



LOCAL SWIMMERS AT KINGSWOOD LEISURE CENTRE RAISE £1'846.25 FOR MARIE CURIE CANCER CARE

Kingswood locals who took part in Swimathon 2009, the world's largest fundraising swim at Kingswood Leisure Centre have raised £1'846.25 for Marie Curie Cancer Care and The Swimathon Foundation. Kingswood Leisure Centre was one of over 500 pools which took part nationwide greatly contributing to Swimathon's 2009 fundraising total of almost £1.5million. The much needed funds will help ensure terminally ill patients receive the best possible end-of-life care free of charge.

Sonja Hamer, Centre Manager from Kingswood Leisure Centre said: "We are delighted that so many people in Kingswood took part and we are thrilled with how much money was raised. Swimathon was a really fun event to organise and it brought out a fantastic community spirit at the pool. Now we're just looking forward to being part of Swimathon next year and an even bigger turnout!"

Marie Curie Cancer Care is one of the UK's largest charities. Employing more than 2,700 nurses, doctors and other healthcare professionals, it expects to provide care to around 27,000 terminally ill patients in the community and in its hospices this year and is the largest provider of hospice beds outside the NHS.

For further press information or images contact Swimathon on 0845 36 700 36 or info@swimathon.org

Notes to Editors

Swimathon

1. Swimathon ran between the 16-19 April 2009 and registration opened on 12 January 2009. Entry fee was £9 for individuals and £18 for a team with concessionary half price available for unemployed, under 16's, registered disabled and senior citizens.

2. Swimathon is now in its 23rd year and is the world's biggest swimming fundraising event. Almost half a million people have taken part and raised over £30 million for charity.
3. 70% of funds raised by participants in the 2009 national Swimathon will be used by Marie Curie Cancer Care – see (www.mariecurie.org.uk). The remaining 30% will be used by The Swimathon Foundation – see (www.swimathonfoundation.org)
4. Marie Curie Cancer Care is one of the UK's largest charities. Employing more than 2,700 nurses, doctors and other healthcare professionals, it expects to provide care to around 27,000 terminally ill patients in the community and in its hospices this year and is the largest provider of hospice beds outside the NHS. It costs £20 to provide a Marie Curie Nurse in a patient's home for one hour.
 - Your donation will allow Marie Curie Nurses to provide more free care to patients with terminal cancer and other illnesses in their own homes. It will also help your local Marie Curie Hospice to provide expert care and a better quality of life for their patients.
 - Marie Curie's Delivering Choice Programme aims to double the number of people with a terminal illness who have the choice to die at home.
 - To get help from the Marie Curie Nursing Service, talk to your GP, district nurse or discharge nurse.
 - For more information on the Marie Curie Nursing Service visit www.mariecurie.org.uk
 - Marie Curie Cancer Care is a pioneer in end of life care research.
5. The Swimathon Foundation, a company limited by guarantee, is the independent registered charity which owns the annual national Swimathon event.
 - The Swimathon Foundation through its trading subsidiary arranges the staging and promotion of the Swimathon event in a nationwide network of participating swimming pools, to encourage members of the public, whatever their age or ability, to understand and realise the benefits of regular swimming as a means to improve health and wellbeing and to achieve personal fitness goals.
 - The Swimathon Foundation selects a National Charity Partner to promote itself and its charitable activities in association with the Swimathon and to receive Funds from members of the public, including those participating in the Swimathon, in support of its activities. For the 2009 Swimathon the selected Charity is Marie Curie Cancer Care.
 - In addition, The Swimathon Foundation aims to support local communities in their efforts to promote the benefits of physical activity, particularly through swimming.
 - For further information visit The Swimathon Foundations website at: www.swimathonfoundation.org