

**Celebrity** with Jo Brooks

**Mitch Winehouse's** charity work, actress **Julie Graham**, **Dita Von Teese**, and **Frankie's** return



I attended the fourth annual Chestnut Tree House Snowman Spectacular Ball at the Hilton Brighton Metropole on 3 December – and what an amazing evening it was, with over £221,000 being raised for Sussex's only children's hospice. I sat with the lovely Julie Graham (patron of the hospice), her husband Joe, and Karl Jones from Moshi Moshi and his wife Soheila.

Performing on the night was Mitch Winehouse, who talked very movingly about the death of Amy, saying that his visit to Chestnut Tree House was the turning point in dealing with his grief. Mitch and Amy's Mum Janis presented the charity a donation of £10,000 from the Amy Winehouse Foundation (the recently launched charity set up after Amy's tragic death). The foundation will support charitable activities in both the UK and abroad, offering help or care for young people, especially those who are in need by reason of ill health, disability, financial disadvantage or addiction. To donate to Chestnut Tree House go to [www.justgiving.com/chestnuttreehouse/donate](http://www.justgiving.com/chestnuttreehouse/donate) and to donate to the Amy Winehouse Foundation visit [www.comicrelief.com/donate/amywinehousefund](http://www.comicrelief.com/donate/amywinehousefund)

**JULIE GRAHAM IN LAPLAND**

Julie Graham will be gracing our screens on BBC1 this Christmas Eve in prime time comedy, *Lapland*. Starring alongside Julie is the lovely Sue Johnston and an ensemble cast including Stephen Graham (*This Is England*), Elizabeth Berrington (*Secrets And Lies*), William Ash (*Waterloo Road*), Julie Graham (*Survivors*), Zawe Ashton (*Fresh Meat*) and my personal favourite from his *Duty Free* days, Keith Barron.



**PLAYMATES & A BURLESQUE QUEEN**

Last week Brighton's Julie Coates – fresh from vajazzling *TOWIE* favourite Miss Amy Childs – attended a glitzy celeb party at the new and exclusive Playboy club. Between the bunny ears and tails, stars such as Simon Webbe and Amy Winehouse's ex-boyfriend Reg Traviss indulged in champagne cocktails and naughty chat! The star of the show, however, was Queen of burlesque – Dita Von Teese. The sexy starlet looked every inch the glamour puss according to Julie, but she was most impressed by Dita's nails (naturally!). In full fashion mode the vintage-styled vixen had gone for polished red talons, sporting bang-on-trend glitter half-moons.

**SING STARS**

The soundtrack to our office ranges from The Smiths to The Muppets so we welcome any new music to the mix. Last week saw the launch of Brighton and Hove's Gay Men's Chorus' self-titled first album and we are thrilled to hear our local celebrity choir belting out numbers such as Bowie's 'Heroes' and Nine Inch Nail's 'Hurt'. The fabulous world of fame has already seen the men strip off for *Gay Times*, as they were featured in GT's 'annual naked issue'; It was all in the name of charity of course, with money going to Sir Elton John's AIDS Foundation. They also sang at Alan Partridge's latest book signing, which must have been quite a surprise for a man who considers Paul McCartney and the Wings to be 'the band The Beatles could have been'.



**FRANKIE'S RETURN?**

So the lovely Olly Murs backed Woodingdean's resident bad boy for a return on *The X Factor* in the live final last weekend. Speaking out about Brighton's Frankie Cocozza, who was kicked off of the ITV show, Olly voiced his support for the shamed singer, saying: "It would be a shame not to see him back." Usually the lucky contestants who made it through to the live shows are given the chance to perform on the final, but Frankie has already been cut from their charity single and left off next year's tour list. Things don't look too hopeful for our cheeky chappy...



Have you spotted a celeb in the city? [comment@thelatest.co.uk](mailto:comment@thelatest.co.uk)

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