



Bill Kennedy

MY WEEK

IAIN HUTCHINSON

A consultant in oral and maxillofacial surgery, who founded the Saving Faces art project.

An exhibition by Mark Gilbert, who paints people who have undergone facial surgery, is at the National Portrait Gallery

SUNDAY

The hospital rang at 7:30am to tell me that a patient of mine with cancer had passed away over night. I went into the hospital to talk to the relatives and commiserate. When I got home I started to panic as I discovered that some people had not received their invitations for tomorrow's private view of Saving Faces at the National Portrait Gallery. I had more paper work to do for the charity Facial Surgery Research Foundation in the afternoon. We're doing a fundraising event in the Loire valley - the 2TG300 - on 7 April, and we're still looking for sponsors. Some barristers are running a marathon, myself, Jon Snow and other friends are cycling 100 miles, while others are canoeing the course. I managed to get some time to watch a video with the kids in the evening and read to my youngest son.

MONDAY

I was at the gallery, dealing with the press for hours! I had to dash off straight after to St Bartholomews for a meeting with a colleague but was 20 minutes late, much to his annoyance. After seeing some patients I rushed off to pick up the kids and headed back to the gallery for the private view. I greeted over 800 people to the exhibition. After the view the gallery took Mark Gilbert, myself and the family out for dinner.

TUESDAY

I was at Homerton Hospital, in Hackney, doing operations all morning. It was my clinic in the afternoon, which always gets hectic. It's during the clinic that I get to see people with all sorts of weird and wonderful complaints.

WEDNESDAY

Clinic day at Royal London Hospital. I was interrupted by a stream of journalists and a TV producer had a proposal for a programme about facial disfigurements. I introduced him to patients who would be happy to talk. In the evening I picked up my 12-year-old son and took him to the Arsenal match (my 18-year-old doesn't like to sit with us and has his own season ticket on the other side of the pitch). I sit behind the dugout in case there are facial injuries, so we're on TV from time to time which pleases my son.

THURSDAY

Thursdays are usually busy operation days, but one of my senior juniors had a cancer patient he wanted to operate on, and he wanted me to assist him, which allowed me more time to catch up with paperwork. At 8pm I was back at the gallery to give a lecture with Mark about the Artists in Residence project and the benefits of the exhibition. While there I had a chance to look at the Testino exhibition which is the complete antithesis of our own.

FRIDAY

I was at the gallery at 8am for more interviews and then met the parents of one of my first patients as a consultant. They had travelled from Nottingham to see the exhibition and want to help out with the charity. After seeing more patients in the afternoon it was back to the paperwork. I just wish I had more time to spend with my family.

INTERVIEW BY BARBARA STAINER