

# News Release

King's Lynn, Norfolk, UK, Thursday, June 4, 2009

## The Norfolk Hospice, Tapping House supports Carers Week 2009

The Norfolk Hospice, Tapping House is supporting this year's Carers Week (8-14 June) by organising a special Carers' Luncheon. The event, which is taking place at the Hospice on the 10<sup>th</sup> June from 12.00 midday, will be a lunch for carers and guests, and will include music and entertainment.

Carers Week highlights the vital work done by those who provide unpaid care for someone who is ill, frail or disabled. This year, the theme for the week is '**Carers... the UK's secret service**' and calls for carers to receive greater recognition for the incredible contribution they make to their families and their communities.

Along with many other events taking place across the UK, the luncheon will help to support this hidden army of carers by offering a relaxing and social occasion and a respite from the caring responsibility.

John Hunt, Director of Care Services Development from The Norfolk Hospice Tapping House said: "Many carers in Norfolk and the Fens suffer due to a lack of understanding about what they do – some don't even recognise themselves as carers. This has a real and negative impact on their health, finances, working and social life, and general wellbeing. Our Carers' Luncheon is one of many activities and services that the Hospice provides to support carers of our patients and make their lives as easy as possible."

This year's Carers Week is supported by the actor Sir David Jason, who cared for his girlfriend before her death from breast cancer.

Sir David said: "Having been a carer myself, I am all too aware of the huge burden on those who are looking after a loved one and the daily struggles they face. Carers really are the unsung heroes of our society and all too often they struggle to get the recognition they deserve. I'm proud to be part of Carers Week and lend my voice to the call for more support and services for carers"

Other celebrities supporting this campaign, all of whom have had experience of caring, include Sir Geoff Hurst, Fiona Phillips, Jonathan Dimbleby and Arlene Phillips.

Carers Week is a partnership of 10 national charities: Carers UK, Counsel and Care, Crossroads Caring for Carers, Help the Hospices, Macmillan Cancer Support, MS Society, Parkinson's Disease Society, The Princess Royal Trust for Carers, Vitalise and WRVS.

For more information about the events and activities taking place as part of Carers Week, visit [www.carersweek.org](http://www.carersweek.org) or call 0845 241 2582.

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For more information about the Carers' Luncheon and/or the services from The Norfolk Hospice Tapping House, please contact:  
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**The Norfolk Hospice - Tapping House**  
(Reg. Charity No. 1062800)

Since 1984, the Hospice has been providing palliative care to people with cancer, neurological and other life-limiting conditions, to enable them to live life to the full for whatever time is left.

Our services include: holistic day care, home hospice support, bereavement support for families, regular carer support groups, transport, equipment loan and an information service.

We care for over 200 people a month at the hospice and at home. Our care is provided without charge throughout Norfolk and the Fens and it costs £1 million a year to run our Hospice. We depend on the generosity of the community to survive: 85% our costs are paid for by the individuals, organisations and groups who give generously to support our vital care.

In life nothing is certain but, with your help, we can ensure that Norfolk and the Fens has the finest hospice care possible, now and in the future.

For media details, further information and photo opportunities please contact:

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