

A HUGE THANK YOU

To everyone who joined us at the SSNAP charity dinner on Saturday 13 September – whether you were a guest, kindly donated an auction or raffle prize, provided a service, or played any part in making the evening possible – we are so deeply grateful.

Thanks to your incredible generosity, we're thrilled to share that we've placed the order for a cerebral function monitor for the neonatal unit! This vital piece of equipment will make a lasting difference for the tiniest patients and their families, and it simply wouldn't have been possible without you.

From the bottom of our hearts – thank you!



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.



www.ssnap.org.uk

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SSNAP (Support for Sick Newborn and Their Parents).
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Registered Charity No: 1146622 • Limited Company No: 7888187



AUTUMN 2025

Welcome to the autumn edition of our SSNAP newsletter, this short update provides a brief overview of what the charity has been up to. This year has been challenging in many ways, but also incredibly rewarding thanks to the unwavering support of our community. Together, we've faced difficulties head-on and made a real difference in the lives of so many.

We're especially excited as we gear up for our biggest Oxford Half Marathon yet we have over 300 runners pounding the streets on our behalf! We warmly invite you to come along on race day, line the streets of Oxford, and cheer on our amazing runners as they push themselves. Your support from the sidelines means the world to us.

Because of your incredible generosity, we've been able to bring some truly inspiring projects to life this year! In this issue, we're thrilled to share some of these details with you, and to show you the powerful difference your support is making.

Thank you for being part of the SSNAP family and for your continued dedication and support.

With very best wishes

Team SSNAP x



SPECIALIST CHAIRS ARE ON THEIR WAY



We are delighted to share some exciting news – our first order of specialist chairs for the Neonatal Unit has been placed!

These chairs, designed specifically to support breast-feeding and kangaroo care, will make a huge difference to the comfort and wellbeing of families and their babies.

The first delivery is expected in mid-October, and we can't wait to see them in use. But we still need your help: we have only funded half of the chairs so far. Each chair costs a staggering £1,800, and we are asking our wonderful community to help us raise the funds needed for the remainder.

Could your workplace sponsor a chair? Or could you request donations in lieu of birthday or special occasion gifts? Every contribution, big or small, brings us closer to giving every family on the unit the best possible start.



Thank you for being part of this journey with us – together, we are making a real difference for sick and premature babies and their families.

SUPPORT • CARING • COMPASSION • FAMILY • TOGETHERNESS



Thank you all for the incredible support, kind words and messages that we received following the death of our Charity Lead, Martin Realey, back in March. We have truly valued every message and gesture.

NEW GARDEN FOR THE WOMEN'S CENTRE



We're thrilled to announce the opening of a beautiful new garden at the Women's Centre, made possible by funding from SSNAP and Silverstar. This peaceful outdoor space offers a much-needed place for neonatal and maternity families, as well as staff, to relax, reflect, and find comfort during challenging times.

We're incredibly proud to support a project that nurtures wellbeing and connection in such a special way.

LOOKING AHEAD

The Festive Season

We're pleased to announce that this year's annual family-friendly Christmas service will start earlier, with the hope of encouraging even more of you to join us.

2pm, Sunday 7 December

St Mary's Church, Church Green, Witney OX28 4AW

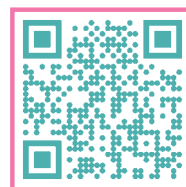


Join us for a heartfelt, family-focused service to round off the year, complete with mince pies and mulled wine. Everyone is warmly welcome. We look forward to seeing you there!

2026 Events

Our 2026 events calendar is starting to take shape, and we can't wait to share it with you! Please keep an eye on our website and social media for full details as dates are confirmed.

We're excited to announce that our Annual Summer Garden Party is booked for June at a new location closer to the hospital. We'll also be hosting skydiving in the summer, plus all your favourite SSNAP events throughout the year – including the Oxford Half Marathon.



We hope you'll join us for another year of fun, community, and fundraising!

ssnap.org.uk/pages/events

WHY WE ARE HERE

Sarah Rockall-Brown has kindly shared her family's story with us...

"At 32 weeks and five days, right before our last antenatal class, my waters broke. Once labour was confirmed, my husband Max made a very late-night call to my mum who answered the phone with, 'Sarah's in labour, isn't she?'. Although unexpected, this wasn't unfamiliar territory, as I was born at 28 weeks and my brother at 32 weeks. Our son, Oscar, was delivered safely a few hours later, and we were both lucky enough to have a cuddle before he was taken to the HDU. Thankfully, all initial tests were positive, and after a few days Oscar was moved to the LDU where he spent just under a month 'feeding and growing'.

During this time, the SSNAP team were tremendously supportive, always there with a friendly smile and listening ear. They helped to make Christmas in hospital special with a lovely gift box, and it was reassuring to know that when we were discharged their support would continue. Oscar is a thriving nine-month-old now, and we have been regularly attending the fantastic Little SSNAPlings sessions. It's been so comforting spending time with other families who've had similar experiences.

Back in May, Max, a self-confessed non-runner, completed the Blenheim 7K to raise money for SSNAP. In October, he will be running the Oxford Half Marathon, echoing my dad who ran the London Marathon for the charity back in 1990. I guess it really does run in the family!"



INVESTING IN NHS STAFF – SUPPORTING EXCELLENCE IN NEONATAL CARE



We're incredibly proud to support the dedicated NHS staff who provide expert care for newborns every day. Over the past few months, we've funded a range of valuable training and development opportunities to help our clinical teams deliver the very best care.

These include:

- UNICEF accredited training, ensuring families receive the highest standard of support in feeding and bonding.
- Supporting members of the SOnET team – specialist nurses who rotate between the NICU and neonatal transport services – to attend the forthcoming annual Transport Conference.
- Funding attendance at a tongue-tie and infant feeding specialist course, enhancing expertise in crucial areas of neonatal care.
- Funding a certificate-based programme designed to empower clinicians to deliver compassionate, trauma-informed developmental care tailored to the unique needs of vulnerable newborns.

By investing in our NHS staff's skills and wellbeing, SSNAP helps ensure families receive the highest quality care when they need it most.

LITTLE SSNAPLINGS – GROWING TOGETHER



We're thrilled to share some fantastic news from Little SSNAPlings! Vicky has been busy expanding and refreshing our offerings to better support neonatal families in our community.

We've introduced some new locations and launched brand-new Stay & Play sessions, designed to give parents, carers, and their little ones more opportunities to connect, play, and unwind. We've also added Buggy Walk & Talk sessions to the calendar, perfect for getting some fresh air and friendly conversation with others who've shared similar journeys.

Our new weekly sessions in Botley are already proving popular, offering a warm, welcoming space where families can come together and support one another. Little SSNAPlings sessions are open to all neonatal families, regardless of how long your baby spent in neonatal care. Whether you'd like to stay for the whole session or just pop in for a little while, you'll always find a supportive and inclusive environment.

Keep an eye on our social media for updates, or feel free to reach out to Vicky directly for full details. We'd love to welcome you and your little ones to a session soon!



Book a class here!

You can book your place easily using this QR code