

TV journalist's support for hospice

Published on **Friday 5 March 2004 08:14**

A WELL-KNOWN TV journalist is raising the profile of a small Swaffham charity which has also received a cash boost of nearly £2,000 from a local group.

Michael Brunson, a former ITN political editor, has joined forces with the Swaffham and Litcham Home Hospice to record a heartfelt plea to companies to sponsor the group which provides support to the terminally ill.

The three-minute message has already been recorded onto 35 CDs, with another 20 currently being produced, and will be distributed to national and local firms. You can download Mr Brunson's message at the Lynn News website – www.lynnnews.co.uk – by following the instructions on the home page.

It also highlights a fundraising evening of entertainment planned for October.

Dave Routledge, chairman of the fundraising committee, said the charity was thrilled when Mr Brunson, who lives in Letheringsett, agreed to offer his help.

He said: "He is very generous, and has called into the office on his way back from London to see if there is anything else he can do.

"It is really pleasing to think that someone like him, who is still really busy even though he has effectively retired, is willing to help a local charity like ourselves."

Mr Brunson is well-known for his coverage of the last five General Elections, and interviewed former Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher in 1991 following her resignation when she revealed she wished to take her seat in the House of Lords.

He recently retired as ITN's political editor – a position he had held since 1986 – and is now a freelance writer and broadcaster.

The hospice, which is based in Market Place and provides home care, transport, and equipment to people who are terminally ill but want to live at home, is always in need of a steady supply of cash.

However it is also receiving support from local organisations too, and last week received a 1,839 cheque from Necton Ladies' Friendship Club.

Mr Routledge described the donation as "magnificent".

The friendship club is run by a small group of ladies who organise outings and guest speakers.

They chose the hospice as their nominated charity for last year and raised the money from events throughout the year, including an annual auction evening.