

westessexlife

www.westessexlife.co.uk

ISSUE No.136: THE RETRO ISSUE | August 2014

Looking back *to look good*

Top beauty tips for a retro look

KARATE KID

Meet the black belt – aged 7

KEEPING IT

WEL LOCAL

in North Chingford

TIMELESS STYLE

How past decades inspire our décor

CHIGWELL

LANDMARK

goes up for sale

USAIN BOLT'S TRAINERS...

And 29 more auction items for Haven House



TOUR *de France*

PICTURE SPECIAL



30 up!

WEL event photographer and charity fundraiser, Richard Barker, is collecting 30 luxury items in aid of Woodford Green's Haven House to help celebrate his own 30th birthday

Tell us about your 30 Donations fundraising campaign?

I turned 30 a couple of weeks ago and over ten years I've collected unique items for charities worth thousands of pounds. In the past I've collected signed first editions from JK Rowling, Virgin Atlantic flights to New York and rare prints from the Herb Ritts Foundation, which raised £4,800. 30 Donations simply means that I aim to collect 30 or more donations for Haven House Children's Hospice and my goal is to raise a figure in excess of £26,845.

How did you get involved with Haven House?

I photographed some of their events for *West Essex Life* and our relationship began from there, simple as that.

Why did you choose Haven House as the charity for 30 Donations?

In 2013 I took part in the Vodafone World of Difference project by spending two months working at the hospice. I've seen the excellent facilities which are provided to children with life limiting and life threatening conditions. It's not only the children that benefit from these resources, parents are given a break as well and they can feel safe in the knowledge that their children are given the best quality of care.

Apart from photography, charity work seems to have become a big part of your life.

I've been fundraising since my teens. It's an obsession. I love collecting donations



and making a difference. In the past I've sent out more than 20,000 gifts to kids who have been infected and affected by HIV. I have also obsessively collected items and sold them at events. For example, a first edition of a Harry Potter book raised more than £5,000.

Occasionally I am able to secure cash donations and a brief meeting resulted in a cash donation of £1,611,52. Every year I tend to work on a different project, including supporting fundraising events and creating my own appeals too.

Tell us about the prizes that have been donated for 30 Donations so far and how did you manage to collect them?

The most unusual item is a used pair of trainers from Usain Bolt, which have been sourced from his agent. A direct link to the star is important because provenance is crucial for buyers. The value of these trainers could be astronomical. West Ham joint chairman David Sullivan donated £2,000 and last year he gave me two seats in the chairman's box to auction. His support has been invaluable. Dame Helen Mirren has signed a script, which came

from her public relations team, and a signed copy of The Kate Moss Book. You get such an adrenaline rush when you secure something amazing and you know that you're going to change a lot of lives.

Where would you like this money to go towards at Haven House?

A day's care at Haven House Children's Hospice costs £3,835. It would be fantastic if I can raise enough money to provide a week of care, support and fun for local, life-limited children.

GET IN TOUCH

Haven House Children's Hospice

The White House, High Road
Woodford Green,
IG8 9LB

0208 505 9944

www.havenhouse.org.uk

Richard Barker

www.justgiving.com/30donations/

www.RichardCBarker.com

07940 133059

