Queen fan

Queen guitarist Brian May aid he was ‘delighted’ to sup-
port a music festival held in memory of a dentist who was an ardent fan.

Ten bands appeared at the festi-
val in Wichenford near Worces-
ter, playing Queen tracks as part of their set.

The festival was held in mem-
ory of John Bue, who worked at the Green Dental Practice in Dines Green, and died in a mo-
torcycle crash in June.

The organisers of the concert con-
tacted Brian May and told him about the festival. He said he was ‘delighted to support the festival’ and sent signed Queen merchandise for the raffle.

He also sent his condolences to Dr Bue’s wife and their two daughters.

Wedding teeth

A man on the Isle of Wight was told by his father-in-law to be that he could only marry his daugh-
ter if he got his teeth fixed.

Thirty-two year-old Gordon Taylor was told by Dr Philip Lewis, that he would have to have fillings and cosmetic surgery.

For the wedding, which was held in Cowes, Mr Taylor wore a ‘snap-on smile’ cosmetic den-
sity. Dr Lewis, revealed that when he first met his daugh-
ter’s new boyfriend he was ‘horriﬁed’ by the sight of his teeth.

Fake qualiﬁcations

A dentist has pleaded not guilty to allegations he used fake qualiﬁcations including a fake Bachelor of Dental Surgery de-
gree, enabling her to work in the NHS hospitals for eight years.

Vanisha Sharma pleaded not guilty to a total of 10 charges at Wolverhampton Crown Court.

The 56-year-old is due to stand trial on March 8 following an investigation carried out by the NHS Counter Fraud and Secu-
rity Management Service.

Sharma has pleaded not guilty to charges of using a fake Bach-
elor of Dental Surgery degree, a cer-
tiﬁcate saying she had completed a course on aesthet-
ics and a certificate of registra-
tion from the Punjab Dental
Council.

She has also denied ﬁve counts of obtaining pecuniary advan-
tage by deception, one while with Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust.

Sharma also denied fraud by false representation.

The charges cover a period of eight years from 2000 to 2008.

Sharma has been granted bail.

www.dental-tribune.co.uk

UDA value variation highlighted by Tories

Some NHS dentists are being paid nearly 10 times as much as others for ‘units of dental activity’, according to ﬁgures ob-
tained by the Conservatives.

The ﬁgures showing the wide disparity in pay come from a number of Freedom of Informa-
tion requests put to primary care trusts by the Tories.

The ﬁgures show much the minimum and maximum each trust pays for a unit of den-
tal activity (UDA).

In Westminster Primary Care Trust (PCT), the ﬁgures show that the maximum paid for a UDA is £105.38 and the minimum £20.19.

However in Sandwell, a rela-
tively deprived area in the West Midlands, the range is from £11.08 per UDA up to a maximum of £45.83.

Doncaster PCT is shown to pay a uniform £26.35 per UDA.

Since the new contract came in 2006, dentists are paid a ﬂat rate covering the amount of work they are contracted to do each year, which is measured in units of dental activity (UDAs).

The actual cash value of a UDA is set by the local NHS Primary Care Trust in England or the Local Health Board in Wales, in discus-
sion with the dental practice.

The shadow health secretary, Andrew Lansley, claimed that the wide variation in pay for UDAs shows the system is not working.

He said: “It must be hugely frustrating for many dentists to know that others just down the road are being paid so much more for doing very similar work.

The contract the government has introduced for NHS dentists needs a complete overhaul if we are to turn things around. We need to give our NHS dentists a better system in which to work if people are to get the dental care they need.

That’s why a Conservative govern-
ment would scrap Labour’s ﬂawed UDA system and introduce a fairer system for dentists and pa-
tients.”

John Milne, chair of the BDA’s General Dental Practice Com-
mittee, conceded that the value of units of dental activity does “vary according to the historical earnings and activity of practi-
tioners, the provision of specialist services and the oral health needs of each PCT’s population”.

He said: “These factors lead to a variation in values, although the national average is around £25.”

He added that “the main ﬂaw with the current dental contract is the way it is centred on targets, rather than providing high-qual-
ity care to patients. It’s important now that the conclusions of Pro-

fessor Steele’s review are con-
sulted on and piloted so that a new system can be developed that works for patients and prac-
titioners alike.”

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