



“Brief Lives - Remembered”

Newsletter Seven

2004 - 2019

Fifteen Years of Supporting Bereaved families

Tel: 07807 531084

Email: brieflivesremembered@hotmail.co.uk

Website: www.brieflives-remembered.co.uk

Twitter: @brieflives2

Welcome to our 2019 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

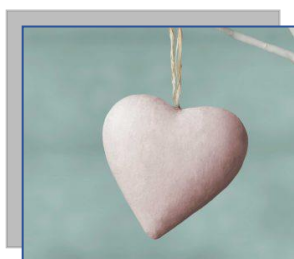
Paula Jackson

"How very softly you tiptoed into our world, almost silently. Only a moment you stayed, but what an imprint your footprints have left upon our hearts."

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*.



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



- *Have we managed to get the balance between support and information?*
- *Is there anything that you feel could be added or changed 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.

Donations - *It is always a privilege to receive donations towards the work of "Brief Lives - Remembered"*

Thank you to all the organizations and families 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*

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 .



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.



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.org

Churchyard Angels

Churchyard Angels are a specialist memorial gift service offering a unique range of personalised memorials that are a wonderful way to remember your loved one.

We have been providing our memorial gift service since its early and very small beginnings in 2009.

After losing our son, Joshua, at the age of just two years old we always found it of great comfort to be able to decorate Joshua's grave (or garden as we call it) by regularly adding flowers, plants, small gifts and keepsakes. This gave us great comfort during what was a very difficult and sad time for us both.

However, we always found it very difficult trying to find suitable gifts that were both affordable and suitable. The gifts we did manage to find were often found by chance at various local gift shops and garden centres. We were unable to find a shop dedicated to selling just memorial gifts or any that offered reasonable choice. During this journey, we wanted to make available some of the gifts we had managed to find, in one convenient location, to others whom found themselves in a similar situation. Churchyard Angels was born!



More than a decade on from Joshua's passing we still regularly visit and decorate his garden so that we hold the comfort of knowing it looks beautiful whatever the time of year. Many of the gifts we offer are placed at Joshua's garden and when sourcing our gifts it is the suitability for Joshua's garden that is our benchmark. If we felt we wouldn't want to place a particular gift at Joshua's garden then we would not consider it for inclusion within our range.

Our service is continually developing and the range of gifts and services increasing all the time. We have established an excellent relationship with a wide and varied network of regular suppliers and manufacturers throughout the UK and abroad, in order to maintain our range and keep our prices competitive. In addition, a new range of personalised gifts, developed exclusively for **Churchyard Angels**, is now available and expanding with new products being developed as you read!

We sincerely hope our service provides comfort to all our customers during what we know can be a very sad and difficult time.

There is a special discount of 20% for the "Brief Lives - Remembered" family.

The Churchyard Angels website is: <http://www.churchyardangels.com/>

Imaginings and what might have been

When a baby or very young child dies it is inevitable that, at some point, you will wonder how they would have grown up and what impact their lives would have had on yours.

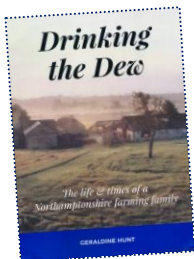
I have three brothers but two of them died as infants. Colin born in 1941 lived for only seven months, Charles, born in 1945, lived for only five days. Colin was born two years before me and Charles two years after me. Both boys died as a result of being born with rhesus haemolytic disease. I was born with it too but somehow survived. Until twelve months ago I didn't even know where Colin was buried but thanks to Paula of Brief Lives – Remembered I do now. I did not grieve for these two boys until my mother died two years ago. How she survived those infant deaths I cannot begin to imagine.

Now, with the grief come the what ifs? If these brothers had survived how would they have related with me and the rest of the family? Would I have found one easier to get on with than the other? Would we have fought or quarrelled as some siblings do? Would either or both have inherited the artistic gene coming through my father's line or would they have been practical and eager to work on the 360 acre family farm? Would they have been able to overcome my father's difficult and stubborn nature and worked with him? Would they have inherited the more placid, tolerant nature of my mother's line and been able to with 'a soft answer turn away wrath' or would they, like my brother in Canada, have had to forge a life as far away from my father's influence as they could?

Would they have had strong shoulders to cry on when life seemed cruel? Would we have made a strong threesome, much younger than the rest of our siblings, sticking together and backing each other up when our older sisters tried to be the boss? Would they have been fair skinned as I am or have inherited a darker complexion from the Knight line? Would I have married a farmer, one of their friends made in the Young Farmers' Club? Would one have been super intelligent and the other a determined plodder? Would they have gone to university and chosen careers in academia rather than in agriculture.

None of these questions will ever have an answer unless you believe, as I do, that in an afterlife, we will have all eternity to discover life's mysteries and in that eternity I will meet those two brothers, comfortable in their spiritual bodies as God intended them and assisting and nurturing me in mine

By Geraldine Hunt



Drinking the Dew is a story written by Geraldine Hunt about the life & times of a Northamptonshire farming family.

In 2017 Geraldine Hunt contacted "Brief Lives - Remembered" asking if we could help trace her brother's resting place. Sometime later we were successful in tracing baby Charles West's resting place.

Although this book is primarily about the life for a farming family in Northamptonshire. In chapter 10, "Geraldine talks about her brother, finding where he is buried and there is also a mention of "Brief Lives - Remembered".

Don't Think Of Him As Gone Away

In memory of James Brown
Born 31.12.1956 & Died 09.01.1957

Don't think of him as gone away.
His journey's just begun.
Life holds so many facets
This earth is only one.

Just think of him as resting
from the sorrow and the tears.
In a place of warmth and comfort
where there are no days and years.

Think how he must be wishing
that we could know today.
How nothing but our sadness
can really pass away.

And think of him as living
in the hearts of those he touched.
For nothing loved is ever lost
And he was loved so much.

By Ellen Brenneman

Thank You!

I am an identical twin to Evelyn Mary who sadly died at exactly one day old.

I had only known she was buried in London somewhere, with other babies and possibly an adult female.

Recently with the help of Paula from "Brief Lives - Remembered", my three sisters and I were able to visit Evelyn's' resting place after sixty three years.

I am very grateful for the sensitive nature in which my request was handled and for the genuine care and interest shown.

Kind regards

Elizabeth Allen

Babies Rance

Christmas 2017 my sister, brother and myself were talking about our two baby brothers born in the 1950's and how we never knew what had happened to them. Our mother died in 2002 and our father in 2014 and as far as we would remember the fact that they had lost two babies was not openly discussed very often. I'm sure it was painful to both of them. Mum was always grateful to have us three (my brother and sister being twins) and felt blessed. The babies she lost were her first born in 1951 and last born in 1958. After Christmas we decided to try and find them.



I didn't know quite where to start so looked on Google and found 'Brief Lives - Remembered'. I contacted you in January last year and asked for help. You very kindly were able to locate the burial place of our brothers in a very short time and for that we are very grateful.

It has taken a year (due to family problems) to visit ourselves and finally this month we have been able to place memorial plaques on their graves. We are now looking into the possibility of having the graves blessed in the near future.

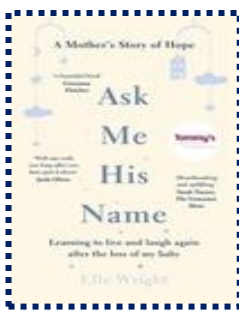


We are so grateful to you Paula for finding our brothers after such a long time and now we can rest knowing they are part of our family and I'm sure mum and dad would approve.

Angela Graham

Focus on Books

Ask Me His Name - By Elle Wright



Elle Wright had an admittedly easy pregnancy - her scans went well, she and her baby were healthy throughout, and in May 2016, she and her husband welcomed their son, Teddy, into the world. Just a few hours after giving birth, they woke to find a nurse holding a cold and unresponsive Teddy, who had stopped breathing during the night. The happiest day of Elle's life had turned into every parent's worst nightmare, and she had to let her beautiful baby boy go. Three days after delivering him into the world, Elle sat with Teddy in her arms as he took his last breaths, and tucked him in for the final time. 'Ask Me His Name' is a moving account of Elle's pregnancy, Teddy's life, and what happens when a mother leaves a hospital with empty arms.

A very moving account of Stillbirth & coming to terms with the loss of her son.

Peace - 60 Years On

Back in October 2017 an article appeared in the mail online about a women whose stillborn baby had been traced. It was a story that struck my heart, I had grown up with the story of my parent's first born child being stillborn. The saddest part for me was that mum did not know what happened to her baby, I'd heard stories that perhaps he had been buried with an adult or perhaps just disposed of.

Mum carried her baby full term and went in to labour not knowing her baby was already dead. When she asked to see him she was cruelly told not to be so stupid she must know he was dead. It still brings tears to my eyes to think of how appalling this was and how on earth my parents managed to recover.

On reading the news story I thought perhaps my brother could be found.



I sent an enquiry to "Brief Lives – Remembered" and almost immediately received a reply from Paula. After confirming some details with my aunt who is the only person still alive other than my mum who was there at the time and completing the enquiry form. After just over a week from my first email, I received a message from Paula to call her as she had news. Ironically, I received this message and news on my dad's anniversary 23rd October.

Paula had traced my brother's resting place, she was able to provide a map and details of his burial in the Catholic section of the cemetery and that he was buried in his own casket alongside other babies.

I called my mum and broke the news to her, the effect on her was profound. My brother would have been 60 years old. My 83 year old mum kept telling me she was finally able to find some peace knowing where he was, a huge relief after 60 years of wondering. It is sad that my dad didn't live to see this, but I have to wonder at the timing of Paula's discovery.

Since this time, I have been back to the UK (I live in New Zealand) and with the help of the staff at Streatham Park Cemetery in London, mum has visited my brother's grave and I finally laid flowers for him. The cemetery staff have been so supportive and understanding in helping with the visit, they drove us through the cemetery as it is very large and mum cannot walk these days, they even went out and placed a peg in an otherwise clear expanse of grass to show the grave site. An entry has been made in their book of remembrance (copy seen above) and although a headstone is not possible as he is buried in a common grave, a memorial stone is currently being made and will be place with a rose bush in the Garden of Remembrance at the cemetery.

Although none of these things can make up for the terrible experience my parents had at the time, it was how things were done back then. We now know someone did care, my brother was buried appropriately but sadly he didn't have his parents there to mourn him that day, but has never been forgotten and has finally been found.

I cannot express my thanks enough for the amazing service of Brief Lives Remembered.
Thank You

Vanessa Gray

Connected

I was first born. My sister Angela was second born when I was two years old. I must have known her through our mother's tummy and would have had the usual encouragement to look forward to a baby brother or sister. Then nothing. I've always felt something or someone has been missing.

Two sisters, one brother and 65 years later Angela has been found.

Our father never mentioned her. Our mother mentioned her twice. Once to tell me the story of the birth which was followed by the tiny coffin passing by the foot of her bed in the front room of our two up two down terraced house in the UK. The second time she was mentioned was after the birth of my daughter also named Angela to say, 'You do know your sister was called Angela don't you?'

Our parents never got to look at her or hold her. They didn't know where she had been laid to rest. In those days it was considered 'best to forget and get on with life.'

Last year Paula found my sister's resting place using the birth/death year and address I recalled.



I visited the UK last year and shared the news with my siblings. One sister came with me to help me search for the grave. Baby Angela had been put to rest with 16 others in a public grave. There was no gravestone.

Now I have a memory of her. I know the date she was born. I can picture the beautiful willow trees she is at rest under and her gravestone is ordered. She will be remembered when I've gone. There will be a place marked to recognize she was here. She did exist even if it was in utero.

Christine Dinning

"The loudest sound in the world is the absence of a child."

Jodi Picoult, author

Gaynor Christine Linnett

On the 11th April 1967 I gave birth to a lovely baby girl whom we called Gaynor Christine. I can remember her beautiful little face looking up at me in the brief time I was able to hold her. She unfortunately was born with Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalous and was taken to Westminster Children's Hospital immediately for an operation, in those days Mothers were not taken with their babies. She seemed to be doing well but then blood poisoning set in and she died on the 6th May 1967. In those days stillborn and neo-natal babies were buried by the hospital and we had no part in it, so we never



knew what had happened to her. Looking back now I wonder why I let this happen, but it was as it was in those days. The next 50 years passed just living my life, I had another little daughter in 1968. Gaynor was never forgotten and always dearly loved. Then in 2017 I went to a Lent talk by a local Hospital Chaplain, and part of his talk was how babies were dealt with in those days. This was very emotional and made me think that I had to know where she is. I got in touch with Brief Lives Remembered and after months of hard searching the wonderful Paula found her. This was not easy as she was born in Northampton and the hospital she died in is 60 miles away and no longer exists. She is in a communal grave with other babies at Streatham Park Cemetery. I have now taken flowers to her final resting place, it's so lovely to now have somewhere to visit. Once again I and my whole family thank Paula without whom this wouldn't have happened.



In memory of Gaynor Christine Linnett

By Christine Linnett

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

John Wood - 18.9.92

Our first son George was 2 years old when I became pregnant with John.

At my first scan which was at 19 weeks gestation back in 1992 we discovered our baby boy had multiple abnormalities due to an extra chromosome a condition named Trisomy 13. We were told he would never survive if I managed to carry him full term and therefore made the heartbreaking decision to terminate my pregnancy which at 21 weeks meant giving birth naturally after being induced.



John was delivered on 18th September 1992 and he never took a breath.

The hospital Chaplin informed me that John would be cremated and we had a short emotional service for him and were told that as he was tiny there would be no ashes to keep or scatter - heartbreaking.

The years passed and my third son Henry was born in 1994 a perfectly healthy baby.

In September 2018 near to what would have been John's 26th birthday I came across Brief Lives Remembered site through Derby Sands Organization website and found myself typing a message enquiring whether what we were told back in 1992 about John's ashes was true as over the years I have struggled with having no resting place we could visit.

The wonderful Paula contacted me within 24 hours to confirm our sons ashes were scattered in the crematorium garden and could even tell me the plot number.

How wonderful at last we had somewhere to go to say a proper goodbye and remember our second son.

I have since discovered that back in 1992 tiny babies like John were not cremated alone and that is why we were told there would be no ashes - cruel to say the least!

The other awful cruel twist to my story is that in November 2018 my husband of 31 years John's dad decided to leave me for another woman so having just found

some sort of peace with John's passing 26 years before - life has dealt me another devastating blow which 13 weeks down the line I am struggling daily to accept.



This was highlighted greatly last December when John's memory was acknowledged in the Derby Sands memorial garden in the crematorium grounds nearby to where John's ashes were scattered and a name plaque was added to the beautiful butterfly memorial during a service that I attended with my youngest son Henry as my husband felt he could not attend.

I cannot thank Paula enough for her help sympathy and very kind words I am struggling along with being separated now after 34 years with my husband but take great comfort in knowing where my beautiful second son John is resting.

Anna Wood



Baby Loss Awareness Week 2019

*Every year from 9th - 15th 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.*

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 1st January 1972

Baby David - 3rd January 1966

Grant Lanfear - Born 3rd January & Died 31st May 1988

Max Brice Rousham - Born 6th January & Died 21st November 1999

Brett Rosewell - Born asleep 7th January 1977

Christopher David Rosewell - Born 10th January 1978 & Died 6th December 2010

James Brown - Born 31st December 1956 & Died 9th January 1957

Hayley Caroline Hall - Born & Died 12th January 1977

Hannah Elliott - Born & Died - 15th January 1990

Neil Anthony Goodwin - Born & Died 16th January 1967

Helen - Born asleep January 1980

Donna Marie Davis - Stillborn - 24th January 1967



Brian Grant - Stillborn February 1957

Rosemary Dempsey - Stillborn February 1969

Baby Mark Rogers - Stillborn 6th February 1984

Eloise Clare Stewart - Stillborn 7th February 2008

Julia Chilver - Born & Died 23rd February 1971

Baby Gray - Born Asleep February 1958

Carol Ann Craddock - 10th March 1953

Michael Poole - Stillborn 10th March 1942

Hannah Woodward - Stillborn 11th March 1953

Baby Henton - 14th March 1975

Patrick Maloney - Born & Died 16th March 1975

John Brian Murphy - Born 20th March 1974

Katie Barton - Born sleeping 20th March 1982

Kirstie McNally - Stillborn 22nd March 1988

Abigail Watkins - Born asleep 21st March 1976

Lee Philips - Born & Died 24th March 1971

Patrick White - Born 24th March 1971 & Died 30th March 1971



Elizabeth O'Sullivan - Stillborn April 1955

James Brett - Stillborn - April 1970



Nicholas Coomer - Born 6th April & Died 13th April 1977

Victoria Taylor - Stillborn 13th April 1970

Lynette Judith Marie Green - Born 1st October 1970 - Died 22nd April 1972

Mathew Luke Johnston - Born 17th April 2001 & Died September 2010

Elizabeth Barlow - Stillborn - 14th April 1981

Angela Brown - Born Sleeping 25th April 1956.

David Bulman - Born & Died 26th April 1978

Baby Barton - Born & Died 26th April 1991

James Brett - Stillborn - April 1970

John Holdsworth - Born & Died 30th April 1962

Gaynor Christine Linnet - Born 11th April & Died 6th May 1967

Rachel Somers - Born 7th May 1973 & Died 6th May 1981

Clare Julia Woods - Born 31st October 1975 & Died 17th May 1980

Margaret McKay - Born 22nd & Died 23rd May 1966

Daniel Buss - 26th May 1971

Gerard O'Sullivan - Born & Died 27th May 1954

Joanna High - Born sleeping 29th May 1968

Vanessa Jane Crombie - Died 30th May 1973

Grant Lanfear - Born 3rd Jan & Died 31st May 1988



Baby Alan Prngle - Born 4th June 1958 & Died 5th June 1958

Laura Lewis - Stillborn 12th June 1984

Richard Jason Green - Born Sleeping 8th June 1969

Christine Finlay - Born Sleeping June 1979

Micah Smith - Born 13th June & Died 15th July 2013

Marnie Louise Collings - 16th June 1968

Rachel Wisdom-Wilkins - Stillborn - 20th June 1982



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

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

Margaret Leigh - Born Sleeping 19th July 1960

Baby Sockett - Born Sleeping July 1951

Melanie Minton - Stillborn 20th July 1965

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

Kelly Bengough - Born Asleep 20th July 1974



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

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

Rene Garbett - Born 8th & Died 10th August 1969

Luie Elyjas Gavin - Passed 11th August 2008

Paula Michelle McWhirter - Born 12th & Died 14th August 1971

Gary McMurray - Stillborn 12th August 1974

Hanna Elizabeth Rousham - 15th August 2003

Henry McKay - Born & Died 17th August 1959

Alexander Steele McKay - Born & Died 17th August 1959

Baby Liggett - Born & Died 25th August 1979

Colin Mark Tonkin - Born 26th & Died 28th August 1964

Darren Buss - 26th August 1970

Emma Fountain - Stillborn 30th August 1976

Nicholas Stuart Balling - Stillborn 1st September 1983

Noah Brindley Miscarried - 5th September 1982

Baby Higgs - Stillborn 7th September 1965

Guy Daniel Rhodes - Born 7th September 1972 & 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

Christopher William Lawrence - Stillborn 18th September 1975

John Wood - 18th September 1992

Lucy May Gavin - Passed 18th September 2003

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

Sherina Gillard - Died 23rd September 1960

Thomas Carl Underwood - 22nd September 2012

Baby 'Shaan' Taylor - Stillborn 29th September 1979



Baby Collier - Stillborn 30th September 1955

Guy Daniel Rhodes - Born 7th September 1972 & Died 1st November 1972



Jasmine Rousham - 9th October 1997

Brian Greenhalgh - Born & Died 12th October 1970

Dirk Andrew Schmidt - Stillborn 28th October 1974

Emma Kate Radford - Born 3rd November 1997 & Died 26th February 2009

Roger Howarth - Born & Died November 1946

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

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

Baby Chrimes - Born Sleeping 26th November 1973



Elizabeth (Betty) Doyle - 8th December 1956, Aged 8 Months

Baby Gregson - Stillborn 10th December 1966

Kay Woods - 10th December 1982

Shaun Mansley - 14th December 1966

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



“May their light shine forever brightly”