

**April 2013**

**Farnham Dad all set to compete in 2013 Virgin London Marathon and raise funds for Sands – the stillbirth and neonatal death charity – in memory of daughter, Colette**

Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> April will see Kurt Budge, of Farnham, Surrey, pounding the streets of the Capital, running as one of Sands (the stillbirth and neonatal death charity) nominated runners in this year's Virgin London Marathon.

Kurt will be running to raise awareness of stillbirth and neo-natal death, and in memory of his daughter, Colette, who sadly died having lived for just one day in February 2003.

Kurt, aged 43, explains: 'Colette was born at 37 ½ weeks, but died because of a condition called vasa praevia which created complications at the onset of labour. This year is the tenth anniversary of her birth and although I have run 4 London marathons in the past, I haven't run since 2008. I thought competing in this year's Virgin London Marathon and raising funds once again for Sands, as I did in 2005, would be the best way to mark Colette's anniversary.'

'Colette was a beautiful girl and we miss her greatly, but until her death we had no knowledge of conditions such as vasa praevia, or that 17 babies die everyday in the UK - 11 are stillborn and 6 die shortly after birth.'

'The support Sands provides to bereaved parents makes such a huge difference when things don't go according to plan. Their work is diverse and includes funding research to better understand why so many babies are still dying; to running a network of nearly 100 support groups across the country; and providing memory boxes to ensure that no parents leave hospital without precious memories of their baby.'

Come Marathon day, Kurt will be cheered on by his wife Cécile and children Zachary aged 9 and Esmé aged 6. Kurt continues: 'It's been a while since my last marathon, but with Colette in my mind, my family spurring me on, and my much needed stock of jelly babies, I'll keep pushing towards the finishing line and hitting my fundraising target of £3,000.'

'Lots of bereaved parents find it hard to find somebody to talk to or to share their memories with, but through their national helpline and support groups Sands meets that need. I hope that by running this year's Marathon I can do my bit to raise awareness of the invaluable support they provide to bereaved parents at such a sad time in their lives.'

To sponsor Kurt please visit: [www.justgiving.com/KurtBudge2013](http://www.justgiving.com/KurtBudge2013)

To find out more, please visit: [www.uk-sands.org](http://www.uk-sands.org)

**ENDS**

For further information, please contact Sands press officers:

Lyn Peters – 0203 598 1937

or

Lisa Wardle – 0203 598 1942

**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

Helpline: 020 7436 5881

Office: 020 7436 7940

Web: [www.uk-sands.org](http://www.uk-sands.org)

E mail: [support@uk-sands.org](mailto:support@uk-sands.org)