Thousands raised by crematorium

On 21st March, 2013, Kate Burchill, Tribute Fund Officer at Princess Alice Hospice (3rd left) met with Councillor, Mrs Denise Grant, Spelthorne Borough Council (left) Chairman of the South West Middlesex Crematorium Board, Teresa Kearney (front 2nd left), Superintendent / Registrar, Robert Savill, Deputy Manager, for the South West Middlesex Crematorium and was presented with a cheque for £4,334. Princess Alice Hospice received a £4,334 donation raised from crematorium metal recycling scheme this week. South West Middlesex Crematorium Board has donated more than £16,000 to the Hospice over the past three years, by recycling metals used in the construction of coffins. Recycling only takes place with the written consent of each bereaved family, their needs are paramount to the institute and the organisations involved.

Since the 1980s Princess Alice Hospice has received the support of the community in many different ways. Some individuals attend events, others raise sponsorship by completing sporting challenges, local and regional businesses and organizations also generously support the Hospice ensuring it can provide specialist palliative and end of life care free of charge to patients across Surrey, south west London and Middlesex.

Last year more than £4,000 was donated, and in 2011, the first year the crematorium board supported the Hospice, £8,333 was donated. This initial sum was donated in memory of Mr Brian Keep the former Crematorium Manager - a patient of Princess Alice Hospice. Brian’s wife Marion (front right) was in attendance at this year’s handover, as she is now a member of staff within the Hospice’s fundraising team. Teresa Kearney said ‘We are delighted to continue our support of Princess Alice Hospice. This vital local cause supported our friend Brian - it is wonderful that we can return each year with more donations in his memory. We are proud to say we are supporting other patients and helping to ensure they get the support that Brian and his family received.’ The donations have been given to the Hospice as part of a scheme across the UK with crematoriums in association with the ICCM, making donations to UK healthcare charities. The money donated this year could fund 44 visits from a community Princess Alice Nurse to a patient in their home. The nurses work in conjunction with GPs, district nurses and healthcare providers to ensure consistency of care.