



REGISTERED CHARITY NO. 1118671

BSG Newsletter

Issue 1

October 2007

Introducing the new BSG Newsletter

This first edition of the BSG bi-annual newsletter is just to introduce our vision to you - its future will largely depend on your contributions. We need your ideas for a name for the newsletter, articles to include, examples of good practice you would like to share, and any other thoughts or comments relating to the field of Gerodontology.

This is a 'work in progress' – deadline for contributions for the Spring edition is 1st February 2008. Please email them to: Thelma.Edwards@dsl.pipex.com – but please don't leave it to the last minute!

BSG IS NOW A CHARITY!

THE NEW CHARITY NUMBER IS 1118671.

Our thanks go to Vicki, Janet, Heather and her husband John Frenkel for their work in helping BSG achieve charity status.

THE AIM of the Society is to improve, preserve and protect the oral health of older people.

THE OBJECTIVES of the society are highlighted in the BSG constitution.:

- To encourage research, publication and dissemination of information related to the oral health care of older adults.
- To encourage and develop undergraduate and postgraduate teaching and training of the dental team in the subject of oral health care for older people.
- To promote links with other organisations, professional bodies, carers and the general public regarding oral health and its benefits for older people.
- To provide an advisory body to which questions concerning oral health for older people can be referred.

The Committee is considering awards for new graduates and dental nurses, developing the website with resources and guidelines on specific topics, and links to voluntary agencies such as Help the Aged, Age Concern and Alzheimer's Society.

BSG TRUSTEES

Vicki Jones
Barbara Hylton
Debbie Lewis
Paul Wright
Janet Griffiths
Mark Taylor
Jim Newton

CO-OPTED DCP COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Susan Maddock - Dental Nurse
Thelma Edwards - Oral Health Promoter
Fiona Sandom - Dental Hygienist

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Editor's Reflections

The BSG conference in June 2007 took place in the beautiful surroundings of the RNLI Headquarters in Poole, Dorset. As a comparative newcomer to BSG, I drew inspiration from my environment and reflected on the purpose of the BSG. Was it to support a workforce to continue to send out the lifeboats to rescue those in trouble? Or was it moving upstream waving a red flag of danger to highlight risks to prevent rescue being required? Or was it a synergy of inflatables, large lifeboats, lifejackets and training programmes?



The best package of oral health includes treatment, prevention of disease and the promotion of health. For those of us who continue in professional practice whilst entering later life, the realities of being part of the post-war bulge generation are very real. It's payback time - like the pension letter that notifies me that what I will receive now is based on what I have paid in over the years. I am a product of the lifestyle norms of my childhood –the daily tablespoons of cod liver oil and molasses and iron to build me up, bottles of National Health orange juice full of vitamin C suspended in glucose syrup, tins of fluoride-free toothpowder resembling VIM, and the drill and fill culture of dentists! No wonder most of my teeth were filled before I left school!

And now, like the growing population of the recently or retired and those approaching retirement, I have big expectations to retain a healthy mouth, albeit heavily restored.

So what do I bring to the BSG as a new co-opted member of the committee? 19 years in oral health promotion, a non-clinical background and my feet firmly planted in being a consumer as well as a professional. I have been invited to take up the role of Newsletter Editor. I know from my time spent on the committee of the National Oral Health Promotion Group (NOHPG) and from the success of the NOHPG email Newsgroup, that members are the lifeblood of a publication that pulsates with ideas, examples of good practice, questions, debate, and challenge. Please help me develop something relevant to you by commenting on this first issue, suggesting what you would like to see in the future, and contributing yourself to the next edition. I look forward to hearing from you.

Thelma Edwards

SPRING 2007

BSG AND WESSEX BDA CDS GROUP MEETING, FRIDAY 8TH JUNE 2007, RNLI, POOLE

'PROTECT, PREVENT AND PRESCRIBE' ELDER ABUSE AND THE DENTAL TEAM

Programme:

Professor Tim Newton: 'Practitioners views and knowledge when dealing with abuse in the surgery'

Aim – to provide an overview of GDPs' awareness and perspicacity when dealing with abuse in the surgery

Dr Amanda Reynolds and Tony Greenwood: 'A policy for protection of vulnerable adults'

Aim – to demonstrate how a policy for POVA can be beneficial within dental practice.

Gary Fitzgerald: 'Action on Elder Abuse'

Aim – to raise awareness regarding the issues surrounding elder abuse

Professor Robin Seymour: 'An update on pharmacotherapy for older people'

Aim – to provide an update on medication and its effects on older people.

Dr Tim Friel: 'Sitting on the fence' management of the older dentition.

Aim – to explore the issues in providing dental care for the teeth of older people

A sample of the Delegates' reflections:

Made me more aware of elder abuse

Pharmacodynamics lecture was very interesting

Good advice on restorations and the older person

More observant and less ageist when treating older people

Promote prevention earlier

Advice to carers/clients on how dental conditions may be treated

Encourage oral hygiene by carers

WINTER MEETING 2007.

IS IT ALL IN THE MIND? MENTAL HEALTH THROUGH THE AGES

Back to back meeting of the British Society of Gerodontology and BDA CDS Group and the British Society of Disability and Oral Health at the Chartered Accountants' Hall, 1 Moorgate Place, London EC2R 6EA on 6th and 7th December 2007

British Society of Gerodontology and BDA CDS Group

Thursday 6th December 2007

9.15 registration to 4 pm close

The meeting will focus on the mental health care issues that affect older people, their oral health care and dental service provision. This will include the impact of the Mental Capacity Act, Advance Directives, Mental Health and well being in later life, Dementia and specific Mental Health Problems in relation to oral health.

BACKGROUND READING ON OUR WINTER MEETING TOPIC.

EXTRACTS FROM MENTAL HEALTH IN LATER LIFE INQUIRY

This is the second and final report of the UK Inquiry into Mental Health and Well-being in Later Life. The Inquiry identified 5 main areas for action:

ENDING DISCRIMINATION – older people with mental health problems face discrimination in policy, practice and research. Direct age discrimination, such as age barriers to accessing services, can have a devastating effect.

PRIORITISING PREVENTION – many mental health problems in later life can be prevented. The risk factors for depression, anxiety, suicide, delirium and some types of dementia are well known. Social isolation is a common risk factor across a range of problems. The problems are diverse but all of them require preventative action at multiple levels, from the individual to the broader policy level.

ENABLING OLDER PEOPLE to help themselves and each other. Only a small percentage of older people with mental health problems receive help through formal services. The vast majority cope using their own resources, so support for self-help and peer support is necessary.

IMPROVING CURRENT SERVICES – although only a minority of older people with mental health problems access them, housing health and social care services can play an important role.

FACILITATING CHANGE requires action in several areas. There are many opportunities, with policy emphasis on age equality and self-directed support. Improved education, training and support for those who work with older people will facilitate change. Stronger professional, managerial and political leadership is essential, as is the effective targeting of much-needed investment.

The Inquiry makes 35 recommendations. Age Concern have agreed to audit responses to these recommendations and report on progress in 2009.

Web Link to Executive Summary:
<http://www.mhilli.org/documents/Inquiryfinalreport-EXECSUMMARY.pdf>

MARY RIDDELL ILLUSTRATES THE REALITY OF OUR TOPIC.

She was articulate and 95 when she got too frail to live alone. At her first care home, she was sedated so heavily that she slept constantly until her daughters had her admitted her to a place where she thrived until its closure forced her to move on again.

Like all pensioners, Scots apart, whose assets exceed £21,000, she had to pay for her own social care. Her bill had risen towards £30,000 and her money had all gone by the time she fell and broke a hip. Although she recovered, she had become mildly confused and again she was given medication. One day, her daughters visited her and found that she had emerged from her blurred half-life. She recognised them and spoke lucidly.

They were told that her pills had been stopped while she was given antibiotics. Suspicious, they discovered that her normal drug was actually a remedy for schizophrenics that had left her mute, helpless and tractable as a doll. Staff said that medication would start again. Otherwise her daughters could take her away. They should see how they liked it when she wept in the undrugged moments of terror that her dementia induced. Her family has found no solution yet. They watch their mother sitting in a chair all day and staring at nothing, still as stone apart from one trembling hand. She is almost 100 now and caught, like many, in a pocket of pointless time.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2007

BDA CDS GROUP ANNUAL PRESIDENTIAL AND SCIENTIFIC MEETING 'SPECIAL CARE DENTISTRY- FROM CRADLE TO GRAVE'

Assembly Rooms, Bath, Somerset BA12QH

October 31st- November 2nd 2007

Contact: Sue Ensor, Events Department, BDA, 64, Wimpole St,

London W1G 8YS Tel: 02075634199 events@bda.org

BRITISH SOCIETY OF GERODONTOLOGY AND BDA CDS GROUP WINTER MEETING

IS IT ALL IN THE MIND?

MENTAL HEALTH THROUGH THE AGES

BACK TO BACK MEETING WITH BSDH

Chartered Accountants' Hall, 1 Moorgate Place, London EC2R 6EA

6th December 2007

Contact: Vicki Jones, Dental Department, Ringland Health Centre, Newport

Gwent NP19 9PS Vicki.Jones3@gwent.wales.nhs.uk

BRITISH SOCIETY FOR DISABILITY AND ORAL HEALTH WINTER MEETING

IS IT ALL IN THE MIND?

MENTAL HEALTH THROUGH THE AGES

Chartered Accountants' Hall, 1 Moorgate Place, London EC2R 6EA

7th December 2007

Contact: Pauline Watt-Smith 01865375113

pwattsmith@yahoo.co.uk

WEBSITES:

British Society of Gerodontology:

www.gerodontology.com

British Society for Disability and Oral Health:

www.bsdh.org.uk

CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2008

BRITISH SOCIETY FOR DISABILITY AND ORAL HEALTH SPRING MEETING

NEURODISABILITY-NATURE TO NUTURE

Marriot Hotel, Cardiff

9th May 2008

Contact: Pauline Watt-Smith 01865375113

pwattsmith@yahoo.co.uk

BRITISH SOCIETY OF GERODONTOLOGY SPRING MEETING

Queen Mary's College, London

20th June 2008

Contact: Vicki Jones, Dental Department, Ringland Health Centre

Newport, Gwent NP19 9PS, Vicki.Jones3@gwent.wales.nhs.uk

IADH 19TH CONGRESS

ORAL HEALTH AND DISABILITY – QUALITY OF LIFE

SANTOS, Brazil

28th to 31st October 2008.

Contact: www.iadh2008santos.dinoh.org

BRITISH SOCIETY OF GERODONTOLOGY AND BDA CDS GROUP WINTER MEETING

SOAS, London

4th December 2008

Contact: Vicki Jones, Dental Department, Ringland Health Centre

Newport, Gwent NP19 9PS, Vicki.Jones3@gwent.wales.nhs.uk

BRITISH SOCIETY FOR DISABILITY AND ORAL HEALTH WINTER MEETING

SOAS, London

5th December 2008

Contact: Pauline Watt-Smith 01865375113

pwattsmith@yahoo.co.uk