

## **Evenings of Mystery raise £1000 for Springboard Project**

Graeme Muncer with the help of Barns Green Players staged an Evening of Mystery in March to raise money for the Players' chosen charity, Springboard Project. The Evenings of Mystery was the brainchild of Graeme one of the Players leading performers who has recently become interested in the dark art of magic and illusions. There were two evenings of rich entertainment featuring songs and a series of outstanding and sometimes truly unbelievable illusions which had the audience gasping in amazement. The proceeds from ticket sales and the raffles raised just over £1000 for the Horsham and Crawley based charity.

Graeme was assisted on stage by Lucy Walker, Abbie Hearn, Warren Blanchard as well as his wife Lorraine and son Ross. They all added significantly to the show with their singing and there were also outstanding solos from Lucy and Abbie. Warren performed some illusions of his own which were expertly delivered. The evenings were a really nice balance of short sharp tricks mixed with musical interludes, jokes and the occasional showstopping longer illusion complete with a variety of impressive props. There was plenty of audience participation with numerous audience members being invited on stage to take part in the tricks and the fun and games.

Graeme has always been keen on magic and illusions and over the past year has been learning a range of tricks and magic skills. He decided to put on a show with the support of Barns Green Players to raise funds for the Players chosen charity, Springboard Project. Hours of practice and rehearsal went into the preparations but it was certainly well worth the effort. Two of his tricks – one involving needles and another an extremely complicated card trick involving the whole audience completely fooled everyone. There were audible gasps around the room as confused audience members tried desperately to work out how the tricks could possibly have been done.

This was one of the first magic shows that Graeme had performed in front of a paying audience so there was a lot of pressure and expectation. However the overall reaction of the audiences could not have been more positive and could not have been more appreciative of this highly versatile and talented performer.

The Springboard Project is a community based charity that provides inclusive play and leisure opportunities for families with young children and fun short breaks for children and teenagers with disabilities. Springboard Houses are open as drop-in centres for any family to bring their children and enjoy the play facilities during the week. The centres are accessible with ceiling hoists and changing facilities.

For more details visit; [barnsgreenplayers.co.uk](http://barnsgreenplayers.co.uk) and [springboardproject.com](http://springboardproject.com)