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 the 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
contacted 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 daughter if he got his teeth fixed. Thirty-two year-old Gordon Bue’s wife and their two daughters.

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

S
ome 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 Information requests put to primary care trusts by the Tories.
The figures show much the minimum and the 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-
dstorm in the West Midlands, the range is from £11.08 per UDA up to a maximum of £45.83.

Doncaster PCT is shown to justify one dentist earning ten times more than another dentist

That’s why a Conservative gov-
ernment 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 special-
ist 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 targeted on targets, rather than providing high-qual-
ity care to patients. It’s important now that the conclusions of Pro-

Derek Watson, chief execu-
tive of the Dental Practitioners Association, said: “The idea that dentists can be paid differ-
ent amounts for carrying out the same courses of treatment is based on the assumption that costs vary and that different dentists do different amounts of treatment in the same course (and will continue to do so).

The amount of work in each course has now stabilised at the lowest common denominator and costs do not vary enough to justify one dentist earning ten times more than another dentist for a UDA.”

He criticised the process of tendering claiming it “is no sub-
stitute for the free market as it is slow, inefficient and frequently unfair”.

UDA value variation highlighted by Tories

A DH spokesperson said: “The dental contract is working – the number of dentists working in the NHS is growing and more people have seen an NHS dentist in the last year.

“PCTs have control over how much they pay for a unit of dental activity – it is only right that this can vary depending on local challenges and needs.

Some figures may also reflect the income guarantee which helped to keep dentists in the NHS when the dental contract was introduced in 2006.”