

Press Release

30th March 2009

A Celebration Fit For A Queen

Staff and volunteers from St Peter & St James Hospice in North Chailey were invited to join colleagues from hospices across the country to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the founding of Help the Hospices, the leading charity supporting hospice care throughout the UK. The event was held at St James's Palace on Monday 16th March, in the presence of Her Majesty The Queen and His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh. Given the minimal financial support that hospices receive from the Government it was tremendously encouraging for all those involved with this vital work to be part of this prestigious event which will help to raise awareness of the needs of individual hospices.

Consultant Dr Steve Dyer who has worked in palliative medicine for 23 years, the past 6 at St Peter & St James, was presented to Her Majesty the Queen. "I counted it an honour to be presented to Her Majesty. She struck me as a Queen who takes a keen interest in her nation's development and the phenomenal growth of the modern hospice movement is certainly something to celebrate and be thankful for. Her Majesty was interested in the location of the Hospice, close to Plumpton and not far from Hickstead!"

The other representatives from St Peter & St James were Chief Executive Colin Burgess, Head of Clinical Services Maggie Galletly, former Trustee and now volunteer Ruby Gordon-Wilson and volunteer Graham Ellis. Graham said of the day: "When the invitation arrived in mid February I could hardly believe it. I have been a volunteer at St Peter & St James for the past six years, just quietly helping out where needed. I was really touched by the invite. I was standing behind Dr Dyer so I had a grandstand view when he was presented to our dear Queen. I didn't hear the conversation but I felt so proud being nearby to Her Majesty on such a wonderful day."

St Peter & St James is one of 220 adult hospices in the UK and receives less than 15% of its funding from the Government meaning that they have to rely heavily on the continued goodwill and generosity of the local community to raise the £3,600 required every single day. All of St Peter & St James' hospice services are provided free of charge to patients and their loved ones.

- ENDS -

For further information: Karen Lambert or Gill Cronin on 01444 471598

Notes to Editors: About St Peter & St James Hospice & Continuing Care Centre

Our mission as a registered charity is to provide specialist care, love and support for those living with progressive, life limiting illnesses from East and West Sussex. We will endeavour to meet the needs of each patient, their family and friends. We aim to encourage and enable all patients to live their lives to their full potential despite their illnesses.

We care for patients from Burgess Hill, Haywards Heath, Lewes, Uckfield and the surrounding villages. Last year we provided care for more than 400 patients and their families. All of our Hospice services are free of charge and we receive less than 15% of our funding from the Government. We have to raise more than £1.3 million every year through fundraising. That's £3,600 every single day.

Website: www.stpeter-stjames.org.uk

Email: fundraising@stpeter-stjames.org.uk

Registered Charity Number: 1056114

Images: For logos and photographs please contact Karen Lambert on 01444 471598 or email karen.lambert@stpeter-stjames.org.uk