

Midwife of the Year

Cardiff & Newport Sands would like to congratulate bereavement midwife Laura Wyatt from University Hospital of Wales for winning Emma's Diary Midwife of the Year. Laura was nominated by Archie's mummy, Jody Vaughan, who lost Archie in 2015. Laura has helped Jody and her partner, Karl through so much. Well done Laura! We would like to add a huge thank you to all the midwives who do such an amazing job in such tragic and life-changing circumstances.

Laura, Jody and her rainbow son, Henry.



Afternoon tea by the sea

Blackpool and Preston Sands held a vintage afternoon tea party on Saturday 25th March at the Carousel Hotel in Blackpool. Guests were able to have beauty treatments and purchase gifts from stalls. There was also a raffle and tombola. What a lovely way to spend an afternoon. Monies raised will help fund improvements to the baby area at Carleton Cemetery.



Tayside baby gowns

Helen Farquharson donated her wedding dress, which her aunt has made into 10 lovely baby gowns. The gowns have been given to the Tulip Suite at Ninewells Hospital, Dundee. What a wonderful idea. Tayside Sands are most grateful to Helen and her aunt, and wish to say a huge thank you to them.

Banff & Buchan memorial mushrooms

Banff & Buchan Sands have recently purchased three memorial granite mushrooms for their memorial garden at Aden Park. The mushrooms will be placed under the trees in the garden. Each one has tablet discs which can accommodate a small inscription, and there are 12 tablets available for inscription at present. The Group hope to increase the number of mushrooms in the near future.

The Group has also recently commissioned another bench for the garden, which will add another welcome place to sit and reflect.



Blacksmiths in the buff

Hastings & East Sussex Sands are putting together a charity calendar for 2018. The response to the call for models was huge and around 30 blacksmiths from all over the UK offered to be snapped! Photography started in May, and all is going well so far. Look out for how to purchase copies later on in the year.

Time for tea!

The Duchess of Northumberland has invited volunteers from Newcastle Sands to her annual garden party held at Alnwick Gardens. This prestigious event recognises and celebrates carers and volunteers who support people in the county.

Knitting appeal

Bradford Sands have been inundated with donations of tiny baby clothes from knitters across the UK. If any of your hospitals would like to receive some of these beautiful knitted outfits, then please contact ashleigh.corker@sands.org.uk.



Tractor challenge

Father and son team, Joe and Paul Molloy, drove 400 miles in a tractor, from Mizen Point in Cork to Malin Head in Donegal, to raise funds for SandsNI and Kilonan Special School in Magherafelt.

The boys' tractor challenge took just two days. The final total raised stands at an astounding £25,000. A cheque presentation is planned for Sands share of the funds. A huge thanks to Paul and Joe for this amazing fundraising effort.



Raising awareness

West Berkshire Sands had an information and merchandise stall in Newbury town centre in February, which raised awareness and funds for the group. As well as the stall, the group walked around the town centre with collection buckets and stickers. They raised an amazing £218.21.

Northamptonshire's memorial garden



Northamptonshire Sands Memorial Garden is now almost completed after a long and drawn out process of over three years.

The group are still in the process of deciding the sculpture for the centrepiece, but they hope this will be sorted out shortly.

Southampton Mother's Day pots

In March, Southampton Sands organised a ceramic painting get together for Mother's Day. They painted porcelain pots and stars with flowers, butterflies and more, in memory of their babies, and also as gifts. They used paint and brushes, along with paint pens, which made writing a lot easier. Some of the stars have gone to memorial trees and forever beds.

along with cups of tea. Vickie Yeates, from Southampton Sands, who organised the event, said, "What a great way to remember we are still mothers and grandmothers, even though our babies aren't in our arms."



Eleven ladies took part in the evening, raising over £40 for Southampton Sands. There were homemade cakes and chocolates,

Generous employee charity nominations

Two fundraisers in Birmingham have raised an impressive £3,750 between them for Sands, via their companies' employee charity nomination schemes.

Steve Gathercole, who works for Whale Tankers Ltd in Solihull, nominated Sands and the company raised £1,750 through the company's metal and wire recycling scheme and via a raffle. Steve chose to nominate Sands in memory of his granddaughter, Emily-Mae Gathercole. Steve's daughter-in-law, Amy Gathercole, was given a Sands memory box by the hospital.



Liz Brown works for McDermotts, and the company generously donated £2,000 to Birmingham Sands. Liz asked McDermotts to donate the money in memory of her grand-daughter, Ivy Rae Kaur Bhalroo. Liz said that she has been "incredibly impressed" with the support that Sands has offered her family.

Welcome to new groups across the UK

It has been a very exciting time at Sands in the last six months, as many new groups have started across the UK. In the North East, 12 volunteers in Sheffield completed their Part One New Groups Training in April to form Sheffield Sands. We are hoping that support meetings will start in September. The profile of Sands in Sheffield is already being raised through fundraising and awareness. Mamen with friend Anna raised an incredible £953 by running the Sheffield half marathon.

Also in the North East, Wakefield and District Sands officially launched with their first support meeting in February this year. The group completed Part One New Groups Training at the end of January, preparing them for the start of the group.

East London Sands is an exciting addition to the London Network. They will support people in the City of London, Tower Hamlets, Barking and Dagenham, Redbridge, Newham and Waltham Forest, meaning that a significant section of the capital will now be offered support meetings as well as email, telephone and social media befriending. In March, the group completed Part One New Groups Training. All three members of the group's committee kick-started their fundraising on 14th May by participating in the Charity Walk for Peace.

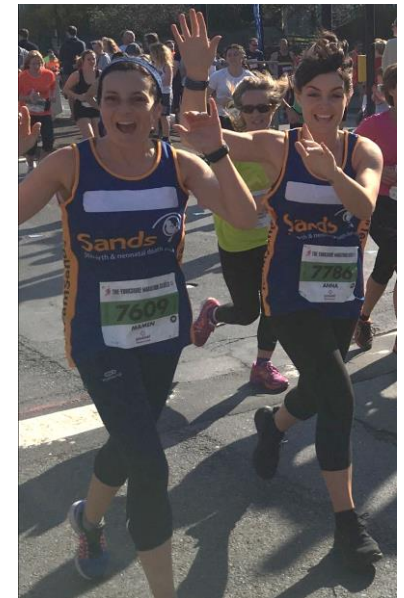
In the North West, we have five lovely new befrienders in Stockport who undertook Part One New Groups Training in May. The group are very passionate about Sands and are really looking forward to supporting bereaved parents in their local area. They already have a fantastic relationship with their local hospital and have done lots of amazing fundraising.

In the South East, Portsmouth Sands has merged with Chichester Sands and have formed a new group. Portsmouth & Chichester Sands had their Part One New Groups Training in May. The group is now busy planning their first committee meeting, and are thinking about fundraising to provide Improving Bereavement Care training for a local hospital.

In the East, the old Boston Sands have now re-launched as East Lincs Sands. Four new members have got the group up and running. They had their first support



*Clockwise from top:
 Portsmouth & Chichester Sands with Jo Lamb (South East Network Coordinator);
 Stockport Sands with Sheryl McMahon (North West Network Coordinator);
 Sheffield Sands volunteers running the Sheffield half marathon;
 East London Sands with Maria Huant (London Network Coordinator);
 Wakefield and District Sands with Lorna Delayahu (Groups & Training Coordinator) and Ashleigh Corker (North East Network Coordinator);
 East Lincs Sands with Rose Abrehart (East Network Coordinator) and Lorna Delayahu.*



meeting in March, which was very well attended. The group have already been interviewed twice on local radio. Following pieces in the local media, they are hoping to work with the new Mayor to raise awareness and funds for the Group.

Monmouthshire Sands in Wales have now been running their support meetings since January and have not yet had a quiet meeting, which shows how much the group was needed.

Thank you!

We've recently assisted Cambridgeshire Sands and Bolton Sands to set up – more on these groups next time! We are so incredibly grateful to all our dedicated volunteers for working with Sands to cover a wider area and support parents and families across the UK.