

Changing Faces Fundraising E-Bulletin!

Changing
the way you face
disfigurement
faces

Tuesday, 29 November, 2011

Face Your Fears week— 16th - 23rd October 2011



In October we ran our first ever Face Your Fears week, challenging our supporters and members of the public to face their fears and raise money for us at the same time.

Fears of maggots, tarantulas and looking silly were faced by some of our brave friends! Below, Yvette Farmer is enjoying her encounter with Sid, the Burmese python. The campaign materials were produced for us by CTN Communications who chose us as their Charity of the Year. Thank you to everyone at CTN!

See also p. 4 for Benjamin Zephaniah's story.

On the 19th of October we held our London Face Your Fears event in our offices in University Street. The event was hosted by actresses Jan Ravens and Arabella Weir and the Mayor of Camden, Councillor Abdul Quadir also attended. Our guests handled tarantulas, snakes, a scorpion and were encouraged to face the fear of Madagascar hissing cockroaches but I don't think anybody was brave enough! It might be one for next year! The wonderful creatures were accompanied by Seb Miller (below left, with Ian Ronald), who encouraged everyone (below right) to face their fears. Thank you, Seb!





Face Your Fears cont.....

Thank you to Jan Ravens (left, with Priscilla, the tarantula), Arabella Weir and Seb Miller for their help with the event. We plan to run Face Your Fears again next year so if you have any ideas for fear-facing fundraising events, get in touch with Sophie or Natalia (sophiee@changingfaces.org.uk, nataliag@changingfaces.org.uk).

Supporter Paul Newman describes his fear facing experience....

"How did that email get past the spam guard?" It asked me to face my fears and as it was from James at Changing Faces, I couldn't ignore it. But what did I have to fear? After all a few years back, I had blacked out while driving my car, wrote it off, bashed my head and had a heart attack! I'd survived, so nothing could daunt me or so I thought.

The email stayed in the inbox for a couple of months. I couldn't let James down. Then it happened. Sue and I had set up a local charity and the media were taking a bit of interest. BBC and ITV were filming at our home and that was OK because if I fluffed a line, we could always re-film and Sue was rather struck by young Tom Brown from the Beeb. Then Tom uttered those words that sent a shiver down our spines. "We'd like to do a live feed interview with our 10.30 news!" No sooner had we said yes than a satellite van with generator was outside our house. We were miked up and earpieces in place staring at a camera. Dominic Heale was going to interview us from the studio. A voice from the ether informed us "Glenfield, you're on in one minute!" Phil Collins was hammering inside my rib cage. My head was beginning to swim and I thought, here I go again!

This time however the stress was broken by a macabre but humorous thought. What if I did black out in mid stream, Dom would ask Sue "Is everything alright?" "Fine" would be her reply. "At last he's shut up!" And the message at the top left of the screen would change from "Glenfield live" to "Glenfield dead"! The thought took away the tension and the interview was a success. Not only that, I could then report back to James - Mission accomplished! and pay my dues. Oh by the way, the charity contact is www.125fund.org.uk.



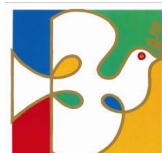
Christmas at Changing Faces

Our annual Carol Concert is on 30 November!

This year we will start with a drinks and canapés reception at The Hunterian Museum, Royal College of Surgeons, London at 5.45pm and move to St Clement Danes church on the Strand for 7.15 for a candlelit evening of carols, sung by the choir Fever Pitch, and festive readings by Julian Fellowes, Jane Asher, Kellie O'Farrell, Tim Goodacre and James Partridge, Changing Faces' Chief Executive. Tickets are available from Sophie Erskine (sophiee@changingfaces.org.uk or 0207 391 9279). Tickets for the reception and the concert are £40 and for the concert only are £20. Do come and join us for some festive fun! This event is organised in partnership with The British Association of Plastic, Reconstructive and Aesthetic Surgeons.

Christmas cards

Changing Faces' Christmas cards are now available and can be ordered by emailing Sophie at sophiee@changingfaces.org.uk. This year we are selling our cards for a voluntary donation. The cards come in four designs (right). The message inside all cards reads: With Best Wishes for Christmas and the New Year.



Changing Faces Forth Bridge Abseil 2011

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On the right, recovering from the abseil, are the fantastic Steffen and Matthias Kerr and their sister Lisa Kerr, a member of 'Faces of Scottish Youth', our youth council in Scotland.

Below you can see Paisley Hunter, clearly enjoying the challenge...

The abseilers all completed the feat, had a fantastic day out and raised almost £4000 towards the work of Changing Faces! Well done!



On 2nd October, thirteen Changing Faces abseilers, including our Scottish officer Gareth Jenkins, headed to Forth Rail Bridge (above) to abseil the 165ft from the top of the bridge to the shoreline. As you can see on the left, the weather did not allow them to admire the spectacular views from the top!

Our fearless team consisted of **Monica Duddy, Amy Goodwin, Connie Weatherston, David Pincott, Stephanie Dawson, David McLeod, Steffen Kerr, Matthias Kerr, Evie McCulloch, Ashleigh Wallace, Callum Pyper, Paisley Hunter and Gareth Jenkins.**



See next page for other fundraising activities from around the country. If you would like to organise or take part in an event near you, contact your local Changing Faces officer. You can find their details here: <http://www.changingfaces.org.uk/Contact-Us>

What we're up to—near you!

North of England

Sasha, our new Officer for the North gave a talk to Wilmslow Girl Guides (the Guides with Sasha, right) on 19th of October. She talked about our work, facing disfigurement with confidence and fundraising for Changing Faces. The Guides will now plan fundraising activities for us. Good luck!

Midlands

The poet Benjamin Zephaniah took part in our Face Your Fears campaign by facing his fear of maths!

He attended a lesson at Gleed Girls Technology College in Spalding and as you can see below, he then presented what he learned to the pupils!

Coincidentally, Benjamin was also an inspiration for Susan Campbell Duncan's talk, below right.



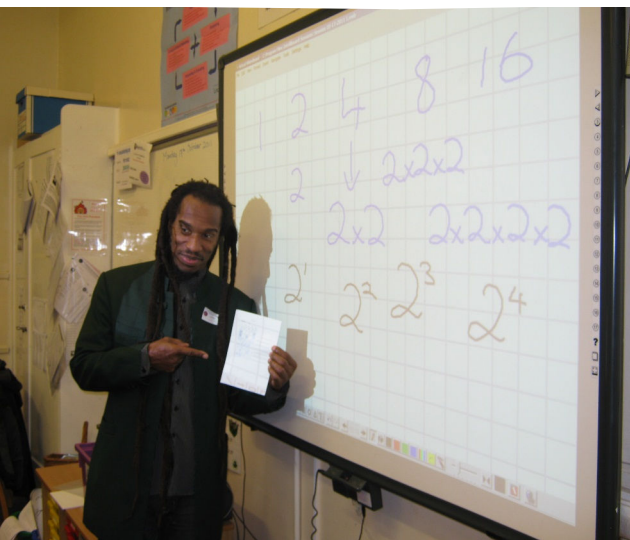
Scotland

In October pupils in S2 English class at St Kentigern's Academy in West Lothian, together with their teacher Alison Herrera organised a coffee morning and a raffle raising a fantastic £129.

They organised the fundraisers in advance by one of our Champions, Susan Campbell Duncan.

Alison said:

Susan Campbell Duncan has previous links with the school as she came to deliver a talk a couple of years ago. The S2 pupils involved have all been studying the novel 'Face' by Benjamin Zephaniah, which deals with the story of a teenage boy who survives a car crash, but is facially scarred for life through the burns he receives. It explores the issues he has to deal with in his daily life, and is a very realistic portrayal of the experiences of people with facial disfigurement.



Susan proved to be a very popular speaker due to her fun personality and great sense of humour. She even kindly agreed to be a guest judge in an advertising competition we had running in class! The idea of this talk was to build on learning from the novel, and to continue to push past barriers of prejudice that even the most sensitive and educated of us may hold. The success of Susan's visit is clear from a pupil evaluation exercise: they recorded their feelings as soon as they met her, and again at the end of her talk. Initial reactions were mainly shock, surprise, and pity, but by the end pupils reported that they no longer felt sorry for her – they said that she is so confident and funny that they didn't need to. The most common feedback at the end was that they had learned a lot about facial disfigurement, and there were several comments on her sense of humour. One pupil wrote that at the start, "I felt awkward", but after Susan's talk he/she stated that "I felt comfortable, and I now understand more about facial disfigurement."

This was a great experience for S2, and since Susan has previously appeared on the Channel 4 programme 'Beauty and the Beast: The Ugly Face of Prejudice', they can now say they have met a bona fide celebrity too!

NOTES AND THANK YOUS!

You haven't heard it all yet! Here's a round-up of just some of the amazing fundraising activities you've been involved in...

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As if one Ironman (Austria 2008) wasn't enough, Paul Winteringham (left) recently gave a repeat performance for Changing Faces. On September 11th in the historic Pembrokeshire town of Tenby, the inaugural "Ironman Wales" took place. "Ironman" comprises a swim, a bike ride & a run at distances of 2.4 miles, 112 miles and 26 miles respectively. With the tail end of Hurricane Irene threatening to batter the West Wales coastline 1,300 athletes took part in what turned out to be one of the toughest IM events on the world circuit. Force 4 winds necessitated the swim being switched from the South Beach to the more sheltered North Beach, adding the delight of an interim run of about 1km through the town to get onto the bikes. As the wind increased through the day the two lap cycle route spread the field over the 112 mile course through the beautiful National Park before finishing back in Tenby. The four lap undulating Marathon run out and back from the town and through the narrow Tenby streets. The winner in 09:04 against a predicted time of 08:15 endorsed the harsh conditions. Paul completed the course, crossing the line just before 10:00PM in a time of 14:50. A welcoming cup of tea with fish-n-chips awaited. To date he has raised £1,100 for Changing Faces, boosted by a generous donation from the CB Richard Ellis Charitable Trust.

My Liverpool Marathon 2011 and why I chose to support Changing Faces- by John Swain (right)

This Sunday saw me lining up in Birkenhead ready to haul myself round the 26.2 mile course of the new Liverpool Marathon, which I was running to raise money for Changing Faces. The months of training were over and before me lay the mammoth challenge of the Marathon.

Rewind a few months and I heard the news that the marathon was coming back to Liverpool. I'd run the London Marathon a few years earlier, and couldn't resist the urge to test myself once more. One question remained: I wanted to run it to raise money for a good cause, but for whom? I was dithering, but then Duncan Gibbins Solicitors, where I work, got involved with Changing Faces. I read through some of their stuff and was struck by what a great cause it is – the work they do in helping people cope with facial disfigurement and in building confidence and in challenging society as a whole to examine their own attitudes... I'd found my charity!

It's a cliché that people sponsoring you helps you when the going gets tough, but it's absolutely true. When it's raining and you can't face a training run, the thought of letting people down keeps you motivated. And when, at around the 18 miles mark, I 'hit the wall' big time, I needed every positive thought I could muster to help me plod on. Thoughts of the money I could raise kept me going, along with a ridiculous number of jelly babies! After 26 agonising miles, in the shadow of the iconic Liver Building, I finished in 4 hours 56 minutes. Aching all over, bone-tired, but really pretty proud of myself, I'd done it! And in the process I hope to have raised over £400 for a brilliant cause.



We still have places available in the Virgin London Marathon 2012 and the British 10k run. Have a look here: www.changingfaces.org.uk/Support-Us/Fundraise/Run or contact Sophie at sophiee@changingfaces.org.uk.

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