments you wish to make about our service, please ask at reception for our survey form, or contact the Practice Manager, on kirstie@smilebydesign.biz, or telephone 01256 550033.



A year of excellence!

- Waiting List initiative
- Orthodontic Therapists
- Staff developments
- Car park expansion
- Good Practice Award
- Building improvements
- Research Projects

Orthodontic Therapists



In the last year, the law about who can provide "hands on" dental treatment as defined by the "Dentists Act" has been changed. As a result a new category of dental professional has been created known as an "Orthodontic Therapist". It is intended that suitably trained Therapists will work alongside Orthodontists, assisting with adjustment and placing of appliances.

There are only about 1500 Orthodontists in the country, so the introduction of Therapists will mean more efficient management of patients, with shorter waiting times for treatment.

It's an exciting development for patients, Orthodontists, and of course Therapists themselves, who will enjoy a considerable boost to their careers.

We are very pleased to announce that our Senior Nurse, Emma Froggatt, has been chosen (from 100 applicants) to be one of the first 10 people to be trained as a Therapist on the new course given by Manchester University. After a month of intensive teaching at Manchester, Emma has returned to complete her training within the practice for a further 11 months.

Once Emma has gained her Diploma in Orthodontic Therapy in April 2009, she will become part of the orthodontic team and make an even bigger contribution to the practice and patient care.

After that, we plan to add one more Therapist to the team from 2010. So watch this space!

Staff Developments

The past year has seen some big changes as the practice develops and expands. We have been joined by Amy, and more recently Keri and Lisa.

Development of skills and qualifications is a big priority for our practice; Amy has worked hard to obtain her National Diploma in Dental Radiography, so is qualified (along with Emma and Kirstie) to take X-Rays. All have also been trained to take clinical photographs. Lisa and Keri will be starting their X-Ray courses over the summer.

Meanwhile, Phil and Nick are very active with their own projects and courses, for example to introduce the latest type of orthodontic brackets into clinical use.

Nick has recently been appointed to a part time role as the Regional Advisor to dentists in respect of their personal development.

Finally, Ruth has moved to Guildford and has therefore left the practice. Ruth was a very popular

and effective member of the team, and we'll miss her!



BDA Good Practice Award

We have recently been recognised by the British Dental Association through their "Good Practice Scheme". This prestigious award is made to practices which demonstrate high standards in every area.

These include surgery procedures such as cross infection control, working

practices, staff development and health and safety - to name but a few.

Kirstie our manager works very hard to make Chesterfield Orthodontics run smoothly and conform to all the regulations and guidelines. It is very satisfying for us to be acknowledged in this way.



Waiting Lists

Like most orthodontic practices, we are very busy, and for many years it has been necessary for patients to be placed on a waiting list for a few months before the initial appointment.

To improve our service, we worked very hard in the first few months of the year and have now cleared the waiting list altogether. From now on, we intend to see all new patients within 3 months of referral.

There is no waiting list for treatment either, so patients who are ready for their braces can then start as soon as the preliminary appointments are completed.

Car Park

We have bought the disused public toilet and land in front of our building on Markham Road. We are about to demolish the building, construct a retaining wall and extend our car park into the space created.

It means that we should be able to offer a few more parking spaces for patients. However, this is still limited due to our town centre location and the large number of patients that we see - usually more than a hundred a day. Therefore we do advise patients to arrive with plenty of time to spare as it may still be necessary to make use of the public car parks nearby.



Soon the view will be much better!