

The KISS Ball 20th Sept 2008

The Kiss Charity Ball was held on Saturday 20th September at Highway Farm, Bridport and was enjoyed by 292 invited guests who were entertained by various artistes, a taste of music and dance from Malawi, an African cocktail bar and then danced the evening away to the music of local band 'The Side Kicks'. The evening was ably compared by Wayne Monroe. The Ball was organised by Pauline Bale with a committee made up of ten of her friends and family and was a continuation of the fund raising Kiss Cookbook written by Pauline, which has to date raised £2500 for Cancer Research and £500 for the Malawi Project. What the Committee aimed to create was a truly memorable evening whilst raising lots of money for their chosen charities.

40% Cancer Research UK

40% The Dorset & Somerset Air Ambulance

20% Malawi Chembe Water Project, and

The auction funds to 'Kiss it Better' for children with cancer, Great Ormond Street Hospital.



KISS committee From left to right Pauline Bale, Libby Bowditch, Yvonne Dyke, Jane Andrews, Helen Wallbridge, Angela Munroe, Kate Coombes, Phil Davis, Anna Curtis, Jenny Curtis. There is one member missing from the photo.. Kathy Goodfellow who was in the kitchen organising the food!

By co-opting family members, friends and work colleagues the committee organised and ran the whole Ball themselves. This included the publicity, selling tables, finding sponsors to donate money, raffle prizes, decorating the marquee, and on the night receiving guests and serving food and drinks.

They set themselves the target of raising £5K and although the total is not yet finalised this figure has already been exceeded - so far £9K and donations are still coming in!! The raffle raised over £1500 and the auction, kindly undertaken by Jim Rowe, raised a fantastic £3860 for the 'Kiss it Better' Children's charity.

Said Pauline Bale.. "The event has exceeded all our expectations. It is a real accolade to local people working together. It was an amazing evening and such fun gathering everyone together. My grateful thanks go to all who came along to The KISS Ball, the brilliant supporters and sponsors who helped in various ways to make the evening possible, not only digging deep for charity but also making the event the sell out success that it was!! But, most importantly I would like to thank my wonderful committee [and their husbands] who came together as a great team and worked so hard to make The Ball a truly memorable evening for everyone, as well as raising lots of money for our charities. Last, but not least I must thank my husband John for his support and tireless efforts in the site preparations and being there at the very end."

The Kiss Committee give special thanks to Herbie Treehead & Joy who provided the stunning festival marquee, Freshwater Holiday Park for lending all the tables and chairs, and the two main sponsors, Simon Wakely of A J Wakely & Sons and Anthony Norman of S J Norman & sons, who kick-started the event into action. Thanks also go to the many businesses and friends who sponsored tables, gave raffle prizes and items for the auction.

