



# Wellcome Collection Exhibition

Explore the Wellcome Collection:  
*Teeth* exhibits in London until mid-September

If you're in London, you have to check out *Teeth*, the newest exhibition at the Wellcome Collection. The exhibit, which has been open since 17th May, was inspired by Richard Barnett's book *The Smile Stealers* and follows the history of dentistry through the ages, from Mayan jade-inlaid teeth to today's digital 3D scanning technology.

More than 150 objects on display range from dental tools, chairs and objects to interactive public health video campaigns, forensic dentistry and modern technologies. The exhibition is not only a science exhibition but also displays an overlap with the arts, with paintings and carvings depicting dental barbers and displays of dentists in films such as *Little Shop of Horrors*. Some of the



Hands on  
training

**Sunday 18th November**  
Crowne Plaza Hotel Birmingham  
Cost £450 +VAT

A one day Osseodensification course  
with Ziv Mazor and Jason Buglass

Learn and practice the clinical versatility of Osseodensification

CPD credits | Learning outcome C | 7 hours- 3 hour lecture and 4 hours of participation.



Ziv Mazor

Watch our promotional video for this course at: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=bxqGv7\\_zsKw](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bxqGv7_zsKw)

Book your place today at: [www.versah.co.uk/training](http://www.versah.co.uk/training)

Distributed in the UK by Versah UK 0845 5610190 | [info@versah.co.uk](mailto:info@versah.co.uk)





NB

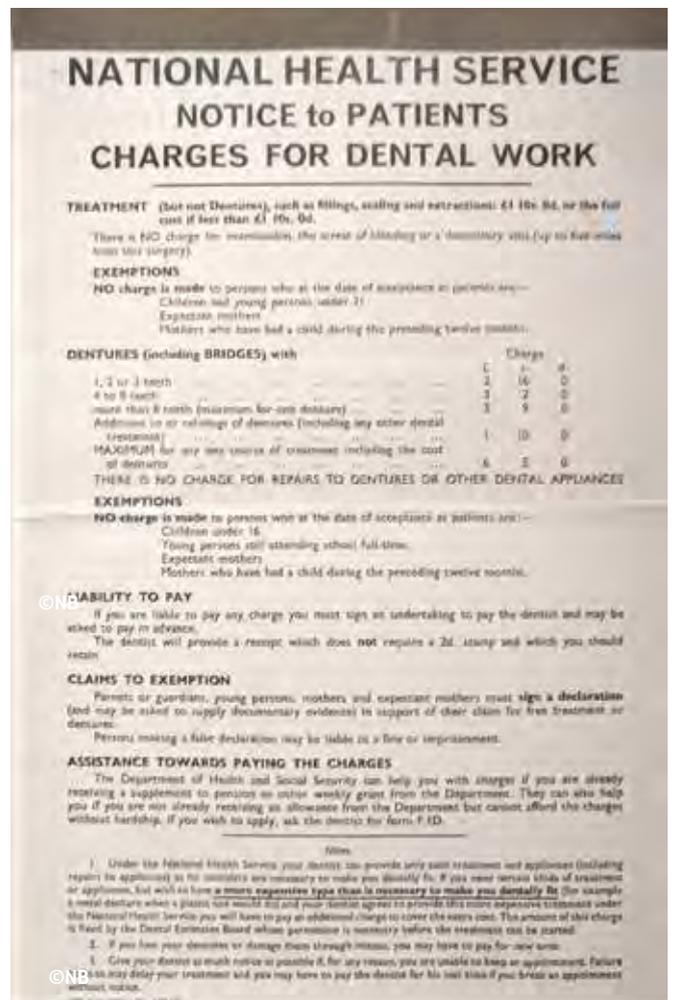


NB

objects, including Napoleon's toothbrush, are already exhibits at the Wellcome Collection's long-standing permanent exhibition, *Medicine Man*. Other objects, such as 1960s dental equipment and sets of ivory dentures, were donated from the BDA Museum. Dental chairs through the ages are also shown, from the first barbers chair, to a 1960s chair with a glass spittoon, to a modern electronic dental chair.

Some aspects that I found particularly interesting were how NHS dentistry was established and the public health problems arising from poor oral health postwar. Some things haven't changed too much, such as campaigning to improve paediatric oral health and reducing the amount of children's extractions. A 1960s public health poster shows how 4 tons of children's teeth were extracted every year. (The figure today is around 1 ton, according to the BDA.)

When the NHS was established in 1948—70 years old this year!—it was realised that dentistry was rapidly costing the nation too much, and so dental charges were introduced in 1951. Check out how much they were, in the photo at right.







KS

Interesting to see that if you falsely claimed exemption from dental charges, you were not only liable to pay a fine but also you could also be imprisoned!

On display were several letters to the Tooth Fairy from children which make for some entertaining reads:

*'Dear Tooth Fairy,  
Sorry about this, but I swallowed my tooth instead of giving it to you but please can I have some money?'*

*'Dear Poppy,  
I'm sorry I know you were expecting a tooth but the truth is that I lost it. I put it on the window sill in the kitchen but when I looked for it, it was gone!*

*I am very sad and I hope you will forgive me and you don't HAVE to give me my money because it's my fault.*

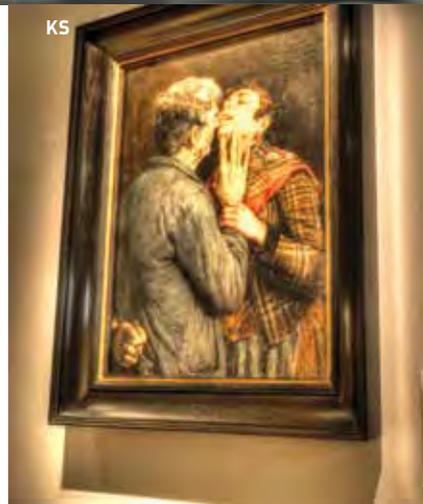
*If you are feeling generous then I would like my money but you don't have to.*

*From a sad and sorry Beth.  
P.S. If you would like proof then open my mouth and have a look (it's on the bottom it's on the right side).'*

I really enjoyed the exhibition and I learnt some really interesting facts from where the words *dentist* and *halitosis* came from. The word *dentist* was first used in France and comes from the Latin *dent*, which means tooth. The word *halitosis* was created for a Listerine advert. The patron saint of dentists who is St Apollonia.

The exhibition runs until the 16th of September and it is free, so make sure you don't miss out! To find out more, visit the Wellcome Collection Website.

*Editor's note:* Thank you to Dr Shalin Kapoor, who has also shared the following photos from the *Teeth* exhibition, including our fantastic front cover shot. ■



KS

**Images**

**NB:** Dr Natalie Bradley

**KS:** Dr Shalin Kapoor

