



**Press Release – Friday 26<sup>th</sup> February**

**The Big Midnight Walk 2010 Launch – Get set to Sparkle!**

Places on this year's Big Midnight Walk are up for grabs and already going fast.

The fundraising event for Rowcroft Hospice and Macmillan Cancer Support and sponsored by Kitson Hutchings Solicitors is now accepting registrations having been declared officially open at a special launch reception at Pier Point Restaurant, Torquay on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> February.

This year's all women's event will take place on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> June and will see 2000 ladies take to the streets for a 13 mile starlit walk. The route starts at the Torbay Leisure Centre and takes in the beautiful scenery along the coast to Babbacombe and loops back for the return leg. Hannah Simmons, Rowcroft's Events Manager said:

'2010 will be our third year and we are going sparkly! We want the wonderful ladies of South Devon customise t-shirts, don tiaras, wear wings and glam up with glitter!'

The Big Midnight Walk has already been given a huge boost by Kitson Hutchings Solicitors who have generously sponsored the event for the third year. Richard Hutchings, Senior Partner from Kitson Hutchings who helped launch the event at the Pier Point Restaurant said:

'Another hugely successful launch event for very worthwhile charities – now we need as many people as possible to start registering to take part and raise even more money in 2010! This is our third year as main sponsors of this event and everyone at Kitson Hutchings is really looking forward to the Big Midnight Walk and to renewing friendships made during last year's walk.'

The Big Midnight Walk team are hoping that the South Devon community will follow suit and prove to be as generous and supportive as they have been the past two years. Judith Jolly, Area Fundraising Manager for Macmillan Cancer Support said:

'We are quite simply astounded by the support we have received over the past two years from the business community, volunteers and of course our fantastic walkers. The walk exceeded all of our expectations, raising £400,000 for Macmillan Cancer Support and Rowcroft Hospice since its inception. We hope that this year will be just as successful.'

The entry fee is £10 per walker. Each walker will receive a special sparkly Big Midnight Walk t-shirt, a goodie bag on the night as well as a well-deserved cup of tea and bacon bap at the finish line. Participants will be asked to raise as much sponsorship as possible; this sponsorship will be split between the two charities and directly supports their vital work.

To register, either download a form at [www.bigmidnightwalk.co.uk](http://www.bigmidnightwalk.co.uk) or telephone the Big Midnight Walk hotline on (01803) 217641 or email [info@bigmidnightwalk.co.uk](mailto:info@bigmidnightwalk.co.uk)



### **About Macmillan**

Macmillan Cancer Support improves the lives of people affected by cancer. Macmillan provides practical, medical, emotional and financial support and pushes for better cancer care. 2 million of us are living with cancer; Macmillan aims to help everyone who is affected by the disease. The charity's services are well represented in South Devon; however, Macmillan is entirely dependent on voluntary support.

### **About Rowcroft Hospice**

Rowcroft Hospice is a charity, providing specialist care to people with life limiting illnesses living in Torbay and South Devon. The hospice was founded in 1982 and since then, with the support of local people, it has expanded to provide an even greater range of services. Care is provided, to over 1000 people every year, through our ward, hospice at home, community team, lymphoedema clinic and outpatient therapy services. This care includes physical, emotional and spiritual support to patients and their families. It costs £5.6 million to run Rowcroft for a year. The NHS funds 23% of our costs, but the rest – over £4.3 million, is raised from voluntary contributions. We must raise over £11,800 every day in order to provide the range of services on offer.

For more information, please contact:

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