The last couple of months have been a whirlwind here at BSDHT, with many projects on the go at once. As I write this, I have just come back from two weeks annual leave, and the stark realisation has just hit me that I have less than six months to go as President – how the past 18 months have flown by. Full steam ahead then until November!

Here is a round-up of recent events:

**BSDHT VAT Inspection**

Along with our Honorary Treasurer, Helen Westley, and a member of our accountancy team at Sophers, I met with the tax inspector from HMRC at the BSDHT offices in Gloucester. The tax inspector spent quite a long time going through our books and reassuringly it appears that we are doing just about everything correctly. There were a couple of issues that he wanted clarifying, and I have managed to source this from the very helpful regional group committees, so thank you to them. All the information has now been collated and sent off to the tax inspector.

My thanks must also go to Sue Adams and her team for some excellent pre-planning and input on the day.

**NHS England Call to Action**

This was a major event in London where more than 200 people, from all areas of dentistry, gathered together to input into the contents of the new NHS dental contract. I was probably the only dental hygienist. There were many workshops and interaction in small groups, presentations and then a live panel debate at the end of the day, which I took part in. Others panelists facing questions from the audience were Barry Cockcroft (CDO for England), Sue Gregory (Director Public Health), John Milne (BDA), Tim Whitaker (GDC) and Professor Jimmy Steele.

**Centre for Workforce Intelligence**

I attended the first of these workshops last April. This is the second and was attended by Elected Council Members Diane Rochford and Alison Lowe whilst I was on holiday. They are commissioned by the Department of Health and aim to determine the workforce planning numbers of DCPs to take us through to the year 2025 – no mean feat without a crystal ball!

**BDA Conference**

BSDHT historically has a presence at this event, and I was there on the BSDHT stand for two of the three days. Along with President elect, Michaela ONeill, we also had other duties and scheduled meetings to attend. These presented us with excellent networking opportunities, and the BSDHT stand provided an opportunity to meet with some of you, our members.

One chance meeting was with a Surgeon Commander of the Armed Forces, who told me that they are looking to recruit up to 60 civilian dental hygienists in the near future, so watch this space!

At the drinks reception, I later met with the new President of the BDA, Bill Moyes, and Michaela and I introduced ourselves to the new Chair of the BDA PEC Committee, Mick Armstrong.

Friday involved more official duties when I presented the BSDHT Award for Outstanding Dedication to BSDHT and the Profession to Elaine Tilling. This was warmly received by Elaine. We also hosted the BSDHT session which was very well attended, where our speaker was Sheila Scott – a business consultant who is very supportive of dental hygienists and therapists. She provided an insightful and lively session.

Also, on the Friday, Chief Dental Officer for England, Barry Cockcroft introduced me to the Minister, Earl Howe. It was encouraging to discover that Earl Howe was very aware of who we were and commented that BSDHT are doing great things in dentistry!

**BDHA Regalia**

An hour’s drive from my home is RAF Cranwell in Lincolnshire, where I went to retrieve the original BDHA regalia that has been housed there for some time. It is in the original frame, just as it was presented, and is now in need of some TLC to restore it to its former glory, before we decide what to do to preserve it and the history it represents. The future of the ‘gong’ and the current gong will be discussed fully by both the Executive and Council teams to make sure our 65 year history is preserved.
Other news

Tutors’ Group

Congratulations to former BSDHT President Marina Harris, who has recently been appointed as the new Chair of the Tutors Group. Marina replaces Elaine Taylor-Duxbury.

The group also has a new BSDHT Tutor Representative: Liz Bannister has now been replaced by Emma Fisher who was the BSDHT Website Feeder. The new Treasurer for the group is Jill Rushforth our immediate past Honorary Treasurer.

Congratulations to you all – and great news that these are all BSDHT members!

Limited Prescribing Rights

You will be pleased to know that we are looking into other ways of facilitating the pathway for limited prescribing rights for dental hygienists and therapists, and that we are in talks with other interested parties. We also received a letter from a dental therapist member who enlightened us on how this works in Canada – so I have now written to our colleagues in Canada for any relevant information that they can share with us. In Canada, preliminary investigations reveal that prescribing by dental hygienists has been allowed since 2006, and that it took three years to develop a 6-9 month course entitled, “Elements of Prescribing: A Pharmacy Refresher Course for Dental Hygienists”. Surely this model can easily be copied here in the UK? I promise you we will be working on it!

Julie Rosse
BSDHT President

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COPY DATES FOR DENTAL HEALTH
1ST AUGUST FOR THE SEPTEMBER ISSUE

The Editor would appreciate items sent ahead of these dates when possible.
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