

15<sup>th</sup> September 2009

**St Peter & St James Hospice AGM**

Over 75 people attended the AGM of St Peter & St James Hospice on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> September. The audience included members of the Trust, together with staff, volunteers, Patrons, members of The Friends and Support Groups, and more than 35 'Partners in Care' - individuals who make regular donations to the Hospice.

In his report, Peter Boyse, the Chairman of the Trust, gave an overview of the year to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2009, during which the Hospice provided care for a record number of 440 patients together with their families. The Hospice is experiencing a significant increase in the number of patients being referred each month and the Community Team is currently providing support and advice for 180 patients in their own homes. Although the Trust reported a small deficit of £30,345 the Trustees are confident that, with the continued support of the communities that it serves, the Hospice will continue to be able to provide the care, love and support that its patients and their families need. With the NHS contributing less than 15% of the cost of running the Hospice, the generosity of all those people and organisations who contribute to the work of the Hospice in any way is very much appreciated

At the conclusion of the meeting Colin Burgess, Chief Executive of St Peter & St James, spoke about the work of the Hospice and described how patients and their families are supported along the sometimes difficult pathways that they encounter as they move towards the end of their lives.

Noel Willis, who had served as a Trustee for 11 years, retired. Peter Boyse thanked Noel for his loyal and dedicated service, particularly as Chairman of the Finance Committee, and presented him with a small gift from his fellow Trustees. With Noel's retirement, the Trust is now seeking expressions of interest from others who may wish to serve as Trustees, particularly those with experience in the retail, financial and legal sectors. Anybody who would like to know more is invited to enquire by contacting Vivienne de Pemberton on 01444 471598.

Those who attended the meeting also had the opportunity to see the Hospice's facilities at first hand, many of which were completed during the past year following the success of the 'Raise The Roof' campaign.

Copies of the 2008/09 Annual Review are now available. If you would like a copy please contact the Fundraising Department on 01444 4715198 or email [fundraising@stpeter-stjames.org.uk](mailto:fundraising@stpeter-stjames.org.uk).

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

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

**Email:** [fundraising@stpeter-stjames.org.uk](mailto: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](mailto:karen.lambert@stpeter-stjames.org.uk)