



# 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](mailto:lynne.mee@harrogate.gov.uk)**

**[www.harrogate.gov.uk](http://www.harrogate.gov.uk)**

**pr1038**.Play area dedicated to Rose Jeffries.doc    DATE: 1 September 2004

photo opportunity – see below

## **NEW PLAYGROUND IN VALLEY GARDENS IS FITTING MEMORIAL**

A wonderful new play area is to be officially opened in the Valley Gardens on Saturday, 4 September in memory of seven-year old Rose Sophia Jeffries who died very suddenly last November from a rare stomach condition.

Rose's friends and family, along with pupils, parents and teachers from her school - St Peter's in Harrogate - set up a fund to create this wonderful and lasting memorial to this 'very special little girl'.

This very sudden and terrible illness is so rare that there is no specific charity which Rose's parents could have supported. But, like all children, Rose loved playgrounds and particularly liked to visit the Valley Gardens.

So when friends and family and her school decided they wanted to do something in Rose's memory, they chose to provide a fun place and to create something special for other children to enjoy in the playground where Rose loved to play.

The funds have been used to provide up to the minute and exciting play equipment in the Valley Gardens playground, which will be dedicated to Rose. And a special 'rose' feature has been incorporated into the safety surface of the playground.

Rose lived in Harrogate with her parents, Bronwen and Steven, and her little sister, Libby, and they think the play area is a youngster's dream. Mr and Mrs Jeffries have worked with Alan Sharp, the council's Horticultural Officer to decide on which equipment to provide for the playground.

Alan Sharp, said: "The playground has been open during the school holidays and it is a joy to watch the children enjoy all the new play things. Rose's fund has provided a multi-play unit, which consists of platforms, poles, ladders, climbers, slides, hoop trapeze, a climbing wall, an arch bridge and a Crow's Nest for a birds' eye view of the Valley Gardens. We have even managed to include a few new benches for mums and dads to sit and relax. This is a wonderful and very fitting way to remember a much-loved little girl and will give pleasure to many children for years to come."

**PHOTO OPPORTUNITY** : The new playground in Rose's memory will be officially opened by the Mayor of the Borough of Harrogate (Councillor Mrs Margaret-Ann de Courcey-Bayley) at 2pm on Saturday, 4 September 2004 – entrance via Harlow Moor Road, Harrogate – when a plaque will be unveiled, which will include a photograph of Rose.

**MEDIA CONTACT** : **Lynne Mee, Communications and Media Manager, Harrogate Borough Council on 01423 556022.**