

'WE'RE ALL SO FORTUNATE THAT WE HAVE OUR HEALTH'

DAWN AND ASHLEY WARD INVITE OK! INTO THEIR CHESHIRE MANSION AS THEY HOST A FUNDRAISING GALA IN AID OF CAUDWELL CHILDREN, WITH STARS FROM 'CORRIE' AND 'THE X FACTOR' ON HAND TO SHOW THEIR SUPPORT



Hollywood glamour collided with Cheshire glitz as celebrities gathered at the lavish Crème De La Crème Ball in the grounds of Warford Hall, the Cheshire mansion owned by celebrity interior designer Dawn Ward and her husband, former footballer Ashley.

Guests including Coronation Street stars Kym Marsh and Shayne Ward passed a Hollywood sign as they headed up the torch-lit drive, giving them a hint of what lay in store. Other Corrie stars in attendance included Antony Cotton and Katie McGlynn. And there were plenty of X Factor alumni on hand to add their voices to gathering throng. Jake Quickenden and his girlfriend Danielle

Fogarty, Jay James and wife Victoria, Carolynne Poole, Luke Friend and Ruth Lorenzo turned out to show their support.

Loose Women presenter Andrea McLean attended with her boyfriend Nick Feeney, while Take Me Out host Paddy McGuinness, former Steps star Lee Latchford-Evans, Overtones singer Darren Everest, actress Tina Malone and TOWIE's Gemma Collins added extra sparkle to the annual event.

Guests walked into the main marquee along a purple carpeted walk of fame, which featured statues of Marilyn Monroe, James Dean and Clark Gable. Proceeds from the annual event – which this year raised around £130,000 – go to Caudwell Children, a



Dawn and Ashley Ward with their daughters Darby, Taylor, Charlie and Aston

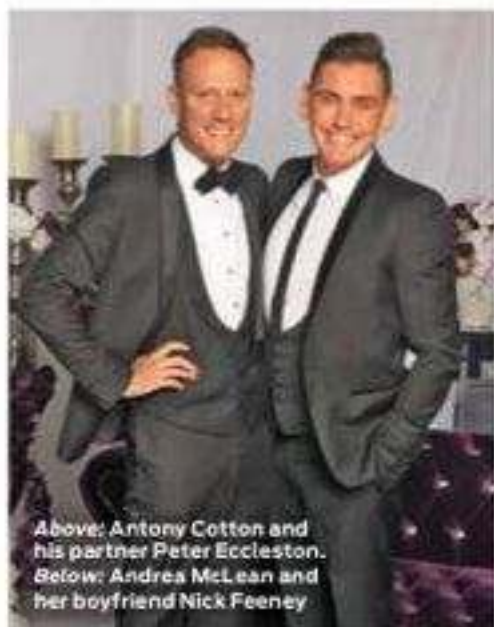


Above: Gemma Collins shows off her recent three-stone weight loss. Right: Alesha Dixon. Top left: The party took place in the grounds of the Wards' family home





Coronation Street stars
Katie McGlynn, Shayne
Ward and Kym Marsh



Above: Antony Cotton and his partner Peter Eccleston. Below: Andrea McLean and her boyfriend Nick Feeney



Jake Quickenden and his girlfriend Danielle Fogarty

Paddy McGuinness and his gorgeous wife Christine



charity which provides support, equipment and treatment for disabled children and their families across the UK, with the money being specifically used to fund Destination Dreams, a project that's aiming to send 25 terminally ill children and their families on the holiday of a lifetime to Florida.

When OK! bumped into former *X Factor* winner Shayne Ward, he told us he was 'loving' his new role as Aidan Connor in *Coronation Street*. 'I've been there for three months, every single day, more or less. It was terrifying but I've been received so well from the public and they love the character,' said Shayne. 'People feel like I've been there for a while, which is a nice thing to hear. I'm learning every day.'

Shayne also laughed about the attention he's been getting from the ladies. 'It's lovely. I never thought I'd be 30 years old and running a knicker factory. I'm pretty happy,' he smiled. And the fan mail has already started to flood in: 'So far I've not seen anything dodgy. Maybe they don't let us see that. I had my first "Aidan" shout in the street the other day, so that was cool.'

Party lover Shayne has also been pictured out with his co-stars. 'Dan Brocklebank, who plays Billy, is fantastic. Hayley Tamaddon, Kym [Marsh] and Alison [King], we have a wicked time,' he said. 'I didn't even know Kym was coming tonight so it's great to see her. It's going to be a fun night!'

Shayne also told us he's still watching *The X Factor*. 'I think the new line-up is brilliant,' he said. 'It's great having Nick Grimshaw from Radio 1 because he's in with the in-crowd at the moment. He's very popular with the teens. Rita Ora is hot – she's also a well-respected global superstar. And we know how

'I DIDN'T KNOW KYM WAS COMING – IT'S GOING TO BE A FUN NIGHT!'

fantastic Cheryl [Fernandez-Versini] is. And Simon [Cowell]... It's nice to have Simon back on the panel. This year is going to be great.'

Katie McGlynn, who plays Corrie's Sinead Tinker, said she was really excited about this week's live episode. 'Everyone's dead nervous, but I'm just excited to crack on with it now,' she revealed, adding: 'When we start rehearsing, that's when we get nervous.'



Above: Leanne Brown, Kym Marsh and her daughter Emille. Below: Kerry-Lucy and Lee Latchford-Evans. Below inset: Champagne for everyone!



Katie admitted that she turns to older cast members to provide guidance, saying: "You can talk to them about it if you've got any queries or you feel a bit nervous. They give you the build-up of what's going to happen and what it's going to be like – but Shayne does my head in [laughs]!"

The actress also said it's difficult keeping in shape on set. "In the Green Room, all the snacks are chocolate," she revealed. "But to be fair the canteen is good and does healthy food because someone is always on a diet. I do go to the gym – I love going on the treadmill, putting my headphones in

and just running. But I've a proper sweet tooth."

Antony Cotton, who plays Sean Tully, wasn't nervous about the live episode because he's done it before. He told us: "It's not my first time at the rodeo. I will be nervous on the night but you have to see it for what it is, an episode of event television that's supposed to be fun. There are some



Antony Cotton, Katie McGlynn and Shayne Ward

serious bits but I'll be in the Rovers, which is my second home. I'll be comfortable!"

Slipping on a glass of champagne, Antony confided that he had no plans to marry his partner Peter Eccleston. "I'm just celebrating being here for Dawn and Ashley," he said. "It's lovely they welcome us into their home and Caidwell Children is an amazing organisation."

Antony also revealed they had no plans to adopt. "We have enough with my brother and his family. We have lots of kids," he smiled. "Between the two families there are hundreds of them. We're lucky we can hand them back!"

Former *TOWIE* star Gemma Collins, who co-presented the evening with DJ Darren Proctor, told us: "I'm having lots of fun doing gille stuff. I haven't had a lot of time recently, now I'm letting my hair down. I have things in the pipeline, but I'm looking forward to being a normal girl for a bit. I'm single and I want to have fun with guys. For four years every relationship I've had in the spotlight has failed, so I'm looking forward to chilling."

The 34-year-old was looking in great shape, having lost three stone – helped by spending time on a Jason Vale retreat in Portugal. "It's all good. It's been diet and exercise, really healthy eating. I'm massively into avocados at the minute – raw, organic, natural food," she told us, adding: "I'm having a few drinks tonight. I've been training today and I'll be training again tomorrow. I go to the gym three times a week, doing cardio, treadmill, whatever I fancy."

However, Gemma said there will be no exercise DVD. "I have no interest in that," she told us. "I was offered £1.5 million to do one but I want to do it for myself."

Another star who was showing off her weight loss was Tina Malone, who told us: "These are the first photographs since I had a facelift. I've only just had the stitches out. I'm a bit bloated. I had my eyes done, a boob job, my stomach, my neck and my arms. I lost 11 and a half stone."

She added: "People say I'm so brave. I'm not brave. People who push children in wheelchairs every day are brave. It's elective surgery. How are any of us celebrities brave when we have all this?"





Above: Lizzie Cundy, wearing Pia Michl. Right: Alesha Dixon performs



Tina also revealed that she's going back to acting in January and aiming to 'do everything' and be the 'British Dorah Winfrey'!

Guests were called into the marquee, complete with chandeliers and tables decorated with tall white candelabras draped in purple orchids. Around the room – the work of event planner Julie Arnold of Entertainment Today – were ten large arrangements in purple vases filled with white eucalyptus and purple hydrangeas. Guests tucked into a starter of serrano ham and marinated mozzarella, followed by breast of chicken, pressed new potato, heritage carrot, tender stem greens and sauvignon jus. Dessert consisted of white chocolate tart, Laurent-Perrier-poached raspberries and chocolate mint leaves.

It's A Celebrity – Get Me Out Of Here! star and 2014 *X Factor* finalist Jake Quickenden couldn't stop smiling sat next to girlfriend Danielle Fogarty, telling OK!: 'We're just so happy and are enjoying ourselves a lot. Every time I look at her I can't believe I go out with her. It's been nine months and it's going brilliant. We're living together and enjoying every second. We hardly ever argue and are best mates. The future is very bright.'

Jake is watching *The X Factor* this year, too. 'I'm loving it. It's great,' he said. 'The judges have been rejuvenated and I hope they do well. They did a lot of good for me. I'd love to present *The Xtra Factor*. They have an amazing team this year.' Jake also revealed he's planning going on tour but, first of all, the pair are off on holiday to Dubai.

A buzz of excitement rang out around the room as the evening's entertainment got underway. First up were Dawn's daughter Darby and her friends Holly Ellison and Elita Coleman, who are collectively known as Alola. They were

followed by a set from 2012 *X Factor* finalist Carolynne Poole.

Following a video looking at the work of Caudwell Children, it was time for the auction. There was some intense bidding for lots which included four yacht charters that went for £10k each, a training session with David Haye and two VIP passes to the 2016 Moto GP at Silverstone. While Mark and Sue Coffey from Leeds bid £5k to have their photograph in OK!.

Former *Come* star Scott Wright, who's appearing in new ITV three-part supernatural



Above: Jay James and his wife Victoria. Right: Tina Malone



Antony Cotton, Kym Marsh, Dawn Ward and John Caudwell



Above: David Willey, Carolynne Poole and Luke Friend. Left: Scott Wright and Danielle Ronald



Right: Shayne Ward and Kym Marsh. Left: Auction winners Mark and Sue Coffey with Paddy McGuinness

thriller *Midwinter Of The Spirit*, helped with auction. He told us: 'I'm here every year. This is my sixth year. The year before I was one of the last people here, with Dawn in her pyjamas, Liz McClarnon and Danielle Lloyd - it was 7am and daylight. This year I'm going to go home at one!'

Then it was time for the main event, as Britain's Got Talent judge Alesha Dixon took to the stage to perform some of her hits. She was followed by 2008 X Factor finalist Ruth Lorenzo, who teamed up with Carolynne Poole to sing it's *Raining Men* - dedicating it to Simon Cowell!

We also caught up with *Real Housewives Of Cheshire* star Dawn. She launched the ball six years ago as a thank you to the medical teams who saved the life of the youngest of her and Ashley's four daughters, Aston, as she battled meningitis. Dawn told us: 'We're all so fortunate, we're all in this room and we all have our health.'

'OUR DAUGHTER NEARLY DIED FROM MENINGITIS - I DON'T WANT OTHER PEOPLE TO EXPERIENCE THAT'

We thought that wasn't going to happen with our daughter Aston and she's here now. She nearly died because of meningitis and I don't want other people to experience what we went through. We want to give back as a family.'

Ashley added: 'It takes months to organise all this but we are very lucky that we have great party organisers. Typical Dawn, it all gets finished in the last four days. When she walked in tonight, wearing her best dress, she was still doing the table plan. But it always works out well. I'd love to say I get involved but it's very easy for me - I leave it all to Dawn!'

After the acts had concluded, it was time for DJ Munro to take control of the dancefloor, with guests letting their hair down until 2am, when it was time to reflect on what another amazing event the ball had been for everybody involved, and at the same time raising money for a very worthy cause.

CONT

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FOR MORE ON THE CHARITY, SEE WWW.CALDWELLCHILDREN.COM

FEATURE BY DEBBIE MANLEY. ADDITIONAL REPORTING BY PHIL GOULD. PHOTOGRAPHS BY TONY WARD





Kym

HER EXCLUSIVE OK! COLUMN

THE 'CORONATION STREET' STAR ON HER LIVE EPISODE FEARS, PARTYING TILL FOUR IN THE MORNING AND WHY SHE'S NOT ON TINDER...

IT'S NERVE-WRACKING GOING LIVE!

Everyone's been excited on set ahead of *Coronation Street's* live show this Wednesday, although we're all nervous, too! However prepared we are – and we've all been putting in the hours – there's always a risk that someone could fluff their lines and no one wants to be that person! Hopefully nobody will and we're all there to support each other if anything does go wrong!

There was a report in a newspaper last week stating the cast had done a sweepstake betting who was most likely to slip up. I know nothing about that, so perhaps they all think it's going to be me! I'm in about seven scenes, so not as many as other cast members, but it's still very nerve-wracking. However, it's good to be nervous sometimes – it shows you're passionate! In the run-up to the show there have been loads more crew members and vans on set than usual. Everyone's been working really hard behind the scenes to ensure everything goes smoothly – fingers crossed it will!



It was nice to be involved when *Loose Women* took over the *Rovers Return* last week in celebration for the soap being on air for 60 years [above]. I obviously love *Corrie* but I also love being a *Loose Women* panelist so I was



happy the show came up North for the day! There were lots of superfans in the audience who were pleased to be on set, too.

My lovely dog Barney was given the snip last week and he's been feeling very sorry for himself since, as he's had to wear a cone to stop him getting at his stitches. Bless him – he went into the vet's very sheepishly, with his tail between his legs. I put this picture [above] on Instagram of him with the hashtag #byebyeballs!

WE HAD A BALL!

Dawn Ward's *Crème De La Crème Ball* was an amazing night! As the theme was Hollywood, I opted for a glam halterneck dress from Michelle Keegan's range at Lippy – I'm loving her clothes! There was a sit-down meal first of all, then an auction with lots of money raised for Caudwell Children. Then it was time to hit the dancefloor! I was sat on a table with my daughter Emile [below], Antony Cotton and his partner Pete, and a few more friends. Katie McGlynn was also there, as was Shayne Ward.

I'm really pleased Shayne's had such a good response on *Corrie*. I'm so proud of him and he's definitely part of the family – and women love him! He's fun to be around and always does silly things like try and trip you up – he's a bit of a joker. We all partied into the night at Dawn's, although I stayed away from the shots and just had a few glasses of champagne. I didn't end up leaving until about 4.30am, but I remember the entire night – unlike some!

SEE PAGE 28 FOR MORE.



I'M LOVING MY ABS OF STEEL!

I've had lots of very nice comments from people about the way I look at the moment.

I do feel like I'm in better shape now than I've ever been, which is a really positive thing to be able to say at 39. When I sit down I have no fat rolls, which is a personal victory! Making the decision to just get up and do some exercise is sometimes the hardest part, but once you start to see the results you want to keep it up. I fell off the wagon with exercise for a while, but never again. There's no need to, as it's something I enjoy and I like looking and feeling fit and strong.



NO ONLINE DATING FOR ME

Shayne Ward [above] recently spoke out about being on Tinder, and while I don't think there's anything wrong with dating websites, they're not for me! Don't get me wrong – I know lots of people meet that way, but I'd like to meet someone another way. The apps are good in the sense that you can read a bit about someone beforehand, and I'd never say never as there might come a day when I'd consider it, but I think it's a bit different when you're in the public eye.