



MAY 2024 NEWSLETTER

Save the date! Our next Annual Conference will take place on Sat 9th November 2024, at Euston, London.

We will send out registration details in early June.

Dear all

A warm welcome to our Spring newsletter, a round up of news, research and other tidbits that may interest those sharing the Boarding School Survivor Journey.

An informal meet up

We were thrilled to see so many members from London and the South East at ex-boarder, Tom Greaves's show '**Goodbye Uncle Fudgey**' at Barnes OSO last month. We sent out an open invitation for any members who wanted to meet for a cuppa after the matinee Q&A session, with a BSS-S Director on hand to ensure a warm welcome.

After the show and a very interesting Q&A session with an audience of boarders, we had the cafe space to ourselves. The atmosphere was amazing, a-buzz with rich conversations and our members making new connections. In fact, everyone was having such a lovely time, we had to be kicked out to make way for the evening's audience!

"Can we do it again, please?"

Several people remarked how therapeutic they found it to talk to likeminded people, and share experiences. Several asked if BSS-S

could set up more 'Boarding School Cafes' - which got us thinking ...

Brighton & SE members - 1st June meet up

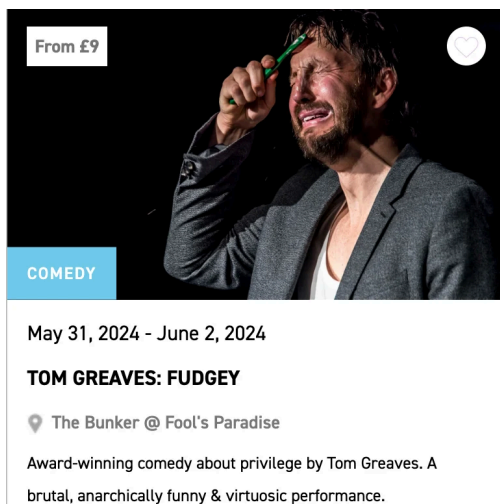
Tom Greaves' play about shaking off his boarding school persona and reconnecting with his inner child is being shown at Brighton Fringe from **31 May to 2 June**. (The play is now just called 'Fudgey')

Join us for an informal get-together, on Sat 1st June

Tom has kindly offered to host a special **Q&A** for BSS-S on **Saturday 1st June at 5pm**, ahead of the evening performance of 'Fudgey' which starts at 7pm. The Q&A session will be followed by an 'open cafe' for former boarders to meet and chat. It will be very informal, and once again a BSS-S Director will be on hand, so no one need feel awkward coming to the venue alone or taking part in the conversation.

Everyone welcome

Meet at **5pm at The Bunker @ Fool's Paradise**. (just south of St Peter's Church at York Place, Brighton BN1 4GU). We'll break between 6pm and 7pm for people to get food before the main show.



Tom Greaves's "FUDGEY"

Coming to Brighton Fringe from 31 May to 02 Jun @ 7pm

Venue:

The Bunker @ Fool's Paradise

Watch the trailer and buy tickets (from £9.00) from

www.brightonfringe.org

Future meet ups: Folkesone, Edinburgh & Manchester

'Fudgey' will be touring to **Folkestone** (12/13 July) and **Edinburgh** (from 31 July to 26 August). Whilst we can't commit to a BSS-S Director

being there in person, we will happily co-ordinate and send a message to our mailing list if any former boarders would like to arrange an informal meet up to coincide with Tom's performance dates.

A BSS-S member in **Manchester** has also proposed starting an informal friendship group, so that former boarders can get together either in person, or online. Again, we can't promise to be there, but will happily offer support in connecting people and putting the word out.

If you would like to organise or join an event listed above, please email [BSS-S](#) and we'll put people in touch.

Calling all former boarders (18+) for an online research study

BSS-S has been approached by Dr Mariel Marcaron-Olivier, course lead for BSc Psychology at Birmingham City University. Their researchers are inviting former boarders to take part in an online study, which explores how adult relationships are affected by childhood schooling, and the influence on drug or alcohol abuse.

The online survey (below) will take just 15-20 minutes to complete. It is fully anonymous, and is fully approved by the ethics committee at Birmingham City University.

You can participate in the online study here:

ENTER

Therapist offering reduced sessions for a Surrey based client

BSS-S has been approached by Zoe Jackson, a doctoral student in Psychoanalytic Psychotherapy at Exeter University. Zoe is looking for one former boarder - male or female - in the Surrey area, who would benefit from intensive psychotherapy. This is a well known scheme, whereby therapy is provided by an experienced trainee who is undertaking advanced training, at a greatly reduced fee. If this offer is of interest, please email zj265@exeter.ac.uk for more information.

Call for male ex-boarders (18+) for PhD research interviews

As part of her PhD in Psychotherapy at the University of Exeter, Zoe is researching the long-term effects of attending boarding school at a young age. The aim is to develop the boarding school experience to mitigate damaging effects, for example through staff implementing more supportive strategies or mediating a more thoughtful and sustaining environment.

Zoe is looking to conduct a 1 hour interview with males (18+) who attended a British boarding school as a full-boarder at an early age (eg before age 11), and who have experienced a talking therapy at least once. All outcomes will be anonymised, and covered by the stringent university ethics board requirements for this type of research, which also means you will be given full details of the study purpose, methods and outputs before interviews start, and can withdraw at any time.

If you would like to be interviewed for this study, please email zj265@exeter.ac.uk for more information.

Any willing editors out there?

Leo Rutherford is seeking a professional book editor with Public School experience to help edit a satirical novel which covers boarding school themes. If you can help, please email Leo on leo@eagleswing.co.uk

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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