

31st January 2004

Dear Friends

Now that the festive season is over, we wish you all a very Happy New Year and hope that you will be able to participate in some of the events that the Trust has planned for 2004.

Initially we have the Helphire **Bath Half Marathon** on **March 14th** which has become an important fundraising opportunity for our Trust. We are hoping to field a team of 40 runners and still have a few places available which can be accessed through the website. Also, if you are able to be an official marshal, please sign up on-line – for each marshal the SCT fields, we receive £25. We anticipate the usual air of excitement at the event and very much hope to see many of you there to encourage our team in their distinctive turquoise blue t-shirts!

On Tuesday **30th March, the Sophie Cameron Performing Arts** concert promises a lively evening of music and entertainment at the **Royal High School Bath**. Tickets are available from the school office on Bath 313877.

The next event this year will be the long promised **Pot Luck Dinners** during the period of **1st – 13th November**. We need volunteer hosts within 1 hour's drive of Bath to offer meals - please complete the attached form. Although it sounds daunting, having been a host myself as well as a guest elsewhere, I promise you that it is good fun and a great way to meet different people.

On **November 18th Crabtree & Evelyn** at the Podium, Bath have offered to host a special charity evening from which we will gain 20% of all takings. It will be held between 6.30 and 8.00 pm with wine and light refreshments. There will be a floral demonstration as well as a workshop on hand massage. We are making no charge for the 60 tickets available and all guests will receive a goody bag. If you would like to be invited, simply write to us with a self addressed envelope for tickets. Please ensure that if for some reason you are not able to go, you pass the ticket on to someone who will use it.

Last Autumn, The Tony Benn evening in September was a great success and we are very grateful to the veteran politician who was on sparkling form. We also extend our thanks to Kingswood School and its theatre staff for providing an excellent venue. We very much hope to promote a similar event in the future. If any of you have the ear of a suitably prominent figure who may be interested in speaking and supporting the SCT, please let us know.

The Glitter Ball took place on 13th December 2003 in the Assembly Rooms, Bath and was attended by 400 people. The Ball was an outstanding success, both socially and financially and the atmosphere on the evening was tremendous with great fun being

had by all. The Ball raised £18,000, which will be shared between the two charities: Save the Children and The Sophie Cameron Trust. We are indebted to the generosity of the many businesses and individuals who so kindly supported and sponsored this event.

The committee have decided to hold the Glitter Ball every two years and the Assembly Rooms are already been booked for Saturday December 10th 2005, so mark your diaries! On behalf of the committee and charities concerned, I would like to thank everyone for their contribution to this glittering event.

We should also mention the generosity of Keith and Fenella Duchars who, on celebrating their 25th wedding anniversary, asked their guests not to bring gifts but if they wished, to donate to the SCT and raised nearly £1,000. We were also fortunate to be included as a beneficiary of the Three Tenors Concert in July as well as the Bath Bach Choir's Candlelight Concert at Christmas. Another local supporter, Stephen Clifford, raised £565 in running the Berlin Marathon.

Our fundraising has helped research at the Institute of Neurology (IoN) in London into the causes of encephalitis lethargica. In this month's issue of the scientific journal Brain, neurologists at the IoN described 20 new cases of this rare illness, and they propose that it is caused by an auto-immune problem, rather than a virus as other researchers had believed. This important work was highlighted in the journal's editorial column. The trust is currently funding further research by two of the authors to find out exactly what molecules in the brain are involved. This is very exciting research, and we hope that with our continuing commitment, it may eventually be possible to screen potential sufferers. Research on encephalitis lethargica at the IoN will be covered in a QED programme on the BBC in the early summer.

With regard to Sophie's own programme of rehabilitation, we are delighted to inform you that she will be the subject of a research project to look at the effects of long-term intensive physiotherapy, funded equally by the Sophie Cameron Trust, the Brownsword Trust and the Medlock Foundation. This will initially be for three years. We will keep you informed on progress of the project and Sophie. Last year, whilst on holiday with her parents, she took a few steps in a swimming pool which was very encouraging. However, progress continues to be very slow.

We will write again in early September with our Pot Luck Dinner menus. Please do take part in this unusual event.

We enclose a form for anyone wishing to make a donation and thank you all for your continued support of the Sophie Cameron Trust.

Yours sincerely

Bernard Whiteside
Chairman

