



Up Front held an "Evening of Style and Serenade" at The Beaconsfield School during Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

The event was a total sell out; the audience, comprising mainly of the families and friends of the members, were outstandingly supportive and appreciative. Philip Schofield opened the show with tremendous warmth and generosity. He touched the audience with his words, and gave the ladies a motivational and inspirational beginning while they were backstage getting ready for scene one! The evening was then led by Ian Desborough and the comperes were Michelle Dutton and Christina Macey, Breast Care Nurses who effortlessly introduced and joined the scenes together.

With the exception of two professional models, everything was modelled by our own group members, each of whom had experienced breast cancer. The retailers who supported us were all from the Chilterns area. They were: Joliffe's, M & Co, Nicki's Boutique, Paul Costello, Swish Boutique and Viyella, Lucynthia, Manhattan, Marinella, Papillon Boutique and Fox's of Old Amersham.

Half way through the evening, one of our members, the Brit award winning singer, Beverley Craven, sang a selection of her hits. The audience gave her a fantastic reception and all enjoyed her engaging and disarming conversation as she explained the inspiration behind each song. She was also accompanied by her saxophonist, Frank Mead, and one of her songs was interpreted through dance by Katie Cobie of Kobika Dance, who had also voluntarily organised choreographic workshops to help the ladies in advance of the show. Members of her youth dance school also performed.

During the evening the audience were sold raffle tickets by the male members of the committee's families, who rattled their pink collecting buckets and extracted money very painlessly from the audience. This collection was supplemented by the bar, managed by Laithwaites of Beaconsfield, who gave their services and takings, as did the Chiltern Hospital whose catering team added their canapés and service to the champagne reception.

Mr Sandy McPherson, Surgeon at both the Chiltern and Wycombe Hospitals, spoke on behalf of the medical and nursing staff highlighting the hard work done by the organising committee of the Up Front group and all its members. He spoke with great warmth and affection of what the group had achieved since their inception in 2006 and congratulated the ladies on such a magnificent achievement.

The organising committee comprised; Brenda Andrews, Sally Creswell, Pat Desborough, Michelle Dutton, Debs Krolkowski, Christina Macey, Heather Mintern and Audrey Shanks, all of whom had worked tirelessly and gave unstintingly of their time over the 18 months to make the event such an outstanding success. Thanks to all the generous support we received, we are proud to have raise din excess of £10,000 for Breakthrough Breast Cancer.