

PRESS RELEASE

“LOOK GOOD, FEEL GOOD” SERVICE LAUNCHED AT ST. JULIA’S HOSPICE

June 4, 2008

A Penzance woman’s personal experience of hair loss as a result of her chemotherapy treatment has prompted her to support an expansion of Cornwall Hospice Care’s “Look Good, Feel Good” service at St. Julia’s Hospice in Hayle.

When Maureen Osborne, of Regent Square, was diagnosed with Lymphoma last June she lost most of her hair. She felt this experience would enable her to reassure other women who are going through treatments.

Mrs Osborne will be part of a volunteer-led team providing a service at St. Julia’s Hospice, offering patients advice, tips and practical demonstrations on wearing hats, scarves and turbans, from next week (June 9).

Weekly sessions are already provided at Mount Edgcombe Hospice’s day unit in St. Austell and volunteers from St. Julia’s Hospice will also help provide the facility at the Royal Cornwall Hospital (Treliske) in Truro once a month.

Maureen explained how she was extremely fit – swimming daily, walking and cycling – when she was diagnosed with Lymphoma.

“ I was lucky to be told at the beginning of my treatment that what I had was completely curable so I realised that anything I had to put up with was for my benefit, but my treatment did leave me feeling really shattered.

“I felt that as I had ‘been there’, I could contribute to this wonderful service and perhaps give patients some reassurance. I gradually lost my hair towards the end of my 24- week course of treatment and was left with just a few wispy bits, “ she added.

“ For many women the loss of hair can add to the distress and discomfort that they are already experiencing. We offer friendly advice and practical tips on how to use scarves, turbans, and hats to help women feel more comfortable with their body image,” said Lesley Gronwalt, day unit nurse, who had her own head shaved to raise awareness and funds to set up the service at Mount Edgcombe Hospice.

Cornwall Hospice Care provides Specialist Palliative Care for people living with life threatening illnesses and gives support to their loved ones. The charity takes a truly holistic approach to the care of their patients with the emotional and spiritual health seen as important as the physical.

Annually the charity cares for 500 in-patients and has more than 2000 admissions for day treatments and therapies at its two hospice units and also provides specialist support in the county’s hospitals and clinics.

This care is provided free of charge, but costs over £5 million annually – equivalent to £11 a minute. Only 13% of this is funded by the government, which means that the organisation relies heavily on the generous support of the general public, through donations, fundraising events and challenges such as this.

Patients who wish to access the Look Good, Feel Good service can contact St. Julia's Hospice on 01736 759070.

Ends

A photocall to officially launch the service at St Julia's Hospice (With staff nurses and volunteers, in pink tabards, demonstrating techniques on mannequins) will be held on June 9 2008 at 10am.

If you would like to interview Mrs Osborne or to arrange a photograph, please contact Sarah Snell, PR Manager, on 01726 874516