

### Welcome

We have kept the Ashford Baby Garden open throughout the pandemic as a very visible way of supporting bereaved families. Requests for name tiles continue and we now have 312 special babies remembered forever in the Garden. We look forward to restarting our fundraising and to our events and activities. Please look at our Facebook pages and our website for more details and up to date information.



### Always Loved, Never Forgotten

On our website we have listed the names of each of our special babies. We are now able to add a limited amount of wording from families, in addition to the name and date we have already. Full details are on our Facebook pages and our website..

### Fundraising and Awareness Events

Now that the restrictions are easing, we are able to start planning a few activities. So far for 2021 we have arranged to run our Smiley Face Tombolas and awareness-raising on:

- Saturday 12 June in Ashford Town Centre, by the Bandstand
- Saturday 17 July Sittingbourne 1920's Town Centre event
- Saturday 7 and Sunday 8 August Folkestone Music Festival, on The Leas
- Saturday 4 September Kennington Fair (subject to confirmation), Ashford
- Saturday 11 September in Ashford Town Centre, by the Bandstand

Do come and say hello, and please let us know of any other opportunities, anywhere in East Kent.

### Teddy Bears Picnic

Everyone is invited to our Teddy Bears Picnic at the Ashford Baby Garden from **1pm to 4pm on Sunday 4 July**. This is an annual event for all our families and once again we will have handcrafts, some games and a children's entertainer, as well as plenty of bubbles. You just need to bring a picnic, and a teddy if you wish! This year, we are also arranging a 'Teddy Bear's Waddle', an opportunity for the children to walk round the main gardens with their teddy bears, in return for sponsorship as a way of raising funds for the charity. Further details will be on our Facebook pages and our website.



### Thankyou

Usually, we rely on fundraising and donations to cover our costs, but in the extraordinary circumstances of the pandemic, we have had to apply to a number of grant funders for financial support. Thank you to each of them.

We do still need to raise more money and if you feel you could make a donation – however small – that would be much appreciated. Donations can be made direct to our bank (account name 'East Kent Baby Memorial Gardens Group', sort code 23-05-80, account number 3858 0124), via [www.justgiving.com/ekbmgc](http://www.justgiving.com/ekbmgc) or by post to 13 Goldings Court, Ashford TN24 9JR. Do, please, let us know so that we can thank you!

**REMEMBERING OUR SPECIAL BABIES**

## New Family Area in the Ashford Baby Memorial Garden

The regular maintenance of the Garden is done by Aspire on our behalf, but we have created a large wooden planter at the top end of the Garden which we hope families will be able to look after for us. More details on our Facebook pages and our website. We have also added some vases set by the nametiles for families to leave flowers - please feel free to use these.



## New Volunteers

We are delighted to welcome Amy, Jo, Rebecca, Lewis and Sara to our small team of volunteers. Each of them brings skills and experience which will be a great help to our charity as we continue to support bereaved families, and as we continue to raise awareness of baby loss.

## Other Dates for 2021

Although the coming months are still full of uncertainty, we hope we will be able to run these annual events. Please make a note of the dates and look out for updates on Facebook and our website nearer the time.

- Sat 9 to Fri 15 October. Babby Loss Awareness Week. Various events and awareness activities
- Sunday 10 October. Wave of Light, Ashford (probably 2-4pm at St Mary's Church, Ashford)
- Sunday 5 December. Christmas Remembrance event, Ashford (Ashford Baptist Church)



*Nametiles at the Ashford Garden*

## Other Baby Areas

Later in the year we will be working with a small team of volunteers from the Canterbury Christ Church University to tidy up the Canterbury Hospital baby cemetery, as well as installing a new bench. Meanwhile, we have funded a sign for the Margate cemetery directing people to support from Sands, and are also talking to the Folkestone Cemetery to see if we can help them. Please let us know of any other local crematoriums or cemeteries where we might be able to help.

## Support for You

A reminder that there are lots of organisations offering support. There is a comprehensive list on our website, but here are a few of the better-known ones:

- Lullaby Trust <https://www.lullabytrust.org.uk/>
- Miscarriage Association <https://www.miscarriageassociation.org.uk/>
- Sands (stillbirth and neonatal deaths) <https://www.sands.org.uk/>
- Tommy's <https://www.tommys.org/>

## Our Web Site

We hope you have been able to visit our web site [www.EastKentBabyMemorialGardens.org.uk](http://www.EastKentBabyMemorialGardens.org.uk) We will continue to use this, as well as our Facebook page [www.facebook.com/EKBMGG](http://www.facebook.com/EKBMGG) and our [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#) accounts to keep everyone up to date.

## How you can contact us

Post	<a href="mailto:c/o 13 Goldings Court, Ashford, Kent TN24 9JR">c/o 13 Goldings Court, Ashford, Kent TN24 9JR.</a>
Phone	<a href="tel:01233 643 976">01233 643 976</a>
Email	<a href="mailto:ekbmgg@gmail.com">ekbmgg@gmail.com</a>
Website	<a href="http://www.eastkentbabymemorialgardens.org.uk">www.eastkentbabymemorialgardens.org.uk</a>
Facebook	<a href="http://www.facebook.com/EKBMGG">www.facebook.com/EKBMGG</a>
Twitter	<a href="https://twitter.com/ekbmgg">twitter.com/ekbmgg</a>
Instagram	<a href="https://www.instagram.com/ekbmgg">@ekbmgg</a>



**REMEMBERING OUR SPECIAL BABIES**