

14 August 2012 – Final

Sawston's Harry Williamson raises funds for Sands, the stillbirth and neonatal death charity, following the stillbirth of his nephew in Australia

Harry Williamson, co-owner of Halo Hair Salon in Sawston, Cambridge is a man on a mission.

Following the tragic news that his first nephew, Benjamin, was stillborn in Sydney, Australia, in May this year, Harry is determined to raise awareness of stillbirth and much-needed funds for Sands, the stillbirth and neonatal death charity.

Harry and his business partner, Steven Burry, are planning to donate their hair salon's takings on Friday 17th August to raise funds for the charity. The date marks three months since Benjamin died.

Harry takes up the story: 'Gemma is my big sister and the whole family and all our friends were totally devastated when we got the call to say Benjamin was stillborn. I visited Gemma and her husband, Chris, in Sydney at the start of the year and was present at her first scan, which filled us all with excitement at the prospect of a new baby in the family.

'Nobody ever expects to hear the terrible news that their baby has died and I know that Gemma has received great support from a charity in Australia.

'I am determined to raise awareness of the 17 babies that die every day in the UK (11 are stillbirths and 6 die shortly after birth), and really want something positive to come out of Benjamin's death. The money we raise for Sands will help the charity support other bereaved parents across the UK and also help fund research to find answers as to why so many babies are still dying.

'Until Benjamin's death I had no idea that 1 in every 200 babies the UK is stillborn and that we have one of the highest stillbirth rates when compared to similar high income countries. Benjamin was my first nephew and I just hope that on 17th August everyone will be as generous as possible and help us to support such an important charity.

ENDS

For further information, please contact Sands press office:

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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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