

Antiques @ THE HOLT

6th February 2014

Charlie Ross @TheHolt

The organisers of **Antiques@TheHolt** are delighted to announce that BBC TV's Charlie Ross will officially open the next Antiques & Collectors' Fair at The Holt hotel on March 15th.

Charlie Ross is perhaps best known as the jovial face of popular BBC TV antiques programmes such as *Bargain Hunt*, *Flog it!* and *The Antiques Road Trip*. While his television appearances have made him a familiar household name - and not just to those with a passing interest in antiques - being an on-screen expert is just one aspect to his repertoire of talents.

As a youngster Charlie had his sights set on becoming a dentist, but his first job on leaving school was selling chickens at Buckingham Cattle Market. He was a natural with the gavel and progressed through poultry and livestock until he was presiding over a saleroom full of antique furniture. He'd discovered his passion, and in 1982 Charlie established his own company; Charles Ross Fine Art Auctioneers, based in Woburn.

Driven by his boundless enthusiasm the company flourished, and Charlie established a reputation as one of the UK's most charismatic auctioneers. He attracted the attention of the BBC, who came to film at his auction house. A screen test followed and a star was born. After 25 successful years he decided to sell Charles Ross Auctioneers and go freelance.

Since then he has conducted sales not only for some of world's the top auction houses but has also helped to raise many millions of pounds for charity. In the process he has set a few records, including the highest auction price ever paid for a car in America - over \$16 million for a 1957 Ferrari 250 Testa Rossa. In 2012 Charlie set another record, this time for an item sold on BBC TV's *The Antiques Road Trip*. The damaged Staffordshire figure of an elephant he'd purchased for just £8 sold for a staggering £2,700!

Auctioneering and TV appearances aside, Charlie is an accomplished amateur actor and operatic singer, being a member of the Bicester Choral & Operatic Society, and a keen follower of cricket.

"Charlie lives locally, and was a natural choice when we were looking for someone special to open the fair," said Marcus Potts, one of the event's organisers. "He was booked up last November when we had our inaugural **Antiques@TheHolt**, but we're over the moon that he's agreed to cut the ribbon on our second fair, when we expand into a larger series of rooms."

Charlie Ross will 'do the honours' on Saturday morning, March 15th, at 10:00 am.

Antiques@TheHolt

Hopcrofts Holt, Steeple Aston, Oxfordshire OX25 5QQ

The Holt is situated mid-way between Oxford & Banbury on the main A4260, with excellent access from Junction 10 of the M40. Free car parking.

For more information ~ telephone: 01869 347356 ~ email: antiques@the-holt.co.uk

www.antiques-at-the-holt.co.uk