

# burnsfamilygroup

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Some of the children with entertainers Smooth C

## Welcome to 2011!

Once again the Burns Family Group began the New Year with a party and fun was had by all. The party entertainers this year were called Smooth C, who provided the children with a disco, fun and games, plus dance routines—and not forgetting fabulous prizes for everyone.

I am certain that everyone ended the day with happy memories and possibly feeling a little exhausted from all the energies used particularly with the dancing—including the mums.

A big thank you to Debbie Steer, Caroline Helm and Lorraine Hudson for their support, and not forgetting the Trust's catering for supplying our party food.

I am hoping for another year ahead of activities and events that are suitable for all of the children and their families to participate in at the varying times throughout the year. Dates and venues will be confirmed nearer the time of events.

Some exciting news—information on our Family Group is now on a webpage on the hospital website. We now have the ability to view our Family Group newsletter.

You can also contact me via my email address found on the webpage. We also have a new family group mobile number from the end of January 2011—07915 492 781. I can also be contacted

on the Burns Unit on 020 3315 8611. See [www.chelwest.nhs.uk/burns-support](http://www.chelwest.nhs.uk/burns-support) for our Family Group webpage.

Keep an eye on the webpage as it will give dates of up and coming events. I will of course still post newsletters to families if you do not have access to a computer. Look out for a leaflet that I will be sending to everyone, so that I can update the Family Group database.

Well here we are in 2011 already. Let us all hope it will be a happy one with great achievements to be had by all.

Happy New Year!

—Sharon Aylott, Hospital Play Specialist



Burns Family Group New Year party







Rebecca with her parents, little brother and staff from the Burns Unit

## Rebecca's fundraising event

**R**ebecca DiSilver spent a few days on the Burns Unit after an accident at home. She was so pleased with how everyone looked after her and her family that she wanted to give something back.

Rebecca had an idea of asking family and friends to donate any items they no longer wanted or needed.

With the many donations she received she set up a tombola stall at her school summer fête. Rebecca has kindly donated the money she collected to the Burns Family Group.

In speaking with Rebecca recently she was excited at the prospect of thinking of new ideas to raise some more money for us.

Thank you also to Samantha Grey, Rupert's mother, for donating £250 to the Burns Family Group. I have put together a few ideas below that children and their families can do together to raise money:

- **Lucky straws**—does your straw contain a winning prize ticket?
- **Teddy/toy tombola**—sell your toys you don't need anymore
- **Guess the number of sweets in a jar**
- **Popcorn fundraiser**

If you would like some more information on how to use the above please give me a call on 020 3315 8611 and I can forward you the details.

## Farewell, Sarah

**W**e would like to take this opportunity to wish Sarah Howarth good luck in her retirement.

A goodbye party was held for Sarah last November for families to say thank you and goodbye.

As I am sure many of you are aware, Sarah founded the Family Burns Group many years ago, which has grown over the years providing support to many children and their families in what can be difficult times around having a burn experience.

I too would like to say a big thank you to Sarah for supporting me to take over the Family Group. Keep in touch Sarah and good luck for your future.

## World Burns Camp Jamboree—August 2010



Third World Burns Camp Jamboree, August 2010—(left to right) Mary Kolawole, Junaid Dahau, Sarah Howarth and Kaylie Knights

**O**n 20 August 2010, three young people from the Burns Family Group and I joined groups from all over the World for the Third World Burns Camp Jamboree, which was held in Britain.

As this was such a special occasion, I took three of our oldest and most experienced campers—Mary Kolawole,

Kaylie Knights and Junaid Dahau—it was an amazing experience for us all.

All the young people, who were aged 13–18, were in mixed groups and there was a mixture of nationalities in each. Language difficulties were soon overcome as they encouraged each other up walls, along beams, and up the hills on the bikes.

Everyone was encouraged to learn words in each others' languages. We started each morning with a session to learn a few useful phrases of a different language, so that we could all at least be able to say 'Hello', 'Please', 'Thank you', 'Yes' and 'No' in Korean, Russian, Czech, French, Afrikaans, Bantu and Welsh.

The ball on the Friday evening was a splendid affair with a three-course meal and silver service—quite an experience for many of the young people at the Jamboree.

The Organising Committee, led by Dave Webster, a firefighter from Stanstead airport, and Karen Reed, from the FAB club at Frenchay Hospital in Bristol, did an amazing job in raising the money, organising the activities, and altogether making the week an unforgettable experience for us all, for which we are most grateful.

The next International Jamboree will be held in South Africa in 2012.

—Sarah Howarth