Tickets available from: Stourbridge office: £6.00 + £1.00 booking fee or online at www.acorns.org.uk: £6.00

HOLLYOAKS VS

OFFICIAL PROGRAMME Sunday 05 August 07 Halesowen Town Football Club



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Your field children's buspice

Corns brok

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Acorns supports more than 600 life-limited children and their families in the West Midlands and Gloucestershire. Most of our funding comes from public donations. Reg'd Charity: 700859 "attendance by the actors is subject to commitments."

Making something Support Acorns – your local children's hospice





Just imagine for a moment: how would you cope if a child in your family had an illness for which there is no cure – a condition that would prevent them reaching adulthood.

Hundreds of local families face this challenge: these are children and families supported by Acorns.

Acorns provides respite, emergency and end-of-life care for children from Halesowen and across the West Midlands regions at its three hospices located in Selly Oak–Birmingham, Worcester and Walsall.

There is also a community team offering 24-hour support to families in their homes including practical and emotional support for parents, special help for siblings and bereavement counselling.

wonderful of Your local children's a little life.... hospice



their families for 19 years. and responsive service. doors in 1988 as the third in cared for 602 families - of funding needs. the world.

etyofactivities that reflect the West Midlands qualify for 250 paid staff. needs and interests as well as Acorns support and the age, gender and culture of demand for these vital ser- extra volunteers to help in its each child. This can be illus- vices grows daily. Acorns is chain of retail shops and protrated by our annual African the largest children's hospice vide help and support in the Caribbean Days, which charity in the world.

Acorns Selly Oak has been recognise the responsibility

although it is estimated that

All Acorns' services are prooffering care and support to of all staff and volunteers to vided to families free of life-limited children and provide a culturally sensitive charge. But it costs £4,500 a day to run each hospice, a The hospice is at the forefront Acorns services are avail- total of £6m a year, and yet of children's palliative care, as able to all families with life- has to rely on fundraising and it was when it opened its limited children and last year gifts for more than 80 per cent

Acorns is supported by Acorns aims to offer a vari- 1,600 children across the almost 1,000 volunteers and

Acorns is always looking for hospices.



Match will help us to keep vital beds open

ast year, Acorns was forced to close 12 out of its 30 beds closed at its three hospices.

Families were still offered end-of-life and emergency care, but some families weren't able to book respite care at the hospice.

Respite care is a lifeline to exhausted families, giving time to recharge their batteries, take a short break, or spend quality time with their other children. Many older children who visit Acorns make strong friendships – they too like to book in to Acorns with their friends for a holiday.

Acorns' staff and supporters worked incredibly hard to raise enough money to re-open these beds this year.

They're working flat out to keep them open, and maintain services that our families rely on. This is why events like today's match are so important.

For more information on Acorns, its services and the many ways in which you can help, please visit: www.acorns.org.uk or call the fundraising team on 0845 120 6892.

Nigel Pitt, Chairman of Halesowen Town Football Club

When Acorns approached Halesowen Town Football Club Ltd to host their Charity match again we had no hesitation at all in offering the ground to them. We have tried to support Acorns wherever possible. Last year, we received

Last year, we received money raised from the FA Charity Shield for Halesowen Town Football Club Ltd reaching the 1st round proper of the FA Cup the previous season, and split this money between three local charities including Acorns.

As a local football club we keep football in the community. Hosting this match will not only raise well deserved and needed money for Acorns but will hopefully bring a new group of spectators, benefiting Acorns and the Club. Halesowen Town FC will continue to support Acorns in whatever capacity they can, no-one can imagine what it must be like to have a life-limited child so to know that Acorns is available in our community is a 99 true blessing.

Roger Lucas, Commercial Director at Halesowen Town Football Club

"It's very exciting. This is a big event, and everyone is buzzing about the town. It's the highlight of the year, good for the community and supporters and families."



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HQLLYŐAKS

ICK PICKARD plays Autograph... Tony's relationship with Jacqui McOueen has given him a new lease of life, following Mandy's exit and Grace's cot death

OHN PICKARD plays Autograph ... Dominic Reilly: Dominic arrived as Tony's long lost brother. His relationship with Tina McQueen started off tentatively but has since gone from strength to strength.

SHLEY TAYLOR DAWSON plays Darren Osborne: Darren's cut a lonely figure in the village for a while now. making more enemies than friends with his constant scheming. Ashley re-joined the cast in 2003, after pop band All Stars.

HRIS FOUNTAIN plays Justin Burton: Justin's part in Becca Dean's imprisonment and subsequent death has left him even more isolated than ever: but the arrival of Katy Fox has provided a welcome distraction.

ATT MILBURN played Joe Spencer, the extrovert with no time for rules and regulations.

HILIP OLIVIER-"Tinhead" from Brookside – although not a Hollyoaks regular, Phil is a popular Mersey Television actor and pin-up. Philip was crowned 'champion' of celebrity sports contest The Games.

Autograph...

Autograph...

Autograph...

Autograph...















ac⊘rns

Your local children's hospice

Both the Hollyoaks and ITV1 Allstars teams are subject to change due to filming commitments.

RALF LITTLE, who plays Anthony, in BBC sitcom *The Royle Family*, which won widespread acclaim in the Autograph... nineties.

EFF BRAZIER, reality TV star who was partner to Jade Goody.





anything to get what he wants, be it money, women or business opportunities.

NTHONY **OUINLON**, plays Gilly Roach whose innocent charm means he has no problems getting close to ladies, but they usually see him as a shoulder to cry on.

ICKY WHITTLE, plays *Calvin Valentine* as the village's local PC and takes care of his family following his mother's death last year. His relationship with Louise added to his stress levels.

Autograph...

Autograph...

Autograph...

Autograph...







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We have three hospices, based in Birmingham, Walsall and Worcester, and our community team covers the West Midlands. Warwickshire, Worcestershire. Herefordshire, Gloucestershire and parts of Staffordshire and Shropshire.

Our hospices are designed to be a home-from-home. There are no uniforms or set routines, and the mix of therapy, play and nursing care means that children can make the most of every day.

'be themselves' at Walsall and Worcester hospices, which have help liaison with health, educa- call 0800 073 0001.



a dedicated adolescents' wing.

round-the-clock support to the ethnic minority families, siblings family. This is right from the child's referral to Acorns; throughout their illness, death the funds necessary to run our and beyond; and through vital service. Our supporters bereavement support; until a fund more than 80 per cent of our

tion and social services, as well as Our community team offers having specialists working with and adolescents.

We need your support to raise Teenagers are allowed space to family no longer needs our help. running costs. Find out how you The community team is able to can help at www.acorns.org.uk or

Inspirational Imani supports Acorns' football fundraiser

unny-natured Imani Young loves to swim but gets cold Jeasily due to circulation problems. At eleven years old, she has already had two major strokes.

She is one of the children supported by Acorns Children's Hospice, whose family is looking forward to Acorns' Celebrity Football Match - aimed at supporting the services that try to make every day as special for the hundreds of life-limited children in its care.

Mum Sonia will be cheering on her favourite team. She said: "We'll be backing the AllStars. Man Utd is my team - Imaniloves watching the football."

Imani, whose smile lights up the room, also loves her visits to Acorns Children's Hospice, Selly Oak - particularly the hydrotherapy pool.

Imani has Sickle Cell Anaemia, which saps her energy. The strokes left her unable to use her left hand and the index finger on her right hand. Imani also lost the power of speech at the age of eight, is tube fed and has to rely on a wheelchair to get around outside the home. She also has four-weekly blood transfusions to try to prevent further strokes.

However, Acorns gives her the opportunity to do things which are about was that there was someotherwise impossible. The temperature-controlled pool at Selly Oak allows Imani to spend quality time with her family. The water is Imani's circulation problems.

For her mum Sonia, Acorns is a lifeline, providing her with a network of support at the hospice a traditional West Indian dish, and their families."



and with the African-Caribbean but I had to admit, it was tasty!" Liaison Officer, Diane Thomas.

goes to Acorns, I know there are qualified nursing staff who know Imani and her needs. I trust them to make sure she enjoys her stay. But Acorns also cares for the whole family. Diane is always available to talk to about any issues, to visit and to book Imani some respite care at the hospice."

"One of the things I worried one who understood the needs of Afro-Caribbean women with regard to skin and hair care.

One day, while I was at the hosrelaxing and the warm water aids pice, I stayed for lunch. Jerk chicken was on the menu. I couldn't believe the cooks would be able to make a success of such blessing for disabled children

Above: Imani Young with Sonia

Like any other eleven-year-old, Sonia added: "When Imani Imani loves pop music, and her favourite CDs of Lemar, Justin Timberlake and Westlife can often be heard playing around the hospice when Imani is staying.

She also loves computers and often spends time in the computer room with other children.

Sonia says: "As an only child, one of the things Imani loves about Acorns is it gives her an opportunity to play with other children as well as doing messy arts and crafts activities, like painting, sticking and collage.

Sonia added: "Acorns also gives me chance to have some quality time by myself and with friends and family. I see Acorns as a great



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Schedule...

Hollyoaks V Allstars Warm up: 14:45pm

Kick off: 1.30pm

Half time: 14:15pm

Second half: 14:30pm

Full time whistle: 15:15pm

Trophy presentation by Acorns family: 15:20pm













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Thousands cheered



t last year's match, Emmerdale were crowned champions in a 4-2 win over Hollyoaks.

Around 2,500 screaming youngsters cheered for their favourite soap idols last August when stars from hit TV shows Emmerdale and Hollyoaks took to the pitch at Halesowen Town FC.

Emmerdale were already leading Hollyoaks two games to one in the 2006 charity football stakes and retained their crown by smashing Hollyoaks 4-2.

Kirsty Derry (*pictured*), a young lady cared for at Acorns' Walsall Hospice, had the honour of presenting the winners trophy to the Emmerdale team.



Above: Kirsty Derry with the winners' trophy, surrounded by some of the Emmerdale (blue strip) and Hollyoaks (white strip) team players. Top: Hollyoaks star Jamie Lomas, who plays Warren Fox, meets a young fan at last year's match.

on their favourite soap stars COrns

Your local children's hospice

The event, held to raise vital funds for Acorns Children's Hospice, was a great family day out that included face painting, henna body art, competition prizes and plenty of photograph and autograph opportunities for fans.

Around £15,000 was raised towards helping the children and improving the facilities on offer to them.

Nick Pickard, who plays Tony Hutchinson in Hollyoaks, said: "It was amazing how many people turned up.

"We go all over the country playing these matches for charity and have raised over £300,000 so far".













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Fundraising can be a real barrel of laughs...

is corns reliant on fundraising activity and donations to aid its work. There are many ways that you can help support Acorns from taking part in exciting challenges such as overseas trekking and daredevil parachute jumps to holding a fundraising event at work or school or simply donating unwanted gifts and other items at your local Acorns store.

How YOU can help to make a difference!

There are literally hundreds of ways that you, your friends and family can really help to make a difference to Acorns services and the children in our care.

Whether your event is on a small or large scale, October 26; Halloween www.acorns.org.uk



Above: X factor finalists Eton Road recently visited Acorns' Walsall Hospice to give their support and sign a T-shirt.

every effort made by kind Ball, Bescot Stadium, Walmembers of the public like you really does help.

Upcoming events: Acorns Ball at Renaissance Hotel, Solihull, November 10; Soul and Motown Disco, Baggeridge Miners' Club, the

sall, Saturday October 27; Kyrs Band, British Legion, Ruiton Street, Lower Gornal December 7; Christmas Candlelight Ball, Grafton Manor, Bromsgrove, December 8.

For details of these and Straits, Gornal, Dudley, more Acorns events, see

Have fun helping Acorns Children's Hospice all year round! **CCOrns**

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embers of the Black Country Support Group for Acorns Children's Hospice have fun all year, organising and supporting events to help life-limited children.

Chairman Allan Chappell said: "We've raised funds for Acorns on the Dudley Trail, as well as at a Soul Night, and a vintage steam train trip from Birmingham to Stratford (pictured below).

"We'd like more people to join us – just give us a ring."

The group's next event is a Soul and Motown evening on Friday October 26: Mickey Stevens and Steve Garrett present this super evening at the Baggeridge Miners Welfare, The Straits, Lower Gornal, Dudley.

The evening is organised by the Acorns Black Country Support Group. For further details please contact Allan Chappell on 01384 263975 or 01384 865126.



Acorns wish to say a heartfelt 'Thank You' to the following who have helped to make today happen:

hankvo

HQLLYOAKS acorns

The teams from Hollyoaks and Allstars.

All at <mark>Halesowen Town FC.</mark>

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The Acorns' Black Country Support Group, among our many volunteers who made this event possible.

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