

THE GIVONS GROVE SUMMER PARTY SUNDAY 15th July 2007

This was a summer party with a difference - a massive downpour in the middle of the afternoon, which had the band and partygoer's alike running for cover. Gazebos saved us from the worst of the rain and after 20 minutes or so, all was mostly back to normal.

The weather forecast in the days leading up to the party was changing by the day and on Saturday morning the forecast was so bad we decided to cancel the live entertainment and see what Sunday brought. As it happened, Sunday was fine and we were fortunate that one band - Mixed Company - were keen to play and came down from London at the last moment.

Mixed Company offered to play 2 sets and were an excellent band, taking the downpour half way through their first set in their stride, and doing a 2 hour second set finishing at 6.00pm. There was a local 'interest' as David and Liz Meikle's son was playing keyboards in the band. Contact Liz or Geoff Pye if anyone is interested in booking them.

Over 70 adults attended the party and about 15 children of various ages. A number of new residents managed to attend and were pleased to meet some of their new neighbours in a relaxed environment. I heard a few children made some new friends and they certainly seemed to be enjoying themselves on the Bouncy Castle and riding up and down the road on anything with wheels. The band encouraged a few to get up and dance and soon there was a fair grouping dancing away.

An added attraction this year was the garage sale organised by Jutta Cunningham in Tudor Cottage selling off a variety of items she will not be able to take with her to her new home. Many took advantage of the proximity of Tudor Cottage and I am reliably informed there were some very good bargains.

Thanks must be extended to Mike Lodge for providing a barrel of beer as he has done in previous years - even though he has now moved away from the Grove. Many residents helped in the organising and setting up but special thanks to Robin Eddleston for organising the band and for some last minute changes in arrangements. Thanks to Simon Spevack of Pips Hill, Sandra Stedeford of Greenmantle and Jutta Cunningham of Tudor Cottage for allowing use of their drives and garden - but the biggest thank you goes to Trevor and Iris West for the use of their front garden and house for the main part of the event.