

News Release:

12 February 2009

***CHARITY DINNER TO CELEBRATE LIFE OF LOCAL LEGEND
Event Set To Raise Cash For Motor Neurone Disease Charity***

Organisers of a grand charity dinner staged in the memory of a former Lord Mayor of Stoke on Trent are hoping to raise substantial funds to provide support for people with Motor Neurone Disease and those who care for them.

The event, which will take place at the Kings Hall in Stoke on Trent Civic Centre, on 28th March 2009, is being staged by members of Foresters Friendly Society as part of a year-long programme of activity to support the Motor Neurone Disease Association.

The event is also being staged in the memory of Doug Brown, the only man to serve as Lord Mayor of Stoke on Trent on two separate occasions (1983-84 and 1997-98). Mr Brown, who was also the creator of the *Lads & Dads* football initiative in the North Staffordshire area, died from Motor Neurone Disease in 2002.

Attendees at the event will hear a personal tribute to Doug Brown made by local writer, comedian and entertainer, Nick Hancock. Entertainment will also be provided by international Tom Jones tribute singer Ian Nicholls.

The Motor Neurone Disease Association has been nominated by Mr Pat Swadling, who currently holds the presidential role within Foresters Friendly Society, a role known as High Chief Ranger, as his chosen charity during 2009.

Brendan O'Callaghan, for the Foresters Friendly Society, said: "Branches of Foresters Friendly Society support a wide range of charitable causes in the UK, as well as looking after the interests and well-being of our members. It is estimated that Foresters donates over £450,000 to worthy causes each year".

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Brendan O'Callaghan continued: "This charity dinner not only offers the prospect of a fantastic evening's entertainment but also an opportunity to reflect upon and celebrate the contribution made to civic and social life in North Staffordshire by Doug Brown, who was much loved in this area and is sorely missed."

People who are interested in attending the event or joining Foresters Friendly Society can telephone Brendan O'Callaghan on 01782 837870 for more information.

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About Foresters Friendly Society

Foresters Friendly Society was founded in 1834 and offers a range of financial saving, investment, insurance and protection products, as well as educational grants and healthcare support for its members. All financial products come with the accompanying benefits of membership of the Society at no additional cost. There is no obligation to purchase a financial product in order to become a member. The Society currently includes over 70,000 members across 250 UK branches.

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