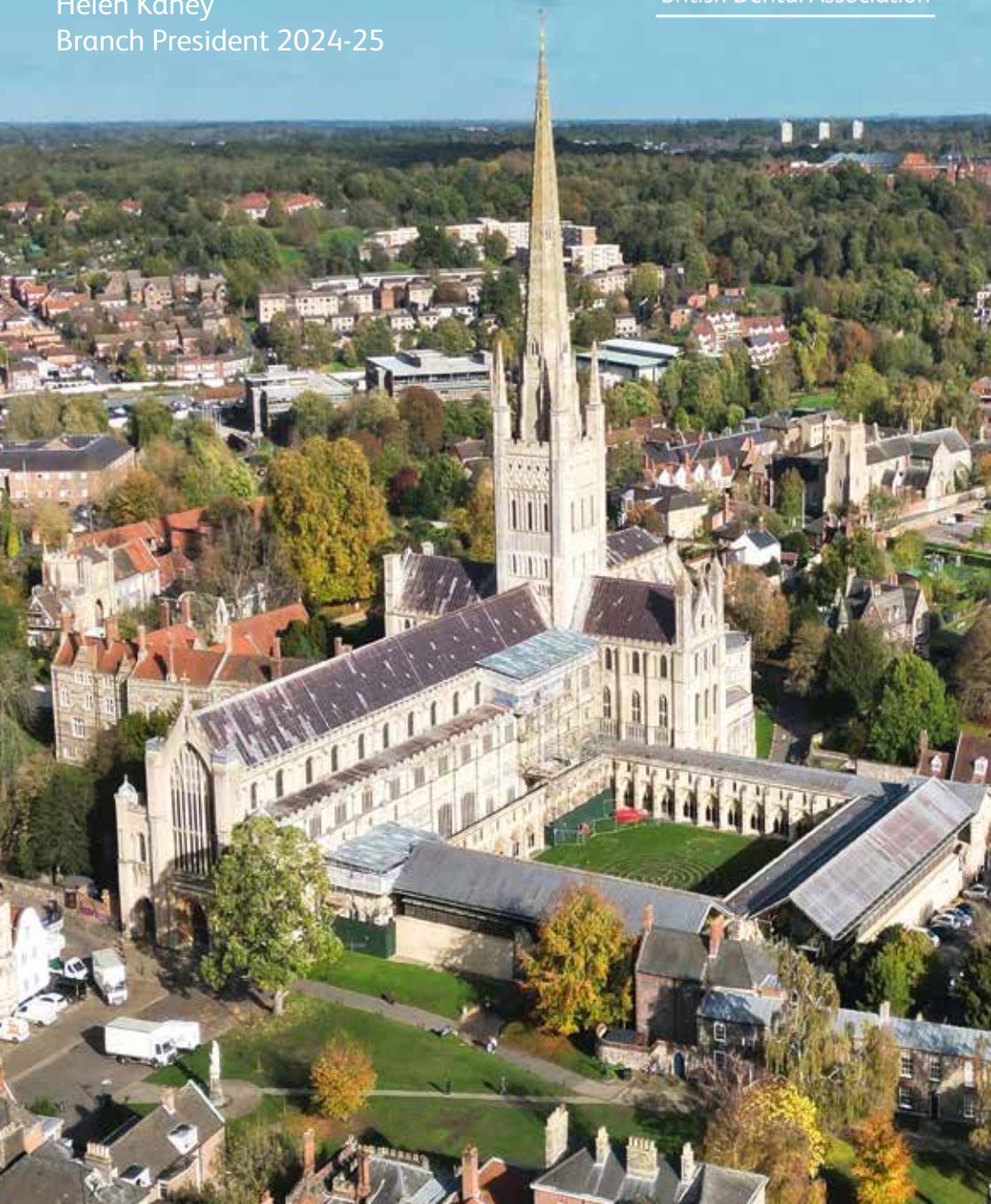


# West of Scotland Branch 2024-25 Programme of events

Helen Kaney  
Branch President 2024-25

# BDA

British Dental Association













## Annual dinner Saturday, 8 March 2025

The branch's Annual Dinner is a social highlight in the dental calendar, bringing you and your colleagues together for an evening of fine dining at Rossdhu House on the banks of Loch Lomond in Luss by Alexandria.

Booking will be through the BDA.org website. Save the date in your calendar!

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# Graham McKirdy memorial lecture

## Graham McKirdy In memoriam

**“I tend to go and get things done as best as I can. It’s a bit like a football team, occasionally you’re the captain but you’re a part of a team and everybody works to deliver what’s best for dentists and patients”.**

This quote exemplified Graham’s approach to clinical practice, teaching and to dental politics. Born in Clydebank, Graham graduated from GDH&S in 1979 and began a career in general dental practice in Glasgow and Lanarkshire. He also spent over twenty years as a visiting GDP teaching dental students.

Early in his career Graham was elected to Lanarkshire Local Dental Committee and thus began an interest – indeed, a passion – for advocacy and representation of patients and communities, dental professionals and other healthcare workers, which continued throughout the rest of his life. He took part in all manner of representative bodies, committees and working groups within the BDA at Scottish and UK level. His learned knowledge of NHS pensions was so detailed he was later appointed to the NHS Scotland Pension Board as a member representative looking after the superannuation interests of all NHS workers.

Graham was a Past President of our West



of Scotland Branch and he was later awarded the highly prestigious Fellowship of the British Dental Association, an honour bestowed only on those who have given “exceptional and distinguished service to the profession”. He also received a lifetime achievement award from the Conference of Scottish Local Dental Committees.

Those of us who spent time on committees with Graham fondly recall his many idiosyncrasies: the brightly-coloured neck-ties with comic cartoon motifs, the spectacles always perched on the top of his head, and, invariably, the jacket off and shirt sleeves rolled up – the latter a perfect metaphor for his attitude to life and work!

As a lasting tribute to our dear friend and colleague Branch Council has instigated the annual **“Graham McKirdy Memorial Lecture”**.

# “Human factors for safe and effective teams”

## Trevor Dale

11 September 2024

### Aim:

- To raise awareness of the concepts that pertain to avoidable error
- To promote learning from success rather than a focus on error
- To promote effective safety behaviour

### Learning objectives

- Understand the attributes of a Just Culture
- Recognise the benefits of seeking honest feedback
- Gain confidence from an understanding of causes of error
- Be an advocate for patient safety

### Learning content

Implementation of Human Factors training has helped make commercial aviation fundamentally safe over the last 40 years. The basic principle is to avoid avoidable error and consequent harm. While there are obvious differences, Trevor will share the practical skills that can enhance dental safety, saving emotional, psychological and financial cost.



**Open:** 18:30 for Tea and Coffee

**Lecture:** 19:00

**Venue:** The Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow,  
232 - 242 St Vincent Street,  
Glasgow, G2 5RJ

**1.5 hr CPDA approved**

Development Outcome: B and D

BDA Members: Free

Non-members: Ben Fund Donation

Students: Free

### How to book

Online at [bda.org](https://bda.org)

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## Trevor Dale

FRAeS MCIEHF

Director, Atrainability Ltd

Trevor was a commercial pilot for British Airways from 1971 to 2005, retiring as a senior Training Captain flying the Boeing 747.

Trevor began introducing human factors concepts to healthcare professionals in 2002 at Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children in London, with paediatric cardiac surgery.

He then co-developed and delivered the first Human Factors course for the Royal College of Surgeons of England, entitled Safety and Leadership in Interventional

Procedures and surgery (SLIPS). He has delivered courses across the healthcare spectrum including in oral surgery and dentistry.

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# “Avoiding dento-legal pitfalls in perio” and “Why a Stepwise approach makes sense”

**Ian Dunn**

Thurs 31 October 2024

## **Avoiding Dento-legal pitfalls in Perio - what do I have to do?**

### **Aim:**

- Look at the documentation that helps defend a case in the event of a Perio claim
- Look at what the BPE actually says
- Discuss the need for appropriate radiographs and time intervals for retaking radiographs in perio cases
- Revisit the need for a diagnosis

### **Learning objectives**

- The minimum standard of documentation required for a perio case
- Be familiar with the BPE and understand when we can deviate from the recommendations
- Be confident to prescribe the appropriate radiographs and know when to retake radiographs in a Perio case
- Understand the importance of a diagnosis

## **Treatment - Why a Stepwise approach makes sense and what actually works.**

### **Aim**

- Look at the concept of the S3 guideline stepped approach to care
- Look at what treatment works including potentially more efficient treatment strategies.
- Look at some new data regarding what can be achieved non-surgically (MINST)
- To consider indication for referral

### **Learning objectives**

- The S3 Treatment Guidelines
- Be familiar with what it says in relation to treatment options and how this might be relevant to practice
- Be aware of MINST and the concept of non-surgical “regeneration”
- When to consider referral



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## **Ian Dunn**

### **Specialist Periodontist**

He qualified from Leeds in 1998. He was awarded Membership of the Faculty of General Practitioners after successful examination in 2001. He completed his Master Degree in Periodontology (treatment of gum disease and gum problems) in 2010. In 2013 he was admitted to the General Dental Councils Specialist List in Periodontics and as such is one of only a small number of Specialist Periodontist in the UK.

Ian has worked in prominent specialist practices for the last 14 years and splits his clinical time between Rose Lane Dental

Practice and Clinic 334, a prestigious Specialist referral practice in South Cheshire.

Ian has taught at Liverpool University for 15 years and was the Teaching Lead in Periodontology until he stepped down in 2016. He maintains a link to the university and is still a Senior Clinical Lecturer in Periodontology.

Ian also lectures all over the UK to qualified dentists, hygienists and therapists and together with his teaching partner, Phil Ower, runs the Periodontal teaching on the Royal College of Surgeons Restorative Diploma in Restorative Dentistry.

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# “An update from Scottish Government”

The Graham McKirdy memorial lecture

## Gillian Leslie

20 November 2024

### Aims:

- To receive an update on current CDO workstreams.
- To receive an update on reform including current published data for Det 1.
- To discuss the challenges the sector is currently facing

### Learning objectives

- To understand the current position and future work within Scottish Government
- To learn how the Det 1 is evolving
- To discuss current issues.

### Learning content

Learning content will be based on up to date information at the time of the lecture.



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## Gillian Leslie

BDS (Gla) MFDS RCS (Eng)

Gillian Leslie is one of the Deputy Chief Dental Officers in Scottish Government. She has been heavily involved in the reform of the Determination 1, working with stakeholders and the dental sector.

Gillian's main roles include being the DCDO for the West and North Health Boards, Quality Assurance and Governance, engaging with stakeholders, IPC and advising on clinical policy framework. She is also a practice owner in East Lothian and a practicing dentist with a specialist

interest in oral surgery.

The first part of her career was spent in the Royal Navy where she became the first Royal Naval female dentist in a war zone. She retired after 13 years as a Surgeon Lieutenant Commander (D).



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# “My life as a dentist – the art of reinvention”

## Andrew Paterson 22 January 2025

### Aim:

- To give participants a synopsis of the challenges facing oral health in Malawi and the attempts made by many partners to improve oral health in the nation.
- To give participants an overview into effective diagnosis and management strategies in failing dentitions.
- To give participants some insight into the efforts being made to incorporate professional behaviours into undergraduate dental education

### Learning objectives

- List the key challenges involved in improving oral health in Malawi.
- Have an awareness of the role of effective communication in the avoidance and management of restorative disasters.
- Have an awareness of the importance of professional behaviours in the GDC’s “safe practitioner” framework for undergraduate dental education.

### Learning content

This varied presentation from the perspective of one person’s ever-changing career will give participants information about the challenges involved in capacity building to attempt to improve oral health in sub-Saharan Africa, managing failure in restorative dentistry and some aspects of ethics and professionalism in clinical practice, teaching, learning and assessment.



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## Andrew Paterson

Senior Lecturer / Honorary Consultant in Restorative Dentistry

A dental chameleon Andrew has reinvented himself throughout his career. Previously worked in a Glasgow restorative-based practice for two decades and during a multifaceted career has held Consultant posts in three Dental Hospitals and a District Hospital. Worked with an indemnity organisation and as a Clinical Academic in Dundee and now Glasgow where Andrew is Education Lead for Restorative Dentistry and involved in Student Fitness to Practise. Brought up in Africa he is a volunteer and trustee of Bridge2Aid operating in Malawi and Tanzania and part of the

MalDent project's "flying faculty" developing educational resources for oral health in Malawi.

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# “Defending dentists at the GDC”

## Stephen Brassington

26 February 2025

### Aim:

To provide an overview, from the perspective of an experienced Barrister, of the General Dental Council Fitness to Practise process and what is needed when defending dentists at the GDC.

### Learning objectives

- To provide those attending with an overview of the General Dental Council and how it works
- To help those attending understand the stages involved in the GDC Fitness to Practise process and the legal tests used by the Case Examiners and the Dental Professionals Hearing Service when assessing a registrant’s fitness to practise
- To help those attending understand how a DPHS Fitness to Practise Hearing progresses, the various stages and how each stage is approached by the defence team
- What a Barrister defending a dentist at the GDC/DPHS needs from the dentist concerned in order to get the best outcome

### Learning content

This lecture will provide an overview of the approach taken by the defence team, when representing dentists at a Fitness to Practice Hearing at the Dental Professionals Hearing Service, the organisation that holds independent hearings for cases brought by the General Dental Council about dental professionals’ fitness to practice. The presentation will focus on helping the audience to understand what a dental professional facing a FTP Hearing needs to do to help the defence team to help them, and will provide some interesting anecdotes based on the experience of a leading London based healthcare regulatory barrister.



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## Stephen Brassington

Barrister

Stephen Brassington is regarded as one of the leading practitioners in the field of Professional Discipline and was named Chambers and Partners Junior of the Year 2016. Stephen continues his status as a star individual and is described as 'fearless' and 'brilliant', as "a class operator" and "an extraordinarily effective advocate" and 'they should sell tickets to watch his cross-examination of experts.'. He advises and acts primarily in cases arising from the healthcare, sports, education and legal industries.

Stephen also undertakes a significant amount of Health and Safety defence work, in particular advising and assisting in defence of criminal prosecutions and at Coronial Inquests.

His background is one of criminal defence work, where he has advised and represented clients. Notable cases included defending in a conspiracy to kidnap Victoria Beckham, and in a £multi-million conspiracy to defraud Microsoft. Stephen has recently also been shortlisted as Professional Disciplinary and Regulatory Junior of the Year in The Legal 500 UK Bar Awards 2023.



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## Helen Kaney and Sharon Caro 19 March 2025

### Aim:

- To provide an overview of a dento-legal career, the role, the work and the knowledge and skills required.
- To explain the work of an expert witness and their role in the management of dento-legal cases.
- To provide information of the skills and knowledge required for the vital role of a dental expert witness and how to take steps to develop an expert witness aspect to a practising career.

### Learning objectives

- To understand the different career options that can be available for those who have a passion for dental law and ethics.
- To understand how to develop an interest and potentially a career in dental law and ethics and the various options available.
- To understand how the litigation process and regulatory cases work and the vital role of an expert witness in these processes.

### Learning content

This lecture will provide an overview of the career of a dentist who, after an initial 10 years in general practice, chose a different and slightly unusual career path with a view to using legal training to help, advise and defend fellow professional when they were in difficulty. It will also provide an overview and understanding of the work of an experienced general dental practitioner who has an additional element to her career as an expert witness, acting on the instructions of dental defence organisations in clinical negligence claims and as an expert witness in Professional Conduct Committee Hearings before the Dental Professionals Hearing Service.



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## Helen Kaney

BDS LLB Dip LP MBA FFGDP FFFLM

Helen is the BDA West of Scotland Branch President for 2024/2025. Helen is a Senior Dento-legal Adviser with MDDUS, providing advice and assistance to dental members on ethical and dento-legal issues and in clinical negligence claims and regulatory matters before the GDC. She spent 14 years at Dental Protection, latterly as Medico and Dento-Legal Services Team Lead and Head of Dental Services, Scotland. Helen is a Fellow and an elected Council member of the College of General Dentistry (formerly FGDP (UK)) and a Fellow of the Faculty of Forensic and Legal Medicine.

Helen qualified from Glasgow University in 1987 and spent over 10 years in general dental practice as well as working as a clinical assistant in conservative dentistry and prosthodontics at Glasgow Dental Hospital and at Guy's Hospital in London. Helen developed an interest in law and ethics early in her career and studied law (LLB) and then trained and worked as a solicitor for a number of years, acting for doctors and dentists in clinical negligence claims, regulatory matters and FAIs (in Scotland) on the instructions of UK indemnity providers. Her first dento-legal role in 1999 was working for a large American insurer in Surrey. Helen completed an MBA in 2013 at Strathclyde Business School. Helen has significant experience in advising and assisting dentists in the UK and Ireland and in several international jurisdictions. Helen lectures in the UK on dento-legal matters and regularly writes on dento-legal and indemnity matters for dental sector publications.

## Sharon Caro

BDS

Sharon has run her own practice in Lytham St Annes for the last 36 years working with 2 associates, a therapist, a hygienist and a MaxFax Consultant. The theme throughout is purple and anything that can be is purple including scrubs, bibs and the window frames although certain members of the team rebelled and have been allowed to wear black. 17 years ago Sharon was approached to write a report for Dental Protection. She had no idea about how to write a report, nor any real understanding about the GDC and the way in which complaints were dealt with by the various committees, nor what causation and other legal words actually meant. What followed was a very steep learning curve aided by amazing solicitors and barristers who started with the most basic explanations including the meaning of consent, backed up with several courses run by Bond Solon. Sharon has now written over 200 reports and given evidence at GDC hearings on over 80 occasions whilst still juggling the surgery and an ever expanding number of grandchildren. At present Sharon is also acting as advisor to BDA Indemnity on Experts.

## Branch Council

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Branch President

**Jacqui Frederick**  
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Rep to the SDPC  
BDA Benevolent Fund Trustee

**Albert Yeung**  
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**Laura Cross**  
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