

**MEDIA RELEASE Issued 29 September 2010**

**For immediate publication**

**John Suchet to present Dementia UK Training Awards  
and the Margaret Butterworth Award for Excellence in Dementia Care  
on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> September in London**

John Suchet, Honorary President of Dementia UK, will today (Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> September 2010) present more than 70 learners from 13 London Boroughs and care organisations with their Certificates on completing the charity's training programme 'Working with People with Dementia and their Carers'. The Dementia UK Certificate Programme is available as an Open Course or is commissioned by London Boroughs and other care organisations.

**John Suchet, Patron and Honorary President of Dementia UK** says:

"I am proud that the charity I support – Dementia UK - is contributing so much to raising the standards of care provided to the carer as well as to the person with dementia. I know from personal experience how much support we as carers need in order to help us continue caring for our families.

I congratulate not only the individual learners themselves on their achievements tonight but also applaud their organisations for positively choosing to help their staff improve their understanding and practice in dementia care."

Paul Onifade, who speaks on behalf of learners at the Awards night, is one care assistant whose self-confidence has been boosted by the Certificate Programme. On his assessment day, to complete the programme, Paul told how he had been able to engage on an emotional level with his client with dementia through talking about growing and cooking with a particular herb.

**Fiona Fowler, Dementia UK Trainer** says: "Through participation in the Certificate Programme Paul has been able to become aware of and think through the emotional needs of people with dementia and how he could meet those needs – not solely their practical needs. This has enabled him to value himself and his caring role more, making a positive difference to his daily practice – and to the people with dementia he cares for and their families."

**The Margaret Butterworth Award for Excellence in Dementia Care** in 2010 is shared by three winners – Lorraine Safe and Lorna Dawkins of Camden and Magna Eyre of Home Care Plus, London NW8. Nominations for all three demonstrate that on a daily basis they go the extra mile: 'My mother has been much happier and less agitated and despite the inexorable advance of dementia, still has a good quality of life – thanks to Magna.' 'Lorna looks beyond the dementia – looks at who they are and their past experiences in order to provide good care', 'A shining example of someone who has made a real difference to the people with dementia and their families for whom she (Lorraine) cares.'

On presenting the Awards to the trio of Margaret Butterworth award winners John Suchet says:  
“Inspirational – that’s the only word for it. Here are three carers who go out of their way day in, day out to provide the best care they can, often in difficult and emotional circumstances. I salute them!”

**ENDS/**

**Notes for Editors:**

**Dementia UK** is the national charity that is committed to supporting families affected by dementia. It provides and supports Admiral Nurses, Admiral Nursing DIRECT, Uniting Carers – a national network of carers of people with dementia – and provides accredited and affordable training via Dementia UK Training. All initial enquiries to 020 7874-7200 [www.dementiauk.org](http://www.dementiauk.org)

Dementia UK Training is delivered at the charity’s office in Camden. Every year, hundreds of individuals take part in the charity’s training programmes. Full details of the programmes available can be found at <http://www.dementiauk.org/what-we-do/learning-partnerships-and-training/>

**Learners receiving certificates and awards for 2010** are employed by the London Boroughs of Camden, Lambeth and Redbridge, Age Concern Redbridge, Charlie Ratchford Resource Centre, Carlton Dene Westminster, CMHT Older People Goodmays Hospital, Dementia Resource Centre Chadwell Heath, Devere Care, Draycott Nursing, Eleanor Care, Excel Care, Runwood Homes and Sanctuary Care.

**Friends of the Elderly and the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution**, both Learning Partner Organisations with Dementia UK have commissioned Bespoke Training Courses with Dementia UK this year.

The **Margaret Butterworth Annual Award** celebrates **Excellence in Dementia Care**. Nominees must work with people with dementia in a health or social care setting or in a person’s home in the Greater London area. Nominations are accepted by managers, by the service user, family or colleague. The winner receives a cash prize and a certificate.

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**Photos available of the Award winners and learners with John Suchet.**