SANDS nominated for charitable donation

Harrogate Borough Council has been recycling metals following cremation, for the past few years. Since joining up to the Recycling Scheme with the Institute of Cemetery and Crematorium Management, OrthoMetals has since collected nearly 30 wheeled bins of ferrous and non-ferrous metals.

When charitable nominations were asked for to whom the donations could be given, Harrogate agreed that SANDS (Stillbirth and Neonatal Death Society) be considered. So it was wonderful when a cheque of £3472 for SANDS was handed to me at the ICCM CONVENTION this past year to make arrangements for a formal handover to them.

The cheque was presented by the Mayor of Harrogate, Cllr Michael Newby, to Cheryl McMahon, the SANDS representative from the local Leeds Branch, on Friday 8 November 2013, at Stonefall Cemetery Offices. There was the Cabinet Member present, Cllr Margaret Atkinson, David McCarthy (Institute of Cemetery and Crematorium Management) and some others from the SANDS Group.

( The group picture taken is attached. The other picture is of the Mayor of course handing the cheque to Cheryl McMahon. )

It was a really nice, personal presentation, and interesting to hear of the work that SANDS does and experiences shared. Recently SANDS has held Baby memorial service for the last two years at Stonefall and this has meant so much to those who have suffered the loss of their baby. This was followed by a visit to the Baby Memorial Sculpture in the grounds.

After the presentation of the cheque, I was able to show all the metal recycling bins with the ferrous (magnetic nails, pins, etc) and non-ferrous metals (gold, silver, orthopaedic joints and implants, etc) in each. Years ago these metals use to be buried in the crematorium grounds, but not only was this taking up the ground and would never de-compost, which was environmentally not good, but it was encouraging huge amounts of energy to be also wasted mining new ores and producing new metals from non-renewable sources. So to recycle the metals is environmentally sound. Consent is obtained to recycle the metals from the families prior to any cremation obviously.

This presentation has really been appreciated by SANDS and will help to further their work and partnership with Harrogate Borough Council, like other charities across the country that have been and can benefit from the monies raised from the recycling of metals scheme. This is another classic example of the care and endeavour the ICCM has in making a difference to the bereaved. Tim Morris, C/E of the ICCM was unable to attend, but was delighted that the SANDS Group could receive the donation.

Philip Andrew
Bereavement Services Manager, Harrogate