



## **PRESS RELEASE**

**12<sup>th</sup> July 2007**

**Strictly embargoed until 1100 hours on the 16<sup>th</sup> July 2007**

### **Lady Mayoress of Canterbury to announce her Charities for this year**

The Lady Mayoress of Canterbury, Mrs Leslie Windsor, will announce on Monday, 16<sup>th</sup> July 2007 at 11.00 a.m. at Canterbury Cathedral the names of the charities that she will be supporting during her year in office. They are the Save Canterbury Cathedral Appeal and the Paula Carr Diabetes Trust. There will be an opportunity to film the Lady Mayoress on the roof of the Corona of the Cathedral with the Dean of Canterbury and Mrs Elsie Ridgeway from the Paula Carr Trust.

Speaking at the special launch at Canterbury Cathedral of her year of fundraising, Mrs Windsor will say

*“I have chosen two charities that play a very important role in Kent and will be working hard to raise funds for them throughout the year. Canterbury Cathedral is one of our country’s most important heritage and religious sites and has been a centre of pilgrimage and hospitality for hundreds of years. It is crucial that we do our bit to preserve it so that generations to come can enjoy it too. The Paula Carr Trust provides a much needed service across Kent to detect and prevent diabetic eye disease, which is the most common cause of blindness in the UK’s working population. I hope the people of Canterbury, Whitstable and Herne Bay will support these wonderful charities with me over the coming year. “*

The Lady Mayoress will be organising a number of charity fundraising events throughout the year, including The Old Stagers at the Gulbenkian Theatre on 7<sup>th</sup> August, a soirée at Whitstable Castle in October, and a Christmas coffee morning at the Old Palace in The Precincts in December. The money raised will be spent on specific projects that have been agreed with the charities; the Cathedral funds will go towards the restoration of the pinnacles on the Corona at the east end of the Cathedral. The Corona is named after the severed crown of Thomas Becket, as in medieval times this part of the Cathedral housed a piece of St Thomas Becket’s skull which had been hacked off by one of the knights during his murder.

Money donated to the Paula Carr Trust will go towards providing a fully equipped mobile unit to test for potential blindness.

The Dean of Canterbury Cathedral, the Very Reverend Robert Willis, said earlier,

*“We are greatly honoured to have been nominated by the Lady Mayoress of Canterbury as one of her charities for the year. Not only will the money enable us to restore one of the Cathedral’s most sacred spots, but it will help to train a new generation of stonemasons whose skills will ensure that Canterbury Cathedral and many other World Heritage sites across the world are preserved for future generations”*

Alison Kennedy, Fundraiser for the Paula Carr Trust said

*“In view of the seriousness of this often hidden disease, it is vital to raise public awareness of it. A major aspect of the Trust's work is the prevention of blindness which, if detected early enough, can be avoided. The Trust operates a mobile eye-screening service and through the fundraising of the Lady Mayoress’ activities we aim to fund another fully-equipped mobile unit.”*

ENDS

Please contact Christopher Robinson (07759 215537) of Canterbury Cathedral by 4.00 pm on Friday, 13<sup>th</sup> July if you wish to attend the Press call.

For more information please contact:

Lady Mayoress’ Office: William Pettit 01227 862061

Canterbury Cathedral: Chris Robinson 01227 865282 or Celia Glynn-Williams 01227 865307

Paula Carr Diabetes Trust: Alison Kennedy 01233 651844/01233 616047

## **Notes to editors**

### **The Lady Mayoress**

Leslie Windsor was born in Beckenham, Kent and moved from Surrey to Whitstable with her husband in 1964. They have two daughters and one grandson.

For ten years she worked in the executor and trustee department of a major bank. She later studied as a mature student at Christ Church College (now Canterbury Christ Church University) and then taught in a Canterbury primary school until her retirement.

Living in Whitstable and Canterbury has given her a great appreciation of history and the environment. She enjoys flower arranging, fine weather gardening, encouraging the birds in her garden and walking with her Irish setter.

Politics aside, she finds being involved in local government - albeit one remove - most interesting and she tries to offer some help to those who present her with their problems.

Donations to the Lady Mayoress' Charity can be made by visiting [www.justgiving.com/ladymayoressofcanterbury](http://www.justgiving.com/ladymayoressofcanterbury)

### **Save Canterbury Cathedral Appeal**

The Save Canterbury Cathedral Appeal was launched last October to raise £50 million for urgent conservation and development projects. It costs over £12,000 a day to keep the Cathedral open and with minimal external funding such projects cannot be funded from the Cathedral's income. To May 2007, £6.5 million had been raised for the Appeal. The focus of the Appeal in this first year is in Kent. More information on the Appeal can be found at [www.savecanterburycathedral.com](http://www.savecanterburycathedral.com)

### **Paula Carr Diabetes Trust**

Diabetic eye disease is the most common cause of blindness in the UK's working population, and the Paula Carr Trust is constantly working to prevent this disease. If the warning signs are picked up early enough, diminished sight and blindness can be avoided.

Kent's main diabetes charity, the Paula Carr Trust runs the Paula Carr Diabetes Care Centres at Ashford and Maidstone.

Working in partnership with the Kent and Medway NHS, the Trust also runs the Kent Eye-screening Service. Mobile eye screening units currently visit more than 200 doctors surgeries in Kent, and the Trust looking to expand this service.