

Press release – 4<sup>th</sup> November 2010

## Fifth year sell-out Charity Ball success for Macmillan, Help for Heroes and Families for Children

A staggering £8,000 is to be shared between Macmillan Cancer Support and Help for Heroes while £500 was raised for Families for Children at the glamour and sparkle of a Winter Wonderland in the English Riviera on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> October. The Palace Hotel in Babbacombe Road played host to the annual Black Tie Charity Ball in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support & Help for Heroes, complete with Ice Sculpture and Cupcakes, and yet again the event was a sell out success - so popular, a waiting list was formed for those hoping to join the 320+ guests in attendance and support the charities.

This year saw the introduction of a Golf Tournament & Pamper Session on the same day as the ball. Golfers were treated to bacon rolls and beer before they tee'd off, the weather was glorious throughout the day enabling players to receive their awards and supporters gifts and more drinks on the hotels' sun terrace. The ladies had a relaxing afternoon enjoying Champagne, chocolates and strawberries - all served by a bronzed fantasy butler - whilst they waited for manicures, pedicures and massages and they too were given supporters gifts. Everyone was left feeling chilled out ready for the day main event....



### **The Charity Ball.....**

With the ladies looking exquisite in their finest gowns & the men in their smart DJ's, the night started with great anticipation and excitement for the event organisers, Joyce Sharpe & Sarah Thomas of Wood's, **team** Estate Agents & Auctioneers. Guests were greeted by The Cadets of Torquay 200 Squadron ATC, who formed the welcome guard of honour and later sold draw tickets.

Guests were greeted to the Winter Wonderland-themed event with a welcome drink and the music of local pianist Neil Reed drifting through the foyer. Guests had the opportunity to have their photographs taken by Trinity Photography and photos were reserved for collection later that evening before guests enjoyed a delectable three course meal.

The evening took centre stage in one of the hotels' most opulent rooms. To begin the evening a

little differently, a 'lucky ticket' guest received a surprise when their number was called and they won a Champagne Meal for two at The Ship Inn in Newton Abbot.

Guests were then asked to put £2 in an envelope, which was drawn later in the evening with the winner having a luxury two night stay for two in The Cavendish Hotel in London, complete with first class rail travel with First Great Western.

The tables were decadent with beautiful flower displays by Susans Florist and magnificent lit balloon displays in black and silver by Samms Decorations of Torquay - both supporters of the last four events. Cupcakes donated by Sofia's Cupcakes and special gifts and decorations for the sponsor tables completed the superb array of table decorations, which added that extra class and distinction that Wood's Estate Agents strived for throughout the planning of the ball.

Magician, Robert Collyer wowed the guests with his magical talent during dinner demonstrating an array of tricks, which left the guests dumbfounded. Mike Long, the Frank Sinatra tribute singer had guests in awe of his performance whilst he serenaded them during their meal with many special requests, and guests took to the floor to kick their legs out to 'New York, New York'.

Following dinner, the evening's main event - a charity auction where auctioneer Nick Wood took to the hammer, with prizes including a luxury break in London, a footplate ride on a steam train, a flying lesson, spa breaks and a giant teddy bear (donated by John & Stella, two of the Ball's loyal supporters) amongst many other prizes which were listed in the programme (one of the many items sponsored by Besley & Copp, Exeter).

For guests not up for the tension of auction bidding, there was the opportunity to get in on the excitement in the silent auction. Prizes included a bottle of House of Commons Whisky signed by Tony Blair, an Interior Design Consultation donated by Inline Kitchens and a spa day at the Cedar Falls amongst other prizes donated from Naked Body Care, The Met Office, The Riviera Centre and many more.

Bays Chocolate Fountains gave those with a sweet tooth unlimited use of the chocolate fountain. Musical attention turned to the Cadence, the band in charge of warming up guests for a turn on the packed dance floor. One guest commented: "The band was amazing - I have been to a lot of dinner and dances and this is by far the best". And Pete surprised all with a generous donation of his guitar - the guitar that he has used for the last 13 years! "Such generosity never fails to astound me!" said event organiser, Joyce Sharpe.

Wood's Estate Agents & Auctioneers - with the help and support of generous donors - were able to give each of the guests a gift bag to take away at the end of the evening. Gifts included pens,

cosmetics, packets of crisps, energy drinks, cereal bars, pet food, key rings, chocolates, tickets to plant world, seeds donated by Sutton Seeds and much more. Those on the sponsor tables were surprised with multi tools, novelty ales, scratch cards and jewellery / sparkly items for the ladies.

Sarah Thomas, said: "Although there is still money coming in and money waiting to be counted and verified, with the kind help and support from everyone who helped and attended, we have raised in the region of £8,000 for Macmillan Cancer Support and Help for Heroes to be split equally. In addition, over £500 was raised for Families for Children at the Golf Tournament & Pamper Session.

"These are such worthwhile charities and it is events like this that help to keep up the priceless work and care that they offer, and the evening would not have been the success it was without the help of everyone who supported us. All the money raised will be going directly to the charities to help in their selfless work."

If you would like to be kept informed of any future events, have any comments or were unable to attend but would like to make a donation, please do not hesitate in contacting Sarah Thomas or Joyce Sharpe at Wood's Estate Agents, 6 Queen Street, Newton Abbot, on 01626 336633 or by emailing [homes@woodshomes.co.uk](mailto:homes@woodshomes.co.uk) or [joyceandsarah4charity@hotmail.com](mailto:joyceandsarah4charity@hotmail.com). All donations are gratefully received.

If anyone has any photographs of the evening that they would like to share with Joyce and Sarah, e-mail them to [homes@woodshomes.co.uk](mailto:homes@woodshomes.co.uk).

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**Digital images are available from [bubblepr@mac.com](mailto:bubblepr@mac.com)**

**Notes to editors:**

Westcountry **team** is part of **team** Association, the largest organisation for independent estate agents in the UK, with hundreds of members. Westcountry **team** covers Cornwall, Devon and West Dorset, and consists of 70+ members at this time, all of which work together to sell property for clients, and are actively committed to their nominated charity, Macmillan Cancer Support. **team**'s 'blue sky' image, with transparent team logo on a blue sky background reflects the association's and each individual agent's commitment to providing a clear, transparent service to their clients and conducting business in a straightforward, honest and professional way.

**For further information, please contact:**

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*Joyce Sharpe and Sarah Thomas, ball organisers*



*The Ship Inn party*



*Keith Richardson, owner of The Grand Hotel with partner, Fee McGregor*