



PRESS RELEASE: embargoed until 10.10.11

**Spinal Centre's Jubilee Garden renamed 'Horatio's Garden'
in memory of Horatio Chapple**

The Southern Spinal Injuries Trust (SSIT) announced today that the Jubilee Garden, the planned rehabilitation garden for patients at the Duke of Cornwall Spinal Treatment Centre in Salisbury, is to be renamed Horatio's Garden, in memory of Horatio Chapple.

The eldest son of David Chapple, Consultant Spinal Surgeon and SSIT Trustee, Horatio was killed by a polar bear while on a British Schools Exploring Society trip to Norway in August.

Horatio planned to study medicine and had volunteered at the Spinal Treatment Centre. He was profoundly moved by the experience commenting that spinal cord injury was "one of the most traumatic injuries one can sustain". During his time at the Spinal Centre, Horatio conducted a survey of the patients to find out what they wanted from the garden. He understood what a difference it would make to their lives. When Horatio died, his parents set up a memorial fund to benefit the Garden appeal.

David Chapple commented: "The garden has provided us with a positive focus at this time of great tragedy and the support for the appeal has given us comfort. It is wonderful to know that Horatio's name will be forever associated with the garden at the Spinal Centre. Horatio was excited about the project and wanted to help people. Horatio's Garden will undoubtedly help improve the quality of life for the patients in the Spinal Centre."

Over £80,000 has already been donated in memory of Horatio and fundraising continues with events planned until next spring. The target for the first phase of the appeal is £150,000.

Situated adjacent to the Spinal Centre, the garden will give patients and their families and friends the opportunity to spend time in a place of tranquillity and beauty during their long stay in Salisbury. Patients, who come from all over the South and South West of England, are in the Spinal Centre for an average of nine months.

The design, led by Tracy Wilson MBE, will give patients a garden to enjoy and will hopefully encourage them to develop an interest in gardening which they can continue when they leave the Spinal Centre. While access for wheelchairs and even hospital beds will be possible, the garden will be full of year round colour, scent and sounds: roses and Viburnums, water features, perennials, trees and shrubs. Tracy Wilson commented: "First and foremost the garden will provide a change of scene from the hospital environment for patients and their families and visually it will be beautiful for all users, but the inclusion of a variety of raised and ground level beds will allow patients to use gardening as part of their rehabilitation."

With continued support Horatio's Garden will be ready for use next summer. Phase two of the project includes the addition of a greenhouse and potting sheds so that patients can learn to propagate and grow new plants. In so doing they will be given the opportunity to develop new skills which may be of use when they leave hospital.

To donate to Horatio's Garden appeal, please visit www.ssit.org.uk

Image attached: Horatio's Garden appeal logo

Ends

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Editor's Notes:

The Southern Spinal Injuries Trust is a regional charity set up to support the Duke of Cornwall Spinal Treatment Centre at Salisbury District Hospital and people with spinal cord injury living in the South and South West of England.