

FINAL

APRIL 2013

Local Support Group plans Spring Ball and hopes to beat £10,000 raised in 2012

Following the success of North Manchester Sands (stillbirth and neonatal death charity) inaugural Spring Ball in 2012, which raised over £10,000, the charity is busy making plans for its 2013 event.

This year's Spring Ball will be hosted at The Palace Hotel, Manchester on 27 April 2013 and money raised will be used to fund research into why so many babies are stillborn or die shortly after birth every day in the UK.

Michelle Morgan, a healthcare assistant on the maternity ward at the North Manchester General Hospital and secretary of the group says, 'We were completely blown away by the success of last year's event and the generosity of everyone who attended. The £10,000 raised was used to help refurbish our bereavement suite and to create a baby garden here at North Manchester General. We were also able to purchase our first cold cot, which enables parents to spend longer with their baby who has died, and we are delighted another cold cot is on order.'

Attendees on 27 April will be treated to a great evening's entertainment, with the line-up including local band, Freerunner, female vocalist Laura Stafford and music by Ethan Bourne. As Michelle says, 'Our favourite DJ, Micky Valenti, will then have everyone up on the dance floor until the early hours.

'Everyone has kindly agreed to donate their time for free and so we are hugely grateful. We just need everyone to come along and have a great night out and to know funds raised will be used to research why a staggering 17 babies are stillborn or die shortly after birth every day in the UK.'

If you would like to purchase tickets or know more about the work of Sands locally, please contact Michelle Morgan or Collette Riley on 077900 53309 . Alternatively please email nwsands@hotmail.co.uk

To find out more about Sands please visit www.uk-sands.org

ENDS

For further information, please contact Sands press office:

Lisa Wardle – 0203 598 1942

Lyn Peters – 0203 598 1937

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 around 100 regional support groups across the UK.

Helpline: 020 7436 5881

Office: 020 7436 7940

Web: www.uk-sands.org

E mail: info@uk-sands.org