Swindon Sands

Issue No.1 Spring 2010

For those of you that don't know me I lost my little boy Adam Lee Milburn at 31wks into my pregnancy. He slipped away on New Years Eve 2006 for no apparent reason and was born sleeping on 2nd January 2007. I think of him every day and he is my drive and motivation to be a better mother, wife, and friend. I wanted to be a support to others who had to go through such pain of losing a baby and so decided to set up a group locally to do just that. It turned out that Tasha moved to the area too and had the exact same thought! So we joined forces and here we are. We have had a rocky start but we are now ready to let people really know that we are here. It's going to be a really busy year but it is also going to be so rewarding and we are going to meet some amazing people along the way, as we have done already. I am always here to offer hugs when needed and I am glad that I have people to walk this path with.

Blankets update / Memory Boxes

Our main fundraising goal this year is to place Memory Boxes in the Great Western Hospital. The boxes contain a hand knitted blanket, 2 teddies, a disposable camera, support literature, poems cards, little message card and a mini box for a lock of hair or name band. We really think that these boxes are a superb idea to help parents focus their thoughts on what they can do for their baby, and to help create as many memories as possible in the time that they have to spend with

I am Natasha and I lost my little boy Bob just before Xmas in 2006. In dark day an difficult times Sands has been lifeline. When I moved into the Swindon Area I found out that Cathy , whom I already knew through National Sands ,lived here too. I was glad to have another mommy that knew how I was feeling so close. I really wished that there was a local Sands group and Cathy had the same idea. It has take a while to find our feet but we are ready to move forward. Bob is my driving force and Tiny footprints are forever imprinted in my hearts, leaving there mark in every step I take. I hope and want to be of help and support so that no one need be alone. I am always here ((hugs)) I am here to share this journey with you.

their little one. The hospital love the boxes too and the first batch was delivered to GWH in December which was supported by an article in the Swindon Advertiser. The story included a 'call for knitters' to volunteer to knit some of the beautiful blankets which are to go into the boxes and we were overwhelmed with the response! We had over 30 telephone calls and emails from people who, after being touched by the story, offered to knit for us. So we have a team of happy helpers hand making these beautiful blankets and have had the first few come in. We have been really touched by people's kindness. If you would like to have a go yourself or have friends or family that enjoy knitting then you can download the pattern from our website.

Fundraising Masquerade Ball

We are being very brave and have decided to organise a Masquerade Ball here in Swindon, to help raise the vital funds that we need to keep Swindon Sands running as a support group.

We need funds to help run our monthly meetings, run the support line and website and most importantly to help place the Memory Boxes in the Great Western Hospital. The group has been running for some time now and we have felt it a good idea to hold a BIG fundraiser to help raise these funds but to also let people really know that we are here.

SO... for a glistening night under the stars, come along to our Masquerade Ball on Saturday 28th August at Alexandra House Conference Centre, Wroughton. Ticket prices will be £45 which includes a arrival drink, BBQ Buffet Banquet, glass of wine with your meal and entertainment. The hotel has also given us a very good deal on room prices so why not stay over and make a weekend of it? Tell family and friends about it too.

If you would like to buy a ticket then please send cash or a cheque payable to Swindon Sands to The Old Chapel, Meadow Way, South Cerney, GL7 6HY.

Can you help?

We are going to need help selling tickets and finding lovely raffle prizes for our big raffle on the night. Do you work somewhere that could offer a prize? Would you like to make some calls and see what you can get for this great cause? If you would like to help with any of the ball preparations or would like to get involved with the group in any way then please email fundraiser@swindonsands.org

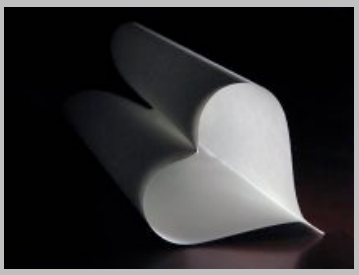
Swindon Sands are holding a fundraising Ball so that we can continue running as a group. The funds raised will help run our monthly support meetings, the helpline, website and most importantly place Memory Boxes in Great Western Hospital.

Tickets are available at £45. As well as your BBQ buffet banquet, your ticket includes an arrival drink, glass of wine with your meal and entertainment.

To purchase a ticket contact 01793 238 788 or visit www.swindonsands.org

28/08/2010	**Alexandra House Swindon**	**7.00 p.m.**	Swindon Sands Supporting anyone affected by the death of a baby Charity registration number 299679

Book of Remembrance



There is now a book of remembrance on the Swindon Sands website. Please feel free to take a look.

If you would like to have your precious baby added please email natashavesma@swindonsands.org.

Natasha can create a personalized entry with a poem/song that is special to you, a little message, a photo but please bare in mind that certain pictures are not text friendly. We do have a numerous photo's of candle's, hearts, flowers etc. that can be used if you prefer and you can just provide content.

You might like to make it yourself and we will be happy to put it on the website.

Angel Tree

During baby loss awareness week in 2006 Great Western Hospital planted a tree at Coate Water Country Park. Lovingly known as the angel tree it is dedicated to remember all the little angels that have have lost.

It is in a lovely quite spot and if you would like to visit email us and we can send you directions.

Donations

We would like to offer a huge thank you for the donations we have received from various people over the past few months. They really do make a difference.

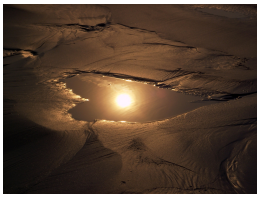
Also thank you to Daniel Vesma who along with friend and colleague Ian Lovatt did a sponsored weight loss just before Christmas. They where kindly sponsored by there work colleagues at Yiangou architects, for every pound lost a pound was donated to Swindon Sands. The money is still busy coming in but it looks like they have raised between £400 and £500. Well done boys and thank you very much for all your effort.

Swindon Sands now has a Just Giving site, a link can be found on the website on the fundraising page or you can go directly by going to www.justgiving.com/Swindon-Sands

Without these kind donations the group would be unable to keep providing support and help/work with Great Western hospital. Every little bit helps.

Sands Awareness Month

June is National Sands awareness month. We really would like to do something this year. Any suggestions on something that the group can do in this month are most welcome. Please contact fundraising@swindonsands.org with any ideas.



Christmas Support Meeting

At the the support meeting just before Christmas we took time to remember all the little one's, sadly not with us but always in our thoughts and forever in our hearts.

Next Newsletter

The next newsletter will be sent out at the beginning of June if you have a story/event you would like to add or have a idea about something you would like included please contact admin@swindonsands.org

Contact details

Support Line: 01793 238 788

If you try to call and get no response, please leave a message and Cathy or Natasha will get in touch as soon as possible

General Enquires: admin@swindonsands.org

Support after loss: support@swindonsands.org

Fundraising: fundraising@swindonsands.org

Borrowing Books: librarian@swindonsands.org