

£12,000 gift for hospice

Published on **Friday 7 June 2002 18:12**

SWAFFHAM and Litcham Home Hospice Support Group has been given a major boost from a highly successful fundraising event at Cockley Cley Hall.

Sir Samuel and Lady Georgina Roberts gave permission for their home to be used for the Evening of Entertainment, which raised 12,100 towards the group's work with seriously-ill patients and their families in the area.

Last week, fundraising committee chairman Dave Routledge handed over a cheque for that amount to the hospice group's treasurer Mrs Ann Curtis beside the charity's Ash Close office in Swaffham.

Mr Routledge said the event at Cockley Cley Hall on April 27 was enjoyed immensely by the 250 people attending.

It included music from an Irish band and a harpist, a cheese and wine supper, poetry readings, a conjuror, a silent auction, roulette and tombola and ended in spectacular style with a firework display.

Mr Roger Southwell wielded the hammer at an auction of promises, where one of the lots was the use of a holiday villa in Spain for a week provided by Mr Preston Andrews, of Jark Holdings.

Co-ordinator Debbie Harfield said the hospice group had tried to get sponsorship for the event from a variety of national companies, without success.

"However, Mansell Construction Services, of Swaffham, provided a generous amount of sponsorship and helped in many other ways. We are very grateful to them and to all the local people and businesses who supported the event," she said.

Mrs Harfield said the group was always looking for new volunteer carers to provide practical and emotional support for local patients and their families.

It would also welcome new fundraising ideas. "If anyone is running the London Marathon in 2003 and would like a worthwhile charity to support, please get in touch," she said.

Further fundraising events planned for this year include an open day at Holme Hale Hall gardens on Sunday, July 7, and a trolley dash at Safeway in Swaffham, in November.