

## Encounters



What connects Alan Bennet's *The Lady in the Van*, *Hamlet* shouting at his mother, *Richard III* being cursed by his mother, *C S Lewis* meeting his wife for the first time and a very short clip of the film *Brief Encounter*?

This apparently random set of dramatic extracts formed part of an evening event entitled *Encounters* staged by Reigate and Redhill U3A at Reigate Manor Hotel recently. Mike Cockett and Sally Baker led a group of 17 performers as they entertained the audience with what could have been a confusing mix of strong drama - such as the moment when the wife of Oedipus discovered that she was his mother -

together with anecdotes about meeting celebrities such as Emerson Fittipaldi and Audrey Hepburn sent in by members. However, the linking narrative, highlighting the part that coincidence and accident plays in all our lives, made for a fast moving and varied first half of the evening.



After the interval, the audience, at first apprehensive, soon warmed to the task of devising plots that linked six characters dreamed up by the *Narrative Writing Group* and some rather surprising scenarios were suggested – luckily for the performers they were not expected to bring those plots to life. But they did perform two stories, one written by Sally Baker and one by Sue Fairclough, ending with confusion, hilarity and a book on Fly Fishing!



Illustrations: Pat King

If you want to find out more about Reigate and Redhill U3A, visit the website [rru3a.org.uk](http://rru3a.org.uk)

### Performers:

Sally Baker, Michael Beach, Mike Cockett, Pat Cockett, Lawrie Carpenter, Derek Darwent, Daphne Fairbrass, Jane Gorman, Anne Hodgkinson, Penny Lambert, Jackie Lucas, Edward Marston, Pauline Milborrow, Colin Mitchell, Pamela Schwenk, Philip Schwenk, Ruth Simmons.

### Contributors:

Sally Baker, Michael Beach, Derek Darwent, Sue Fairclough, Jane Gorman, Alan Harding, Frankie Harding, Ken Hayward, Ian King, Tina Read.

Audio visuals: Pat Cockett

Director: Mike Cockett