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Hold a Feast for Your Air Ambulance

Essex Air Ambulance is calling on you to take part in the Great Essex Feast over the weekend of 17th and 18th March 2012. The idea is simple; the event will consist of a series of 'Feasts' designed to raise money for this much-loved Charity, while also being fun for both hosts and their guests.

We are asking the residents of Essex to get their friends together for a feast of their choice. Hosts can choose to entertain their friends over a Saturday morning breakfast, a dinner party in the evening, invite guests to lunch on Sunday or even have brunch or organise a coffee morning. Feasts can take any form, from black tie dinners to fish and chip suppers or even a quiz night! It is up to each host to decide. The key objective is to raise money by asking guests to make a donation.

The 2012 Great Essex Feast follows the success of the 2011 Great Essex Feast when over 70 hosts from across the County entertained over 1000 guests who made generous donations and helped to raise more than £16,000 for the Charity. This year we hope there will be even more hosts and more donations.

Claire Layton of Chelmsford, one of the hosts from the 2011 Feast invited 20 of her friends and their families to a tea party. She said: *"Having young children ourselves and the majority of our friends also in the same position we wanted to do something to include everyone. My friend, Tamsin who normally makes our birthday cakes, very kindly offered to make cup cakes whilst another friend Debbie, made a big chocolate cake. Tea cups were purchased from charity shops and invites were produced via vistaprint. We had a lovely turn out and the children enjoyed playing in the garden on what was a lovely sunny day in March. We were donated raffle prizes and the children had fun drawing the raffle tickets. In total we raised £170! It was a lovely excuse to see everyone and would be delighted to host another next year."*

Simone Robinson of Sible Hedingham hosted a Pancake and Fizz party for her neighbours and opened her house up to anyone wishing to drop by for a pancake and glass of bubbly. She said: *"We had a hilarious time as I created the weirdest shaped pancakes ever seen and also kept setting the fire alarm off! Everyone believed in the two fantastic causes we were raising funds for. The Air Ambulance, because you just never know when you might need it and Help for Heroes because they provide such great support to our fallen heroes. During the afternoon my husband decided to run a raffle and ended up raffling off cans of beans and other random things he could find in the kitchen cupboards. It was an easy event to arrange, much fizz was consumed and many laughs enjoyed!"*

Would you like to host a Feast? The idea is for you to get your friends together and entertain them as you would a normal party. The only difference is that you ask your guests to make a donation to Essex Air Ambulance. There is no fixed amount; the more they donate the more this vital Helicopter Emergency Medical Service can help to save lives.

If you would like to be a Great Essex Feast host simply visit EssexAirAmbulance.uk.com or call Wendy Marcon on 0845 2417 690.

All hosts who register will receive a Great Essex Feast registration pack, which includes invitations to send to guests, suggested recipes and cocktail ideas plus a free gift.

Too many friends to invite to your feast? Then encourage some of your friends to hold their own feast: the more the better!

Ends

For more information please contact Hannah Ashby, PR & Marketing Coordinator on 01787 226118.

Photograph: The Essex Air Ambulance Team get ready for the Great Essex Feast

Notes to Editor: The Essex Air Ambulance is a vital life-saving Helicopter Emergency Medical Service (HEMS). It costs in the region of £250,000 per month to cover all charitable costs and aircraft operations including the provision of Doctors. The service enables clinicians and life-saving support equipment to be rushed to the scene of an incident and the patient can be flown to an appropriate hospital. The Essex Air Ambulance receives no National Lottery funding and is reliant upon donations from the public and local businesses to raise the funds needed to keep the Air Ambulance flying.

EssexAirAmbulance.uk.com

Essex Air Ambulance
The Business Centre, Earls Colne Business Park,
Earls Colne, Colchester, Essex, C06 2NS

t 0845 2417 690 **f** 01787 224267
e media@ehaat.uk.com
w EssexAirAmbulance.uk.com

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