

Summer Party Raises Hundreds for Charity

By Pat Draper

How often do you expect to have to pay to attend a party given by friends, as well as bringing along food and drinks?

That's exactly what guests agreed to do when they accepted an invitation to spend the evening with the **Draper family in Kingston, Cambridge** this summer. The event was arranged in order to raise money for a medical charity.

Motec Life-UK coordinates the efforts of surgeons, nurses and support workers, who all give their time voluntarily to travel to the poorest parts of Ghana and carry out life-changing surgery for the rural poor. They aim to improve life for the underprivileged by reducing the detrimental impact of insufficient health-care facilities on whole communities. In addition, Motec Life-UK organises teaching and training programmes for medical staff in Ghana, ships supplies and equipment to needy hospitals and runs a nutritional project for malnourished children. This year it set up an international scheme to provide three nurses from impoverished areas with the chance to observe examples of good practice in a more modern hospital setting. The hope is that these trainees can now implement improvements in their own workplace on their return.

Louisa Draper, a hospital doctor, has always been keen to do her bit for developing countries. She has worked voluntarily in India, in a scheme that provides free medical care in the slums in Bangalore and in Tanzania, involving herself in ophthalmology research and an HIV/AIDS awareness project, while also working in a rural hospital. More recently she went to Cambodia with a team of French plastic surgeons who correct congenital facial disfigurements in children. Back home she has been working for **Motec** in her spare time since meeting its president, **Paul Ofori-Atta**, Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon in Hemel Hempstead. In April this year Louisa helped to set up a **Motec** project in Kerala, southern India and on her return began to think how she could raise

more money for the charity. Her parents, **Pat and Simon Draper**, agreed to help and together they planned a fund-raising barbecue-party at their home for friends and family. “We don’t have any medical skills ourselves” explained Simon, ”so this seemed the best way to support **Motec**.”

Their elder daughter **Jennie**, of Willingham, set about finding a group of musicians who would be willing to play at the event and provide their services free. She was delighted when Charles Barclay volunteered to bring his band, **All That Chazz**, comprising Chaz himself (guitar and vocals), Sarah on keyboard, Phil (guitar and vocals) and Helen who is their lead singer. After setting up in the open air at the top of the garden, they entertained the partygoers for several hours. Said sometime busker Chaz afterwards “It was great fun. We just love performing and this was a marvellous venue - plus the food was fantastic!”

Indeed, there was a good spread of salads to accompany the barbecue and a mouth-watering selection of desserts to follow. Guests had been generous with their contributions of food and drink: **Tom Evans and Matt Clark** gallantly stepped in to help with cooking. Most importantly, the weather was perfect! Three of the youngest present - Jamie (age 3), Theo (2) and Alasdair (1) played or danced contentedly as a sunny evening turned into a warm, still night.

“A lot of friends who were unable to come still sent us cheques to boost our fund-raising efforts” remarked Pat. “People have been so kind and everyone who was here on the night dug deep into their pockets. Altogether, they have helped us almost to reach our target of a thousand pounds”.

If any readers would like to learn more about the charity or make a donation they should visit the Motec Life-UK website at www.moteclife.co.uk

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