

A thousand thanks!

by Faiza Afzaal

Charity ball for two good causes

A GRATEFUL couple from Bolton-By-Bowland are raising money for two charities which have helped their teenage daughter.

Fourteen-year-old Ellie Wilkinson suffers from Cystic Fibrosis, a recessive genetic disease, which affects the entire body. Her parents, Paul and Rachel Wilkinson, have organised a charity ball in aid of the Cystic Fibrosis Trust and The Starlight Children's Foundation.

Now, they are urging Ribbles Valley residents to rally behind this good cause and attend the

ball. Rachel said: "We just want to raise awareness of the charity and want people to have a really nice evening."

"The Starlight Children's Foundation has granted Ellie's wish to travel to the African Safari and she is very excited about this. Ellie loves animals and wants to train as a veterinary surgeon when she is older. We are so grateful to the Starlight Foundation for granting

Ellie's wish and so we decided to do something for them in return."

This is the fourth consecutive year Paul and Rachel have organised the fund-raiser and raised thousands of pounds for charity. This year's event will be held on Saturday, September 17th, at The Coach and Horses Hotel, in Bolton-by-Bowland. The evening starts at 7-30 p.m.



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HAPPY: Ellie is now doing really well.

Couple plan major fund-raising event

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and tickets are priced £35 each, which includes champagne/cocktails on arrival, a three-course meal, disco, raffle and a silent auction.

The couple are not new to fund-raising. Last year Paul completed a non-stop 90-mile coast-to-coast walk in two days and raised more than £3,000 for the CF Trust.

Paul, who is a group technical director for a firm in Leyland, added: "Chest infections are one of the main reasons less than 50% of people with CF don't live to see their 40th birthday.



FIGHTER: Ellie Wilkinson when she was seriously ill in hospital a few years ago.

"But it doesn't have to be like this. Scientists funded by

the Cystic Fibrosis Trust are close to perfecting a ground-

breaking genetic therapy that corrects the defect in CF sufferer's lungs, making them no more susceptible to infection than you or I.

"It's desperately important that we keep the funding going until the new treatment has been completely proven."

He added: "Ellie is doing really well now and enjoying her studies at Clitheroe Royal Grammar School. She was seriously ill a couple of years ago when her lung function had dropped to 40%, but she is doing fine now and always helps to organise the charity ball."

For tickets please call 01200 447039 or the Coach and Horses on 01200 447202.