

Auction Guide



Thank you

To each and every one of our donors and the friends who approached them on our behalf, please accept our heartfelt thanks. We have been touched by the sheer diversity and quantity of items that have been given to the Mia's Wood Ball and Auction tonight. People have been very generous, coming forward with an amazing array of treasures to tempt and delight all.

We hope that you enjoy the bidding experience, which is ably led by our good friend and auctioneer tonight, Clive Barton.

We know that there are many people who are disappointed not to be able to attend the Mia's Wood Charity Ball in person so we have also allowed absentee bids.

With regards to payment we happily accept cheques, cash or bank transfer, but being tiny we don't have the facility to take credit or debit card payments. In the meantime we accept IOUs and one of our lovely volunteers will take your details following your winning bid!

Kirstin and Simon



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Auction Items

1. The Cotswold Distillery Dry Gin package and tasting tour

Donated by The Cotswolds Distillery

The Cotswolds Distillery is one of the smallest but prettiest distilleries in the UK, situated in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty famous for its horticultural heritage and set in five acres of beautiful Cotswolds countryside. With its state-of-the-art distillation equipment, it is perfectly poised for the creation of fine spirits. In March 2016, its Dry Gin was awarded “World’s Best London Dry Gin” at the World Drinks Awards.

This Cotswold Distillery package includes a 700ml bottle of award-winning Cotswold Distillery Dry Gin with its delectable blend of nine carefully-considered botanicals; a 200ml Special Edition Chamomile and Honey Dry gin, plus a leather notebook, coaster and candle. Also included is the highly popular tasting tour of the distillery for four people on a date of your choice.

<http://www.cotswoldsdistillery.com/>



2. 10 x WaterBabies lessons

Donated by WaterBabies - Bucks and Beds

WaterBabies is a fun, safe way for children up to 4 years to learn water confidence, water safety and their first swimming strokes. It has an outstanding reputation as the world's biggest, most professional baby and toddler swimming programme, welcoming over 44,000 children (and their parents/carers) into warm water at around 560 local pools every week. Its swimming lessons progressively develop children's water skills in line with their physical, mental and emotional development phases from newborns to school starters – whilst having a great time in water.

Ten WaterBabies swimming classes, which can be taken up in the locations of Aylesbury, Banbury, Bedford, Buckingham, Hemel Hempstead, Leighton Buzzard, Northampton or Milton Keynes

www.waterbabies.co.uk



3. An Alastair Cook-signed Kippax cricket bat

Donated by Milton Keynes Parks Trust

Did you know that it takes Milton Keynes Parks Trust an average of twenty-five years to grow its cricket-bat willows before they can be harvested? The willow is then used to produce Yorkshire-made Kippax cricket bats, some of the world's most sought-after cricket bats, which are lusted after by ardent schoolboys and professional cricketers alike.

And you might say that cricketer Alistair Cook knows cricket bats, which is why the Milton Keynes Parks Trust was delighted when he signed this particular one. The captain of the [England Test](#) team and former [ODI](#) captain is the leading run-scorer in Test matches for England, the first English test batsmen to scored his 9000th test run, and is the only England cricketer in history to be involved in 50 Test victories.

TheParksTrust
MILTON KEYNES



4. 4 VIP Box seats at a London Lions basketball game

Donated by London Lions



For the sports-mad, for the Olympic Games memories, and for simply a great day out – come and see London’s only professional basketball team, the

London Lions, in action at the CopperBox Arena at Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park.

This offer includes four VIP Courtside Box seats at a London Lions basketball match, as well as a pre-game reception on the Olympic Park, and meeting the players after the game for a photo opportunity <http://www.londonlionsbasketball.com/>

5. Two tickets to an event at the O2 Arena

Donated by Louise and Mark Eacott



The iconic O2 Arena in London hosts the world’s biggest live events. Prince. Kylie Minogue. The Rolling Stones. The BRITs. ATP tennis. Led Zeppelin. The list goes

on... Events coming up include Busted; Neil Young; Harlem Globetrotters; Bryan Adams; Channel 4’s Comedy Gala; Il Divo; Earth, Wind and Fire; Lionel Richie; Andreas Bocelli; 2016 Barclays ATP World Tour Finals; and Rod Stewart.

This is a unique opportunity for two people to attend an event of your choice at the O2 Arena in London, subject to availability.

<http://www.theo2.co.uk/events/venue/the-o2-arena>



6. Four VIP tickets for MK Lightning Ice Hockey match

Donated by Smith recycling

Speed, excitement, and ambition! Milton Keynes Lightning is an ice hockey team with big plans. It has signed up the Team GB coach and is currently placed second in the English Premier Ice Hockey League. In the 2017/18 season, it will be moving to the Elite Ice Hockey League, ready to tackle a whole new set of adversaries on ice.

This VIP experience will include meal, tickets, match day programme and VIP seating for a Milton Keynes Lightning ice hockey match during the 2016/17 season. Fixtures will be released in July. www.mk-lightning.co.uk



7. A children's wild outdoor party at Hollington Wood

Donated by MYIMA & Hollington Wood

A wild birthday party with a difference! Jessica Flowers of Make young imaginations more active MYIMA combines ecological education with imaginative play to create unique outdoor experiences for children of all ages from pre-schooler sessions to creative holiday-time family adventures that allow children to explore the natural environment at their own pace and in their own unique way. Based in the privately-owned ancient woodland of Hollington Wood near Olney, she utilises this magical place to inspire adventures based on well-loved children's books and British folklore. A 2-hour MYIMA Wild birthday party at Hollington Wood will be tailored to suit the ages and preferences of your children, and to ensure that they have a fun and memorable occasion. Preferred season is summer, although spring and autumn are also possible.

www.hollingtonwood.com and

<https://www.facebook.com/www.crazymyima/>



8. A week in a self-contained chalet in Morgins, Switzerland

Donated by The Cairns-Lee family

Morgins is in the French-speaking Swiss Alps, a chocolate box mountain village known for its skiing in winter and it's hiking and mountain-biking in the summer. And while Portes du Soleil is known for its skiing, it is also one the biggest MTB parks on the planet with 650km of trails, 5 internationally renowned bike parks and 22 MTB lifts across the French-Swiss resort. Also on offer locally are hiking, climbing, paragliding, horse-riding, fishing, paintball, go-karting, and tennis. However, for the less energetically inclined, there is the Val D'Illiez spa, a micro-brewery and authentic Swiss Chablais cuisine to sample...

Only 1.5 hours from Geneva, this fully-equipped modern chalet sleeps 4 (one double, two singles) or 6 with a sofa bed. It is available from May – October 2016, except July 27th – August 8th <http://en.portesdusoleil.com/summer.html>



9. A Masterclass and Lunch at Michelin-starred Paris House

Donated by Phil Fanning, Executive Chef, Paris House

Set in 22 acres of stunning deer park, Paris House is Bedfordshire's only Michelin-starred restaurant, located on the Duke of Bedford's Estate in Woburn. Executive Chef and owner Phil Fanning blends modern culinary techniques with the finest in seasonal produce. Paris House is the perfect setting to enjoy a truly unique dining experience with exciting food, fabulous wines and great British hospitality.

This year Phil and his team are very pleased to offer a Cookery Masterclass of choice with a 5 course lunch at the Chef's Table. The day will include a brief with Chef in a group of up to 6 guests, a 2 hour hands-on Masterclass on the chosen subject followed by a glass of bubbles and a 5 course lunch served on the Chef's Table group of up to 6 guests. Dates and courses are available to view here <http://www.parishouse.co.uk/category/events/>



P A R I S

H O U S E



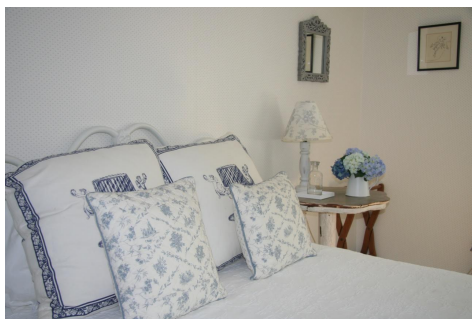
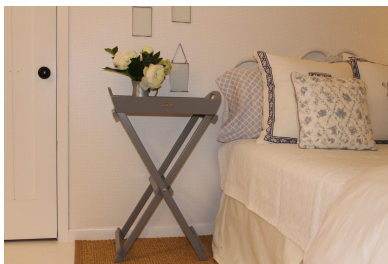
10. One week at a luxury retreat in the Hamptons, New York

Donated by The Bonnefous family

Beautiful beaches, nature walks, wineries, horse farms, exquisite villages and towns, restaurants, places of historical interest, sailing, surfing, tennis, cycling, horse riding, whale-watching and fishing. Anything is possible in the Hamptons. What's not to like!

This stylishly decorated family home in Water Mill, Long Island is the perfect Hamptons retreat. With a large garden and woods, pool area, deck, BBQ and table tennis, it is superbly located, sleeping 8 people in 4 rooms (2 doubles and 4 singles). Available between October 2016 and mid-May 2017, subject to availability, this is a unique opportunity if you have ever wanted to experience a true American-style celebration of Halloween, Thanksgiving, Christmas or even Easter. *(Note : \$260 cleaning charges are additional)*





11. A private lunch for two with Evan Davis of Newsnight

Donated by Evan Davis



A rare occasion to gain some fascinating new insights into the world of UK business at a private lunch with BBC broadcaster and journalist, Evan Davis. One of the busiest economics journalists in the country, he has interviewed all the influential business leaders of our time, throughout his extensive career on Newsnight, Dragons Den, the Bottom Line and the Radio 1 Today show. Evan says that "The two questions that anyone ever asks me are: *"Are houseprices going to go down?"* and *"Is it a good time to fix my mortgage rate?"*" Surely you can think of some better questions than this?

This meal for two people will take place at one of Evan's favourite restaurants in central London. The date will be chosen through mutually agreement with the auction winner, but must be held on a weekday during 2016. www.evandavis.co.uk



12. A long weekend at a chateau in the Dordogne

Donated by Alison, Karim, Anna & Luc Davezac

This lovingly-restored 18th-century chateau, nestled in the heart of the Dordogne, has been fully renovated and tastefully furnished and sleeps 15 people. Goursac has been a family summer home for generations, and its location on top of a forested hill is private and peaceful, perfect for walking, resting and relaxing. Guests have exclusive use of a 12m (gated) swimming pool, a tennis court, a maze, an orchard, and 60 acres of woodland and pastures, as well as billiards, a library and a baby grand piano indoors.

Come and experience the Dordogne and its famous gourmet delights with a Spring or Autumn long weekend (Friday to Tuesday). It is a perfect spot for a memorable family or friends holiday break www.goursac.com



Silent Auction

Bidding sheets for the silent auction will be available on your table and will be collected at 10.45. The winning bids will be announced at 11pm.

Two tickets to Mitch Benn at The Stables

Donated by The Stables



The Stables is one of the UK's leading music venues, and a hidden jewel of Milton Keynes. Set up by jazz singer Dame Cleo Laine

DBE and her composer husband Sir John Dankworth, The Stables regularly attracts diverse artists and performers from around the world. It is also the organisation behind the IF:Milton Keynes International Festival 2016.

In *Don't Believe a Word*, Mitch Benn's acclaimed show from Edinburgh Fringe, this comedy musician delights in the joys of being a sceptic like you've never heard before. Mitch will make you laugh a lot and think a bit, and he will debunk myths, expose nonsense and grapple with the very nature of knowledge itself as he explains his unique evidence-based approach to life. He will be performing on Saturday 30th June at 8:00pm at The Stables, Wavendon (Note : may contain strong language and adult material; suitable for 16+)



Two weekend tickets to the Touring Car Championships

Donated by Silverstone Circuits

The 2016 Dunlop MSA British Touring Car Championship comes to Silverstone on 17–18 September for a thrilling weekend of racing. With a packed timetable and open paddock policy over two days, it's a must-attend event for any motorsport fan.

The BTCC utilises the short National Circuit layout to maximise the action for the fans. Long straights and some of the world's most famous corners make for overtaking opportunities on every lap, so action is guaranteed throughout the race. Silverstone regularly plays host to some memorable touring car battles as the drivers try to eek out every last second and set themselves up in the strongest possible position going into the unpredictable season finale a few weeks later.

<http://www.silverstone.co.uk/events/british-touring-car-championship/#sthash.HN8Mdcx2.dpuf>

One night's accommodation at Horwood House for two

Horwood House is a charming hotel nestled in the heart of beautiful Buckinghamshire just eleven miles from Milton Keynes. Set in 38 acres of landscaped gardens, Horwood House elegantly combines vintage appeal with modern facilities in a peaceful countryside setting. One night's accommodation at Horwood House for two people, including breakfast.



Family ticket to see the MK Dons football team at home

Donated by MK Dons Sport & Education Trust

MK Dons is a popular Football League team, known for its support and development of young local football players through its Sports and Education Trust. *Stadium:mk* was one of the host venues for the Rugby World Cup in 2015.

Bring your footy-mad family along to a home Football League match ticket at *stadium:mk* in the 2016/17 season with this Family Ticket which will give two adults and two juniors access to a great afternoon's entertainment. (And you can leave the rest of the family in the Odeon IMAX, IKEA or the shopping mall all of which are right next door!)

www.mkdons.com



Raffle Prizes

Center Parcs Woburn Forest Family Day Pass

(Donated by Center Parcs)

Escape back to nature at Center Parcs Woburn Forest near Bedford. In 365 acres of forest, the newest Village is the most exciting yet with its beautiful undulating forest landscapes, the largest Subtropical Swimming Paradise, and magical views over the lake and rolling forest.

These Family Day passes for up to 5 people (1 car) cannot be purchased by the public, so this is a unique opportunity to experience Woburn Forest Center Parcs for the day, with complimentary access to the whole village and its Subtropical Swimming Paradise, and access to its myriad of activities
<http://www.centerparcs.co.uk/villages/woburn/index.jsp>

Toni and Guy Milton Keynes hair cut and styling

Toni and Guy Milton Keynes hair colourist session

Spa facial at the Treatment Room, Shutlanger, Northants

Gordon's London Dry Gin 700ml

Bell's Scotch Blended Whisky 700ml

Mumm Cordon Rouge Champagne



