

## Theatre Review

# Relatively Speaking

The Wychwood Players Spring Production was Alan Ayckbourn's comedy 'Relatively Speaking'. This proved to be a very popular choice and was enthusiastically received by the local audience.

The play features a young couple, played by Zoë Humphrey and Rob Gorton, and an older couple played by Amanda Henriques and Mark Jessey.

When the young couple decide to get married the girl has to extricate herself from her relationship with the older man. Deceit, confusion and misunderstanding ensue as the tangled relationships start to unravel. The interplay between all the characters was skilfully handled by the actors, the rapid dialogue was extremely funny and a pleasure to watch.

Alan Ayckbourn wrote 'Relatively Speaking' in the mid-sixties and it is interesting to note that whilst monetary values could easily be updated to allow for inflation, moral values have moved on. Couples 'living together' and

'illegitimacy' no longer carry the social stigma that

they did then. The older couple also demonstrated the different standards between the sexes. (The older man, Mark, justifying his own affair, but unable to face the prospect that his wife might be doing the same!



The play is set firstly in a London flat and then

moves to the sunny patio of a country house. The patio set design and the lighting effects deserve particular praise; both nights there was a round of applause when the curtains opened. You really felt as though you were sitting in an English country garden. The play was ably directed by Mandyrae Large.

The Wychwood Players go from strength to strength and this polished performance is another to add to their list of successes. At the end of a very entertaining evening I had just one question-Who did the slippers belong to?

**Rose Hartley**

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## PLANT AND CAKE STALL

The rain held off long enough on Saturday, May 17<sup>th</sup> for us to have a very successful Plant and Cake Sale. We made £876.00 (£790 on plants and £86 on cakes) which is an amazing sum for Douglas House. Many thanks to all our helpers and those who donated plants and cakes. A very big thank you to all who supported us came along, bought our cakes and produce and made it such a big success.

Now we start growing for next year!

(We are short of sees trays of all kinds – if anyone has any they don't want please can you let us know?)

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