

Press release – 20<sup>th</sup> July 2009

## Surprise awards for Macmillan fundraisers

Joyce Sharpe and Sarah Thomas, both from Newton Abbot, were surprised and thrilled last week when they won four awards for their long-standing commitment to raising funds for Macmillan Cancer Support.

Joyce and Sarah recently attended an event for Macmillan fundraisers, held at Lincombe Manor, Torquay – and sponsored by Manor House Senior Living - at which they learned more about the vital services funded by Macmillan including the Lodge Cancer Centre near Torbay Hospital in Old Newton Road.

Both Joyce and Sarah were shocked when awards were presented to them at the event. Both ladies received the Macmillan Bronze Award for five years of service to the charity. In addition, Joyce was honoured to receive the Douglas Macmillan Award - presented to those who speak up for Macmillan, advocate on its behalf and represent it to raise money or promote its charitable purpose - and Sarah is now extremely proud to be the only person in the south west to have received the Young Macmillan Supporter Award.

Joyce and Sarah began their fundraising activities whilst at work, with Wood's, **team** Estate Agents and Auctioneers in Newton Abbot. The pair organised Wood's' first 'World's Biggest Coffee Morning' for Macmillan back in 2004. Then, when 2005's coffee morning raised nearly £850, Joyce and Sarah decided to go one step further and in October 2006, Wood's held its first Black Tie Charity Ball with entertainers, dinner and prizes, which raised £7,450.00. Events have since raised over £27,000 for the charity. Wood's annual coffee morning has become infamous - the office buzzes with chatter and other individuals and businesses get involved by donating tea, coffee, biscuits, cakes and prizes.

Joyce, who has since retired but continues to share her charity interest with Sarah, said: "When anyone thinks of Macmillan, they tend to think about the nurses and the fabulous, invaluable work they do, but the evening was a real eye-opener - Macmillan offers so much more to help people affected by cancer and their carers, including a fantastic Citizen's Advice Bureau-style advisory service at the Lodge, which addresses issues such as benefits and grant entitlement, along with plenty of other financial and practical concerns and stresses.

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“Sarah and I are extremely proud and honoured to have been presented the awards, but the real reward is the knowledge that hundreds of local people are benefiting from our efforts. It is such a worthy cause and we’re all affected by cancer in some way or another.

“We can’t take all of the credit though - Nick Wood, manager of Wood’s, should be thanked for the firm’s continued support and sponsorship of the events, and it wouldn’t be possible without the people who attend and make the events so spectacular.”

Having organised five coffee mornings and four annual balls, Joyce and Sarah are in the process of finalising plans for the 2009 ball, which takes place on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> September. Further, exciting details about this year’s ball will be announced soon.

For further information, contact Joyce or Sarah on [joyceandsarah4charity@hotmail.com](mailto:joyceandsarah4charity@hotmail.com). For information on property sales, contact Wood’s, **team** estate agent in Newton Abbot on 01626 335008 or visit [www.teamprop.co.uk](http://www.teamprop.co.uk).

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**In the photographs: Joyce Sharpe and Sarah Thomas with their awards**

**Digital images are available from [bubblepr@mac.com](mailto:bubblepr@mac.com)**



**Notes to editors:**

Westcountry **team** is part of **team** Association, the largest organisation for independent estate agents in the UK, with hundreds of members. Westcountry **team** covers Cornwall, Devon and West Dorset, and consists of 70+ members at this time, all of which work together to sell property for clients, and are actively committed to their nominated charity, Macmillan Cancer Support. **team**'s 'blue sky' image, with transparent team logo on a blue sky background reflects the association's and each individual agent's commitment to providing a clear, transparent service to their clients and conducting business in a straightforward, honest and professional way.

**For further information, please contact:**

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