



Above: Watching your other half bid on a cruise. Above: Auctioning the artwork

Inshore Marine Environment Falklands Conservation Ball

THE Town Hall was alive with action on Saturday evening after members of the community gathered to partake in this year's Charity Ball.

Lining the fairy-lighted walls of the Town Hall were testaments to that effort in the form of decorations by the Watch Group.

Reflected in the decoration was the evening's central theme which was 'our inshore marine environment' – a fitting nod to the wildlife rich waters of the Falklands and its importance within each of our lives.

In her annual address on the evening, CEO of Falklands Conservation, Esther Bertram praised the government for current action being undertaken to protect Falk-

lands waters – but also highlighted the importance of pushing for further action.

"Encouragingly this year and next are very important years for the future of this extraordinary marine environment," said Esther.

"The Government is, right now, coming up with a plan for how to protect it. But while current thinking within government is good, it needs to be much stronger to be effective enough to maintain the fragile web of relationships of our fellow Falkland Islanders beneath the waves."

"If you would like to get involved, I really encourage you to consider getting in touch with our MLAs and people in government and let them know how you feel

about the protection of our marine environment," she said.

After a delicious meal provided by Malvina House Hotel, the evening saw the much anticipated live auction take place. There was a selection of eight pieces kindly donated by local businesses and talented individuals from across the community; including a watercolour painting by Stuart Walker, one of a kind earrings by Alice Clarke and a southern sealion by Steve Massam. This year, there were also two dresses kindly donated by ITV's Lorraine Kelly, and a fantastic Antarctic cruise, generously donated by Lindblad Expeditions, among many others.

The night was rounded off with fantastic entertainment from The Pushers who played a well-loved mix of songs that got everyone up onto the dancefloor.

Falklands Conservation would like to thank all of their auction donors, raffle donors and sponsors for this event including primary sponsors Consolidated Fisheries Ltd (since 2004), as well as FIC, FIDC, SAAS, RBC, eLink and RSK. The charity sends a heartfelt thank you to all its volunteers, supporting businesses, staff and supporters who helped to bring the event to life. The event would not have been possible otherwise. Thank you.

Below: Dancing the night away; Right Glenn shows off Lorraine Kelly's sparkling dress. Inset: Enjoying the party

