

The BDJ News section accepts items that include general news, latest research and diary events that interest our readers. Press releases or articles may be edited, and should include a colour photograph if possible.

Please direct your correspondence to the News Editor, Kate Maynard at the BDJ, The Macmillan Building, 4 Crinan Street, London, N1 9XW or by email to k.maynard@nature.com

BDA PROPOSES RESTRICTIONS ON SUGARY SNACK AVAILABILITY

The British Dental Association (BDA) is urging dental professionals throughout the UK to get involved in their new campaign to reduce the harm done to children's oral health by consuming sugary and acidic food and drink outside regular mealtimes.



The 'Make a meal of it' campaign launched on 18 June 2013 and proposes restrictions on the availability of such items. The BDA is also supporting a specific tax on sugary, carbonated drinks.

The campaign seeks to encourage supermarkets to restrict the availability of unhealthy foods at check-outs; cinemas to downsize their unhealthy food and drink offerings; and schools and hospitals to withdraw unhealthy food and drink from vending machines.

The BDA is encouraging the dental profession to pinpoint local examples of outlets that are putting profits before health and help to challenge them. It is also seeking support for a Government e-petition it has launched which calls for a more rigorous approach to tackling the problem.

Professor Damien Walmsley, Scientific Adviser to the British Dental Association, said: 'Regrettably, some retailers insist on putting profits before health, disregarding the potential ill effects of their products and dangling temptation in front of children. A more responsible approach must be adopted by such organisations to help address the poor oral health that dentists see in communities across the UK. I urge all members of the dental community to get behind this campaign.'

For more information and details on how to participate visit www.bda.org/makeamealofit.

HALITOSIS IS THIRD WORST SMELL IN BRITAIN

Bad breath has been named the third worst bad smell in Britain. A survey of over 2,000 people carried out for a UK-wide waste disposal company revealed that the worst smell as voted for by the British public is babies' nappies, followed by sewers on a hot day.

The complete top ten worst smells are:

- Baby poo
- Sewers on a hot day
- Bad breath
- Wet dog
- Flatulence
- Human sweat
- Rotten food
- Smoking
- Smelly feet
- The 'juice' at the bottom of your bin.

CONSISTENT FRONT-OF-PACK FOOD LABELLING LAUNCHED

The Department of Health has launched a new consistent front-of-pack nutritional label for food products to make it easier for people to make healthier choices about what they eat. The launch comes after research showed that people can end up bewildered by the different nutrition labels on food.

The system combines both traffic light colour-coding and nutritional information to show fat, saturated fat, salt, sugar and calorie content.

All of the major retailers and a number of well-known UK brand names have announced that they

will use the consistent label on all their products.

The British Dietetic Association (BDA) welcomed the news that all four of the UK governments will be adopting the consistent front-of-pack labelling saying that it was 'a significant step forward to help [consumers] make informed choices about the food they buy and eat.'

The British Dental Health

Foundation said that the system will help to improve oral health. Chief Executive Dr Nigel Carter said: 'For many years dentists have criticised the large amounts of sugars in many foods where they are often added as a cheap bulking agent. It is the frequency of sugar consumption, rather than quantity that is the main concern as we have moved from three square meals a day to 7-10 "snack attacks".'