

THE GIVONS GROVE SUMMER PARTY SUNDAY 27TH AUGUST 2007

More than a few residents commented on the influence we have with 'him above' on organising good weather for our annual summer party. This year was particularly fortunate as we caught a window of fine weather on the Sunday which was bracketed by poor weather on the Saturday and Monday. This gave an excellent start to a very successful event.

Over 90 adults attended and some 15 - 20 children - though it seemed at times there was double that number of children! The plan to change the timing and run it on to the evening was a great success with many dancing to the music well into the evening and finishing with a 'conga' sometime after 8.00pm.

Earlier on in the day, a group of volunteers set up the site in the Forest Edge garden with Gazebos, Bar-B-Que's, garden games, Bouncy Castle and rubbish points. At lunchtime, the food & drink, chairs and tables started to arrive and soon everyone was cooking, drinking, eating and chatting to old neighbours and new ones. A number of residents who had recently moved into the estate managed to attend and it was good to have chance to meet them properly and welcome them to the community. Perhaps most importantly, the new children were making friends with those of similar age - playing on the Bouncy Castle and with the other games.

Sidewinder played again and were their usual excellent standard plus playing well over the agreed time for their sets. They just seem to be able to play music that appeals across the age groups and is suited to background, listening or dancing according to your choice. Between sets a guitarist/vocalist called Sam Beer entertained us with mainly his own compositions - and what a find!!! Dubbed by someone as a contemporary Bob Dylan, he was quite outstanding with many stopping their socialising and sitting on the grass to listen. Members of Sidewinder were also very impressed and took time out to listen carefully - commenting on his unusual voice and guitar technique.

Already one resident has booked him for another event - so if anyone is interested in following up on Sam, he has a website (<http://www.sambeer.co.uk/>) or he can be contacted on 0776-600 0111.

The venue of the garden of Forest Edge was perfect and we must thank Lorraine and Lyndon for hosting the event and being so accommodating in the use of their facilities. Thanks also to all those who helped to set up the venue but particularly Mike Lodge and Robin Eddleston. Robin sorted out the music system having to dismantle his son's CD player and Mike Lodge provided a barrel of beer again which was most generous of him - it proved to be very popular, running out well before the end. There is talk about getting 2 barrels for next year!!!

Financially there was an excess of income over expenditure of £40 which has now been added to 'profits' from previous years giving a fund of £570 to support future events. This year we paid for 3 garden games out of the income but these will be available for use in the future. Geoff Pye is holding them on behalf of the estate and any resident who wishes to borrow them should contact him for details.

Some residents regularly go away on the August Bank Holiday and in fairness to them and to 'ring the changes' we plan to hold next year's party earlier in the summer – perhaps early July before the holidays start in earnest. We have one or two thoughts about venue but if anyone has a garden that would suit or any other ideas, please contact Geoff Pye.