

NEW EQUIPMENT



Continuing our aim to provide the most innovative and advanced equipment for babies, SSNAP have recently purchased two Video Laryngoscopes for the unit.

Video laryngoscopes incorporate an integrated camera and display monitor.

These provide indirect visualisation of the upper airway to help placement of a breathing tube between the vocal chords and the trachea.

This amazing equipment assists with the insertion of tubes into the tiniest of babies making the process easier, faster, and with the least disruption to babies as possible. Their introduction has been overwhelmingly well received.

ANNUAL CHARITY DINNER



BOOK YOUR TICKETS TODAY



ssnap.org.uk/events/charity-dinner

Dust off your gowns and tuxedos and join us for an evening of drinks, food, live music and the chance to win some incredible prizes.

SSNAP's Annual Charity Dinner will take place on Saturday 29 March 2025 (6.30pm until 1am) at the Leonardo Royal Hotel Oxford, Godstow Road, Oxford, OX2 8AL

There will be a drinks reception, a 3-course meal with wine, live & silent auctions, and a raffle. There will be a photographer in attendance, along with close-up magician Robert Bone, and live music from The Funky Waves.

Tickets can be purchased on the SSNAP website, or by emailing emily@ssnap.org.uk

It has been wonderful to meet so many SSNAP families, friends, and supporters throughout 2024. Our events have been incredibly well supported – we started with the Blenheim 7k, sky diving, our Annual General Meeting and then our Summer Garden Party. As we prepare this newsletter, we have 25 people in training for the iconic London to Brighton Bike Ride – good luck and thank you to each of you.

We look forward to the Oxford Half Marathon, with our biggest team to date. This is a vital event in the SSNAP calendar for fundraising – a huge thank you to everyone that sponsors, supports and of course to those that run!

Before we know it our annual Christmas service will be here, we look forward to rounding the year off and seeing as many of you as possible on Sunday 8 December at St Mary's, Church Green, Witney.

We thank you for your continued commitment to SSNAP.

Martin and the SSNAP Team

Martin Realey SSNAP Charity Lead



SSNAP UPDATE

Estd. 1982

Support for the Sick Newborn and their Parents

AUTUMN 2024

LOUIS' STORY

When my waters broke at 27 weeks I could not wrap my head around the fact that the Christmas tree was still up and yet my baby wasn't due until after Easter.

We rushed into hospital but didn't quite make it inside the building; baby Louis was born in the stairwell of the Royal Berks with not a single other soul in sight to assist us. Once help arrived on the scene he was stabilised and we were quickly transferred to the John Radcliffe in Oxford.

I was in a state of shock and terrified about being moved so far away from all of our family and friends in Berkshire, but as soon as we arrived the ladies from SSNAP scooped us up and helped us to settle in.

We quickly began to realise why we had been transferred to the JR once we saw the incredible medical team in action. At the centre of everything was the emphasis on family integrated care and we were amazed at how much parental involvement and skin-to-skin was encouraged right from the offset. We were made to feel part of the team and never just spectators who were getting in the way of our baby's care.

Louis' journey was fraught with complications. The day after his birth, he suffered a severe brain bleed, resulting in hydrocephalus, which led to multiple procedures to manage the fluid build-up. This was further complicated by

a bowel perforation requiring emergency surgery and the formation of a temporary stoma. As we awaited the final surgery to fit a permanent shunt, SSNAP made sure that amidst the stress, we found moments of joy, spreading gifts and cheer through the unit to celebrate birthdays, Valentine's Day, Mother's Day and Easter – providing some respite from our ongoing worries.

Throughout these trying times, SSNAP's support was invaluable, especially when my husband, Laurence, had to return to work. The team, including Crissi, Lauren, and Kerry, provided emotional



support and practical help, making a profound difference in our daily lives. Crissi, in particular, was a source of comfort during a particularly distressing moment when I had to advocate for Louis' urgent medical needs. She offered immediate support and ensured I was cared for while waiting for Laurence.

After over five months in the hospital, we finally returned home. Reflecting on our journey, it's incredible to see how much Louis has achieved despite the challenges thrown at him. The support from SSNAP was instrumental in his progress and in helping us stay strong throughout the ordeal. They empowered us to be active advocates for our son and ensured we were emotionally and physically supported to have the strength and resilience to keep showing up for him every day.

If you are still in the middle of your journey please know that one day you will find yourself looking back at the mountain that is currently ahead of you, marvelling at how you ever managed to scale it and at the amazing people who held your hand through the climb.

LITTLE SSNAPLINGS UPDATE



What a fantastic term it's been for Little Ssnaplings! Here's a quick look at what we've been up to:

Baby Massage Groups: Our newborns have enjoyed some peaceful bonding time, with parents learning the art of baby massage in a calming environment.

Baby Yoga: Our baby yoga sessions have been a hit, helping babies with gentle stretching, improving flexibility, and supporting parents in nurturing their baby's development.

Ride-On Time: Our toddlers loved zooming around on tractors, bikes, and cars, letting their imaginations run wild while making new friends.

It's been an action-packed term filled with smiles, learning, and connections. We couldn't have done it without your amazing support—thank you for making each session special!

Booking for next term is now open! We have some exciting venue changes and we are welcoming Messy Monkeys to the team. Tash is always here should you have any questions or concerns. Feel free to reach out anytime tash@ssnap.org.uk.

BECOME A MEMBER

Join our SSNAP Society by giving regularly and becoming a valued SSNAP Member

SSNAP
MEMBER

For a minimum of £5 per month you can ensure that we can continue to champion the right of all sick and premature babies treated in Oxford.



Regular giving offers SSNAP stability and enables us to plan for the future with your support. See our website or scan this QR code for more details.

GO SSNAP!

OXFORD HALF

Good luck to all 280 runners taking part in the 2024 Oxford Half Marathon for SSNAP. We cannot wait to see you on race day.

We welcome everyone to line the streets of Oxford to cheer on the team – please do come and say hello at the SSNAP stand in the charity village. This annual event in the SSNAP calendar is taking place on Sunday 13 October, beginning in the city centre and finishing at Parks Road.

UP FOR A CHALLENGE?

A huge thank you to all our sky divers this year.

Sky diving is available on a variety of dates throughout 2025, please do get in touch if you would like to jump for SSNAP.



PAIGE AND HARRY'S STORY

Harry – the first baby of Jack and Paige – was born at 26 weeks. Paige is an adult nurse, so being on the other side with her son in NICU was an overwhelming experience.

Harry was born at 26 weeks at the John Radcliffe Hospital in Oxford, after Paige developed preeclampsia. Harry had restricted growth – he weighed a tiny 450g, and had a low survival rate, but he lived for 141 days.

Throughout Harry's short life he was on and off the ventilator due to poorly developed lungs; he had sepsis, line infections, cardiac arrests and a perforated bowel, leading to a stoma being formed. Harry always put up a fight, and he was well known at NICU at John Radcliffe, as were Jack and Paige. They were both always at Harry's cot side, and never missed a doctor's round as they were able to live at Ronald McDonald House on the hospital grounds.

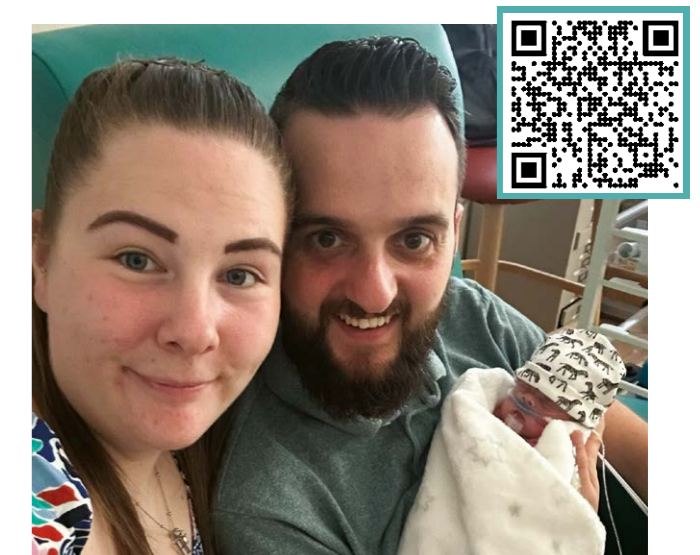
Paige explains: *"Without on-site accommodation, we would have had to make a 120-mile trip there and back to Oxford each day, so we'll be forever grateful for this facility that kept us so close to Harry."*

Jack and Paige felt that the team on NICU were like a family to them – from the doctors, to the nurses, to the receptionists and all of the SSNAP family: *"The ladies from SSNAP came round the NICU each day and provided emotional support, meal vouchers, snacks and were Harry's regular supporters. SSNAP had previously set up the NICU on an app called V-Create which allows the nurses to send photos, videos and updates to parents, so even in the middle of the night we always knew how Harry was doing."*

After 118 days at the JR, Harry was moved to Gosset Ward at Northampton General Hospital, but sadly passed away 23 days later. Paige and Jack's aim is to forever keep Harry's memory alive and they are dedicated to help providing support for babies and families in NICU like they experienced with Harry. Paige concludes: *"On 13 October, 18 of us will be running Oxford Half Marathon for SSNAP in memory of Harry – we would be so grateful for any donations, and know how helpful they will be. Thank you for taking the time to read our story."*

PLEASE DONATE TODAY:

justgiving.com/page/paige-jackson-1720206351389



BELLA MADDOCK'S CHAIRS

Please support this fundraiser organised by Bex and George to raise enough money to provide the NICU with recliner chairs – their target is £15,000. Bex describes how important a recliner chair was for her and baby Isabella, who was born at 25 weeks, during the 132 days they spent in hospital...

"After spending every waking hour in this chair, I cannot begin to explain how important the skin-to-skin comfort helped George and I to cope with the hardest few months of our lives. This has also, without a shadow of a doubt helped Isabella. I saw it with my own eyes. She calms down, her heart rate lowers, her oxygen requirement lowers and she has a very restful sleep, helping her to grow and build her much-needed strength to continue fighting."

Our dream would be that every family area around each incubator in the NICU has a recliner chair and a comfortable chair for their partner, plus some spares so they can be swapped out for repairs and cleaning (as each of the precious delicate souls in the NICU are incredibly vulnerable so infection control is critical). Please support our fundraiser if you can."



PLEASE DONATE TODAY:

justgiving.com/page/bella-chairs

