

eNews Update

St Albans Bereavement Network



Release 5, Spring 2014

Spring is typically a time of renewal and growth and this continues to be very much the theme at SABN. Building on our change journey started last year we are looking forward to welcoming a new Chair of Trustees in May 2014, read more about this appointment below.

We have also just held our first Biennial Meeting at our Catherine Street premises. This event was an opportunity for us to thank all our volunteers and recognise the invaluable contribution they make to the Network. We also bid a formal farewell to our Chairman of the past 7 years, Dr Michael Elves.

Read more about these events and what else has been happening at the Network below. We do hope you will find our spring 2014 news release both interesting and informative.

Can you help?

We are currently looking for a new Treasurer to oversee all the Network's financial matters, if you can help or know someone who may be interested please contact Vivian Lawman, phone: 01727 841914 or email: vivlawman@sabn.org.uk.

St Albans and District Bereavement Network
Address: PO Box 671, St Albans, AL1 3ZX
Helpline: 01727 841 841 Admin: 01727 841 914
Email: admin@sabn.org.uk
Website: sabn.org.uk

News

SABN bids farewell to long-serving Chairman

Dr Michael Elves announced at SABN's recent AGM that he will stand down at the end of April 2014 after 7 years as Chairman of the Network.

In his last Chairman's Message Michael commented that: "Over my seven years as Chairman I have seen some important changes in SABN as we have sought to develop our services to support people who have been bereaved in our community and to meet their changing needs. I have found this time both stimulating and personally rewarding, which is in no small measure due to those colleagues that I have been privileged to work with over these years. I will end by wishing SABN continuing success in the years that lie ahead."

We all wish Michael well in his retirement from SABN.



SABN Welcomes Patron as new Chair

We are delighted that the Right Reverend John Gladwin has agreed to become Chair of our Trustees and will help to lead and guide us on the next stage of our development and growth. Both John and his wife Lydia became involved with the Network in 2011 when John became a Patron and his wife Lydia took on the role of leading the Wheathampstead Bereavement Group.

John retired as Bishop of Chelmsford in 2009 following a long career in the Church of England. John has had many years of voluntary sector experience including 11 years as the Chair of Christian Aid and most recently he has been Chair of the National Association of Citizens Advice.



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Biennial Meeting

There was a real buzz in Catherine Street recently for SABN's first Biennial Meeting in our new offices. Volunteers, Trustees, staff, funders and members of the local community had a chance to all come together in one place to celebrate the work done by SABN and the invaluable contribution of all those involved. It was also an opportunity to welcome the Deputy Mayor of the City & District of St Albans, Councillor Brian Gibbard and the Harpenden Town Mayor, Councillor Rosemary Farmer to SABN's premises.

It was great to see the offices teeming with so many people, having the chance to network, socialise and join together to recognise the outstanding achievements of our dedicated team of volunteers. The commitment of long serving volunteers and staff was recognised with the presentation of awards.

It was also an opportunity to formally say goodbye and thank you to Dr Michael Elves after 7 years as Chairman of the Network and to welcome our new Chair, the Right Reverend John Gladwin.



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Biennial Meeting Awards for Volunteers

On behalf of the Network, the Deputy Mayor of the City & District of St Albans, Councillor Brian Gibbard presented special awards for exceptional contribution and long service to the following volunteers at the recent Biennial Meeting.



Helpline/Admin/Fundraising:

Ann Barnes

Counselling Adult Work:

Carole Peacock

Visiting & Buddy Service:

Hilary Hunter

Children's Team:

Catherine Levy

Supervisors:

Kate Farman

5 Years of Service:

Jill Bareham, Ann Barnes,
Adrian Godden,
Linda Norrie, David Wall

10 Years of Service:

Sue David, Alison Davies,
Kate Farman, Jenny Hill,
Celia Hudson, Hilary Hunter, Vivian Lawman,
Elizabeth Nichols, Sue Pallenberg, Carole Peacock



Sam joins the Staff Team

We are delighted to welcome Sam Ford to the staff team. Sam joins us as Assistant Administrator & Receptionist. Sam plays a key role as the first point of contact for many of our visitors and clients. She brings a wealth of experience and well-honed people skills gained from supporting prominent figures in the media and television industry. As well as assisting with all aspects of the day to day running of the office, Sam will be involved in organising this year's Children's Open Day and helping to keep our finance records in good order.

Fundraising

Support from the St Albans Round Table

SABN volunteers were invited to join the St Albans Round Table Christmas 2013 fundraising activities. Great fun was had by all those who joined with the Santa Float around the Cottonmill area of St Albans and also helped with the collection for local charities at the local Morrison's store.

SABN received an amazing **£1,600** share from these fundraising activities and our sincere thanks go to the St Albans Round Table who give their time to raise funds to benefit the local community.



Read more about the St Albans Round Table

<http://www.stalbansroundtable.org.uk/another-record-breaking-year-our-santa-float>

Boots Make the Difference

In January SABN Network Manager Vivian Lawman was delighted to received a cheque for **£350** from Boots who matched the amount raised from the SABN Beauty Night through their 'Make the Difference Fund.' Elizabeth Arden's Wendy Seabrook presented the cheque at Boot's St Albans store. This brings the total raised from the evening to an amazing **£700**.

Our thanks go to everyone who came along and supported this fundraising night and particularly to Wendy who has been organising these events on our behalf for the past 4 years.

If you were not able to join us, why not come along to our next evening on **Wednesday, 18th June 2014**.



Wendy Seabrook, Elizabeth Arden presenting a cheque to Vivian Lawman, SABN's Network Manager

Batchwood Golf Course Swing into Action for SABN

SABN were delighted to be chosen by the Batchwood Senior Golfers as their charity for the year. Donations totalling **£100** have already been received and the season is only just getting underway!

Dates for your diary.....



SABN Children's Open Day at Thrales End Farm, Harpenden

Saturday, 10th May 2014

This event is especially for bereaved children and their families. If you know anyone who would like to come along please contact the office so a personal invitation can be sent.

Boots Summer Beauty Night

Get into shape for your summer holidays with some great beauty tips and advice and some special offers on Elizabeth Arden products only available on the night.

Wednesday, 18th June 2014 from 7pm

Tickets will be on sale from early May

Annual Service of Remembrance & Thanksgiving 2014

**Sunday, 23rd November 2014
at St Albans Cathedral**



Recruitment.....

Treasurer

SABN are looking for a new volunteer Treasurer to oversee all of SABN's financial matters. This would include producing annual budgets aligned to the business plan, preparing and making financial reports to the Trustees at the bi-monthly meetings, finalising year-end accounts and providing financial and budget information to support grant applications.

The Treasurer will also be actively involved with the Network as member of the Trustee team.

If you are interested please contact Vivian Lawman, SABN's Network Manager either by email: vivlawman@sabn.org.uk or by phone: 01727 841914.