

For Immediate Release:

Gloster Dancers Swing into Action to Help Archie



The annual ‘Swinging Vegas’ fundraising dance took place on Saturday 16th November 2015, at the Walls Club, Gloucester. The event is the brainchild of Gloster Swing Dance teachers Gary and Sara Boon.

Gary Boon said “the idea of Swinging Vegas came about after our son James was diagnosed with Meningitis at 15 months old. Thankfully he has pulled through, but the aftermath is that he is now profoundly deaf. We thought dancing would be a great vehicle to raise some money for charity”.

The annual music and dance extravaganza features dance cabaret performances, a live band, raffle and silent auction and is now in its thirteenth year. The event is always a sell-out and a firm favourite on the dance calendar. So far ‘Swinging Vegas’ has raised £55,860.78 for the chosen charities:

- The Meningitis Research Foundation
- Gloucestershire Deaf Children's Society
- C.L.I.C. | The Levana Hanson Trust | Chelt
- Archie’s Chance to Dance

This year Gary and Sara met Archie Crowther a delightful 4 year old boy from Quedgeley that suffers from Cerebral Palsy. Archie has a dream to dance unaided, his “Archie’s Chance to Dance” campaign resonated well with that of ‘Swinging Vegas’, and was added to the list of charities that the event was to support in 2015.

Little Archie came as special guest of honour to the event, and thoroughly enjoyed watching the cabaret acts, dancing and music. The event raised a fantastic £5740.22 for the chosen charities, of which Archie was presented a cheque for £2740.22 by members of the Gloster Swing Dance class at the Guildhall dance class on Tuesday 1 December.

Gary said “The Gloucester Swing Dance community would like to see Archie fulfil his dream to dance. We would like to say a big thank you, to all those that supported this year’s event by buying raffle tickets, attending the dance, donating prizes or providing auction lots. We are grateful to Rebecca

Leppard from Eventageous PR for managing the silent auction. Its thanks to you all that Archie is one step closer”.

Lively Archie never lets his condition get him down despite the pain he endures. He loves to watch Strictly Come Dancing on the television and jigs along to the music with his frame. But the spritely energetic boy is in need of Selective Dorsal Rhizotomy surgery so that he can walk. The operation can be performed in this country by the NHS, but has been declined as he does not fulfil the criteria. The family have no other option than to personally raise a staggering £85,000 to take Archie to the St Louis Children’s Hospital in Missouri where renowned Dr T S Park can perform the life changing operation.

If you would like to help Archie, please contact: rebecca@eventspr.co.uk or visit his Facebook page: Archie’s Chance to Dance