



15th – 17th October 2009



- 20 friends & family
- 150 miles
- 3 long, hilly days

Press release – 'Wave of light' Event

Surrey's ACM Gospel Choir (Semi-finalists on BBC's Last Choir Standing) who recently supported Russell Watson on tour will be performing a 15minute live acappella set at Guildford's Tunsgate Arch this Thursday as part of the candle-lit 'Wave of light' event hosted by the Surrey Circular Cycle Challenge and Surrey Sands.

The 'Wave of light' is a global event held at 7pm local time to mark International Babyloss Awareness Day, Thursday 15th October.

The ACM Gospel Choir will be performing several of their celebrated tracks and will be preceded by talented soloist Olivia Chapman, poetry and readings. The event will be opened by MP and shadow health minister Anne Milton and will be attended by Deputy Mayor Marsha Moseley as well as other local dignitaries, healthcare professionals, bereaved parents their families and friends.

Wave of light and Surrey Circular Cycle Challenge organisers James and Victoria Avery lost their firstborn son Ben who was stillborn at the end of March this year.

Like any parent who loses a baby they have journeyed through a spectrum of emotions but decided to draw strength from the few positives rather than focus on the many negatives. They decided that the best way to honour Ben would be to raise the profile of stillbirth and neonatal death, a subject that receives little attention or support despite the 6500 children who are lost each year in the UK and ultimately to help others in a similar situation to theirs through the charity SANDS. (Stillbirth and Neonatal Death Charity).

"Losing Ben was devastating, but concentrating our minds on making some positive contributions for others who may experience the same loss has helped us come to terms with our own." said James.

The Wave of light starts at 6.55pm and last approximately one hour. It is open to the public and entry is free although donations are welcome.

For more information about the Wave of light and Surrey Circular Cycle Challenge please visit our website www.cycleforsands.co.uk or call 07786 333710.

Surrey Sands is run by bereaved parents for bereaved parents. We are immensely grateful to Vikki and James for taking up this challenge for the benefit of our charity and other parents who tragically share their loss. Losing a baby is a traumatic and life changing experience, the impact of which is rarely understood by those who have not been through it.

The support Sands offers starts within the maternity units with the provision of specially modified Sands rooms offering parents a more homely less clinical environment in which to spend a precious few hours together as a family. Memories created during this brief time have to last a lifetime before parents say goodbye to their baby for ever. The environment they are in during this time makes a significant difference to the memories they are left with.

As a self funded group we rely entirely on donations to complete our work supporting parents through their loss.

We are immensely grateful for this kind gesture in memory of Ben, no doubt it will be a fun yet emotional experience for all those involved. Good luck with the challenge."

***Lorna Bland
Chairman Surrey San***

