"Informative, moving….and hilarious"

 When Janine was told at the age of eighteen that she was going deaf, many people told her she would have to give up her dreams. Instead she decided to keep her disability a secret and went on to become successful as a mezzo-soprano - equally at home in opera, operetta, oratorio, musical theatre and popular song, and being particularly good in roles which require a touch of comedy.

She kept her secret for over thirty years, before finally deciding to go public.  She gave us the most inspirational evening talking coping with hearing loss, how she followed her dreams and how, with a positive outlook on life, she achieved her goals.

It was the most wonderful evening – catch her elsewhere if you can.

One attendee, Cat Stead, wrote:

*I just wanted to let you know how much I enjoyed the event last Friday. I have been raving about Janine to anyone who will listen ever since. She was amazing - so inspirational! I was holding back the tears for much of the time because what she was saying just rang so true for me even though my hearing loss is only moderate. I wish I had taken all my friends and family and singing colleagues to hear her opening remarks about what a deaf person is not...*

*I'm a keen amateur singer (aged 46) who started losing my hearing about 15 years ago and recently I'd been starting to question how much longer I could go on singing for as I have been struggling with my latest NHS hearing aids. It’s not so much the actual singing (although I always worry about finding my starting note) as not being able to hear the conductor speaking in rehearsals or the chit chat with other choir members. But Janine's story was just so inspiring and I was blown away by her resolve and her adoption of the latest technology. Not mention her fantastic voice (both singing and speaking)!*

*Thank you so much for arranging this talk and thank you to Janine for such a passionate, interesting, humorous, entertaining and inspiring evening. When we got to the questions from the audience it felt like being in a support group which was just so lovely. Again I was just trying to hold back the tears and had a good old weep at the bus station waiting for my bus home.*

*I have now booked an appointment to see what private hearing aids can do for me - I am determined to stop missing out on so much and keep singing as long as I possibly can!*