

“Thank You” and recommendation from Carl Oates, July 2012

My Dad Ken died of Heart Disease in September 2010. In his memory, I wanted to do something which represented a huge challenge for me. Firstly, to raise money for The British Heart Foundation; secondly, to enable me to get into better shape and lastly (perhaps mostly importantly) to say thanks to my Dad for everything he did for me. With all of the aforementioned criteria in mind, I decided to run the Edinburgh Marathon in May 2012. As you can imagine, this became a huge priority within my day-to-day life.

I pledged £1500 as a charitable donation to the British Heart Foundation and in doing so, I had to get my “thinking cap” on as to how I was going to raise the cash! It quickly came to mind that over the years, I’ve been to some fantastic evenings at The Antrobus Village Hall: The Summer Ball; Supper Club....not to mention the reception of my wedding to local girl Rachel Oates (nee Lawless). It never crossed my mind that The Antrobus Village Hall would let me down if I wanted to host an important evening; and more importantly – an enjoyable evening.

So it came to pass that Antrobus Village Hall was the venue to host our British Heart Foundation charity fund raising evening on April 28th, 2012. With 70 people in attendance on the night, the evening was a resounding success. However, it’s important to assess why it was a success, so here are the key reasons: a clean and tidy environment; table and chairs laid out for us as we entered to setup the night before; kitchen fully prepared with equipment and utensils; a dedicated bar & drinking area; a large stage and electrical provision for our DJ to take place for the evening – in short, everything we needed to deliver a great evening was there!

Granted we needed the functional and physical solutions that hosting an event of this nature requires, but it’s the people that make great nights. We had bar staff attending all evening from 7pm until midnight – all of whom really got into the spirit of the evening and provided a fantastic service – always with a smile! We raised nearly £2000 on the night, achieved via entrance fees; a charity auction and various other activities. In every sense of the word and against all criteria, the night was an overwhelming and resounding success. Some of the happiest and most memorable nights of my life have been spent at The Antrobus Village Hall, My Wife Rachel and I look forward to many more – next on the “radar” is a party to celebrate the birth of our first baby expected this August!

Thanks for everything and god bless you.

Carl Oates