

Tuesday, October 18<sup>th</sup> 2011

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **Community group hits the right note with annual fundraiser**

THIS year's Carleton Proms hit all the right notes as it raised more than £4,000 to benefit children in the area staying in local hospitals.

The event was organised by the Carleton Community Group in the summer and organisers recently came to Blackpool Victoria Hospital to hand over a cheque to the Blue Skies Hospitals Fund, the official charity of Blackpool Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust.

Community Group member Tess Rowlands and her husband Ned Rowlands, a Consultant Paediatrician, presented the cheque for £4,075 to Fundraising Manager Kathy Ancell at the Children's Clinic.

Mrs Rowlands said: "Carleton is the smallest community group on the Fylde but we make the biggest noise. It was our fourth year this year and the event was so successful we are already planning next year's in aid of cystic fibrosis.

"It was such a fantastic event and opera singer Jane Irwin and the other acts were so generous giving up their time for free to perform. She was keen to do the event as she holds the hospital in very high regard, as we all do.

"We would also like to thank Head teacher of Carleton Green Community Primary School Alison Johnstone who offered us everything for free of charge.

"We had nearly 1,000 people turn up for the event which was very telling because it was local people supporting their local hospital and the children who are treated here. We had an amazing time and the Carleton Community Group is now gearing up for the next one."

Fundraising Manager, Kathy Ancell said: "We are thrilled that Carleton Community Group selected Blue Skies Hospitals Fund as their charity, for the benefit of our children's wards. I attended the Carleton Proms event with my family and we had a great time.

"Thank you so much to Ned and Tess Rowlands, along with the rest of the Community Group and Carleton Primary, for putting this event on. The donations will be used to enhance the care provided on the Children's Wards, to directly benefit the patients of the Fylde Coast and their families."

Carleton Green Primary School hosted the Carleton Proms back in June, with mezzo soprano Jane Irwin, a concert and recital singer who has performed regularly in Britain, Europe and America.



PICS: L-R Kathy Ancell with Tess and Ned Rowlands.

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