



## ***JUNE 2024 NEWSLETTER***

### **Our 2024 Annual Conference is now open for booking!**

**WHEN: Saturday 9th November**

**WHERE: The Friends House, Euston, London.**

[MORE INFORMATION HERE](#)

[BOOK HERE](#)

In this newsletter

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Bookings and support - we want you there!

Next informal meet up - FUDGEY Directors Q&A: Folkestone, 13th July

Contribute to Tom Greave's FUDGEY Kickstarter

Seen & Heard - a new resource for former boarders

URGENT - Input to Government Child Abuse Consultation (closes 10 July)

Dear all

We're delighted to say that we are now taking bookings for our November Conference, with some exciting changes we are eager to share with members:

**A new venue**

We're always touched by the positive feedback about the conference format and content last year. But we've listened very carefully about what members need and want from future events.

### **We're moving!**

Firstly, many of you felt - as did we - that we've outgrown our old venue. So this year, we have secured a spectacular space at the [The Friends House, opposite Euston Station](#). With a spacious suite all to ourselves, we can conduct all our activities in one light, airy space.

### **We've listened to your feedback**

Several of you disliked queuing for lunch. You also told us you valued the opportunity to meet with fellow Boarding School Survivors, and wanted more time to mingle. So this year we have arranged for the conference lunch to be an informal hot buffet, which will allow people to move around and interact more freely.

We've also extended the coffee breaks to allow more time for socialising, and included a wind down session at the end of the day. For those who are not up to mingling, or need space to decompress, we're creating a safe quiet breakout area, too.

### **Conference theme - The Boarding School Survivor's Journey**

This year, we have organised the conference, speakers and discussion groups around the theme of the *Boarding School Survivor's Journey*. You can see the full conference agenda [here](#).

### **Keeping costs down**

The Friends House is significantly more expensive than our old venue, but we are confident it will provide a better experience for all. Thanks to our generous donors, BSS-Support is willing to subsidise the extra venue costs so we can to keep price increases to a minimum.

Having kept the conference fee at £85 for the last two years, this year we are increasing the fee to £95 – which we hope will continue to be seen as good value. We have also simplified booking, so payment can now be made directly by credit card. [Book now to secure your place](#).

### **Help for those who need it**

We understand how important this conference is to former boarders, and that some might be at a difficult stage in their recovery journey. We are able to offer some help with the cost of attending the Conference for those former boarders who would find it financially impossible to attend. If you need financial assistance, please click the link on the [registration form](#), and we will be in touch.

Also, if you are unsure about attending, would like some emotional support with buddying on the day, or would like to ask about special dietary, mobility or other accommodations, please do contact us [here](#). We are eager to make the conference accessible to all.

### **Informal meet up**

The informal meet up before Tom Greave's performance of '[FUDGEY](#)' in Brighton last month was a huge success. Big thanks to all the former boarders who travelled to the Q&A session, bravely shared their stories, and stayed to chat to fellow Boarding School Survivors.

### **FUDGEY: Director's Q&A and Meet Up - Folkestone, 13th July**

Tom next performance of 'FUDGEY' will be in [Folkestone on 12th /13th July](#). Folkestone is only 50 minutes from St Pancras, so please do come along if you live in the South of England.

By popular demand, we will be holding another **Director's Q&A session** on Saturday 13th July, followed by an informal meet up for former boarders. Again, a BSS-Support Director will be on hand to welcome you. Register your interest [here](#) and we will send times and directions to the venue.

### **Kickstarter appeal: Help Tom fund 'FUDGEY'S' Future!**

Tom Greaves first spoke at the [BSS-Support Conference 2023](#) about his award-winning dark comedy about boarding school, FUDGEY.

★★★★ *"Funny, clever, and disturbing"* - Theatre & Arts Review,

★★★★ Pick of the Fringe

Tom is now looking for financial support as he takes FUDGEY back to festivals this year, and has his sights set on a national tour. So far, he's only reached a quarter of his Kickstarter target of £12,000. So with a week to go, please consider [donating](#) to this important production, which uses the power of performance to portray the enormity of the deep, lifelong trauma suffered by Boarding School Survivors.

### **East Midlands meet up - Wednesday 24th July - 6.30pm**

In our last newsletter we mentioned that some members wanted to set up their own informal groups. Well, it's happening! Former Boarders in and around the East Midlands are invited to attend a support/meet-up group - and of course, anyone from outside the East Midlands is welcome too. Their first event is being held at [Coco Tang, Nottingham](#) on Wednesday 24th July 2024.

[Contact Rupert Blomfield](#) for more information.

### **Seen & Heard: A new resource for Boarding School Survivors**

We are delighted to see the momentum building in the movement to address the damage caused by Boarding School. One recent newcomer is the organisation, [Seen & Heard](#) whose stated mission is to *"support the emotional well-being of past pupils of boarding and independent day schools, and their families"*.

[Seen & Heard](#) have gathered a wealth of resources which our members might find valuable, including a [therapist, counsellor, coach & practitioner directory](#) and a [self-help & learning resources section](#) which includes lots of books, articles, research, podcasts and a curated [YOUTUBE channel](#). Their website also hosts [Stories Of Hope & Healing](#) and details of newly formed [Online Connection Groups](#).

### **Donation appeal: Help Seen & Heard develop their services!**

Any BSS-Support subscribers who are in a position to support Seen & Heard are invited to [DONATE](#) to their appeal which will help pay for essential running costs, hosting connection groups, as well

as bursaries to individuals who cannot fully fund the cost of therapy sessions, to have three sessions with one of Seen & Heard's approved practitioners, counsellors or therapists.

## **Urgent Opportunity to Input Into Child Abuse Consultation!**

### **NOTE: Consultation Closes 10th July**

In Scotland in 2017, the statute of limitations on child abuse was changed from three years to unlimited, allowing survivors to take civil action against their abusers. Yet, England, Wales and NI still require any legal claim to be lodged by a victim's 21st birthday, or within three years of 'knowing about it' - effectively ruling out any action in adulthood.

We now know it takes decades for victims to understand the abuse, find the courage to confront and talk about it. *Childhood sexual abuse takes on average 20-30 years to disclose.*

Please consider responding to this rare opportunity to lobby for a modernisation of the UK law to afford victims of psychological, physical and sexual abuse the the same access to justice as those in Scotland. *We cannot wait another 20 years for this urgent issue to be revisited.*

This Government consultation is open to 'All those involved in or with an interest in civil proceedings in England and Wales, **including litigants**, legal professionals representing both claimants and defendants, the insurance industry and members of the judiciary'.

The full consultation document is [here](#) and the form for your response is [here](#).

Thanks to Seen & Heard for bringing this to our attention. You can view their article [here](#).

This newsletter comes from the directors of BSS-Support, with our very best wishes - Allison, Caroline, Mike, Paul, Pippa, Tim and Sam

### **Boarding School Survivors - Support**

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