

## **PRESS RELEASE**

**May 2011**

### **FRAUD SQUAD PLAYS NOTTINGHAM BOAT CLUB TO RAISE FUNDS FOR SANDS, THE STILLBIRTH AND NEONATAL DEATH CHARITY**

Nottingham-based covers band, The Fraud Squad, is hoping for a full house on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> June when it plays The Nottingham Boat Club, in aid of Sands, the stillbirth and neonatal death charity.

The band's lead singer is Steve Hale, chair of the Board of Trustees for Sands, but who is also known across Nottingham for his work with Nottingham City Homes. The Fraud Squad has been playing together for two years and covers songs spanning the decades from the Beatles to The Killers, and everything in between.

Steve from Lady Bay, says, 'We're looking forward to a great night on the 18th June and with ticket sales going well, we're hoping for a full house.'

'With over 17 babies dying every day in the UK (11 are stillbirths, 6 are neonatal deaths), this figure is more than the number of deaths on our roads. Stillbirth is 10 times more common than cot death.'

'Our son, Matthew, was stillborn in September 1995 at 38 weeks and since his death the statistics haven't changed – in the UK we have one of the worst stillbirth rates of any of the high-income countries. The question that keeps coming back to me is, why? Why in the UK do we do so little about it and why do we ignore these shocking statistics?'

The 18<sup>th</sup> June event is the second gig The Fraud Squad has played in aid of Sands and Steve and the band are grateful to everyone for supporting the charity. A close family member of drummer, Ash Crawshaw, has also recently experienced the devastation of a stillbirth.

Funds raised will help fund research into why so many babies are dying every day in the UK and help provide support to bereaved families in the Nottingham area.

June is Sands Awareness Month and during the month more than 500 families will be devastated when their much loved son or daughter is stillborn or dies in the first few weeks of life.

In addition, the Sands annual Memorial Garden Service at the National Memorial Arboretum, Staffordshire is being hosted on the afternoon of 18<sup>th</sup> June. Over 100 parents, family and friends are expected to attend the service, which provides an opportunity for reflection and to remember their much loved babies.

Tickets for The Fraud Squad are available by contacting Steve or Sue Hale on 07939 283944 or emailing Sue Hale on [sue.hale@uk-sands.org](mailto:sue.hale@uk-sands.org)

## **ENDS**

For further information, please contact:

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or

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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

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