



Newsletter



Issue 7 Autumn/Winter 2011

Welcome to the next edition of our practice newsletter. As well as keeping you informed of any changes happening at the practice, there is also some helpful information on some of the services we offer.

Prevention – better than cure!

Tooth decay and gum disease are two of the most prevalent diseases in the world today, yet in most cases both are totally preventable.

Prevention underlies everything we do here at The Old Malt House. Our aim is good dental health for you and your family through preventive dentistry.

Our team of dentists, hygienist and qualified oral health educators are committed to giving you all of the advice you need in helping you to understand how to care for your teeth and gums to reduce the need for dental treatment.

If you have any questions on how to look after your teeth or your gums, please do not hesitate to ask any of the team. Alternatively, we can arrange a complementary one-to-one session with one of our Oral Health Educators.

Refurbishment of the cloakroom

As part of our continuing programme of improvements and refurbishment we have recently upgraded the toilet facilities at the practice.

We would like to say thank you for your patience and co-operation while the work was taking place and for all your positive comments on the refurbishment.

Congratulations!

Many of you have been asking after Leah, who left the practice in 2009 to train as a dental hygienist. We are pleased to hear that Leah has completed her training and is now a fully qualified hygienist and in full time employment. We wish her well for the future!

Philips Sonicare toothbrushes

Our Philips Sonicare toothbrushes are currently on special offer. With Christmas just around the corner why not buy one as a gift, or simply treat yourself!

Unlike conventional electric toothbrushes the Sonicare uses patented sonic technology to create a

dynamic cleaning action that drives fluid deep into inter-proximal spaces and along the gum line. This innovative sonic technology is proven to be effective, gentle, and give a superior clean.

Mouth Cancer Action Month 2011

November is Mouth Cancer Action Month. Although this can be a scary subject it should not be ignored.

Early detection improves survival chances. Warning signs such as ulcers which do not heal, red or white patches or other unusual changes in the mouth can lead to early detection which can save lives.

Here at the practice, at every routine examination, your dentist not only checks the health of your teeth and gums, but also performs a full examination of the soft tissues of your mouth. This includes the tongue, palate and the insides of your cheeks. For this reason, regular examinations (as often as your dentist recommends) are very important in maintaining the overall health of your mouth.

If you have any queries please do not hesitate to ask Brian or Helen, or visit www.mouthcancer.org

Careplan and Maintenance plan options

The practice offers a wide range of dental payment plans to help enable you to budget for your dental treatment.

During these difficult economic times our payment plans remain the best way of allowing you to budget for your dental treatment, and continue to offer value for money as well as helping you to avoid unexpected bills.

If you are interested in joining one of our dental payment plans please do not hesitate to ask your dentist who can advise you of the most suitable option for you and how much your monthly premium would be.

Until the end of the year we are waiving the registration fee for all children joining our payment plans.

What are implants?

A dental implant is a titanium metal rod which is placed into the jawbone. It is used to support one or more false teeth.

Modern titanium implants were developed in the 1950's by a Swedish orthopaedic surgeon called *Per-Ingvar Brånemark* who was studying bone healing and regeneration.

The first dental implant was placed by *Dr Leonard Linkow* in 1952. When he retired from private practice in 2002 he had placed over 19,000 dental implants. Dr. Linkow is known as the father of modern implant dentistry, with 12 books and 36 patents to his name.

Although modern implant technology using titanium has only been around for the last 60 years, archaeologists excavating Maya burial sites in Honduras have discovered dental implants (made from shell) dating back over 1350 years!

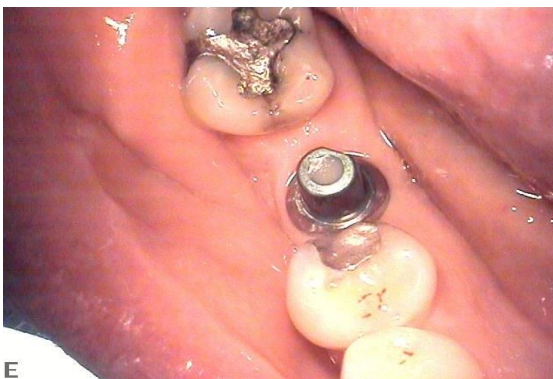
Implants may not be suitable for everyone, and tests need to be carried out to assess the amount of bone and whether it is healthy enough.

The treatment can take from around 5 months up to a year from the initial assessment to the time when the artificial teeth or dentures are finally attached to the implants depending on how complicated the treatment is.

A small operation is required to place the implants (titanium rods) into the jawbone. The implants are then given time to "bond" (join together) with the bone. This takes about 3 months in the lower jaw and 6 months in the upper jaw.



A missing molar (back tooth)



After the implant has been placed



Implants are given time to integrate with the bone



The artificial tooth is attached to the implant

Once your implants have been fitted you will be shown how to care for them and clean around them.

If cared for correctly implants can last for at least 15 years.

Although they are still relatively expensive (around £2,000 each), in many situations the cost of the treatment is only a little more than the cost of more conventional treatment with crowns and bridges.

If you are interested in dental implants, please do not hesitate to talk to Brian or Helen who can refer you to a local specialist for assessment and treatment.

Our Promise and Commitment.

We are committed to providing you with a quality service, and welcome your comments.

We are always interested in your opinion, and would be grateful if you could take a few minutes to fill in our practice questionnaire. Your feedback is important in helping us to look for ways to improve our service to you.

And finally, thank you for all of your positive comments and compliments about your experiences of the practice, we really appreciate them. Remember, if we please you – tell others! If we don't please you – tell us!