

MY NORTH HAMPSHIRE DOMINIQUE TILLEN

Dominique is one of the best female entrepreneurs in the world, works incredibly hard to improve children's oral health, and calls North Hampshire her home

Recently included in a Top 100 list of female entrepreneurs, Dominique Tillen is the founder and managing director of Alresford-based Brush-Baby offering innovative gum and dental-care products for babies, toddlers and children.

Brush-Baby was inspired by Dominique's baby daughter who chewed her toothbrush, and is now a 24-strong product range, stocked in UK supermarkets including Boots and 31 countries worldwide.

Uniquely among dental brands, Brush-Baby encourages oral care for babies, even before first teeth have emerged and tackles teething.

As well as running the business Dominique also campaigns to improve children's oral health through the Parliamentary Committee on A Fit and Healthy Childhood, and was recently invited to make recommendations towards the Public Health Green Paper on Children's Oral Health.

She said: "I'd love to see toothbrushing reintroduced into nurseries and schools. Tooth decay is a real issue in under-fives, and Brush-Baby's primary aim is to help parents in their efforts to look after their little one's oral hygiene and to reverse the worrying childhood dental decay figures."

What would be your perfect day out in Hampshire?

A canter on my horse through the wonderful Hampshire countryside. We have a fantastic network of bridleways and there's always something interesting happening whether changing seasons, wildlife, fellow riders, walkers and even people who have got lost! A quick coffee at the Long Barn near Bishops Sutton to catch up with girlfriends, followed by some quality family time which will either involve my daughter's ice-skating session or a long family walk with our Dalmatian Sam. Then to round off the day, a relaxed and convivial evening with friends over a delicious meal and drinks in our local pub is a particular favourite, or a film at The Screen (Everyman Cinema) in Winchester.

What would you say is the finest view Hampshire?

The view I really love is from Rodfield Lane, near Tichborne, where it crosses the South Downs Way, you can see for miles and miles over North Hampshire, the view is really stunning. One day I'll take my paint box up there!



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What is your proudest achievement?

My daughter. She inspires me to be the best human being that I can, both in terms of a mum, partner, daughter, sister, friend and a businesswoman.

Where is your favourite place to eat in the county?

It's a tie between Kyoto Kitchen in Parchment Street, Winchester where I love to challenge myself to eat new dishes from another culture, or The Bush in Ovington, where a hearty meal, great wine and good conversation, is always guaranteed!

Many famous faces hail from Hampshire. Who do you think is the county's favourite son or daughter and why?

Colin Firth – need I say more? Apart from setting ladies' hearts aflutter, and ensuring that the works of a fine Hampshire woman, Jane Austen were portrayed in such an engaging manner, he is rightly proud of his Hampshire roots.

If you had to summarise the county in one word what would it be?

Ooh can I have a phrase? "There's no place like home!"