

## **MRF Media contact Bridgwater, Somerset,**

### **Bridgwater parents' warning: Babies under one hit hardest by meningitis and septicaemia.**

Craig and Anthea Berry

Craig and Anthea Berry lost their son Ethan to meningococcal meningitis and septicaemia in March 2004. He was only 12 months old. It was the speed at which Ethan got ill which shocked Craig and Anthea the most.

Craig and Anthea first noticed there was something wrong very early on a Friday morning. Ethan was a bit fidgety and unwell. They took him to hospital but were told he had a virus. He was very pale and sleeping 'on and off'. They took Ethan back on Saturday as he had been sick. That night he woke them up on their baby monitor with his crying, and they found him covered in a purple blotchy rash. Craig and Anthea rushed Ethan to hospital but his organs failed and there was nothing that could be done for him. He died on Sunday. Craig and Anthea have raised over £45,000 for MRF through fundraising events such as Ethan's Ball, an annual celebration of their son's life.

Craig and Anthea also work with MRF to raise awareness of the symptoms of meningitis and septicemia, and encouraging parents to trust their instincts and get medical help as soon as they suspect something is wrong with their child.

Said Craig: "We lost our son Ethan to meningitis in 2004. The disease struck so fast – in three days it had taken his life. Babies and infants under one year old are 38 times more susceptible to meningitis, and tragically two babies will die every week from the diseases. We know only too well the importance of knowing the symptoms of meningitis, that's why we're supporting MRF's meningitis awareness week. Contact the Foundation for free symptoms information. It only takes a minute but it could save a life."

Willing to do: Press, Radio, TV

If you'd like to speak to Craig and Anthea, contact the MRF Communications team: 01454 281811