A TASTE OF NORFOLK AT HOUGHTON HALL PROVES A BIG SUCCESS

A gala dinner held on Wednesday 23rd June at the Norfolk Estate, Houghton Hall (left) in aid of East Anglia’s Children’s Hospices (EACH) has proved a huge success. The event, entitled ‘A Taste of Norfolk’, was hosted by The Marquess and Marchioness of Cholmondeley. The 80 guests, some of whom have travelled from around the world, were invited to the black tie evening while being encouraged to make a donation to the charity’s vital nook appeal. EACH was also extremely proud to welcome their Patron HRH The Duchess of Cambridge, who attended along with HRH The Duke of Cambridge.

EACH provides vital services caring for children and young people with life-threatening conditions across East Anglia and supporting their families. The nook appeal is the charity’s campaign to raise £10 million to transform children’s palliative care across Norfolk, including building a new hospice called the nook.

Graham Butland, Chief Executive said: “We are so thrilled with the success of ‘A Taste of Norfolk’. This truly unprecedented event for EACH was only made possible following many months of hard work and dedication from our voluntary committee, led by our Patron Emma Deterding and Philippa Pease of Purple Chilli Events. We want to say a huge thank you to Emma and all the committee members, who have worked so tirelessly, and to the many companies and individuals, who have so generously showed their support.”

The evening began with an elegant champagne reception where guests were treated to musical entertainment from Sam Aldersey-Williams and The Jefford Brothers, as well as some magic tricks courtesy of magician Archie Mannan. Guests then moved through to the Stone Hall of the elegant country house to enjoy a very special five course meal with courses created and cooked by five world renowned Michelin Star chefs: Galton Blackiston, Sat Bains, Claude Bosi, Tom Kerridge and Mark Edwards.

A highlight of the evening was a performance by the EACH Treehouse Choir, who took to the Gallery in the Stone Hall after dinner. The Choir, of which members include EACH families, staff and volunteers, performed three songs: Something Inside So Strong by Labi Siffre, Somewhere Only We Know by Keane, Don’t Worry About Me by Frances. An emotionally charged speech was given by choir member Charlotte Markham, where she told guests about her son Elliot who died at just a few hours old. Charlotte and her family received care and support from EACH during this difficult time. She stunned the room with her brave account of how they received from the charity and how EACH helped her whole family, including Elliot’s older brother Louis, through Elliot’s death and their bereavement.

The dinner was brought to a close with speeches from critically acclaimed author and EACH Ambassador Anthony Horowitz OBE and The Marquess of Cholmondeley. Anthony has been an Ambassador of EACH since 2008 and is passionate about the work of the charity. He spoke to guests about his recent visit to the existing hospice in Quidenham to find out more about the plans for the nook and why a new building in Norfolk is so important for care delivery. He urged everyone in the room and the wider public to back this vital appeal, so EACH can deliver even better services to even more families.

EACH Patron and event organiser Emma Deterding said: “We are so thrilled with the success of A Taste of Norfolk and would like to say a huge thank you to everyone involved in the evening. I would like to thank Their Royal Highnesses The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge for agreeing to join us for this amazing evening. Special thanks are also due to The Marquess and Marchioness of Cholmondeley for so generously offering us Houghton Hall as a venue. There have been so many companies and individuals who have generously and graciously shown their support. We are so grateful, it truly was a wonderful evening. We will be announcing a total raised in due course, but thanks to the huge generosity of our hosts, supporters and guests, this special event enables the nook to be one step closer to being a reality for so many families.”

EACH has outgrown its current hospice in Quidenham, due to demand and the changing and more complex needs of the children and young people they care for. The nook will be built on a five-acre woodland site in Framingham Earl just south of Norwich and will offer services which are either currently unavailable or extremely limited at Quidenham hospice such as a hydrotherapy pool, music studio, large rooms for on-site family support groups, larger and more accessible outside space for children to explore and play and private rooms for one-to-one counselling.

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