

The Givons Grove Summer Party Sunday 28th August 2005

Over 90 adults and some 15 children enjoyed spectacular weather at the Givons Grove Summer party on the August bank holiday Sunday. The sun shone all day with some welcome shade from the surrounding trees, gazebos and umbrellas. The location outside White Hayes in Garden Close worked very well and we appreciated the co-operation of Garden Close residents with closing off the road.

Several of those attending thought it was the best party so far and it certainly provided an excellent opportunity for a number of residents who moved into the Grove in the past year to meet their neighbours and build relationships.

Sidewinder played again for us and they seem to get better every year – they certainly enjoy playing for us and are keen to return next year. David Smith played keyboards for the second year running and entertained and intrigued us with innovative arrangements of a range of pieces – his classical background evident. Elvis Presley was the surprise celebrity artist a.k.a. Lawrence (the partner of Robin Eddlestone's mother) who was visiting for the weekend. Sidewinder showed their musical talents by backing him very effectively even though they had not rehearsed at all.

We wondered at one point if this Elvis had brought his security bodyguards as several men were seen walking about with earphones pressed into their ears – but it became clear that they were only listening to the radio commentary of the exciting finish to the England/Australia test match. There was a constant drift of cricket fans to the West's television room to keep up with progress. It added to the enjoyment of the whole day when England won.

The format worked as well as ever, with volunteers providing the 'infrastructure' of bar-b-ques, gazebos, rubbish, toilets and everyone bringing their own food, drink, chairs, tables, rugs etc. Thanks to Mike Lodge for providing a barrel of beer as well as organising the gazebos and bar-b-ques, and to Robin Eddlestone and Lawrence Harriss for all their help.

There was some amusement when Lyndon Rees transported his tables, chairs and umbrellas on his garden tractor from Forest Edge.

Financially there was an excess of £230 of income over expenditure which added to 'profits' from the last 2 years gives a fund of £530 to support future events.

Finally, many thanks to Trevor and Iris West for opening up their house for use of toilets and television.

Although several residents could not attend because of other commitments on the bank holiday weekend, most of those attending said that the August bank

holiday Sunday works well for the event and we will probably organise something similar for the same time next year.