



Newsletter

Welcome to our first newsletter in a long while. Unfortunately, it will also have to be a fairly brief one if we're to get it out on time because we've only just got our new email service up and running – actually, we don't know how well it's running yet, as this will be the first time we've used it.

So please bear with us if things come out a little weird. It will get better.

A lot has happened at The Dentist in Town during the last year, some good things, some bad and some that have prevented our keeping in touch as often as we would have liked. Sorry about that and we hope to have everything back in gear for 2011.

Louisa Leaving

Louisa, one of our wonderful hygienists, is leaving to return home to Oxford. We'll miss her and we wish her all the best for the future.

Jenny is joining us to take Louisa's place. We have no doubts that she will be very popular – and don't be fooled by her small stature. You had better do what she tells you because she has a black belt in tae kwon do.

And Jenny's isn't the only new face:

Welcome to Meeta

Some of you will have already met our new dentist. Meeta is from Birmingham but trained in Liverpool. She's proving very popular and is settling in well.

The only complaint is that she still hasn't provided us with a photograph to put on the website. When asked, she changes the subject. In the New Year, we'll see how she responds to being jabbed with a sharp stick.

Welcome to Meike

The Dentist in Town has 'gone European'. Our new nurse, Meike, is from the beautiful town of Hamelin in Northern Germany.

Meike has provided a photograph for the website – but only after Tom threatened to use an ancient Egyptian tomb painting of the goddess Isis. The two women do look spookily similar. Fortunately, Meike is more even tempered (so far).

By the way, 'Meike' is pronounced 'Mike – a'.

So that's Nita, Meeta and Meike. The rest of us are starting to feel a little left out of the rhyming scheme.

Christmas Superstitions

- You will have as many happy months in the coming year, as the number of houses you eat mince pies in during Christmastime.
- In Greece, some people burn their old shoes during the Christmas season to prevent misfortunes in the coming year.
- To have good health throughout the next year, eat an apple on Christmas Eve.
- Wearing new shoes on Christmas Day will bring bad luck.
- If you give your dentist large amounts of money you will gain supernatural powers.
- If you eat a raw egg before eating anything else on Christmas morning, you will be able to carry heavy weights.

While superstitions may not necessarily be true, surely **all** of these are well worth trying.

And....

The practice joined Denplan following your response to a questionnaire asking what you felt we could do better. Quite a lot of you told us you wanted more than was offered by our existing membership plan.

So we changed it.

So far, Denplan seems to be working out very well – but please tell us if you have any quibbles. You don't need to wait to be asked.

Having said that, we *will* be asking.

Tooth Whitening still cheap – for now

As you know, VAT is rising to 20% in January. While we, like most dentists, don't charge VAT, our suppliers, the dental laboratories and the people who supply the laboratories do.

This means that our lab bills will be going up significantly next year.

We can absorb this and continue to supply our teeth whitening system for £187.50 – until our current stock of whitening gel is used up.

Then, when we have to pay more for laboratory work and materials, we will be forced to increase the price of our tooth whitening.

We don't yet know how much we will have to charge and we will negotiate to keep it to a minimum but, if you are thinking of whitening your teeth, it would be a good idea to get in soon and save yourself some money.

At the time of writing, we have 12 sets of whitening gel in stock.



All of the other reindeer *used* to laugh and call him names.

Tip of the season

In the real world, and perhaps especially at Christmas, you are not going to stop eating everything that is bad for your teeth. Just remember the basic rule that the longer a harmful substance is in your mouth, the more damage it will cause.

So, sweet things that stick to the teeth (gummy sweets, toffee, mince pies) or that dissolve slowly in the mouth (mints, boiled sweets) are far more harmful than, say, chocolate or crisps (at least, as far as your teeth are concerned).

And some cracker jokes:

How does Good King Wenceslas like his pizza?

Deep pan, crisp and even.

What did the inflatable headmaster say to the inflatable boy who brought a pin into the inflatable school?

You have let me down, you have let your school down and, most importantly, you have let yourself down.