News in Brief

BADN founder dies

The founder member of the British Association of Dental Nurses (BADN) has died at the age of 89, Madeleine Lee, who was known as Bunta, suffered a fall before Christmas and had been recovering but died peacefully in her sleep. Ms Lee, who worked at a dental practice in Leyland in Lancashire during the Second World War, was inspired to set up the BADN when an American serviceman told her about a similar association in America. Despite wartime restrictions, Lee immediately set to work travelling around the Britain inviting nurses to join the new BADN. It held its first dental nurse examination, which was resided over by the newly created National Examining Board for Dental Nurses and Assistants, in November 1943. Lee was the first nurse to be approved as an honorary life member.

Most loved dentist

High Street Dental Practice in West Sussex has been voted the UK's best loved dentist in a recent nationwide poll. The survey was carried out by the TheBestOf and said:“We administered a survey and steed come top in the den- tal sector for its unbeatable customer service. It also came out 20th Most Loved Busi- ness in all categories. Practice owner Jan Sandhu said: Our aim has been to create an en- vironment in which people will feel relaxed and comfortable. We never forget how im- portant it is to sit in a dentist's chair, so every conceivable care has been taken to make sure they are completely at ease. We have invested in the latest dental technology to give them the ultimate in modern, pain-free dental care. It is fantastic to know that we are getting our customer care so right.”

Dentist ‘accidental death’

An inquest into the death of a dentist in St Helena, Merseyside, has delivered a verdict of accidental death. Kenyan-born Simon Ayoo, 46, who worked at Newtown Cam- bridge Centre, was found dead at his flat in Sale in February 2008. Coroner John Pollard delivered a verdict of ‘accidental death’. The cause being pos- itional asphyxia with alcohol intoxication. The inquest at Stockport Magistrates’ Court heard how he had been drink- ing heavily before his death and when he came home af- terwards, it is believed he fell down the stairs.

Olympic screening

The IOC has established a scree- ning programme for athletes at the recent Winter Olympics.

Stress survival

Roger Levin discusses the im- portance of stress management in the workplace.

Key to success

Robert Michalik presents a var- iety of cases using different types of ceramic restorations.

Bon appetit!

Mhari Coxon details why look- ing at a patient's diet can be ben- eficial to their oral health.

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‘Great news for patients’ - access figures continue to rise says IC

Numbers able to access NHS dental services across the country are returning to pre-2006 levels after sixth successive quarter rise

The number of people able to access NHS dental care has returned to the level it was at before the implementa- tion of the 2006 reforms, accord- ing to statistics released by the NHS Information Centre.

The figures show that 28,163,000 patients in England accessed NHS Winter dental care in the 24 months ending 31 December 2009, compared to 28,145,000 in the 24 months ending 31 March 2008. Coroner John Pollard returned to the level it achieved in March 2006, according to the figures.

“We’re not just looking at in- creasing the amount of dental services out there. We’re cur- rently piloting recommenda- tions from last year’s review of dental services which will help us to measure also the quality of services and make sure we are reaching those who need the most.”

However the British Dental Association has warned that a great deal of hard work remains to be done to address the is- sues facing NHS dental services in England. Dr Susie Sander- son, chair of the BDA’s Exe- cutive Board said: “This in- crease is long-awaited news for patients who can now see an NHS dentist. However, chal- enges remain. There are still people who would like to see an NHS dentist who cannot do so and primary care trusts have been charged with delivering access to these individuals by March 2011.

The Department of Health must also look beyond those who seek access to reach out to those who need dental care but do not ask for it. Thirdly, the Steele Re- form process must deliver a new preventive, patient-focused con- tract that helps dentists provide the care their patients deserve.”

Despite the increase in the number of patients accessing NHS dentistry in England, the proportion of the population able to do so remains below the level it achieved in March 2006, according to the figures.

In March 2006, 55.8 per cent of the population had vis- ited a dentist in the previous 24 months. At the end of 2009 54.7 per cent had done so in the previous 24 months.

The pledge to provide ac- cess to NHS dentistry to all who demand it in England is made in the 2010/11 NHS Operating Framework.

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