

SSNAP CONTINUES TO SUPPORT NHS STAFF

Only six months into 2022 and SSNAP have already supported over 70 Neonatal Unit staff to attend further education.

With a range of courses and conferences – including Neonatal Surgical Nursing Courses, European Milk Bank Association Conferences and Family and Infant Neurodevelopmental Education qualifications – from afternoon online seminars to 12 month university courses. SSNAP continues to ensure that every further education funding request is met; to enable our doctors and nurses to be the very best. We remain so very grateful for all their extra efforts to excel.

EVENTS FOR YOU IN 2022



The Oxford Half Marathon

With 20 weeks to train and prepare, we still have free charity places for this year's Oxford Half Marathon (16 October 2022). Would you like to join the team? Help us break yet another record and fundraise for vital funds for our work. Visit the SSNAP website home page and click on the link to the event to register.



SSNAP Charity Dinner Night

19 November 2022 – save the date now and we'll be sending details soon of how you can ensure you secure one of the limited places at our 40th Anniversary Dinner Night this year.

On behalf of our trustees, staff, volunteers and the babies, parents and NHS staff that we support, we'd just like to say a massive **thank you** to you, our supporters. Without your constant commitment we simply wouldn't be able to produce the wonderful things you've read about in this newsletter. We can't wait to see you at our next event or hear how you continue to support our work – thank you.

Very best wishes

Martin and the SSNAP Team

Martin Realey
SSNAP Charity Lead



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



1982 - 2022

SSNAP UPDATE

Supporting sick newborn and their parents

Celebrating 40 years

SUMMER 2022

A SUCCESSFUL SUMMER GARDEN PARTY

It was utterly amazing hosting so many of you as we celebrated 40 years of SSNAP and 50 years of the John Radcliffe Neonatal Unit.

It was fabulous to see so many members, fundraisers, friends and families all together. The amount of ice cream, cakes, strawberries and Pimms consumed by everyone really was quite impressive!

The charity were delighted to welcome back Cessa Moore, our newest Patron, who was responsible for the creation of SSNAP in 1982. She commented that it was remarkable and beautiful to see so many graduates of the Neonatal Unit in attendance; happy, healthy and dancing. Over the afternoon we had a cake competition, balloon modelling, face painting, a stilt walker, an entertainer and a raffle, all of which proved a huge hit with children and adults alike.

Thank you to everyone who made the day possible by supporting us with raffle prizes, cakes and the actual complexities of delivering a day for over 500 people. We are already looking forward to next year's party, although we hope to see many parents at this year's Charity Ball.



OVER 100 FAMILIES SMASH BLENHEIM FUN RUN FOR SSNAP



On a warm spring Sunday morning in May, over 100 SSNAP veterans, aged from 8 months old to over 80, gathered for the four running events taking place: 1 mile, 4 mile Buggy Run, 7km Family Run and 7km Canine Duo.

Blenheim was alive with a sea of 40th Anniversary bright blue SSNAP T-shirts and everyone set to have a great race. The quickest ran the 1 mile in less than 5min 40, whilst the slowest tackled the hills of the 4 mile buggy in under two hours, stopping to change and feed twins under a tree when the weather changed. Despite the rain hitting us late on, the day wasn't ruined as it truly was a spectacular event for all. A massive thank you to all those that took part, putting SSNAP on the West Oxfordshire map for another year.

WHO ARE THE LITTLE SSNAPLINGS?

This summer we launched our parents and baby group "Little Ssnaplings."

It is a group that is designed to give parents with similar experiences a shared space to enjoy activities without judgement or questions. Activities include baby massage, yoga, sensory activities, painting, messy space and lots more. And like any group for parents, a lot of coffee and cake!

The groups have proven to be a fantastic opportunity for likeminded parents to meet, chat through similar experiences, and make new friendships. Whilst also having activities that promote the health and wellbeing of our babies.

Funded by SSNAP, the activities are totally free, and there remains many opportunities for new parents to join. We have three groups up and running across Oxfordshire; each group meets once a month with a fourth venue coming soon!

To get all the latest news and updates and how to join one of these free groups please see our 'Little Ssnaplings' Facebook page or contact Natasha on tash@ssnap.org.uk or 01865 221359.



UNICEF ACCREDITATION

The Newborn Care Unit celebrated achieving UNICEF Baby Friendly Accreditation in March for 'Excellent practice in the support of infant feeding and parent-infant relationships'.



▲ Clinical Lead Dr Amit Gupta and Feeding Team Lead Gillian Denton.

The project has been running from May 2017 when the unit registered their intent to go Baby Friendly. They received their Certificate of Commitment in 2018 and achieved Stage 2 in 2019 and Stage 3 in late 2021.

The project is a phased approach consisting of the development of feeding policies, a training curriculum and a training programme for all staff. Regular audit is carried out by the feeding team to ensure that the highest standards of care are maintained. UNICEF Baby Friendly assessors visited to interview staff and families. As part of the project over the past five years, various measures have been put in place to support parents to be partners in their baby's care; including open access to the unit 24 hours a day, facial recognition entry to avoid having to wait to be let in to see their baby and the implementation of the use of headphones during ward rounds so that parents do not have to leave their baby at any time.

SSNAP, who continue to fund the facial recognition entry system, the headphones, and the courses for the staff to attend to assist with accreditation, congratulated the staff by throwing a small gathering to thank all those who have worked tirelessly to achieve this auspicious award. With such hard work recognised, Colin the Caterpillar cake was an absolute must!

STOLEN WASHING MACHINE SENDS PRESS IN A SPIN

Many of you will remember that our Charity Lead Martin completed the Oxford Half Marathon last year with a washing machine on his back, helping SSNAP raise over £116,000 with a £7,000 contribution from many anonymous supporters acknowledging his efforts. Well, the story doesn't stop there.

Martin has been training to complete the 3 Peaks, again with the washing machine on his back. The 3 peaks is a 42km distance over Britain's three highest mountains – Ben Nevis, Scafell Pike and Snowden – climbing over 10,000 feet over a 36-hour period. But Martin's customised washing machine was stolen from outside his home in Wantage, sending Facebook and media stations into a spin. With BBC Radio, The Mail, The Sun and GB News all running headline stories on the theft. Now gaining national coverage, we hope that the story continues to raise awareness of our charity's amazing work whilst recruiting more fundraisers along the way.

Would you like to sign up for the 3 Peaks Challenge in May 2023? With 10 months to prepare and fundraise, there's nothing stopping anyone joining the team. Visit our website homepage now to register interest, or email martin.realey@ssnap.org.uk for more details.



HITTING NEW HEIGHTS AT 65



In early June, Colin Phillips paraglided in Turkey on his 65th Birthday to raise a fabulous amount of money for us in memory of his Grandson Dexter. Colin expressed to us that "it was an amazing experience for such a wonderful cause".

MOVING MOUNTAINS



A massive hurrah to Graham Parkins, a member of Marlow Striders, who after helping the club raise over £7,000 for SSNAP this year, decided to take his fundraising a little higher. With a team of support, he tackled Mont Blanc, the 15,000ft monster that's the highest mountain in the Alps and Western Europe. Well done Graham – you're a SSNAP Superhero!

FALLING FOR GOOD



So far in 2022 we have had an amazing 29 people take up the challenge of becoming a Skydiving Superhero, raising just over £29,000 between them all.

We couldn't be more grateful for their support and determination in taking on this challenge. Thank you! Would you like to jump out of a perfectly serviceable aircraft and freefall from 15,000 feet for over a minute at 125mph, whilst raising funds for a brilliant cause? If so, email carla@ssnap.org.uk to learn more.