



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