

Press Release

27th May 2009

Dame Vera Lynn Opens New Hospice Facilities

St Peter & St James Hospice & Continuing Care Centre have proudly revealed their new facilities, and thanked the local community for the overwhelming support which helped to make the dream become a reality. The improvements, including a new In-patient Day Lounge, Therapy Room, Treatment Preparation Room and Training Room were officially opened today (Wednesday 27th May) by Dame Vera Lynn who is a Patron of the Hospice in North Chailey.

Head of Fundraising Gill Cronin said: "In April 2007 the Department of Health awarded us a grant of more than £270,000 as part of their Dignity in Care for Older People programme towards building work and developments at the Hospice. We then launched our Raise The Roof Campaign with our first appeal in November 2007 asking people to 'Buy A Brick'. The target for this appeal was £222,700 and with overwhelming support from the local community, trusts and businesses we achieved this target. We even had an anonymous donation from someone who said that if the local community raised up to £25,000 they would match the donation! The community exceeded this target and so our mystery donor gave us the money as promised. Building work has been ongoing ever since and our facilities are now more integrated and focused upon meeting the individual needs of our patients and their loved ones."

At the opening ceremony, Peter Boyse, Chairman of the Trustees said how pleased he was to see the new rooms functioning and thanked Dame Vera for attending so many of the important chapters in St Peter & St James' history.

The ceremony concluded with Dame Vera cutting a symbolic ribbon across the In-patient Day Lounge, after which small groups of invited guests were shown around the new facilities by members of staff.

- ENDS -

Photographs: 1) Dame Vera Lynn cutting the ribbon alongside Peter Boyse, Chairman of Trustees
2) Left - right Chief Executive Colin Burgess, Dame Vera Lynn and Head of Fundraising Gill Cronin

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 just 15% of our funding from the Government. This means we have to raise more than £1.3 million every year through fundraising. That's £3,600 every single day.

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