



TeenTalk

The newsletter for teenage members of The Birthmark Support Group



Well, I think the first thing to say is Happy New Year! I hope that you all had a great Christmas, ate too much like me and got some great presents! I know I did and thoroughly enjoyed the short but sweet break from work.

So I guess many of you are now back in school or work and wondering how on earth you're going to make it through the next year... It seems so long 'til next Christmas... HELP!!!

My first proposition for you is that I would love to arrange a TeenTalk meet-up sometime this year – probably in the summer months. However, I can't do this by myself and need suggestions of what you'd like to do and where the best place for most of you to get to would be. So this is kind of in your hands... If I can get enough suggestions I will put it to a vote (or quick questionnaire!) and try to get something organised. Of course your parents will have to agree as well as the BSG chairman – so nothing too outrageous please!

Please email any suggestions you have to:
teentalk@birthmarksupportgroup.org.uk

Secondly, to fill in a bit of time, how about arranging to come along to one or more of the **BSG Fundays**? The dates for this year are now arranged and I hope to be able to make it to most of them so it would be great to see some of you there. The dates are as follows:

LIVERPOOL – Saturday 10th March
@ The Bridge Street Chapel Centre,
Heath Road, Garston, Liverpool, L19
4XR

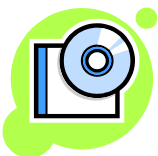
DORSET – Sunday 13th May @
Clayesmore School, Iwerne Minster,
Blandford, Dorset, DT11 8LL

CHIGWELL – Sunday 16th Sept. @
The Drama Centre, Chigwell School,
The High Road, Chigwell, Essex, IG7
6QF

GLASGOW – Saturday 17th Nov. @
St Brides Church 21 Greenlees Road
Cambuslang Glasgow G72 8JB

For those of you that didn't to make it to a Funday in 2006 – you don't know what you missed out on... We had great weather for Birmingham (May) and Chigwell (September). Add to that a couple of bouncy castles, BBQ's, swimming pools and lots of activities, they were both fantastic days. Liverpool almost a year ago now as well as Glasgow (Nov) both went down well too – although just a touch chillier and we were glad to be inside!!!

BSG DVD



Firstly, a big “Thank You” to those of you who were able to contribute to the BSG DVD by being there on the Sunday (21st Jan) for filming. Sorry I couldn’t be there personally to meet you and make sure you all behaved yourself! My part of filming got moved to Saturday so I had to switch all my plans around. I hope it went well though, and that you all enjoyed yourselves.

I am told that the DVD is to be launched in April and will be distributed to GPs and secondary schools up and down the country. If funding is there, we’d love to get it out to primary schools as well... which leads me nicely on to my next point...

MONEY!!!



That word always seems to get people’s attention! However, I’m not offering to give you money... Oh No! No! No!... I want YOU to give the BSG money! Not just by digging in to your pockets and giving all your money to us, but by persuading other people to give money to us too! That’s the only way we can afford to keep going and provide the support and services that people need – as well as expand what we can offer. There are many easy ways to do this:

1. “Buy” a copy of the DVD. Once the DVD is launched you will be able to buy a certificate to say your money has funded the distribution of 1 DVD. It makes an ideal alternative gift for family and friends and helps the BSG at the same time – perfect!
2. Organise a fundraising event at your school, youth group, church or anywhere else you can! It could be a

bring and buy sale to local bands putting on a gig – whatever you’re in to really!

3. Buy BSG t-shirts, wristbands or other merchandise we have for sale. Both my husband and I have our t-shirts, although our wristbands broke through over wearing (and that I wanted a child’s one as it was red!) For more details go to the “funding” page of the BSG website. I even transformed one of the key chains in to a quite fashionable necklace!
4. If you enjoy internet shopping, do it here: www.buy.at/birthmarksupportgroup at the BSG webshop. It means that for everything you buy, the BSG gets money for it. Another brilliant way to raise money without having to lift a finger other than to click a mouse!

Some of the shops available: Marks & Spencer, Early Learning Centre, John Lewis, Amazon, Littlewoods, La Senza to name just a few.

So how about making it a New Years resolution to raise some money for the BSG this year? If you’re interested or want more ideas, email:

fundraising@birthmarksupportgroup.org.uk

Happy Fundraising!!!

Face It Together

Just a quick shout out to those of you who are reaching the later teenage years, i.e. 18 upwards. If you fancy the occasional pub trip and getting to know the older members of the BSG, get in touch with Orla Checksfield at:

faceittogether@birthmarksupportgroup.org.uk

TeenTalk Profiles

I'd like to make a regular section on the TeenTalk newsletter where each of you writes a short profile about yourself answering certain questions. If you're happy to include an email address, that's great! The idea being that you can contact those you want to, and others can contact you.

Our first one, and only one for this edition, is from one of our older members:

Name: Ashleigh

Age: 20

Occupation:

Studying Music and Media Management at Uni and I work part-time at Next



Interests: Music - I play the flute, bit of piano and sing. I love going to gigs, meeting my fave bands, going shopping (like majority of girls!), addicted to shoes...piercings, tattoos, fashion design and exhibitions....

E-mail: Funny_Honey2003@hotmail.com

(NOTE: the picture above is not a true likeness of Ashleigh – sorry if it's completely unlike you Ash – it was a bit of guesswork!)

So, now you get the idea - just short and concise. If you could all email me something similar to:

teentalk@birthmarksupportgroup.org.uk

We can include 4 to 6 in each newsletter.

And now a quick page-filler for you. There are 15 words hidden in the wordsearch below. The words you're looking for are contained somewhere within the newsletter – all will become clear once you find the first one...

ENJOY!

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e a s h r g a c o g f a
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Well that's it from me for this edition of the newsletter. I really hope that I'll get to meet some more of you throughout the year and that TeenTalk will grow as well. Always remember that if you come across others with birthmarks, either at the hospital or maybe at school, don't be afraid to tell them about the BSG and encourage them to join TeenTalk!

All the best for the New Year and I should be up in Liverpool in March so let me know if you're going!

Jacki xxx

P.S. The next newsletter is due around the end of March so please get your contributions to me by then.



British Skin Foundation “Walk For Skin” & The Birthmark Support Group

Following the outstanding success of the first ever British Skin Foundation (BSF) Walk for Skin, the BSF are pleased to announce that the event will again take place in 2007, on May 13th and 20th. You can register online or by phone from 8th February 2007. Just go to www.britishskinfoundation.org.uk/walk/registration/ or call 0207 391 6355. Seventeen different charities, including the **Birthmark Support Group**, will be uniting for the 2007 Walk for Skin, and we really hope to see you there!

When you register you can select the charities you wish to sponsor and how you would like to split your sponsorship money among them. So please register now and select the **Birthmark Support Group** as your favourite charity.

The 2007 event, proudly supported by Sanex, will take place at the following locations:

Sunday May 13th

Beamish, the North of England Open Air Museum, near Newcastle
Wollaton Deer Park, Nottingham
Bramham Park, near Leeds
University of East Anglia, Norwich
Belfast Castle, Belfast
Holyrood Park, Edinburgh

Sunday May 20th

Regent's Park, London
Beaulieu Motor Museum, near Southampton
Cosmeston Lakes County Park, near Cardiff
Cheddar Gorge, Somerset
Tatton Park, near Manchester
Windsor Great Park, Thames Valley
Lickey Hills Country Park, Birmingham