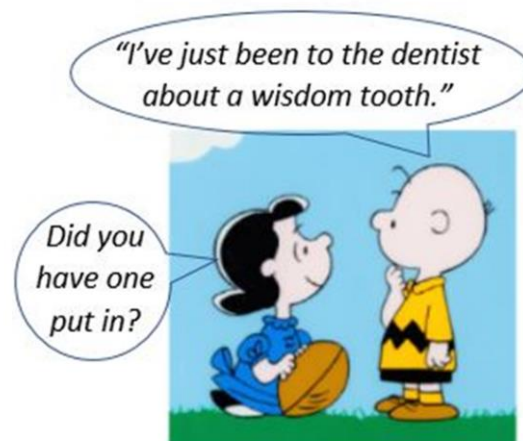# Long in the Tooth – an octogenarian's tale

…following a trip to the dentist the day Queen Elizabeth appointed Liz Truss as PM: *and edited four days later.*

Funny things – teeth. We are provided with two sets free of charge. Replacements come courtesy of NHS or exorbitant dental charges. It's difficult to eat without them, yet we accommodate reasonably as our tooth quota gradually diminishes. This month a new PM, Chancellor and Cabinet are cutting their teeth to chew over much bigger challenges, and even a new King!

Tooth fairies are a good deal though they don't want to know about old people or chancellors! Braces are a godsend for wonky teeth. Your God-given teeth can even be replaced to create the 'celebrity smile' of your dreams! The Queen had a good dentist – her smile remained one of her most engaging features all her life. Getting your dentures in order is essential for any new MP, especially for PMQ times, when a sharp bite is an asset for incisive replies.

Wisdom teeth are something of a misnomer… they arrive a few years too late for purpose, (even in The Cabinet) then they cause absolute havoc and have to be extracted! In time, false teeth come to the rescue! Though at least one PM has found to their cost that false claims, like false teeth, don't cut it in the long term.
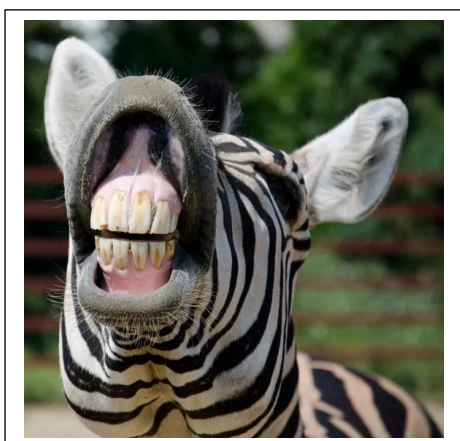

King Solomon wrote a song about his beloved's teeth (Song of Solomon 6.6)
   'Your teeth are like a flock of sheep coming up from the washing.
   Each has its twin, not one of them is missing'!
Cap that for a love song! (King Charles would probably opt for Shakespeare.)

An OAP's version is: *'Your teeth are like the stars – they come out at night'.*

A last light-bite – just to 'cap' it all:
This zebra seems to see the funny side of life.
A helpful reminder that most difficulties have their funny side if we are mindful to look for it!

So, keep smiling – whatever project you've got your teeth into: the Queen always did...

and pray for our dentists, PM, MPs and King…
            thanking God in all circumstances.