

Christmas Events 2018

Reigate and Redhill U3A members have been busy over Christmas. The Christmas Tea Party attracted 140 members to Reigate Manor Hotel where they were entertained with songs and recitations by **Cake and Cabaret** – Daphne Fairbrass, Jackie Lucas and Edward Marston accompanied by Gina Eason. They then struggled with a fiendish quiz and waited with anticipation for the raffle prizes to be picked. Mike Cockett, Chair of Reigate and Redhill U3A thanked all those involved in organising the party.



The following week, the last of the Evening events was held in the same venue – now transformed into a theatre - a show entitled **Seven Ages of Christmas**.

The show began in pitch darkness as ideas and images of the Winter Solstice from across the ages were displayed on the screen. For the Medieval Age the audience were amused by how familiar the complaints of the shepherds were in an extract from the Wakefield Mystery Play - **The Second Shepherd's Play**.



In the Victorian Age, a father struggled to keep control of his household as he introduced the new idea of a decorated Christmas tree and attempted to engage the audience in playing charades by the rules of the time.



After the interval the Age of Wars included moving images of WW1 and singing **Silent Night** in the trenches followed by (an unseasonal) clip of Glen Miller's band playing during a doodlebug raid. The serious mood was then lifted by a medley of seasonal songs from the singers.



The Third Age appeared, out of order, and we followed Bert and Maisie with amusement as they attempted to find things to do to fill their time following retirement and were introduced to the U3A! The audience joined in singing the **Song of U3A** and the show ended with everyone singing **We wish you a Merry Christmas** as the Seventh Age - today.

Sally Baker thanked all who had been involved in all aspects of the show.

Performers and Singers:

Pamela Baker, Sally Baker, Michael Beach, Marion Bignall, Lawrie Carpenter, Maureen Christmas, Mike Cockett, Daphne Fairbrass, Con Fernandez, Jane Gorman, Sally Hayward, Geraldine Horn, Anne Hodgkinson, Penny Lambert, Jackie Lucas, Edward Marston, Fay McCarthy, Pauline Milborrow, Colin Mitchell, Sheila Peters, Pamela Schwenk, Philip Schwenk, Jane Sherrington, Ruth Simmons, Robin Spencer, Janet Steele, Anne Wade, Kathy Winter

Accompanist:

Gina Eason

Front of house:

Kate Perring, Brian Tarner, Jenny Tarner

Tech:

Pat Cockett, Dorothy Harverson

Compiler and Director:

Mike Cockett