

## Charity Ball celebrates fourth year sell-out success

- Raising funds for Macmillan Cancer Support and Help for Heroes

The glamour of a James Bond Premier came to the English Riviera on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> September as The Palace Hotel in Babbacombe Road, Torquay, played host to the black tie charity ball in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support & Help for Heroes. Yet again the event was a sell-out success - so popular, a waiting list was formed for those hoping to join the party and support the charities.



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

Upon arriving at the Bond Themed Event, guests were greeted with a welcome drink & the music of local pianist Neil Reed (who was again kindly supporting the charity) drifting through the foyer. "Wonderful, isn't he talented. I feel completely calm and relaxed." one guest commented. Guests had the opportunity to have their photographs taken in the garden by a professional photographer from Miracle PR and photos were reserved for collection later that evening (they can also be purchased online at [www.miraclepr.co.uk](http://www.miraclepr.co.uk)), before guests enjoyed a three course meal cooked by one of the hotels' finest chefs.

The evening took centre stage in one of the hotels most opulent rooms - boasting views over the magnificent grounds from the dining room and adjoining lit terrace. To begin the evening a little differently, two lucky guests received a surprise when their numbers were called - one receiving a kettle worth over £70 donated by Inline Kitchens and the other awarded with a bottle of wine.

The tables were decadent with alternating beautiful flower displays by Susan's Florist and magnificent balloon displays lit in black and gold by Samm's Decorations of Torquay - both

supporters of the last three events. Casino chip chocolates and Bond movie posters 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.

Tony Everest the magician wowed guests as he showed off his magical talent during dinner demonstrating an array of tricks, leaving even the most sceptical of guests dumfounded. Mike Long, the Frank Sinatra tribute singer, had guests in awe of his performance whilst he serenaded them during their meal.

Following dinner, the evening's main event - a charity auction where talented auctioneer Nick Wood and Will Smith took to the Hammer, with prizes including a break in the French Alps donated by Hotel Camelia; a luxury break in London; a footplate ride on a steam train; Spa Breaks and a Heroes Bear signed by the RAF Falcons amongst many other prizes which were listed in the programme.

For guests that did not feel up to the suspense of auction bidding, there was the opportunity to get in on the excitement by bidding in the silent auction (prizes included a signed Gavin and Stacey DVD; over £300 worth of Hoopers products; Patrón Tequila worth over £100; a magnum of Champagne; a signed print and many other prizes) and entering the draw with prizes donated from Debenhams, Starbucks, Inline Kitchens, The Sock Shop, Naked Body Care and many more.

The Choccy Box chocolate fountain was on hand for those with a sweet tooth with unlimited use for all guests. Tara and Fernando Latino Dancers highlighted their talents, with guests on the edge of their seats as they demonstrated their dancing skills. Musical attention turned to the Cadence, who were in charge of warming up guests for a turn on the packed dance floor "The band were amazing, I have been to a lot of dinner and dances, and this is by far the best." commented one guest!

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.

Joyce 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 has helped us and attended, we have raised in the region of £6,000 for Macmillan Cancer Support and Help for Heroes to be split equally."

Sarah continued: "Macmillan Cancer Support and Help for Heroes are such worthwhile charities,

and it is events like this that help to keep up the priceless work and care that they offer. The evening would not have been the success it was without the help of everyone who supported us, and all the money raised will be going directly to Macmillan Cancer Support and Help for Heroes to help in their selfless work.”

If you would like to be kept informed of any future events or have any comments, please do not hesitate in contacting Sarah Thomas or Rachel Green at Wood’s Estate Agents on 01626 336633 or by email at homes@woodshomes.co.uk or joyceandsarah4charity@hotmail.com (also on facebook, justgiving.co.uk and Myspace).

If you were unable to attend but would like to make a donation, please contact either Joyce or Sarah, or call into Wood’s Estate Agents at 6 Queen Street, Newton Abbot. All donations are gratefully received.

If anyone has any photographs they would like to share (as Joyce and Sarah didn’t get a chance to take many of their own) it would be great to see them, so why not e-mail them with your snaps.

- ends -

**In the photographs:**

- The cadets of Torquay 200 Squadron ATC who formed the welcome guard with Joyce Sharpe, Sarah Thomas, Kate Cherrte, Rachel Green and Samantha Brook
- Ian and Jill Thomas of Inline Kitchens, Newton Abbot
- Guests having fun at the charity ball

**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:**

Samantha Mason, Bubble Public Relations. Tel: 01869 248524. Mobile: 07957 364179. Email:[bubblepr@mac.com](mailto:bubblepr@mac.com)  
Woods, **team** estate agent, Newton Abbott. Tel: 01626 335008

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