

Once again, the people of Preston, a quaint English village near Hitchin, Hertfordshire, turned out to support the Fifth annual Hertfordshire Cystinosis fundraiser on Saturday 31st July 2010.

A village fair, come Garden Fete was the theme with entertainment for all ages: skittles, bouncing castle, Sumo Wrestling challenge, quizzes for young and old that had everyone scratching their heads and huddling together comparing notes and memories of album covers long since tattered and discarded, children's TV characters, anagrams and word puzzles that certainly taxed the brains sitting out in the late summer sunshine.

Local musicians entertained throughout the day providing a melodious background to the afternoon spent in relaxing in the English Country (Beer) Garden!

There was also the always popular Tombola stall, "Guess the number of sweets", children's treasure hunt, the very eye-catching Gift Tree, the flight simulator for the more daring among us which jolted those awake who had been partaking of Ray's "free" bar (free once a donation to cystinosis was made!). Everyone supported the raffle very generously and Gary found a new role as Auctioneer where tickets for the Emirates Stadium Legends tour, a weekend in a country cottage in Dorset were amongst the lots people were bidding for.

The highlight for many though was the resurrection of The King. "Elvis" appeared about 7 o'clock and treated his fans to all his greatest hits, serenading the ladies and getting the some of the men to join in as his backing singers. He truly wowed the crowd who all agreed it was the best night they had in a long time! He returned for three encores, even running back in from the waiting car to treat us once more! When his microphone was packed away safely, he then entertained the now very lively crowd with a few floor fillers and a disco that had everyone up bopping.

Wholehearted thanks to hosts Ray & Jo Lambe for donating their premises, their time, the delicious food, to Tracy & Gary Pemberton for pulling everything together once again, to their back up team of Julie & John who have been there since Fundraiser No. 1, to the villagers of Preston who welcomed Cystinosis Foundation so warmly, to the extended Dunne, Lambe, Curry, Kelly, Reilly families for all their hard work leading up to and on the day, it would never have happened without you all.

Go raibh m/le maith agat