

Press Release

12th October 2009

Hospice Opens New Wildlife Observation Hide

Enthusiastic staff, volunteers and supporters gathered in St Peter & St James Hospice & Continuing Care Centre's woodland on Tuesday 6th October to celebrate the formal opening of a new wildlife observation hide, funded by Big Lottery Fund Breathing Places. The new hide, converted for wheelchair access, is thanks to a generous grant of £10,000 received from the Big Lottery Fund last year and is part of a number of improvements to the woodland for the benefit of the community.

Colin Burgess, Chief Executive, formally opened the hide and thanked the Big Lottery Fund and everyone involved in the project. The Mayor of Uckfield, Councillor Len Ashby, also attended the event as well as a group of school children from Wivelsfield School. Following the formalities, 12 children enjoyed a guided tour and exploration of the woodland with local wildlife expert Reg Lanaway from Plumpton College. The children, especially the boys, enjoyed 'bug hunting' and identifying leaves and were not put off by the intermittent downpours!

St Peter & St James aims to improve the quality of life of people with life-limiting illnesses and their families. In addition to the 23 bed in-patient unit, which includes 8 Hospice beds, support is provided to a further 170 patients in their own homes and a Day Hospice provides a range of activities and support services for up to 15 patients per day four days a week. The Hospice relies heavily on the generosity of the local community to raise the £4,000 needed every single day to maintain these vital services for people in Lewes, Burgess Hill, Haywards Heath, Uckfield and the surrounding villages. Patients and their relatives benefit from the wonderful rural location of St Peter & St James, set in 28 acres of Sussex countryside, and can enjoy spending precious time together in the beautiful woodland. The new 'Breathing Place' will not only benefit patients and relatives but will also help to strengthen links between the Hospice and other community groups and schools.

- ENDS -

Photographs: 1) Councillor Len Ashby joins children from Wivelsfield School, Hospice staff and volunteers at the grand opening 2) Councillor Len Ashby, Chief Executive Colin Burgess and children from Wivelsfield School inside the new wildlife observation hide 3) Breathing Places logo

For further information: Karen Lambert or Carol Hughes 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. This means we have to raise more than £1.4 million every year through fundraising. That's £4,000 every single day.

If you are interested in working or volunteering at St Peter & St James please contact Human Resources on 01444 471598 or visit www.stpeter-stjames.org.uk.

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