

30th May 2007

## News Release

### Gorgeous Garden for Cancer Patients at Local Hospital

On Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> June at 3pm, the new courtyard garden at the Sandra Chapman Centre at the James Paget University Hospital will be officially opened by Trust Chairman John Hemming.

Creating the garden has been made possible by a very generous donation of £15,000 from Mrs Tracey Lilly from Gorleston. Tracey won the 'Win a Dream' competition, run by 'New Nordic', which gave the money to enhance the winners life or the lives of others. Tracey said: 'I suffer from severe Chronic Fatigue Syndrome (ME) which renders me relatively housebound for large periods of time, so I don't enter holiday competitions as I would not be well enough to travel. I was thrilled to win something that I could use to enhance the quality of life for others.'

Tracey continued: 'My inspiration for the idea to win this garden for local cancer sufferers came through a friend whose sister-in-law was being treated for cancer in 2005. She told me how the existing Sandra Chapman garden was - I don't think it had been updated since it was built. I believe that there is a huge therapeutic value for patients to sit in an aesthetic natural setting surrounded by colour, scent and texture which encourages birds and butterflies. I particularly wanted the tranquil water feature and covered area so that patients could sit outside in all weathers and changing seasons. I think the garden area is now a serene and positive environment. I sincerely hope that it will be enjoyed by many people for many years to come. I was absolutely thrilled to have my idea chosen and win first prize.'

Liz Alyward, Sister in the Sandra Chapman Centre said: 'The building of this day treatment centre was made possible through the tireless fundraising efforts of Sandra Chapman, Deaconess of the Corton and Hopton parishes. Sadly, she is no longer with us, but she would

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have loved to have seen this beautiful courtyard garden that has been created through the generosity of another local lady. It is situated next to our day room, and our patients can enjoy it during their visits to us.'

Ben Butler, Commercial Director of New Nordic said: 'Our competition has provided a calm and peaceful environment for patients. We are delighted to hear that feedback from the patient's group has been so positive, and pleased to have been able to play a part in developing this lovely new area.'

Thanks also go to Mr Tony Elvin, the landscaper, who turned Tracey's ideas into reality and created the garden.

## **Notes for Editors:**

**Photo and interview opportunity:** Please come along to the Sandra Chapman Centre on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> June at 3pm for a great photo opportunity with the patients and staff at the centre.

The Sandra Chapman Centre is a treatment and clinic facility for patients with oncology and haematology disorders. The majority of work involves giving chemotherapy, but a wide range of treatments are undertaken at the centre.

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