Joke apology
The BBC has apologised for a joke made by one of its presenters about jockey Liam Treadwell's teeth, shortly after he had ridden a 10-1 outsider to victory in the Grand National. The broadcaster said it had received 1,477 complaints from viewers upset after presenter Clare Balding joked about the state of Mr Treadwell's teeth in a TV interview after the race.

‘Give us a big grin to the camera,’ said Balding. Then she added: ‘No let’s see your teeth. He hasn’t got the best in the world but you can afford to go and get them done now.’

The BBC said in a statement: ‘Clare Balding had no intention of upsetting or embarrassing Liam Treadwell, but she fully accepts that she should not have raised the subject with him at that time.’

Lost dentures
A man in Southampton is appealing for the return of his £500 denture plate after he left it on a wall. Denis Grimwood left the shoulder bag containing the denture plate when he was cycling in the Portswood area. He stopped briefly for a rest and left his bag on the wall in Southampton Common. He returned to the wall 15 minutes later when he realised he had left the bag behind but it had gone.

Whale tooth
A whale tooth found by Charles Darwin during his famous expedition to the Galapagos Islands will be put on sale this autumn. Darwin’s 1853 voyage on the HMS Beagle laid the foundation for his subsequent work on evolution. The whale’s tooth is inscribed with a picture of the Beagle sailing through rough seas against a mountainous backdrop. The memento was decorated by James Bute, a Royal Navy marine private who served aboard the ship, according to the auction house, Bonhams. It said the memento is expected to fetch up to 50,000 pounds when it is offered for sale during the auctioneer’s travel and exploration-themed sale in London on 16 September.

Kid’s hospital dental treatment ‘worrying’
Researchers have called for the rise in the number of children having dental treatment in hospital ‘worrying’. Nearly 50,000 children a year attend hospital to have teeth pulled out or be treated for decay, an analysis of hospital data has shown.

The study found that children from poorer backgrounds were particularly at risk, being twice as likely to need treatment as those from more affluent areas.

Dr Paul Ashley, head of paediatric dentistry at University College London’s Eastman Dental Institute, the second author of the study, said: ‘Two aspects of the study are particularly worrying: the rise in the number of general anaesthetics being given to children, and the widening gulf in dental health between social classes.’

He said general anaesthetics could be fatal to children.

The researchers wrote: ‘Caries (tooth decay) is a preventable disease yet the number of children being admitted for elective extractions of teeth due to caries was increasing yearly. Further investigation to determine some of the underlying reasons for this trend is required.’

Peter Bateman, chair of the British Dental Association’s (BDA) Salaried Dentists Committee, called on water fluoridation to be used to address the gulf that has developed between the social classes.

He said: ‘This research highlights the stark inequalities in the oral health of England’s children. Those from socially deprived backgrounds are far more likely to have undergone extractions under general anaesthetic than their peers from more affluent backgrounds. The reasons for the apparent trends in this period are not clear and require, as the authors of the study acknowledge, further investigation.’

He added: ‘What is clear though is that dental caries is a preventable disease and it is a tragedy that social class remains such an accurate predictor of oral health.’

Water fluoridation, as the longstanding scheme in the West Midlands illustrates, has great potential to address this divide. The BDA was pleased to see the successful outcome of the consultation on the introduction of such a scheme in Southampton earlier this year and would like to see local people in other areas of the country given the same choice.’

The Department of Health claimed the findings have been affected by changes brought in 2001 which means that anaesthesia is now given in hospitals - rather than dental surgeries - for safety reasons.

A spokesman claimed that ‘there has been no increase in tooth decay in the period covered, which pre-dates the new dental contract.’

He added: ‘Preventative oral healthcare has actually improved substantially thanks to the new dental contract.’

Easter dentist
Read why one dentist turned into an Easter Bunny when he gave his young patients Easter eggs containing a toothbrush, some toothpaste and a guide.

Lease holes
Are you a dentist looking to purchase either a property, an existing lease, or set up a squat – with a new lease? Beware of your statutory rights.

Maximum strength
If you have had adhesive failures, you probably don’t believe the success rates of the leading cosmetic dentists for their indirect adhesive restorations.

List dentures
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