

Shipton Charity Ball

The ninth Shipton Charity Ball was held on December 3rd at the New Beaconsfield Hall and was, once again, a resounding success with more than 120 enjoying what has become a 'must' on the local social scene. This year we chose to support the Willow Foundation in memory of Danielle Basson (née Slater). The Foundation organises special days for young people with life-threatening illnesses. Danielle's family greeted guests as they arrived and her husband Nick spoke movingly about what it is like to live with a terminal illness.

While we all tucked into a perfect roast pork dinner, served by Jessica Empson and her team, Mervyn Cawley provided background music. After the toast to the Willow Foundation and vote of thanks from their representative it was on with the auction and raffle. Before we knew it we were all up and dancing to the ever popular 'Ragged Edge'.

There are so many people who work to make the charity ball such a success that it is hard to know where to start, but thanks must go to the band of ladies who provide the most delicious desserts; Caroline Trevers and Ian Halliday who ran the bar; Mervyn Cawley and 'Ragged Edge' who play for free; Anne Hilling and Pat Bannister who decorated the tables. We are also blessed with many local businesses, pubs and restaurants who



generously donate prizes for the raffle and auction - without their support we could not raise so much money for our chosen good causes, always with a local connection.

We were amazed to reach a total of £6,100, which we hope Nick will be able to present to Bob Wilson, who started the Willow Foundation in memory of his own daughter. This magnificent sum brings our total over the years to more than £55,000.

The committee have decided to hold one more ball, on **December 1st 2012** (get that date in your diary!) and then to retire. Our hope is to hand over to a new team prepared to continue running this most successful and popular event in the local social calendar. If you are interested in becoming involved please give me a ring on: 01993 831134 and I will be happy to chat with you about the ball and its organisation.

Christine Halliday.

Christmas Coffee Morning and Charity Sale

We would like to thank everyone who so kindly supported our sale raising over £1,100, which has been shared between Lawrence Home Nursing, Katherine House Hospice, Action Epilepsy and Action Medical Research.

We would also like to thank the many local businesses who generously donated raffle prizes which helped enormously to make the event so successful. Great to be able to support such good causes.

John and Liz Shannon