

# NEWS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE USE**

Date Friday October 16<sup>th</sup> 2009



## The Beatles help to raise funds for Dougie Mac !!

Tony Billington from Longton has donated the Beatles signatures to generate valuable funds for the Hospice.

This piece of Memorabilia will be going live on ebay at 7.00pm on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> October 2009 and will run for 10 days.

Tony worked at the North Staffs Hotel in the 1980's and was a colleague of the Housekeeper ,Janet Tavender. Janet trained for her position at a hotel in Leeds in 1963 , where the Beatles stayed whilst performing in the City. She managed to obtain the autographs of the Fab 4 and when she came to Stoke ,she gave the autographs to Tony which he has kept to the present day.

Tony said ; “ My wife Shelia passed away in April this year . She was looked after at home by some wonderful members of staff from the Hospice. By donating these signatures , I do hope that we will be able to raise a considerable amount of money for a fantastic local charity .”

Beatles expert Jason Cornthwaite from Tracks Ltd , the Worlds Leading Dealer in Beatles Autographs & Memorabilia has confirmed the authenticity of the signatures. He said ; “ These are a nice set of signatures and a very good investment piece. We know that the Beatles were in Leeds on June 5<sup>th</sup> 1963 which was when these signatures were given to Janet.

They are slightly different as well , because Paul McCartney has also written “The Beatles” on top of his signature , which only occurred in 1962 & 1963 when the group were not that famous.”

Anybody who wishes to make a bid for this piece of Memorabilia should visit the Douglas Macmillan Website and click on ebay <http://stores.shop.ebay.co.uk/Douglas-Macmillan-Hospice>.

**Tony Billington can be contacted on 01782 317142.**

**Jason Cornthwaite can be contacted on 01257 269726**

#### **NOTES TO EDITORS**

1. Douglas Macmillan Hospice provides specialist palliative care for adults across North Staffordshire who face cancer and other life-limiting illnesses
2. Care is provided at the Hospice and in people’s homes across the community.
3. The Hospice is independent (it receives no funding from any national charity) and has no association with any organisation bearing the same or a similar name.
4. It costs over £7 million each year to run and develop the full range of services form the Hospice. More than two thirds of money comes from local voluntary donations.

For quotes and comments on behalf of Douglas Macmillan Hospice, contact in the first instance should be made through Peter Keller on 01782 344303