Early Birth Association Newsletter – Spring 2017

Hello again everyone, thank you so very much for your continued support over the last few months. You are ALL amazing and we will be saying thank you but first…..

AGM - an important date for your diary

Our AGM is on Wednesday 7th June this year – a date decided before the General Election was announced! It's being held on 14th Floor in the TMBU Seminar Room starting at 8pm. We are always looking for new people who might like to join the committee but even if you don't want to fully commit (pun intended!) we'd still LOVE to see some new faces. Building support in this way is the only way our charity is able to continue. We look forward to meeting you on the 7th June, refreshments will be provided.

Push For Prems – **another important date for your diary**

This year's Push For Prems takes place on Sunday 16th July. They will be raising money for both TMBU & SERV (an out-of-hours charity who deliver urgently required donor breast milk & blood around hospitals in Sussex). If you haven't participated in the walk before – please do – it's such a positive way to support the units with your little ones in tow.

The walk starts from RSCH at 11am and ends at Hove Lagoon for a picnic and balloon release in memory of the little ones that didn't make it home. Just turn up on the day!

Thanks as ever to Catherine Demir & her wonderful team who work tirelessly to organise the event each year. You can find out more information via their Facebook page.

Brighton Marathon, Half Marathon and Mini Mile – A BIG shout out to:

We had a fantastic team of 11 runners who took part in the Brighton Half Marathon on behalf of the EBA on a wet, cold & windy day in February, collectively raising over £8,000 for our charity. A HUGE thank you to you all: Andi Roberts, Claudine Sinnett, Duncan Crawford, Claire Middleton, Amy Newton, Renato Timanti, Willem Goosen, Tom Brookes, Cheree Rounce, Michelle Reilly and Jennifer Nicholas.

16 Mini Mile runners including 2 TMBU graduates ran the 1 mile circuit on behalf of the EBA at Preston Park on Saturday 8th April. Everyone that took part put in so much effort and raised a terrific amount of money for the EBA. Well Done, you are all STARS.



Congratulations too to our magnificent Brighton Marathon runners - Andi Roberts, Helen Hauduc and Amy Newton. They overcame various injuries, sickness, stomach bugs and the heat (on what was an unseasonably hot Spring day) to all finish the race.

An Incredible effort and a big challenge to take on. Thank you all SO very much.

Even more wonderful people to thank…..

The Catherine Cookson Charitable Trust who gave us a grant for an astonishing £60,000. Thank you to Wayne who liaised with one of their Trustees & ensured this became a reality. This was put towards two Transport Incubators for the TMBU which cost just short of £93,000.

Sainsbury's (New England Road, Brighton) who have continued to support us as their Charity of the Year. They generously supply crockery/cutlery/beverages/food/knitted items and many more very useful things for the staff and parents.

Shoreham Conservative Club who invited us along to hand over a BIG cheque for over £4,900!!

Friends of Bede's Prep School who selected the EBA as their chosen charity. They presented us with a cheque for a phenomenal £13,000 raised from a variety of different events held throughout the year, culminating in their biennial Ball. Our very own Treasurer Wayne (whose son Lewy is a pupil) was one of the main organisers & was accompanied by Sarah & Heidi on the night.

Lee Burlton – has competed in various cycling events and will be participating in the upcoming London to Brighton Cycle Ride. Lee and his wife Lisa raise money for the EBA via their own personal charity in memory of their beautiful daughter, Molly.

Owls Out and About – a group of owl owners who show the birds at public events to raise awareness & to raise funds for local charities – luckily this time they chose us to receive £1,500 !!!!

£500 from Eastbourne Motoring Centre.

Mia & Lily Scrase – 8 year old twins who were cared for in TMBU & SCBU when they were born. They recently ran the Mid Sussex Wellbeing Mile & raised over £500. How brilliant!!

Patrick Sweeney – we are astounded at how Patrick continues to co-ordinate collecting tins in local shops and Public Houses. He can also be found at the Brighton Racecourse market each Bank Holiday. As ever we want to say thank you for his continued support over many years – we, the staff and parents really appreciate his commitment.



At St Bede's Prep School



With Owls Out & Abou

What is your money being spent on??

Now I'm sure you'd love to know about just some of the things your money has gone towards purchasing, so here goes …

- Two brand new Transport incubators (part financed by a donation from The Catherine Cookson Trust)
- Monthly Staff counselling service
- Regular coffee mornings at both sites
- Fleecy Blankets & incubator covers
- Breastfeeding chairs & Capes
- Parents TV
- Parents bedding
- We have also passed £60,000 to the TMBU for new equipment when the refurb is finished - (this is due to start shortly and you will be given a progress report in our next newsletter).

Big and small, life-saving and nurturing, all are vital.

AND FINALLY …

Thank you to two very special couples:

Firstly, our wonderful committee member Sarah Parry & her husband Duffy who organised an amazing Ball last October at Hurstpierpoint College which raised over £6,000 for the EBA. Sarah spoke so eloquently about her sons, Bo & Eskil (and again at the Bedes Ball). Duffy effectively arranged for the 'loan' of the college for the occasion!

Secondly, Jemma Roberts & her husband, Andi. Their support has been invaluable to the EBA since their daughter Tilly was born. We wish you both and your imminent new arrival all the luck & love in the world.

Officers of the Committee

Chairperson	Elaine Rowe (Trustee)
Vice-Chairperson	Heidi Crawford
Treasurer	Wayne Lawrence (Trustee)
Secretary	Laura Scott

Committee Members

Andy Salvage
Lee Burlton
Lisa Burlton
Melanie Edgar
Margaret Hatley (Trustee)
Michelle Miles
Sarah Parry

TMBU Representatives

Dr Ryan Watkins
Julie Nalletamby

PRH Representative