



Media Release

Lynne Mee

Direct line 01423 556022

Communications and Media Manager Direct fax 01423 561154 not 24 hrs

**24 hour fax “ 556010
Mobile 07884 226409**

Email lynne.mee@harrogate.gov.uk

www.harrogate.gov.uk

pr1092. Christmas spirit at Fairfax.doc

DATE: 15 December 2004

CHRISTMAS SPIRIT IS ALIVE AT FAIRFAX

COMMUNITY spirited staff from the council's Community Services Team based in the Department of Leisure and Amenity Services are once again putting aside their own family festivities to provide a special Christmas get together for elderly people who would otherwise spend Christmas day on their own.

This year the team have invited not just elderly people who live on the Knaresborough Road Estate but have also opened their special day to residents who live in the Jennyfields area of Harrogate and from Knaresborough Town.

Sara Atkins, Community Services Manager, along with husband Garry who runs the council's Fairfax Community Centre, will be one of a team of four who will be working on Christmas Day. Sara said: "This is the fourth time we have put on this special lunch. This year, we have 16 guests and they can be assured that they don't have to worry about Gary's cooking! He can cook when he gets home.

"Andrew Jones, a chef of high regard as well as being the council's former manager of the Sun Pavilion, has volunteered to cook them a fantastic Christmas day menu. We are really grateful to Andrew who has been busy through the festive period with his own company, Advent Catering. We are also grateful to our other sponsors VP plc and the Co-operative Funeral Service for their financial donations and to Waitrose who have given us crackers and decorations and finally to Marks and Spencer for their generous donation of wine. We do not want people being on their own on Christmas day and we know from previous events that our special lunch made all the difference." ENDS

FURTHER INFORMATION : Sara Atkins, Community Services Manager, Department of Leisure and Amenity Services on 01423 556723.