



# Your story

## By Vicki McLeod

### Let's hear it for the Bray

**I**f you've met Stuart Bray then you will almost definitely have been charmed by him. He's got those sort of bright blue eyes that can blink boyishly innocently at you whilst asking you a tricky question. Normally when I meet Stuart he wants a favour out of me, and today is no different. He asks me a question that would normally receive a response similar to "jog on sunshine" from anyone else, stares at me like Puss from Shrek with his hypnotic eyes, and then waits for me to say.... "Oh.... Go on then!"

Stuart moved to Majorca in 2004 after having run a very successful advertising agency in the UK for a decade. "I decided to sell up and move and do something new, I wanted to be near the sea, and it was a toss-up between St Tropez and Majorca".

What gave Majorca the edge? "It's only two hours away from Bournemouth airport, I wanted to be close to my family and my friends, and it's got a lot of boats!" Stuart has been in, on and around boats since the tender age of four when his family would cruise the Thames on their day motor boat, and since moving to our island he's made his love of boating into just one of his passions, but more about what makes the very charming man tick later on.

Stuart didn't have the greatest of luck with his first two ventures in Majorca (which to be honest does sound familiar, most people I know have had a rocky start to their time on the island) being left in the lurch by a boat builder who went bankrupt, and the second one dramatically sinking, along with all of his savings. However, Stuart Bray is not the sort of bloke to let that faze him, and he literally bounced back and in 2008

started Bray Marine which is a brokerage for boats between 12 and 45 metres. He works in Majorca, Italy and the Middle East. "Boats are great, I love to find them, to list them, market them and then sell them!" Stuart admits that he needs constant challenges to keep him fresh and so the nautical industry definitely suits him.

What about what he gets up to when he's not brokering the sale of motor yachts? Well, it turns out he's a bit of a living room DJ on the sly, and when we discover that we both

tells me that his mum has been quite seriously ill with cancer recently. Which brings us to the motivation behind the interview: the Bray Marine Christmas Ball. "I did it last year and we had a great time, and I wanted to do it again this year. But this year it's more personal, my mum has it, I've got three mates who have it. It just seems to affect everyone. So the Bray Marine Christmas Ball is an opportunity to dress up glam and bling it up a bit. I know that girls like to dress up and I know there aren't really that many opportunities to do that on the island out of season, so I came up with the Ball idea. Really it's a chance to get together with friends, have a great night out, a great dinner, some fun, some laughs, and raise money for charity. I'm going to separate the money out so that fifty percent goes back to the Cancer Research UK charity because I think you need to keep investing in research around the disease, and the other fifty percent I am going to be giving to the Cancer Support Group right here in Majorca. They're doing an amazing job.

They are supporting a lot of people who are going through treatment, I mean, can you imagine being diagnosed with cancer and being on your own here on the island? It happens a lot. There's a lot of ladies of a certain age who are maybe getting diagnosed and even though they have lived here for years they maybe don't speak fantastic Spanish, and they are stuck. The Cancer Support Group are helping these people with translations in the hospital and with so much emotional and practical things, they are vital!"

The event is next Saturday 6 December at 7.30pm Tickets are 49€ per person and include welcome cava, a deli-



Stuart Bray at Moods. Below: Stuart Bray and Caron Scott at last year's event. Left: The tables ready for dinner. PHOTO: OLIVER NIELSON



grew up in the Watford area, and even went to the same nightclub, (the erroneously titled Paradise Lost) the interview falls apart for a while whilst we reminisce about the Eighties, about fashion, music and clubbing. I ask about Stuart's family, his mum and dad who he says have been together since they were teenagers and are now in their seventies and still hold hands. We agree that this is some sort of achievement, and even more so when he



scious three course dinner, and house wines and beers with your meal. There will be plenty of chances to meet up with friends and make some new ones as well, and this is a great chance to have your office Christmas do and get involved.

There will be a fun photo booth, Richie Prior from Radio One Mallorca will be your MC for the evening and there

will be some great DJs playing after dinner as well. If you can't make it to the dinner then you can come to the after party for 20€ per person which includes your first drink. Doors open at midnight. You can book your tickets directly with Mood. Email info@moodbeach.com or call us on 971 676 456.

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