

**From Hugo & Liz Pickering Stonesfield House LYNEHAM**

We would like to say a big thank you to everyone who organised and attended the 'Lyneham at Home' day on Saturday, 21st June.

We were completely overwhelmed by the amount of money raised – a staggering £782.06! The Jennifer Trust for Spinal Muscular Atrophy will receive £200 of that total, specifically to go to their research budget. The remainder will go towards much needed and appreciated respite care. Harry has to be turned throughout the night since he can't roll over in bed and every so often we have respite care to give us a night's sleep. During the winter when Harry is very sick with chest infections, we can be up for two to three hours every night so this help is very much appreciated. With more money in the fund for respite care, we can continue and maybe increase that help.

Another fund-raising event took place on Saturday evening as a result of word spreading about the Lyneham at Home day. Clive Scott was sponsored for having his head shaved at The Swan Pub, Ascott-under-Wychwood which raised an amazing £305. Thank you to him too.

It is always a bad idea to start naming people who have contributed to such an event for fear of offending people who aren't mentioned. But there are three people who should be specifically mentioned. Vera Case (Casey to her friends) arrived at our door a few weeks ago having seen a newspaper article about Harry. She asked if we would mind her having a cake stall in the village to contribute to the Fund and raise awareness about Harry in Lyneham. We were delighted at her suggestion, and from that moment the whole thing took off – becoming a full scale fete. Casey thank you for your friendship, having the idea, and the determination to see it through.

Casey herself has been astounded by the response from you all – and I know she joins us in feeling that it is not just the money that is important, but the community spirit in Lyneham and surrounding villages that was so evident.

Certainly for us as a family the Harry Fund has helped to create awareness of Harry's illness and hopefully make us and particularly Harry more approachable. It is so very hard to face each day when dealing with terminal illness – particularly when the sufferer is a child. We will never be able to thank all the supporters of the Harry Fund, and our friends who set it up initially for the good will and understanding it has created for us. It really helps.

The other people we would particularly like to thank are Sam and Joan Izod for allowing the fete to be held at their farm and for the organisers barbecue they hosted in the evening. It was an idyllic setting and an enormous amount of effort and organisation went into making the day a success. Thank you both.

We have already mentioned where the money raised on Saturday will go. Money raised through previous events for the Harry Fund has gone towards a £10,000 electric wheel chair, a hydraulic lift for the car, a special bed system, nebuliser, manual wheelchair and respite care. Substantial donations have been made to research and equipment for other children with SMA. Our heartfelt thanks to you all....Lizzie and Hugo.