

## **Marathon Challenge for Hospice Doctor**

A South Devon doctor is putting her best foot forward and running the London Marathon for charity.

Dr Jo Sykes, Clinical Director at Rowcroft Hospice has been hard in training for the 26-mile race and hopes to raise vital funds for the hospice. She said:

'I have always wanted to run in the London Marathon and I'm not getting any younger! London will be a fantastic atmosphere and whilst I know it will be a tough challenge, I think it will be incredibly rewarding to cross that finish line. I also wanted to use the experience as an opportunity to raise funds for Rowcroft. As Clinical Director at the hospice, I feel very passionate about the service we provide and want to raise as much money as possible.'

The race which takes place on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> April in London will be Dr Sykes' first ever marathon. As a member of Torbay Athletic Club Dr Sykes has taken part in a number of half marathons and 10k's but never a full marathon. The money raised from this challenge will be used to help the hospice provide care to over 1000 people through the ward, hospice at home, community team, lymphoedema clinic and outpatient therapy services.

Rachel Bell, Community Fundraising Officer for Rowcroft is delighted Dr Sykes has chosen to run the London Marathon to raise funds for the hospice and says:

"We know that a huge amount of dedication and training is required in the months leading up to the event and on the day, not forgetting the additional task of raising funds at the same time. This is a huge challenge for Jo and the whole team at the hospice is behind her. Every penny raised will go directly to patient care, allowing us to provide care when people need it most."

Dr Jo Sykes can be sponsored online at <http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/JoSykes>



**Dr Sykes in training**  
**Left to right, Dr Jo Sykes, Rowcroft Nurses Nikki Sullivan and Liz Harris**