



Family needs led to show business

Bristol Club member Caroline Sparks and her *Little Monster* ideas

The Bristol Women's Show is the idea of Caroline Sparks, who owns and manages Bristol-based events business *Little Monster*. Caroline joined BPW Bristol club in 2008 after being recommended to do so by a friend back in 2007!

Caroline researched many of the other women's networks before deciding to join BPW Bristol. She found the flexible structure of the local group appealed to her as a working mum and it represented real value for money. Since joining the club she has enjoyed the active support of the other members and they have been very pleased to be able to join her in this 'first' for Bristol.

Having had two children, Caroline realised there was a real interest and need for local baby shows, because they're more relevant and accessible than the shows held in London or Birmingham.

So in April 2007 Caroline launched the first *Little Monster* Baby & Toddler Show in Bristol. It was a huge success and since 2007 Caroline has run another show in Bristol in 2008, plus shows in Cardiff, Exeter, Bath and Cheltenham.

Before launching *Little Monster*, Caroline worked for a large telecommunications company for twelve years, working as an integral part of their communications department and organising internal staff events. Caroline then spent several months with an AIM-listed company in Bath, managing their marketing and organising their attendance at national and international exhibitions.

While researching the local market and exhibitions, Caroline came across the concept of women's shows. Having



Bristol WOMEN'S Show

visited another women's show in Hampshire and researching the huge market of women's shows in the USA, Caroline realised that a similar event

in Bristol would be extremely well received.

The Bristol Women's Show will celebrate everything about being female. There will be something for everyone including fashion, weight-loss experts, fitness, careers advice, financial planning, safety and lots more.

So if you're in the area on 29 March, entrance to the show is £5 on the door, or £4.50 in advance by purchasing online at www.bristolwomensshow.co.uk. The first 500 visitors receive a free goody bag crammed full of information and free samples. Plus there's a free prize draw on the day to win two day passes to the fabulous Thermae Bath Spa.

Contact Caroline on enquiries@little-monster.co.uk or visit the website for more details.

Members' Emergency Fund

The Members' Emergency Fund (MEF) aims to help members of BPW UK obtain help during times of need. That need could include ill-health or an accident leading to unemployment, illness of a partner or husband, early retirement due to illness, difficulties arising from marriage break up, unforeseen damage to property affecting home and livelihood, vandalism or burglary. An emergency situation of any nature will be looked at most sympathetically and a decision given without delay.

The amount of each grant available is

£500 and the maximum loan is £4,000.

To be eligible for assistance you must have been a member for at least two continuous years and be a fully paid-up member at the time of your request. You must also have given at least 50p each year to MEF funds. The Trustees have discretion to consider a request from someone in exceptional circumstances who does not fulfil these criteria.

MEF is registered with the Charity Commissioners as number 231723 and constituted by Deed Trust. A management committee administers MEF, formed by ten BPW regional members. Members' Emergency

Fund trustees respect the confidentiality of all applicants and will not disclose information given to them by those applying. Having received an application form, the trustees will decide by majority decision whether they are able to help and communicate their decision with all possible speed and confidentiality.

To apply, please write to The Chairman of MEF, BPW UK Ltd, 74 Fairfield Rise, Billericay, Essex CM12 9NU, marking the letter private and confidential.

Or contact your regional MEF representative whose address is in the members' Address Book. Alternatively, ring 01225 837251 for further help.