

Williams Copywriting

10th Anniversary of Annual Onion Sunday Fundraiser

- The annual Onion Sunday Bash at the Fox and Goose in sleepy Illston once again raised over £2,300 for local charities.

Every year locals put their names down to grow the biggest, the best of three and the Novelty onions, for this unusual fundraising event.

Biggest and heaviest onion this year was grown by Dave Hallam of Gaulby whose champion onion weighed in at 2lb5oz. Dave celebrated his victory with a delicious pint of Everards Beacon.

The most amusing class of the day however is the novelty class where competitors dress their onions up to compete for the Tom Smith trophy.

Entries this year included the Onion Sundae, Red Admiral and Water Lillies but the winner of the adult class in true style was the Tin Onion by Hazel Cave, signifying the 10th Anniversary of the day. Winner of the childrens novelty class was the 'Big Un' created by Gareth and Stuart Cave.

Cakes are also the focus of the day, a competition for the best Victoria Sponge won by Jessica Deacon of Illston on the Hill and a guess the weight of the brandy soaked fruit cake baked by Barbara Waddington. The winner, Jo Price, who guessed that the cake weighed 6lb1/2oz, got to take the cake home, all the brandy in it probably, preserving it for a good 6 months.

The main fundraiser of the day, however, is the auction. Bob Kemp of Kings Norton acts as the auctioneer and everything ranging from Barbara Waddington's famous home made chutneys to bags of home grown champion runner beans, are auctioned off at anything from £1 upwards depending on demand. Barbara's homemade chutneys are renowned and have been known to fetch in excess of £15 a jar.

The day creeps to an end around 6pm and all moneys collected are donated to the nominated charities.

This years charities are the The Country Air Ambulance and if enough funds; the Illston Village Pump and Rett Syndrome.

George Bullers, landlord of the Fox and Goose, would like to thank everyone who came to the day and donated money to these worthy causes. A wonderful day was had by all, everyone leaving with a 'Spring (onion)' in their step.