



# “Brief Lives - Remembered”

Newsletter Seven

2004 - 2018

*Fourteen Years of Supporting Bereaved families*

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Tel: 07807 531084

Email: [briefflivesremembered@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:briefflivesremembered@hotmail.co.uk)

Website: [www.briefflives-remembered.co.uk](http://www.briefflives-remembered.co.uk)

Twitter: @briefflives2

Welcome to our 2018 Newsletter - *If this is the first edition of our newsletter that you are receiving, we are pleased that you have found our unique organization and hope that this newsletter brings some comfort in knowing you are not alone.*

*It has been another busy and interesting year, as always we have been working on some very exciting projects and supporting many families newly bereaved and those bereaved many years ago.*



*Thank you to 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 of your precious children.*

Best wishes

*Paula Jackson*

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*"Each new life... no matter how fragile or brief...  
Forever changes the world."*

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**Blog** - We now have a Blog which you will find on our website. If you would like to write a blog about your baby or any other aspect of your loss. Please feel free to contact us *for a chat*.



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**Our Website** *We would like to know what you think of our website and would welcome your thoughts.*



- *Have we got the balance between support and information right?*
- *Is there anything that you feel could be added or changes about the website?*
- *Would you like to write a testimonial about our website or any other part of the work of "Brief Lives - Remembered"?*

*We are continually adding new things to the website, please do have a look every now and then. If there is anything that you feel that would enhance the website, please let us know your ideas.*

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**Donations** - *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 year.*

*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 account** is for the general running of "Brief Lives - Remembered" including; Baby Traces. Website, Administration etc.

**Brief Lives - Remembered** - **Memorial Fund** account is money designated towards fundraising for our memorial and garden

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**Newsletter Contributions** - I would like to thank those of you who have contributed your beautiful and moving poems and stories poems to this newsletter.

Would you like to contribute to a future newsletter with a poem, reading or your story? Do you know of any memorial services or other events that you would like us to publicise in the newsletter, please contact us at: [briefflives-newsletter@outlook.co.uk](mailto:briefflives-newsletter@outlook.co.uk)



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**Tracing a Baby's Grave** - "Brief Lives - Remembered" offers support to parents bereaved many years ago by advising how to trace a baby's grave or by tracing the resting place of their baby for them. This service is free of charge. If this is something that you or someone you know are considering, please do not hesitate to contact us.

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You-You alone will have the stars as no one else has them

In one of the stars I shall be living

In one of them I shall be laughing

And so it will be as if all the stars were laughing

When you look as the sky at night

You - only you will have stars that can laugh.

Extract from The little Prince...

By Antoine De Saint Exupery

In memory of Marnie Louise Collings

## Charles

My late mother had the blood group Rhesus negative and back in the early 1940's there was little or no realization of what a drastic effect this could have upon any child she carried if the baby's blood group was different from hers. That my mother actually had four children before the rhesus problem appeared is, itself, quite remarkable. However in 1940 her fifth child Colin was born, severely jaundiced and very weak. He went on to develop meningitis and, as my mother told me years later, had he survived he would have been severely disabled, wheelchair bound as well as being mentally handicapped. He survived for just seven months and died on January 5<sup>th</sup> 1941. The death certificate did not mention the Rhesus factor and they clearly had no idea what the actual problem was with baby Colin.

After this tragedy it would have been preferable had my mother not had any more children but on May 22<sup>nd</sup> 1943 I was born. Like Colin before me I was born severely jaundiced and very weak. "I'm afraid she will not live Mrs. West" my mother was told by the family to enable her to prepare herself for another infant death. I had to be woken for each feed and continued to be very weak. After a few weeks however, my mother dared to hope as my finger nails began to turn from yellow to pink and obviously I survived. Throughout my childhood I constantly had to be put on Iron medicine as I showed symptoms of anemia and had many days of school through feeling unwell.

You would have thought that a second rhesus baby would have been enough but in 1945 my mother was pregnant again. Perhaps because I had survived they thought that another child would be alright. My mother was booked into the Barratt maternity hospital in Northampton for the birth and the baby was to have a blood change as soon as possible after it was born, a procedure very much in its infancy then. Unfortunately the baby another boy Charles, died during the change of blood on the seventh of December 1945. He was just five days old. What a depressing Christmas that must have been for all the family. How my mother survived these infant deaths I cannot begin to imagine. That she was made of sterner stuff than her daughter, who had survived, it definitely the case. I have been the only one in the family to suffer many episodes of ill health and it wasn't until 2017 that my suspicions that this could be due to being born a rhesus baby was confirmed. But that is another story.



I was to learn from Charles' death certificate, which I didn't see a copy until 2017, that the condition is called hemolytic disease or erythroblastosis fetalis. The disorder is caused by incompatibility between a mother's blood and her unborn baby's blood. Because of the incompatibility, the mother's immune system may launch an immune response against the baby's blood cells. As a result, the baby's blood cells are destroyed and the baby may suffer severe anemia, brain damage, or death. This can often appear in the course of other disease such as Leukemia, Hodgkin's and other types of Cancer.

As this loss of two brothers happened when I was, in Colin's case, not even born and when Charles was born I was too young to remember it, these deaths really had little impact on me during my childhood. I knew about their deaths obviously and was considered something of a miracle child to have survived. When my older brother Chris came over to England from Canada in 2008, for my mother's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday, he looked for baby Colin's grave and was upset that it was not marked with a stone. That began to stir something in me. It was not until my mother died, and on reflection of her remarkable life was inevitable, that the souls of those two boys entered fully into my consciousness, as if there should had spoken to me. That is the only way I can describe it. In 2016 it became vital to me that I provide a stone for Colin and also, although I had no idea how, to find Charles grave. I discovered with the help of Rushden council, where Colin was buried and there are quite a few graves

around his which also remained unmarked. I was still completely at a loss to know how to find Charles' grave. I did not know if Charles even had a grave at all or if, heaven forbid, his body was used for medical research or if he was cremated. Would I have to go to the Northampton record office I wondered?

One day I just typed into Google "How do I find out where Charles West is buried"? and put the date he was born and when he died. I didn't hold up much hope of a sensible answer but the web page entitled "Brief Lives - Remembered" came up. I typed in the details requested and I was amazed that within twenty four hours I had the cemetery and grave number, of my brother Charles. I couldn't believe that I had been so fortunate and that there was someone out there who could turn what I envisaged as probably a fruitless search into a perfect result. I have since visited Charles' grave and was able to lay a Christmas wreath on it exactly, to the day, seventy two years since he was buried there. That was not planned - a perfect coincidence or God working in a wonderfully mysterious way. I have now instructed an undertaker to have a stone prepared commemorating both Colin and Charles and feel that now their lives, however brief, can be recognized and remembered properly. Thank you to all those who carry out this wonderful work for "Brief Lives - Remembered".

*Geraldine Hunt*

### Charles

A brother not known but loved just the same,  
Why did you lie silent for all those years?  
Then you called to me and I know your name.

Your grave unmarked but no to blame,  
Your mother grieving but hiding her tears,  
A brother not known but loved just the same.

A life never lived, no innocent game  
In a childhood filled with laughter and tears,  
Then you called to me and I knew your name.

A brother not known but loved just the same,  
Did you feel the deep sorrow, sense the fear?  
Life went on without you despite the pain.

But at last your sister can lay the claim,  
You're no longer a voice that no one hears  
When you called to me and I knew your name.

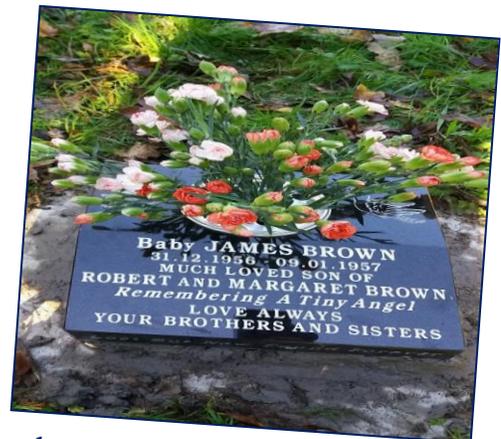
Just five days of life, you struggled in vain,  
We'll meet at last when heaven's dawn appears,  
A brother not known but loved just the same,  
You call out to me and I knew your name.

*Geraldine Hunt*

*After many years of not knowing, searching and finally locating the resting place of our dear brother, James Brown (31-1-1956 to 09-01-1957), it was such a joy to be able to visit and commemorate his resting place with a lasting memorial stone. We dedicate it to his short life and to reflect that if our mother and father are looking*

*down upon us from another peaceful place they will now know where their son and our beloved brother was laid to rest.*

*We cannot express our heartfelt gratitude enough to “Brief Lives - Remembered” who have made this chapter of our family history possible.*

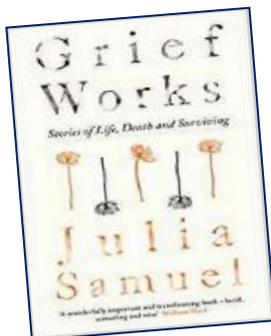


THE “BROWN” FAMILY, GLASGOW, Scotland

## Focus on Books

Grief Works - By Julia Samuel MBE - *Death is the last great taboo, and its consequence, grief, is profoundly misunderstood.*

*In Grief Works we hear stories from those who have experienced great love and great loss - and survived. Stories that explain how grief unmask our greatest fears, strips away our layers of protection and reveals our innermost selves.*



*Julia Samuel, a grief psychotherapist, has spent twenty-five years working with the bereaved and understanding the full repercussions of loss. This deeply affecting book is full of psychological insights on how grief, if approached correctly, can heal us. Through elegant, moving stories, we learn how we can stop feeling awkward and uncertain about death, and not shy away from talking honestly with family and friends.*

*This extraordinary book shows us how to live and learn from great loss.*

## Where did you go?

*I had a brother this I know,  
I think I held you and gave you a bottle, I know I loved you so.  
Not quite four years old, I felt so mature to hold you in my arms,  
Tell you stories, sing songs and maybe more.*

*Just eight days old they came to take you away,  
I waved goodbye as they were going to make you better someday,  
I watched and waited you never came,  
Then I was told to Baby Jesus you went.*

*Many times I heard mention your age, no Birthday to celebrate,  
I asked many times where you were, buried somewhere near or far,  
With age came fear that you may be in a jar, in the name of medical  
science,  
everything just became such a blur.*

*I searched so hard to say hello as I loved and missed you so,  
From Time I needed to prove that we had you,  
Then I found a certificate of birth, you had breathed Gods good air,  
Sadly just as I knew an Angel came and took you.*

*With a broken heart, my hopes were dashed you were not in a place I'd been told.  
I tried so hard to find you, to come and visit and tell you all the family news,  
Then with spirits lifted, with help the resting place of your little brief life,  
My Darling baby brother Gary is found.*

In memory of Gary Beighton  
Anita Abram



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



*The Saying Goodbye events are the first set of Commemorative services that are for families who have suffered a miscarriage or have had a baby stillborn or who died soon after birth.*

*The Saying Goodbye services take place across the country In some very special locations.*

*For a list of locations and dates see the "Brief Lives - Remembered" or the Saying Goodbye websites: [www.sayinggoodbye](http://www.sayinggoodbye)*



*Baby Loss Awareness Week. In the UK -2018*

*Every year from 9<sup>th</sup> - 15<sup>th</sup> October 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.*

## Precious Child

*In my dreams, you are alive and well  
Precious child, precious child  
In my mind, I see you clear as a bell  
Precious child, precious child*

*In my soul, there is a hole  
That can never be filled  
But in my heart, there is hope  
'Cause you are with me still*

*In my heart, you live on  
Always there never gone  
Precious child, you left too soon  
Tho' it may be true that we're apart  
You will live forever... in my heart*

*In my plans, I was the first to leave  
Precious child, precious child  
But in this world, I was left here to grieve  
Precious child, my precious child*

*In my soul, there is a hole  
That can never be filled  
But in my heart there is hope  
And you are with me still*

*In my heart you live on  
Always there, never gone  
Precious child, you left too soon,  
Tho' it may be true that we're apart  
You will live forever... in my heart*

*God knows I want to hold you,  
See you, touch you  
And maybe there's a heaven  
And someday I will again  
Please know you are not forgotten until then*

*In my heart you live on  
Always there never gone  
Precious child, you left too soon  
Tho' it may be true that we're apart  
You will live forever... in my heart*

*Words from the song By Karen Taylor-Good*

## 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'."*

Leah Suzanne Gander - Stillborn 1<sup>st</sup> January 1972

Baby David - 3<sup>rd</sup> January 1966

Grant Lanfear - Born 3<sup>rd</sup> January & Died 31<sup>st</sup> May 1988

Max Brice Rousham - Born 6<sup>th</sup> January & Died 21<sup>st</sup> November 1999

Brett Rosewell - Born asleep 7<sup>th</sup> January 1977

Christopher David Rosewell - Born 10<sup>th</sup> January 1978 & Died 6<sup>th</sup> December 2010

James Brown - Born 31<sup>st</sup> December 1956 & Died 9<sup>th</sup> January 1957

Hayley Caroline Hall - Born & Died 12<sup>th</sup> January 1977

Hannah Elliott - Born & Died - 15<sup>th</sup> January 1990

Helen - Born asleep January 1980

Donna Marie Davis - Stillborn - 24<sup>th</sup> January 1967

Brian Grant - Stillborn February 1957

Rosemary Dempsey - Stillborn February 1969

Baby Mark Rogers - Stillborn 6<sup>th</sup> February 1984

Eloise Clare Stewart - Stillborn 7<sup>th</sup> February 2008

Julia Chilver - Born & Died 23<sup>rd</sup> February 1971

Baby Gray - Born Asleep February 1958

Carol Ann Craddock - 10<sup>th</sup> March 1953

Michael Poole - Stillborn 10<sup>th</sup> March 1942

Hannah Woodward - Stillborn 11<sup>th</sup> March 1953

Baby Henton - 14<sup>th</sup> March 1975

Patrick Maloney - Born & Died 16<sup>th</sup> March 1975

John Brian Murphy - Born 20<sup>th</sup> March 1974

Kirstie McNally - Stillborn 22<sup>nd</sup> March 1988

Elizabeth O'Sullivan - Stillborn April 1955

James Brett - Stillborn - April 1970

Nicholas Coomer - Born 6<sup>th</sup> April & Died 13<sup>th</sup> April 1977

Victoria Taylor - Stillborn 13<sup>th</sup> April 1970

Lynette Judith Marie Green - Born 1<sup>st</sup> October 1970 - Died 22<sup>nd</sup> April 1972

Mathew Luke Johnston - Born 17<sup>th</sup> April 2001 & Died September 2010



Elizabeth Barlow - Stillborn - 14<sup>th</sup> April 1981

David Bulman - Born & Died 26<sup>th</sup> April 1978

Baby Barton - Born & Died 26<sup>th</sup> April 1991

James Brett - Stillborn - April 1970

John Holdsworth - Born & Died 30<sup>th</sup> April 1962

Grant Lanfear - Born 3<sup>rd</sup> Jan & Died 31<sup>st</sup> May 1988

Rachel Somers - Born 7<sup>th</sup> May 1973 & Died 6<sup>th</sup> May 1981

Clare Julia Woods - Born 31<sup>st</sup> October 1975 & Died 17<sup>th</sup> May 1980

Margaret McKay - Born 22<sup>nd</sup> & Died 23<sup>rd</sup> May 1966

Gerard O'Sullivan - Born & Died 27<sup>th</sup> May 1954

Joanna High - Born sleeping 29<sup>th</sup> May 1968

Vanessa Jane Crombie - Died 30<sup>th</sup> May 1973

Baby Alan Prngle - Born 4<sup>th</sup> June 1958 & Died 5<sup>th</sup> June 1958

Laura Lewis - Stillborn 12<sup>th</sup> June 1984

Richard Jason Green - Born Sleeping 8<sup>th</sup> June 1969

Christine Finlay - Born Sleeping June 1979

Micah Smith - Born 13<sup>th</sup> June & Died 15<sup>th</sup> July 2013

Marnie Louise Collings - 16<sup>th</sup> June 1968

Paul Daren Webb - Born 16<sup>th</sup> July & Died 20<sup>th</sup> July 1972

Freddie Lowrie Gibson - Born 17<sup>th</sup> July 1939 & Died 1<sup>st</sup> March 1940

Rachel Wisdom-Wilkins - Stillborn - 20<sup>th</sup> June 1982

Paul Christopher David Rosie - 6<sup>th</sup> July 1984

Margaret Leigh - Born Sleeping 19<sup>th</sup> July 1960

Melanie Minton - Stillborn 20<sup>th</sup> July 1965

Alice Mellows - Stillborn 8<sup>th</sup> July 1968

Kelly Bengough - Born Asleep 20<sup>th</sup> July 1974

Baby McGrath - Stillborn 25<sup>th</sup> July 1951

Williamina McKegey - Born 30<sup>th</sup> July & Died 31<sup>st</sup> July 1972

William Noy - Stillborn 28<sup>th</sup> July 1963

Daniel John Hicks - Born 30<sup>th</sup> July & Died 31<sup>st</sup> July 1972

Zoe Karen Gentle - Born & Died 2<sup>nd</sup> August 1960

Emma Nancy Lampshire - Stillborn 2<sup>nd</sup> August 1980

Edward James Crowley - Stillborn 2<sup>nd</sup> August 1982

Baby Daniels - Stillborn 4<sup>th</sup> August 1964

Mollie Elise Gavin - Passed 6<sup>th</sup> August 2003



Luie Elyjas Gavin - Passed 11<sup>th</sup> August 2008

Paula Michelle McWhirter - Born 12<sup>th</sup> & Died 14<sup>th</sup> August 1971

Gary McMurray - Stillborn 12<sup>th</sup> August 1974

Hanna Elizabeth Rousham - 15<sup>th</sup> August 2003

Henry Mckay - Born & Died 17<sup>th</sup> August 1959

Alexander Steele Mckay - Born & Died 17<sup>th</sup> August 1959

Baby Liggett - Born & Died 25<sup>th</sup> August 1979

Colin Mark Tonkin - Born 26<sup>th</sup> & Died 28<sup>th</sup> August 1964

Emma Fountain - Stillborn 30<sup>th</sup> August 1976

Nicholas Stuart Balling - Stillborn 1<sup>st</sup> September 1983

Noah Brindley Miscarried - 5<sup>th</sup> September 1982

Louise Katherine Dodds - Born 9<sup>th</sup> September 1989 & Died 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2007

Barry Archer - Stillborn 9<sup>th</sup> September 1954

Christopher William Lawrence - Stillborn 18<sup>th</sup> September 1975

Lucy May Gavin - Passed 18<sup>th</sup> Sept 2003

Thomas Carl Underwood - 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2012

Baby 'Shaan' Taylor - Stillborn 29<sup>th</sup> September 1979

Baby Collier - Stillborn 30<sup>th</sup> September 1955

Guy Daniel Rhodes - Born 7<sup>th</sup> September 1972 & Died 1<sup>st</sup> November 1972

Jasmine Rousham - 9<sup>th</sup> October 1997

Brian Greenhalgh - Born & Died 12<sup>th</sup> October 1970

Emma Kate Radford - Born 3<sup>rd</sup> November 1997 & Died 26<sup>th</sup> February 2009

Roger Howarth - Born & Died November 1946

Georgina Walker-Oseland - Born & Died 4<sup>th</sup> November 1977

Dawnette Dionne Ethel-May Welfair - Stillborn 15<sup>th</sup> November 1970

Baby Chrimes - Born Sleeping- 26<sup>th</sup> November 1973

Shaun Mansley - 14<sup>th</sup> December 1966



“May their light shine forever brightly”