

## Press Call

**June 12<sup>th</sup> – 12 midday – The Queen Elizabeth Maternity Hospital – Kings Lynn.**

Priory Rotary Club support the Queen Elizabeth Maternity Unit and respond to Dame Judi Dench plea for that local support.

Priory Rotary Club is known for its tremendous support for the local community and this year is no exception. Following the Club's 9<sup>th</sup> annual charity auction, plans originally to purchase an incubator for the special care baby unit, became the purchase of specialised equipment as emergency funds were found for the obsolete incubator by the hospital.

The Rotarians linked with Dame Judi Dench's appeal – in her role as Vice President to Baby Lifeline, the mother and baby charity, she has launched and is fronting a national maternity equipment appeal.

Maternity and special care baby units nationwide have requested various amounts of equipment to help care for pregnant women and their unborn and newborn babies, totalling circa £1.6 million. Kings Lynn was amongst those who made requests for support.

Despite the difficult economic climate, Priory Rotary Club were able to purchase, equipment including blood pressure monitoring items, TENS machines and epidural equipment used for pain relief for mothers to be, three specialist volumetric pumps for special care babies to administer certain vital drugs and fluids, a hand held Doppler to monitor and record the unborn baby's heart rate, and baby weighing scales.

The equipment will be presented to the midwives and neonatal staff at the hospital on the above shown date.

Stephen Leech President Priory Rotary Club said that "Although disappointed that the £7,600 raised was insufficient to buy a new incubator, we are delighted that, with the help of Baby Lifeline, the babies in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital are now benefiting from some valuable monitoring equipment. We are also very grateful to all those who attended our 9th annual charity auction and to those who provided the "lots" in this difficult climate".

Baby Lifeline's Founder Judy Ledger said 'Organisations such as Priory Rotary Club provide tremendous support for their local community. I know how hard the Rotarians have worked to raise the much needed funds in the current economic climate, and what has been purchased will help to care for so many of the local mums to be and their babies in the area for the future. As a mother of three, and having founded Baby Lifeline after the loss of three babies who were all born prematurely and died shortly after birth, I cannot express enough how dedicated maternity health professionals are, and how much donations like this will help their work to care for our mothers and babies.'

For further information please contact:

Judy Ledger 02476 422135 [clive@babylifeline.org.uk](mailto:clive@babylifeline.org.uk) [www.babylifeline.org.uk](http://www.babylifeline.org.uk)