

## **Press Release**

250 Years of Hospice Service!

Long-serving staff at St Peter & St James Hospice and Continuing Care Centre will be honoured with the presentation of long service awards by the Lord Lieutenant of East Sussex, Mr Peter Field, at a ceremony to be held at the Hospice on Wednesday November 9<sup>th</sup> 2011.

The 14 members of staff have, between them, worked at the Hospice for over 250 years in a variety of roles, including nurses, Health Care Assistants, Physiotherapists, a Kitchen Assistant and a Welfare Officer. Margaret Scully, Day Hospice Sister, is currently the longest serving member of staff, having joined the hospice in February 1988. She said, "It has been exciting and rewarding to see the hospice grow and evolve over the last 23 years to meet the needs of our patients. Our greatest strength is the team at St Peter & St James. Everyone works to the best of their ability to deliver a great service to our patients and their families and I am very proud to be part of that team."

Colin Burgess, Chief Executive, said, "This is a wonderful opportunity to recognise and acknowledge the commitment and dedication of this group of staff who, together with the rest of our teams of staff and volunteers, work tirelessly to ensure that our patients and their relatives receive the best quality of care at the time that they need it most. Over many years, countless patients have benefited from the vast breadth and depth of experience gained and shared by this valued group of staff."

To mark the event, each member of staff will receive a small gift and will be able to reminisce with their colleagues about days gone by whilst enjoying a slice of a celebration cake baked by the Hospice's catering department.

Chairman of the Trustees, Peter Boyse, commented on the occasion saying, "In a world where it is becoming increasingly common for people to move frequently between employers I am proud to celebrate that fact that all of these 14 staff have worked for the organisation for over 10 years and half of them for over 20 years. Their loyalty is not just to St Peter & St James but also to the patients to whom they provide their expert care and attention and I express my sincere thanks to each of them on behalf of the community."

-ENDS -

**For further information:** 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 500 patients and their families. All of our Hospice services are free of charge and we receive less than 17% of our funding from the Government. This means we have to raise more than £1.8 million every year through fundraising. That's £5,000 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](http://www.stpeter-stjames.org.uk).

**Website:** [www.stpeter-stjames.org.uk](http://www.stpeter-stjames.org.uk)

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