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Dear Homebirth Families,

Welcome to the May edition of Birthplace. Apologies for the delay (our last issue was February) but the magazine team have been busy flailing around putting together a generic magazine for all those lovely people interested in home birth and/or who are taking the home birth classes. This remains a work in progress, but we're ever hopeful of imminent completion!

The generic issue is a way of getting basic information about home birth and who the association is and what we do out to those who have expressed an interest in home birth. This could be just one more small way to encourage people considering a home birth to commit to the idea.

One day 25% of women could choose to have a home birth. Imagine that. Or even 50%... If you consider the conservative estimate that 80% of women could have a home birth (that is, they are healthy enough to), one quarter doesn't seem too high to aim.

Of course, it's not nice to have to be zealous, recruiting and in-your-face, but leading by example doesn't seem to be working. People just aren't catching on. Maybe we should do something akin to what Caroline Flint (UK midwife) does, which is to mention midwifery (or home birth in our case) three times a day to complete strangers. eg. to the teenager packing groceries for you (if you're lucky enough to shop somewhere they will pack them for you),

(packer:) *how's your day so far?*

(you:) *oh, great thanks, I just received this month's edition of the home birth magazine. I'm planning a home birth. I can't wait. / My baby was born at home. It was fabulous! / I think home birth is just great, don't you!?*

Maybe it's a little too fruity or direct for you? Hmm.. Oh well, a quiet example is good too. The personal is political, after all.

***Joanna Davis***