



Face It Together

The newsletter for adult members of The Birthmark Support Group

Welcome



Welcome to the fifth edition of the Face It Together Newsletter. FIT continues to go from strength to strength and this year we have decided to try and hold a few more events dedicated to us "oldies"

Jane in Manchester has very kindly volunteered to organize a FIT Trip to the Pub in August and I have decided to hold another in October in London for all our members in the South East. If you would like to arrange something in your area, just let me know. See below for more details of all forthcoming events.

BSG 'Fun' Days & Outings 2007

"FIT Trip to the Pub" Saturday, August 18th in Manchester - Brunswick Tavern, 97 Piccadilly, Manchester M1 2DB.

Sunday, September 16th in Chigwell - The Drama Centre, Chigwell School, The High Road, Chigwell, Essex, IG7 6QF.

"FIT Trip to the Pub" Saturday, October 27th in London - Slug & Lettuce pub in Farringdon.

Glasgow Fun Day - Saturday 17th November 2007 – With 'Caring Matters Now' going its separate way from the BSG, we are left without an organizer for this Fun Day. If you live in Scotland and feel that you would be able to take this on (we are likely to be able to use the same venue as last year in Cambuslang), then please let us know by emailing me – secretary@birthmarksupportgroup.org.uk

The proposed venue will be St Brides Church, 21 Greenlees Road, Cambuslang, Glasgow, G72 8JB).

Further details about the program, travel directions, etc for these events will be available on the website and on request via email or the BSG postal address below.

Give As You Earn

With Give As You Earn you can give directly from your pre-tax salary, so money that would normally go to the taxman goes to charity instead. You just decide how much you want to give each month. Then your donation comes out of your pay packet before the taxman touches it. The BSG benefits because they know they've got money coming regularly and can plan what to do with it in the long term. You benefit because you don't pay any tax on the donations you make. Click on www.cafonline.org go to the individuals page and click the Give As You Earn link on the left hand side of the screen.

FIT Trip to the Pub

So we are off to the pub again. Jane in Manchester has recommended the Brunswick. The pub has comfy leather sofas and is only about a 5 minute walk from Manchester Piccadilly train station.



We shall be there about one o'clock and would love if you could join us for a spot of lunch or a drink or both!!! Jane would appreciate knowing some numbers so she can reserve an area for us, so please drop me a line if you are thinking of coming along:

faceittogether@birthmarksupportgroup.org.uk

BSG Promotional/Information DVD

In the last newsletter I mentioned that the DVD will be launched in April, well I underestimated how long it would take to get all the hours of filming down to the required 30 minutes for the DVD.

Everybody did such a good job representing all the aspects of living with a birthmark that the editors have really struggled with the task of cutting out the "rubbish" because there just wasn't any! As a result the official launch, by Esther Rantzen, of the DVD will now be held in on the 12th October 2007. Invitations will be sent to those who took part, and made it possible, nearer the date but please put the date in your diary now.

After the launch you too can help by "buying" a DVD. Why is buying in quotes you ask? Well in order to raise the funds for the production and distribution of the DVDs we ask that you buy a certificate which will show that your money went to produce and distribute 1 DVD. We suggest that you buy the certificate for all your friends and family this year for special occasions. Their birthday, wedding anniversary, congratulations on passing their driving test, their exams or just because it is Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday... Or maybe you would just like to buy a certificate for yourself? Guess my family now knows what their presents are going to be this year!

BSG Fun Day – Liverpool, 10th March 2007

The thirteenth - unlucky for some but thankfully not for us! - Birthmark Support Group Fun Day was held in Liverpool at the Bridge Street Chapel Centre. I am very pleased to report that our good luck with the weather has returned and it was a very sunny day in Liverpool. As usual, Liverpool was very well attended with lots of familiar faces and some new ones thrown in for good measure.

We nearly didn't meet Poppy and her family due to their 'Sat Nav' being quite insistent that there isn't a Heath Road in Garston. Thankfully they didn't give up and found us eventually. The fine array of food was most welcome and everybody enjoyed Jodi and her friends' home made soup and lovely sandwiches. Once we had all satisfied our hunger, the adults had a cup of tea and chatted among themselves.

The young at heart played on the bouncy castle and made some very impressive pictures and toys from the arts and crafts supplied. FIT and Teentalk members caught up with old friends, exchanged tales and enjoyed the opportunity to make new friends too.



Nick Ward engaging the crowd



The Bouncy Castle is just so tiring!

BSG Fun Day – Dorset, 13th May 2007

The 14th Birthmark Support Group Fun Day took place in the beautiful grounds of Clayesmore School, Iwerne Minster Nr Blandford, Dorset. Unfortunately, despite the Sun dances and prayers, the weather decided that it was going to be very much an indoor affair. That didn't dampen the spirits of our intrepid BSG'rs though who came from far and wide to enjoy the day. The turn out was excellent.

Those familiar with the format of these days got down to business straight away by tucking into the BBQ cooked and served by the multi-talented Nigel. After that a host of games and activities were on offer including basketball, swimming and bouncy castle. Clayesmore school Year 9 pupils were on hand to help and organise games. Nothing was too much trouble for them; they looked after the children, played with them and were generally exceptional when it came to finding plates, bottle openers, etc etc ! A big thank you goes out to them.

We found a new master baker in the form of Karen who despite having a 4 month old and 1.5 year old baked all of the fantastic cakes for the cake stall and then proceeded to man it for the day to boot. Karen, you put us to shame but many, many thanks for your efforts.



Yum yum!



Rain didn't stop play

Walk for Skin 2007

A **HUGE** thank you to everybody who took part in the Walk for Skin 2007. We don't know exactly how much money everybody raised yet but here are some photos that FiT members sent in.

Nottingham Walk:



Bridget Watson and her niece Elicia



When the going got tough Elicia was prepared



London Walk:



Mark sets off wearing his BSG T-Shirt with pride



Amber, Jason and India Harris all set to go but where is Grandad?



The clowns were on hand to provide balloon hats

Don't forget to send back your sponsorship forms! As soon as we know how much was raised we will let you know!

FaceltTogether Situations Vacant!

Are you a good listener?

Do you like chatting to people on email?

Are you organised?

Do you have a little free time each week?

The FaceltTogether Group of the Birthmark Support Group is looking for somebody to help Orla out with the day to day running of the group. The main work involved is supporting people on email or the phone, training will be given but obviously it helps to be the kind of person that people find it easy to talk to.

Each quarter the group produces a newsletter with a round up of all the current news and your help writing articles for this newsletter will be required. It is also important that you are willing to travel to at least 2 of the charity events held by the group throughout the year. The FiT group also aims to have a least 2 events throughout the year dedicated to the over 18s and your help will be required to organise or even host one of these events.

Your help in developing the FiT group by bringing fresh ideas will be much appreciated!