

Parties

In London, Ladies Who Lunch Gather for a Good Cause

by Violet Naylor-Leyland

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Apart from the Oscars, where else would you find a room full of so many beautiful, glamorous, and talented women? Well, the answer is: at the biennial lunch for African Solutions to African Problems (ASAP) hosted by the charity's founder, **Priscilla Higham**, in London.

Where do we start? Among this year's table hostesses were **Sharleen Spiteri, Jasmine Guinness, Lady Ashcombe, Lady Anne Lambton, Annabel Elliot, Jane Ormsby Gore, Melanie Metcalfe, Rosie Bartlett, Tiggy Kennedy, Maia Norman, Camilla Lowther, and Beatrix Silvano**, to name just a few. Such a strong female presence among the 400 guests was no coincidence; they'd been invited to meet "Scilla" Higham and the South African women who inspired the program's conception. The charity aims to provide support, training, and resources to women who care for orphans and vulnerable children in their home communities, alleviating the affects of H.I.V./AIDS.

The lunch was held within the Louise T. Blouin Institute's very cool white walls, an antidote to the baking-hot weather outside and the perfect setting for such a colorful gathering. Guests including **Lady Helen Taylor**, photographer **Mary McCartney**, designers **Bella Freud** and **Rifat Ozbek**, models **Laura Bailey** and **Saffron Aldridge**, interior designer **Amber Aikens**, and actors **Emilia Fox, Nick Reding, and Rupert Everett** sat down to platters of Itsu sushi, Pret a Manger sandwiches, carrot and lemon cake, and chocolate popcorn, all laid out on multi-colored kikoys. Wild flowers filled hand-painted jam jars, and each guest was given a beautiful handmade beaded blossom to take home. Everything had been donated—even the South African rosé.

After an impressive unaccompanied African choir, consisting of some very teeny children, serenaded the room, and a video by **Jazzy de Lisser** and **Felix Cooper** educated attendees on the pair's recent trip to South Africa, Scilla took to the stage and announced: "I wish there was an African solution to my problem—my nerves!"

Despite the modest joke, Higham did an excellent job of inspiring her lunch guests to donate to the cause. You'd have never guessed that England's next World Cup match kicked off at three p.m. and that **Maria von Thurn und Taxis** had a dissertation to hand in! Even Higham's great friend the actress and writer Lady Anne was in a charitable mood despite earlier sighing, "My friend's turned into Mother flippin' Teresa, and I'm still the same old selfish bastard."

Keywords: AIDS, AFRICA, AFRICAN SOLUTIONS TO AFRICAN PROBLEMS, H.I.V., LONDON, PARTIES, PRISCILLA HIGHAM

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ASAP, please



ASAP/Purple PR



Spotted yesterday at a lunch to raise awareness for charity African Solutions to African Problems (ASAP) - Easy Living favourite Laura Bailey, wearing the prettiest sunglasses we think we've ever seen. We wish we could have a peek in her accessory cupboard...

Over 400 guests attended this event to raise awareness for African Solutions to African Problems (ASAP). The charity helps local South African communities to alleviate the impact of AIDS/HIV, an issue recently given greater exposure during the World Cup in South Africa.

Guests including Lady Helen Taylor, Maia Norman, Jasmine Guinness, Mary McCartney, David Collins, Rupert Everett, Emilia Fox, Rifat Ozbek, Bella Freud, Laura Bailey and Eric Fellner, Saffron Aldridge, Serena and Johnny Bute, Jazzy De Lisser, Flora Hesketh, Amber Aikens and Lucy Birley came together to learn more about the charity's work.

If you'd like to learn more too, here's their site:

<http://africansolutions.org/>

LADIES WHO LUNCH: LOUISE BLOUIN CHARITY EVENT

By **Natasha Paulini** on July 21st 2010

The best of British, including Jasmine Guinness, Emilia Fox and Bella Freud, **Lady Helen Taylor**, photographer **Mary McCartney**, **Rifat Ozbek**, **Laura Bailey**, **Saffron Aldridge**, interior designer **Amber Aikens**, and actors **Emilia Fox**, **Nick Reding**, and **Rupert Everett** attended a luncheon that raised £100,000 for charity. The Louise Blouin Foundation in Notting Hill hosted the event to support African Solutions for African Problems (ASAP), devoted to alleviating HIV/AIDS.

Over 400 high-profile guests were entertained by a choir of South African women and children. Attendance was free of charge, and the lunch lasted just one hour, during which guests were informed of the charity's work while enjoying a light informal lunch with friends. All aspects of the lunch were donated, from the sushi and sandwiches (Itsu and Pret) to the water (Ty Nant), South African rose wine and beautiful wild flowers in painted jam jars. Guests learned more about the charity's vital work through speeches and documentaries, and were entertained by a choir of South African women and children who had flown over especially for the event.



