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FAMILY TRAGEDY SPURS BROTHERS TO TAKE ON ICELANDIC MOUNTAIN BIKE CHALLENGE IN MEMORY OF BABY NEPHEW

A family tragedy has spurred two brothers to take on a mammoth fundraising challenge in memory of their baby nephew, and to raise funds for the stillbirth and neonatal death charity, Sands.

Following the stillbirth of Aberdeen couple Steve and Susan Masser's son in October last year, Steve's brothers Scott and Ben are aiming to raise £3000 for Sands by cycling 360km across the Icelandic Highland Mountains.

Steve, who works as an architectural technician in Aberdeen, says he was overwhelmed when his brothers announced what they wanted to do.

"Harrison was our first child and his death was absolutely devastating," says Steve. "Stillbirth is not a subject anyone talks about, and the shock and impact his death had on us all was indescribable. My wife and I had incredible support from Sands, and so when my brothers said they wanted to raise funds for the charity, we were extremely touched and fully supportive.

"It is a huge challenge they are taking on in Harrison's memory," continues Steve, "and we hope that as well as raising funds for Sands, we can help to raise awareness of stillbirth. Before Harrison's death we had no idea that 17 babies die every single day in the UK, which is equivalent to 16 jumbo jets crashing every year with no survivors. We need more research to find out why so many babies are dying, and how these deaths can be prevented."

To help his brothers reach their £3,000 fundraising target, Steve and Susan have already sold all tickets for a charity quiz night they plan to host on 2nd May at the Characters Cafe Bar in Aberdeen. Anyone wishing to make a donation towards the challenge, no matter how small, should visit www.justgiving.com/Peanut-Masser.

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Note to editors:

- Scott and Ben Masser will undertake the Icelandic Mountain bike challenge in August this year
- For more information, contact Lisa Wardle, Sands press officer, on 07846 498506, or email lisa.wardle@uk-sands.org.