

“Brief Lives - Remembered”

Newsletter 2022
Issue Two



Welcome to our Newsletter - *If you are receiving our newsletter for the first time, we are pleased that you have found our unique charity and hope that this newsletter brings some comfort in knowing you are not alone.*

We hope that you have all managed to find support and comfort either from friends & family or Brief Lives - Remembered.



We would like to thank all those for sharing their stories, poems, and thoughts in our newsletter. I never fail to be moved and inspired by all the families I speak too and feel honoured to share all your stories.

Best wishes

Paula Jackson

*The best and most beautiful things in the world
cannot be seen, or even touched.
They must be felt with the heart.*

Helen Keller

Donations & Gift Aid - It is always a privilege to receive donations towards the work of "Brief Lives - Remembered."

Thank you to all, who have donated to our funds over the last six months. Your generous donations will help us to continue our work.

Donations can now be made to one of two accounts depending on where you would like your money to be used.

Brief Lives - Remembered" - General Fund - Is for the general running of "Brief Lives - Remembered" including Baby Traces. Website, Administration....



Brief Lives - Remembered" - Memorial Fund - Is money designated towards fundraising for our memorial campaign. that you or someone you know are considering, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Donating Online - We are in the process of creating an online donation page through "Give as you Live." The online donation page will be accessible from our website.

Gift Aid - Gift Aid is a scheme enabling registered charities to reclaim tax on a donation made by a taxpayer, effectively increasing the amount of the donation.



Wills & Legacies

A will is a legal declaration by which a person names one or more persons to manage his or her estate and provides for the distribution of his or her property at death.

By leaving a gift to Brief Lives - Remembered in your will you will be helping us to continue our work supporting and finding answers for those effected by the death of a baby. Once you have made provision for you family, we would be very grateful if you'd consider including Brief Lives - Remembered in your will.

We recommend using a solicitor to draw up your will.



[Amazon Smile](#) You can help raise funds when shopping with Amazon by signing up to AmazonSmile. Choose Brief Lives - Remembered as your charity and every purchase starting at AmazonSmile will help our charity. Join today go too

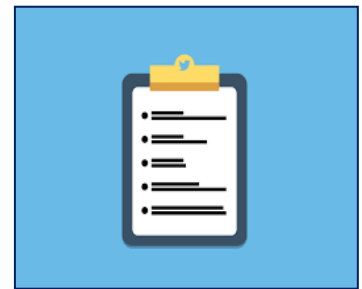
<https://smile.amazon.co.uk/gp/chpf/homepage?orig=%2F>

Publicity Database

We would like to say thank you to Yvonne, Joy, Kim, and Enid who have shared the story of their baby over the last year with the BBC, Daily Mail and You Magazine.

In the last year we have received an amazing response as result of the publicity

Including: Over eight hundred requests to trace a baby's resting place, Advice Support



We are now building up a database of family members who would be interested in telling their story in the future. If you feel you may be interested, please contact us at brieflivesremembered@hotmail.co.uk

Contact Us



Tel: 07807 531084



Email: brieflivesremembered@hotmail.co.uk



Website: www.brieflives-remembered.co.uk



Twitter: [@brieflives2](https://twitter.com/brieflives2)

New trustee - Marianne Kiff

My name is Marianne. I recently moved to Suffolk, but I was raised in Tottenham, North London. I moved to Essex in 1973. Where I was a Primary School Teacher for most of my working life. Having retired from my post as Headteacher and Acting Headteacher I then went on to train teachers. I was lucky to have enjoyed my career and never lost my sense of satisfaction and pride at being able to work with amazing children and their families and being an inspiration to a new generation of teachers.

I am married and have three children and three beautiful young grandchildren who now keep my husband and I entertained and very busy when we are not enjoying holidays, walking our dog, or pursuing our other hobbies which include Morris Dancing, singing, and going to the theatre.



In 1978 we were expecting our 2nd child. I had carried the baby for 40+ weeks when I was told that the baby would not survive once it was born. We never saw our baby, a girl whom we called Louise and for more than 40 years we tried to find out what had happened to her. By chance, my husband found out about the Charity, Brief Lives - Remembered. He made contact and gave them the information we had about Louise's birth and death.

We were so happy to receive the news that they had managed to find out the whereabouts of our baby's ashes. We had found her. We are both so grateful and are now arranging for her birth and death to be permanently marked by adding her name to a family headstone in the cemetery where we lived until we moved to Suffolk. Myself, my husband and our 3 children will have a short remembrance at that spot very soon.

Paula from Brief Lives Remembered, asked If I would be interested in becoming a Trustee for the charity. I felt honoured to be considered and knowing what important work they do to trace babies and give parents support in their loss, I am very much looking forward to helping the charity in their work. This will be a new venture for me. I need no convincing of what importance this work is for families looking for answers to delicate and distressing questions.

Louise

Although we never met you
And never saw your face
You should know that in our hearts
We kept a special place.
A place where we'd imagine
Just how you might have grown.
Where you could join in all the fun
And never be alone.
You would have had two sisters
And a brother to take care
That you would be so happy
And have their love to share
But life is an adventure
We cannot know the way
That each of us will follow
To the future; years away
You never were too far from us
This much I know is true
For your sister has remembered
And named her child for YOU. xx

By Marianne Kiff.



Trustee Position

We are currently looking for one more new Trustees to work with the our Charity and assist us to move forward into the future.

We are looking for one person with a passion and commitment for ensuring high quality services for the families we help and support.

This is a voluntary role

Any expenses to be paid by the charity

Are you or anyone you know in the position to help and become one of our trustees?

Please email: Paula Jackson

brieflivesremembered@hotmail.co.uk



Baby Loss Awareness Week. In the UK

Every year from 9th - 15th October it is Baby Loss Awareness Week.

Throughout the week bereaved parents, family members and friends can commemorate the all-too-brief lives of their babies., knowing that thousands of other families elsewhere in the world will be doing the same.

The week is also crucial opportunity for people to talk openly about the subject of and raise awareness of baby loss.

Anthony

My mum Dolly married Derek 26th June 1954. My mum went from being the youngest child of 5 to a wife living in married quarters at Basingstoke. Dolly hated being away from her family in Hackney London and so when her first baby was due, she returned home. Her 3 sisters and brother all married lived on the same street, Mabley Street, as her mum and dad. Plus aunts and uncles. Dolly already had 3 nephews.

The next part of this story I pieced together with the help of Brief Lives - Remembered and what I had learnt from family. Mum stayed at jeans house to have the baby. The midwife was apparently there for 3 days and wouldn't call a doctor. She apparently sat knitting. Measuring her knitting on mums foot.

Eventually Anthony was born on 27th May. He was what a midwife would call 'flat'. The midwife did all sorts to resuscitate him and eventually he began to cry. A doctor came and gave my mum twilight gas to stitch up the horrendous damage that had been done.

The midwife told mum not to touch Anthony. I imagine he had a high-pitched cry that the midwife would have associated with cerebral irritation. My aunt checked on them in the morning with their mum. Anthony had died. He had been 6 hours old. My mum never held him.



With the help of Brief Lives - Remembered I have been able to find out where my brother was buried. My mum believed he had been buried with an elderly lady on the street, but I think the family must have fabricated that to make her feel a little better. Brief Lives - Remembered gave me the dates and where Anthony is buried.

All I could think was how my poor dad had to register the birth and death of he's baby. I have since obtained a birth certificate and death certificate. Following he's Autopsy the cause of death was a tentorial tear.

My mum never spoke about her loss. She went on to have me 2 years later. I was born on 26th May 1957. Which must have been an awful reminder for her too.

I now have my brother's name and date of birth. Anthony Archer born 27th May 1955 to Dolly and Derek Archer. Died 28th May 1955.

Night to Remember

Join Kingston Hospital Charity for a Night to Remember

Kingston Hospital Charity is calling on the local community to raise funds to support bereaved families at Kingston Hospital, by taking part in their Night to Remember event this Autumn.

The event, which is taking place on Saturday 10 September, is Kingston Hospital Charity's first memory walk, providing an opportunity for family, friends, and colleagues to come together and celebrate the lives of loved ones, whilst walking a route of five miles or 15 miles, starting and finishing at the Market Place in Kingston.

Proceeds from the sponsored walk will help Kingston Hospital to expand its support for bereaved families.

"Experiencing the death of a child is life altering, and not having support in place can be hugely isolating and can put people at risk of further mental health struggles. It is my privilege to provide a space for people to talk, to get support, to keep connection to their baby, and to manage anxiety around future pregnancies. Thank you for taking part in a Night to Remember and helping us to continue to support people during the most difficult times in their lives."

Registration for the event costs £20 for adults and £10 for children, and each participant will receive a t-shirt and a medal. For more information or to sign up, visit www.khc.org.uk/events/nighttoremember/ or contact Fundraising Manager, Tracey Shaw - email tracey.shaw17@nhs.net or call 020 8973 5040.

A promotional poster for the 'Night to Remember' event. The background is dark purple with a yellow and pink geometric shape in the top left corner. On the left, there is a partial image of a person's legs wearing pink and white sneakers. The text is white and yellow. The main title 'Night to REMEMBER' is in large white font, with a heart symbol over the 'o' in 'to'. Below it, the subtitle 'A special memory walk for family and friends' is in yellow. The date and time 'Saturday 10 September 8.30pm' are in white. At the bottom, the registration information 'Sign up at khc.org.uk or call 020 8973 5040' is in white. The Kingston Hospital Charity logo is in the top left, and the Arnold Clark Community Fund logo is in the bottom right.

 Kingston Hospital Charity

Night to REMEMBER

A special memory walk for family and friends

Saturday 10 September 8.30pm

Sign up at khc.org.uk or call 020 8973 5040

Supported by 

Connecting Up on Facebook

This wonderful charity does amazing work in tracing babies born dead. This is my story. How many more Mums and Dads can relate to my story... I delivered a dead baby in 1966 in the Louise Margaret Maternity unit Aldershot.

My hubby was a serving soldier. When our son (Andrew) was born he was immediately wrapped up and disposed of!!!! Never to be spoken about againIt was both cruel and barbaric the way us parents were treated. If you were fortunate enough that your baby breathed for just a few minutes, it was given its own resting place where our son was buried.

Unfortunately, the ones who sadly had died in the womb weren't. They were either placed with another person being buried at that time. Or buried in a communal grave. The grief was unbearable. Our every waking hour was filled with "where is he" Has he been incarcerated because he wasn't worthy of a dignified burial because he was dead. Not like now. When newly born still born or those babies that have lived for a while. These parents have the privilege of arranging a beautiful service for their loved ones. The closest my late hubby and I got to was discovering the SANDS Garden of Remembrance at the Lichfield Arboretum, we laid a memorial for him. Which gave me a little closure not that we wanted closure he is very much part of our family unit.



We were given the contact number for SANDS. Who put us in touch with this wonderful woman Paula Jackson. She spends her spare time tracing babies who were just taken away. It was the most amazing experience we have encountered ever... We have had the privilege of meeting her a couple of times.

After giving her some information and details she fortunately a couple of weeks later came up with our answers... This was overwhelming to say the least. We met Paula at the cemetery in Aldershot and with the help of the register book we were able to go to the area where the unknown (dead babies) were buried in a communal grave in the children's section of the cemetery. Paula does such remarkable work I was wondering.



How many people out there went through the same thing as us.... I have connected with one lady ON Facebook who also had the privilege of meeting this saint. It would be great meeting up with like-minded people. Would love to connect with other bereaved parents who didn't have any contact with their much-wanted babies... At last father and son are reunited. My chair is waiting. Much love Gill

We are interested to know as to whether any of our Brief Lives - Remembered family would be interested in connecting up on a Facebook to talk about their baby in a completely unrestricted way. Please contact Paula to express your interest.



If Tears Could

If tears could build a stairway
and memories a lane,
I would walk right up to heaven
and bring you home again.

No farewell words were spoken.
No time to say good-bye.
You were gone before we knew it,
and only God knows why.

My heart still aches in sadness
and secret tears still flow.
What it meant to lose you,
no one will ever know

Author unknown



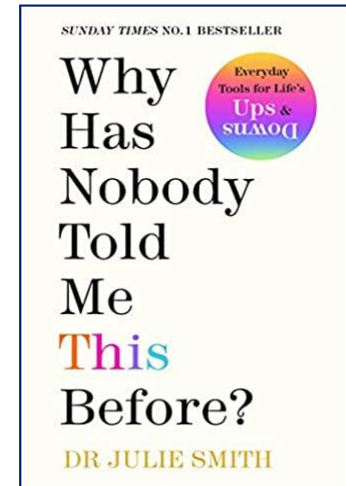
Focus on Books

Why has nobody told me this before- by Dr Julie Smith

Drawing on years of experience as a clinical psychologist, online sensation Dr Julie Smith shares all the skills you need to get through life's ups and downs.

Filled with secrets from a therapist's toolkit, this is a must-have handbook for optimising your mental health. Dr Julie's simple but expert advice and powerful coping techniques will help you stay resilient no matter what life throws your way.

Written in short, bite-sized entries, you can turn straight to the section you need depending on the challenge you're facing - and immediately find the appropriate tools to help. From managing anxiety, dealing with criticism, or battling low mood, to building self-confidence, finding motivation, or learning to forgive yourself, this book tackles the everyday issues that affect us all and offers easy, practical solutions that might just change your life.



I personally found this book really helpful and easy to read - Paula Jackson

Marnie Louise Collings

16/6/1968

Forever in my heart

You existed in me

But not in this world

Be at rest in Gods loving arms.

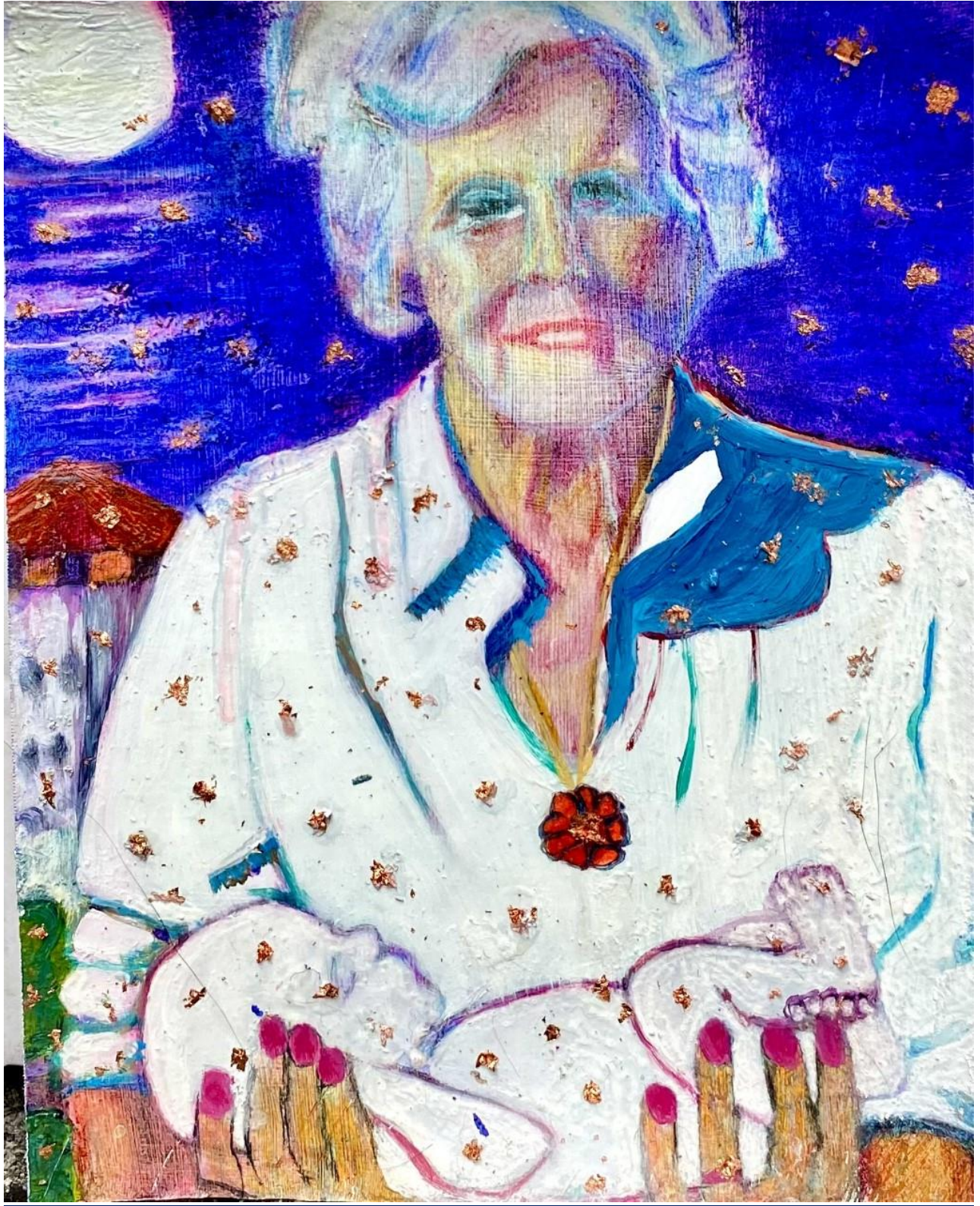
Pamela Storr

Oliver

I'd always known I had a little brother called Oliver in heaven. Mum told my sister and I just enough, but no details on what happened and why he was born sleeping. It was not until I had my own children that realized just how traumatic it must have been for mum. I don't know what prompted the discussion, but mum opened up and told me exactly what happen at the end of her pregnancy with my brother. When I asked where my brother was taken to be buried mum explained that she didn't know. She said the undertakers took him and she didn't get to see him. I can't imagine the mix of emotions mum must have felt over the last 40 years. I asked mum if she would be ok with me trying to track down his final resting place, to which she agreed. Fortunately for us Brief Lives – Remembered was the first organization I contacted. Paula was so lovely. We now live in Australia, so the time difference was a little challenging, but she found baby Oliver in no time at all. Some may say this gives us closure and it does feel like a weight has been lifted now we know where he is, but it has also opened a new chapter in our lives, and we are looking forward to visiting him to make an appropriate memorial next to time we are in the UK. My Mum, Sister, Dad, and myself are extremely grateful for Brief Lives – Remembered and the help they gave us.



Holding Her, At Last, Forever



"Holding Her, At Last, forever"
9x12" Mixed Media
Oil, oil pastel, pencil, copper leaf
Painted by Linda Jones

I am happy to share with newsletter members my painting of my mother holding my rendition of my older stillborn sister born in Cardiff, Wales in 1947. It was with the help of Brief Lives - Remembered that I was able to find the mass, unmarked grave of my sister this past May. A link sent to me for Cardiff cemeteries meant that within a day, even though I was in Canada where my parents and I immigrated in 1957 and the local council I was dealing with was in Britain I was given the name of the cemetery and the plot number of my sister's resting place. She lies with other babies and children in plot EJ58 in Cathays Cemetery in Cardiff.

By email, I quickly negotiated with Cardiff Council, which owns the cemetery, to have a plain wooden cross made for my sister and put on the grave.

But first I needed to find out when my sister was born so that I could put that on the cross. I worked with the General Registry Office and eventually received a copy of my sister's stillborn certificate. I began to cry when I imagined my mother filling out this certificate a few weeks after her daughter's birth, being presented with a piece of paper that had no column in which she could put a name for her child.



I learned from the certificate that my sister had been born on February 11, 1947. From the burial record I had earlier received from Cardiff Council, I knew that she had been buried four days later on February 15, 1947, as "Stillbirth Jones".

I then had the task of naming my sister since I did not want her to continue on this earth as an unnamed child. I knew that my mother had picked the name Linda for her first baby but was never able to give her that name. So I honored my mother's wishes and chose my name as my sister's first name. My mother's two middle names are Catherine and Cora. I am Linda Catherine. I chose Cora for my sister's second name and in honor of my Welsh dad I chose the Welsh name Ceri as her third middle name. While sitting by the grave in Cardiff in May, my sister became Ceri to me.

Despite fears of flight disruptions because Covid I knew that I had to go. I became the first person in my sister's family to be able to visit her grave in 75 years.

On May 1, 2022, I flew from Toronto airport into Heathrow, immediately took a train to Cardiff and booked into my hotel in the city centre.

I stayed two weeks and spent each afternoon at the cemetery. I began to garden to add to the cement plant holder I had brought with me filled with artificial pink and white

roses for my sister. Over two weeks I bought both real and artificial flowers to build a visible grave for my sister and David - the only other Found child in her plot born a year and a half later whose broken cross lay on top of the grave - and all the others.

As expected, the trip was difficult, sad, and necessary. My parents died in 2012 and 2016 without ever knowing where their child was buried. I know that there are many who belong to this organization who know exactly what I am talking about.

As I sat at the grave each day and took a break with my mug of coffee after gardening, I cried and spoke to my sister. I felt that my mother's powerful feelings of repressed grief and my own grief were coming up, through me and finally being expressed.

For I realized later in my life that I had tried to take on my mother's grief and that I also as the subsequent child had been affected by her grief over the loss of her first child and the terrible way that she and my dad along with tens of thousands of others were treated.

I am 70 now. My sister would be seventy-five. I am retired from working life and one of the things I began to do was paint.

Before my trip to Cardiff in May I had started a series of what would be four portraits of my parents that centered on my mother. I was thinking of her a great deal as I thought about the trip coming up.

When I got home to Canada and began the fourth and final painting, which you see in this newsletter, I decided I needed to incorporate my mother holding her stillborn daughter. As many of you will know, she never saw her child, never held her, and when my parents asked where their child was buried, they were stonewalled. Like all the others, eventually they gave up.

At my sister 's grave I realized that it was probably part of some great plan that it would be me that would come to visit her. I don't believe my parents could've stood at that spot, quite lovely on the surface, knowing what had happened to their child and knowing it was not what they would have chosen for her.

The past cannot be changed, forgotten, edited, or erased
It can only be accepted

Author Unknown

We Remember...

*"An angel in the book of life wrote down my baby's birth.
Then whispered as she closed the book 'too beautiful for earth'.*

July

Philip Toomey - 1st July 1955

Stephen Corbett - Born 6th June 1955 & Died 13th July 1955

Paul Christopher David Rosie - 6th July 1984

Alice Mellows - Stillborn 8th July 1968

Zoe Braybrook - Born asleep 12th July 1978

Baby Jones - Stillborn 15th July 1953

Karen Cecelia Hassell - Stillborn 16th July 1961

Freddie Lowrie Gibson - Born 17th July 1939 & Died 1st March 1940

Daisy Smith - Born 16th July 1963

Paul Daren Webb - Born 16th July & Died 20th July 1972

Margaret Leigh - Born Sleeping 19th July 1960

Baby Sockett - Born Sleeping July 1951

Melanie Minton - Stillborn 20th July 1965

Kelly Bengough - Born Asleep 20th July 1974

JoAnne Collins - Stillborn 23rd July 1970

Jean Edwards - Born 25th July & Died 25th July 1950

Baby McGrath - Stillborn 25th July 1951

Williamina McKegney - Born 30th July & Died 31st July 1972

William Noy - Stillborn 28th July 1963

Daniel John Hicks - Born 30th July & Died 31st July 1972



August

Zoe Karen Gentle - Born & Died 2nd August 1960

Emma Nancy Lampshire - Stillborn 2nd August 1980

Edward James Crowley - Stillborn 2nd August 1982

Baby Daniels - Stillborn 4th August 1964

Andrew Gordon Cowin - Stillborn 5th August 1966

Mollie Elise Gavin - Passed 6th August 2003



Ian Barrow - Stillborn 8th August 1963
Baby James - Stillborn 8th August 1964
Rene Garbett - Born 8th & Died 10th August 1969
Karen Ling - Born & Died 10th August 1960
Luie Elyjas Gavin - Passed 11th August 2008
Paula Michelle McWhirter - Born 12th & Died 14th August 1971
Gary McMurray - Stillborn 12th August 1974
John Flatley - Born & Died 13th August 1968
Baby Symonds - 14th August 1977
Steven John McDonald - Stillborn 15th August 1958
Hanna Elizabeth Rousham - 15th August 2003
Justin Folwaczny - Stillborn 16th August 1972
Henry McKay - Born & Died 17th August 1959
Alexander Steele McKay - Born & Died 17th August 1959
Baby Parker - Stillborn 20th August 1976
Baby Liggett - Born & Died 25th August 1979
Colin Mark Tonkin - Born 26th & Died 28th August 1964
Darren Buss - 26th August 1970
Daniel James Cobley - Stillborn 28th August 1981
Emma Fountain - Stillborn 30th August 1976
Olivia Land - Born sleeping 31st August 2020

September

Nicholas Stuart Balling - Stillborn 1st September 1983
Noah Brindley - Miscarried 5th September 1982
Robert Ian Harwood - **6th September 1978**
Baby Higgs - Stillborn 7th September 1965
Baby Dance - Stillborn 7th September 1965
Guy Daniel Rhodes - Born 7th September & Died 1st November 1972
Barry Archer - Stillborn 9th September 1954
Louise Katherine Dodds - Born 9th September 1989 & Died 2nd September 2007
Edward Thomas - Stillborn 10th September 1943
Patricia Birney - Stillborn September 1973
Christopher William Lawrence - Stillborn 18th September 1975
John Wood - 18th September 1992



Lucy May Gavin - Passed 18th September 2003

Stephanie Volp - Stillborn 19th September 1972

Elizabeth Meacock - Born Asleep 20th September 1986

Paul A Hawkey - Born 22nd September & Died 23rd September 1964

Thomas Carl Underwood - 22nd September 2012

Sherina Gillard - Died 23rd September 1960

Robert James Penfold - Born 27th September 1957 & Died 29th September 1957

Peter John Marsden Jr - Born 28th September 1967 & Died 28th September 1967

Baby 'Shaan' Taylor - Stillborn 29th September 1979

Baby Collier - Stillborn 30th September 1955

Baby Kerr - Born & Died 30th September 1970

October

Baby Winter - Stillborn 1st October 1971

Mathew James Syddall - 3rd October 1981

Vanessa Marie Campling - 6th October 1974

Jasmine Rousham - 9th October 1997

Brian Greenhalgh - Born & Died 12th October 1970

Melanie Anne Rendle - Born 10th October & Died 15th October 1973

Baby Boaler - Born sleeping 14th October 1977

Baby Michael - Born asleep 21st October 1971

Dirk Andrew Schmidt - Stillborn 28th October 1974

November

Mary Dwyer - Born 1st November & Died 2nd November 1968

Roger Howarth - Born & Died November 1946

David Conibear - 1st November 1990

Susan Guy - Born 3rd & Died 5th November 1961

Georgina Walker-Oseland - Born & Died 4th November 1977

Emma Jane Snell - 5th November 1973

Baby Boy Woodhead - Stillborn 7th November 1971

Collette Anderson - Born 8th & Died 11th November 1965

Grant & Stacey Barrell - 10th November 1980



Dawnette Dionne Ethel-May Welfair - Stillborn 15th November 1970

Amber Louise Goodfellow - 17th November 1977

Ronald James Bowles - Born & Died 19th November 1957

Susan Swetman - Stillborn 22nd November 1981

Baby Chrimes - Born Sleeping 26th November 1973

Michelle Booth - Born sleeping 28th November 1970

December

Sadie Hearn - Stillborn 5th December 1979

Abbie King - Born Sleeping 7th December 1977

Baby Katie Barrett - Born 8th December 1988

Elizabeth (Betty) Doyle - Born 18th April & Died 8th December 1956

Baby Gregson - Stillborn 10th December 1966

Victoria Rose Morris - 10th December 1974

Kay Woods - 10th December 1982

Baby Minkowski - Stillborn 11th December 1977

Shaun Mansley - 14th December 1966

Baby Agostini - Stillborn 17th December 1982

Georgia Otton - Born 26th December & Died 27th December 1976

Joanne McArthur - Born 29th December & Died 31st December 1960

