

## **PRESS RELEASE FOR THE GUY LEONARD & COMPANY 20<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY CHARITY BALL**

Guy Leonard and his wife, Mary, first decided to set up their own company just over twenty years ago. Guy was an experienced estate agent and lived in Amberley so Storrington seemed the ideal choice for his first office. On March 1<sup>st</sup> 1992 the company was officially launched from a small office, initially it was Guy and his new secretary, Cathy, with Mary helping out as and when needed. Neil Moore joined the company within a few months of opening and the rest, as they say, is history. Guy Leonard & Company has expanded over the twenty years from one office to three offices, the Storrington Office having moved into the High Street. Originally we just handled residential sales but we now have a thriving residential letting department as well as our sister company, Amberley House Cottage Holidays. Guy retired a few years ago and the company continues to flourish but now in the ownership of Neil & Cathy Moore.

So with 2012 being our anniversary year we needed to celebrate. It seemed an ideal opportunity to combine a celebration with some fund raising for The Dame Vera Lynn Trust. We decided to hold a Charity Ball & Auction, Slinfold Golf & Country Club was the chosen venue. After many months of planning the Ball was held on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> October and was an amazing evening. When we first started to plan the Ball we felt that selling eighty tickets would be an achievement, well we ended up with one hundred and twenty five guests so it was a full house! The evening commenced with a champagne reception during which time guests were able to have their photograph taken by professional photographer, Frances Newman.

We then enjoyed a three course meal during which there was a chance for the guests to become acquainted with others on their table. At the end of the meal as well as coffee being served our guests were treated to mini cupcakes bearing the Guy Leonard logo – these cupcakes were kindly made by Michelle Betts, our social media manager. We were running a silent raffle so tickets were available to be purchased during the meal, we had some excellent prizes on offer and raised over £1000.00 from the raffle alone.

At this point our Managing Director, Neil Moore, was joined at the front of the room by local auctioneer, Rupert Toovey. We were very grateful to have Rupert to run the auction, again we had some very good lots ranging from half a pig for the freezer to a weekend in an Abbaye in France. Bidding was brisk and a further £2000.00 was raised.

Neil then took the opportunity to say a few words of thanks to the many people who had done so much to help with the party and also to the people that have supported the company over the last twenty years. A presentation was made by Guy Leonard to Angie Blunden who is the longest serving member of the Guy Leonard team.

The guests were then treated to an amazing display of Latin dance by dancers Wayne & Gaynor Ryan. Following this the party really livened up and the dancing began. All too soon it was time for carriages and a wonderful evening drew to a close.

Although there are still some final calculations to be made we are hopeful that we have made in the region of £4000.00 for the Dame Vera Lynn Trust. It is a self funding charity and every penny really counts so we are absolutely delighted to be able, albeit in a small way, to helping the children and their parents for whom the school is such an invaluable resource.