

Press Release

25th September 2007

Star Sally Gunnell Starts St Peter & St James Fun Run

Local athletics star Sally Gunnell delighted crowds at the 4th annual St Peter & St James Hospice Fun Run or Walk on Sunday. 410 participants took part and it is expected that once sponsorship has been collected the event will raise well in excess of £10,000 for the Hospice. Sally came along to start both the adult and junior fun runs and stayed to sign autographs.

Gill Cronin, Head of Fundraising at St Peter & St James said: "We were delighted with the turn out again this year on what proved to be a beautiful September day. We would like to say a big thank you to the army of volunteers who helped to make the event run so smoothly and to all of our wonderful supporters including the Haywards Heath Harriers, Go Gourmet, CERT, Forfars, American Express and H J Stoner & Sons."

The adult Fun Run was won by 16 year old Josh Burgess who completed the 5½ mile course in a fantastic 33 minutes and 9 seconds. This was no ordinary run for Josh, he was running in memory of his mum Lisa who was cared for and passed away at the Hospice on Mothers Day this year. Josh said, "My mum died six months ago, she stayed here at the Hospice. I ran for my mum today, I know she was with me when I was running, I did it for her and I won first place". Josh's family were there supporting him and it was very emotional when he came running through the finish line in first place. Also victorious were Josh's younger brother and sister Benedict and Claudia who were the first walkers back.

First back for the ladies was Katie Kidger in a very impressive 38 minutes and 4 seconds. First places in the Junior Fun Run went to Rory Pughe-Morgan for the boys and Olivia Dickie for the girls.

St Peter & St James' Chief Executive Colin Burgess was on hand to present the winners' trophies and said of the day: "Events like this demonstrate how much support there is in the local community for the Hospice. I would like to say thank you to everyone who took part or promised sponsorship and to Sally Gunnell for being a part of our special day."

The Fun Run or Walk is St Peter & St James' biggest annual fundraising event and has raised more than £30,000 since it began four years ago. The Hospice has to raise £1.2 million every year to keep providing its vital services, that's £3,300 every single day. If you would like to know more about St Peter & St James please visit www.stpeter-stjames.org.uk.

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For further information: Please contact Karen Lambert, Gill Cronin or Rosie Wyer on 01444 471598 or email fundraising@stpeter-stjames.org.uk