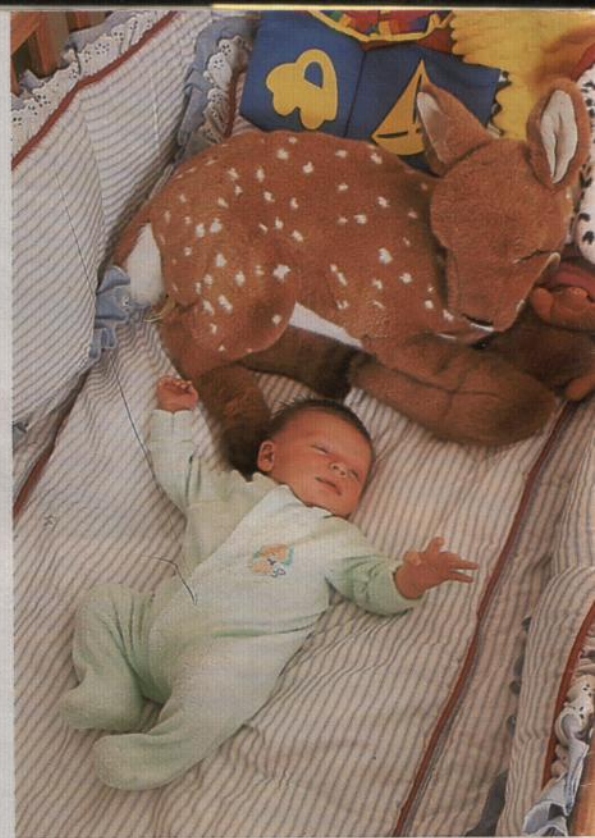




...as so stressed during her pregnancy that she's amazed at how wonderfully peaceful little Beau is — surrounded by his golden discs (below) — and Sue wrote the songs on his new album together



pregnancy, with my mother's illness, that I thought he would have all sorts of problems, but he hasn't," Sue says, stroking his sandy hair.

"I had given up birth control 17 years ago, and had all the fertility tests done and still not managed to conceive," she reveals. "So that, coupled with my age — I'm 41 — made it all the more miraculous that I got pregnant during the most stressful time of my life.

"I was almost seven weeks pregnant before I finally realised that it wasn't some kind of nervous breakdown, but a baby I was having," she laughs.

Just days before Beau was born, David wanted to whisk Sue away for a secret wedding but she had second thoughts.

"When my mother was unconscious and on a life-support machine, I said to her: 'Mum, you can't die now. You've got to live for the wedding!' and I swear she opened her eyes and started to get well from that moment on.

"So when we were planning a secret wedding I said to David: 'This isn't right because my mother lived for this and I want her to be there'."

"Yes, it is better this way," agrees David. "We hope to get married in a couple of months with our parents, my stepmum Shirley Jones, and my three half-brothers there." (David's famous actor father Jack Cassidy died in 1976).

"Sue and I love each other unconditionally, and we act like we are married, but we think it will be better for Beau in the long run if we make it official.

"Our parents will also be pleased. Beau's birth seems to have given them all a new lease of life and that's great. It's not so much that they adore him, but they're building shrines to him in their homes," he quips.

David and Sue first met in 1973 at the height of his fame. "I was living in London then," recalls Miami-born Sue. "I was writing songs and recording for the same record label as David, so I was invited to a party after his Wembley concerts.

"I thought he was a nice guy, but I didn't really know who he was because I was so involved with my own work."

After a period of being smuggled in through back doors to see each other, Sue and David drifted apart and both married other people.

"We lost touch for about 13 years but then met through mutual friends in LA, went out for dinner and we've been together ever since," she explains. "It was wonderful to see how he'd changed from a young man into a mature and

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