



PRESS RELEASE: 25.07.11

Gems revealed at valuation day for local spinal injury charity

A rare timepiece made by the father of British horology was among the many items brought for valuation at a charity valuation day and garden party in Petersfield last week. Held in aid of the Southern Spinal Injuries Trust (SSIT), the event raised over £4,000 for the charity which supports the region's specialist spinal centre – the Duke of Cornwall Spinal Treatment Centre in Salisbury – and spinal cord injured in the South and South West of England.

Organised by local resident Emma Crofton and a team of helpers, the event attracted more than 200 people. Expert valuations were provided by Ewbank Auctioneers and the online emporium 'Off the List' while a competition to guess the hammer price of past auction lots drew plenty of interest. Of the items brought for viewing, a 19th century silver gilt vase was valued at £40,000, while an Iznik pottery dish bought for £15 was valued in the region of £600. The 17th century pocket watch, made by the royal watchmaker Thomas Tompion, was given an estimate of £50,000-£80,000.

Emma, whose son George was a patient at the Duke of Cornwall Spinal Treatment Centre ten years ago, became a Trustee of the charity in 2010. George broke his neck diving into a marina in Spain and has a high level spinal cord injury so she has plenty of first hand knowledge of the needs of patients. Talking about her role with the charity she commented:

"SSIT was not around when George was a patient at the Spinal Centre, but he has benefited from the improved inpatient facilities funded by the charity. It's wonderful to be able to give something back to the Spinal Centre and also to help individuals who suffer this most devastating of injuries. We are keen to extend awareness of the charity throughout the region and our valuation day, kindly hosted by Mr & Mrs James Bodenham, provided the perfect opportunity for this and for some all important fundraising too."

SSIT's current appeal is to fund the building of an accessible garden – the Jubilee Garden – at the Duke of Cornwall Spinal Treatment Centre providing patients with an important outside social area as well as offering them the chance to use gardening as part of their rehabilitation. Further information on this project is available via the website:

www.ssit.org.uk

Ends

Picture credit: Emma Crofton and her team of helpers at the Valuation Day and Garden Party in aid of the Southern Spinal Injuries Trust.

For further press information please contact

Sue Hall

e: sue.hall@ssit.org.uk; t: 01985 841194