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“Caring for people with lupus”

Dear Members & Friends

May 2003

Hello everyone, here are our latest dates for your diary:

- **A.G.M:** Wed. evening, 28th May, 7.30-9.30, Westbourne Day Centre, Alumhurst Road, Westbourne (Wheel chair access)
- **Coffee Morning:** Sat. 7th June, 10.30-12.00, The Methodist Centre, Cold Harbour Road, Milborne Port, Nr Shaftesbury (Chair lift in building)
- **Bournemouth Skin Information Day:** Sat. 7th June, 10.00-3.00, Bournemouth University, Talbot Campus, (Via Poole House Entrance & Main Reception) Wallisdown, Bournemouth BH12 5BB
- **Coffee Morning:** Sat. 28th June, 10.30-12.00, Howard Centre, Christchurch Hospital, The Fairmile, Christchurch. (Wheel chairs are no problem)
- We also hope to arrange an evening in July for a drink at a Country Pub in the Weymouth/Wareham region. If you are interested please contact me nearer the time on 01202 884809 or 07808 706255 .

It was lovely to see so many people at the last coffee mornings and the skittles evening, which was great fun. Well done to all those who have been able to do some fund raising.

Our AGM is next Wednesday and I hope that a lot of people will be able to come along. We thought it would be enjoyable to follow the AGM with a few fun activities and some refreshment. Perhaps you could bring a contribution towards the food, either sweet or savoury.

At the moment I am trying to be the Chairperson, Newsletter Editor and the Secretary all in one! We desperately need some more volunteers to join the committee, so please give it a thought if you can spare just a little time. (But don't stay away from the AGM if you are not able to help – we won't twist any arms!) If you have anything to bring up at this meeting but can't attend in person, or if you need more detailed directions, please give me a ring.

The Skin Information day on Saturday 7th June sounds very interesting. There is a full programme of scheduled talks, exhibitions and information about many different skin conditions such as acne, allergies, chronic wounds, pressure sores, leg ulcers, cold sores, eczema, Ehlers-Danlos syndrome, Herpes viruses, ichthyosis, lupus, psoriasis, Raynauld's & scleroderma, rosacea, shingles, skin cancers, vitiligo, xeroderma pigmentosum. There will also be skin camouflage advice and a wide range of healthcare products and services including samples to try at home. There is no entrance fee. Details and timings of talks can be obtained from Gwen Banford on 0207 281 3553 ext.210

The coffee mornings are happy occasions that give us a chance to keep in contact, share news, and have a chat. Many newly-diagnosed members have gained considerable support from chatting informally at these meetings, and friends and family can come along too.

In the Summer months, members often arrange coffee mornings at their own homes for friends and neighbours and have a Bring and Buy stall and/or a raffle to raise some funds for Lupus. If you have any items that could swell the stalls or raffles, please bring them along to the AGM or a coffee morning and we will pass them on. And if you are thinking of arranging such an event yourself, however small, please let me know. We would also welcome some items for our own raffles at our meetings.

See you soon at the AGM **next Wednesday!**

Margaret Hosking