

It goes without saying that 2020 was a difficult year. Ambitions were not just dampened by COVID restrictions, they were well and truly derailed. There had been plans to offer vets and nurses training courses focusing primarily on the basic skills. Whilst advanced wet labs are always very eye-catching and appealing to those of us working at a higher level within our discipline, I believe the biggest positive impact the BVDA could make on British veterinary dentistry would be to make sure clinicians had a sound understanding of basic skills and principals. I would hope that these will come to fruition in 2021.

Looking at education in a broader sense and not just courses, I have been very pleased to see excellent continued growth on our facebook page. I checked the figures I had quoted this time last year and our facebook group members were 900. One year later they are over 2,400. I can't take any particular credit for this growth. It has happened because of Chris Allen's efforts and knowledge of social media but also because it's a very useful page that delivers amazing educational content. There are daily posts and topics which are discussed and debated and residents and specialists often contribute. It's clear from monitoring the comments of our community of 'regulars' that vast amounts of knowledge are being imparted.

Finally, putting a positive spin on a terrible year, COVID regulations prevented us from taking "Talking Teeth" on the road. There had been plans to expand on our Devon and Wiltshire meets and run similar evening talks across the UK. It was in the midst of the first lockdown that I decided I would try a virtual Talking Teeth from my dental room with a cadaver, two webcams and some excellent support. It was very well attended and we were also joined by specialist Andrew Perry who was very generous with his time. People were able to put questions forward and ask for demonstrations on the cadaver and it felt like a real success. So much so that we decided that this model was the obvious future of talking teeth. No longer would delegates need to scramble to venues after work. Catering and venue hire were no longer concerns but more importantly, our reach went from regional to international.

I look forward to the rest of the talking teeth series this year. Alix Freeman has put together an excellent list of speakers for monthly webinars and the 3 we've had already this year have been excellent.

Wishing you all the best.

Tom Williams