

PRESS RELEASE

October 2011

Surrey Sands joins international 'Wave of Light' to remember babies during Baby Loss Awareness Week

Baby Loss Awareness Week is from 9th – 15th October

The Surrey branch of stillbirth and neonatal death charity, Sands, will remember babies who have died before, during or shortly after birth in a special lantern release on Epsom Downs on Saturday, 15th October at 6.45pm.

The event will be part of a global 'Wave of Light', which encourages anyone affected by the death of a baby to light a candle and leave it burning for at least one hour in remembrance of the thousands of babies across the world who have died.

Lorna Bland, chair of Surrey Sands, says last year's event saw a "breathtaking and moving" display of around 100 lanterns floating across the Downs.

"The event gave peace and comfort to the parents who had lost a baby during pregnancy, around the time of birth or in the early weeks of life," she said.

Also in support of Baby Loss Awareness Week, bereaved parents Jenny Clements-Jones and her partner Will, whose daughter Jessica was stillborn, have organised a Family Fun Day and Auction, which will take place on Sunday 9th October, at the Harrier Centre, King George V playing fields, West Ewell. All money raised will go towards the Epsom Babies Memorial Garden, a project currently underway by Surrey Sands.

- Ends -

Note to editors:

Note to editors: For more information, contact:

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Key Information about Sands:

Sands, the stillbirth and neonatal death charity, was established by bereaved parents in 1978 and obtained charity status in 1981.

Sands core aims are to:

- Support anyone affected by the death of a baby;
- To work in partnership with health professionals to improve the quality of care and services offered to bereaved families; and

- To promote research and changes in practice that could help to reduce the loss of babies' lives

Sands is a national organisation, with over 100 regional support groups across the UK.

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