

Milton Village Hall Celebrates its 60th Anniversary

A capacity crowd filled Milton Village Hall on Friday 25th June for supper and a presentation by the Wychwood Players of short plays and monologues written by Michael Frayn, as a fundraising event to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the village hall.



The scenes depicted familiar scenes from life aptly directed by Sian O'Neill. This was not her first venture into directing, but she made sure the pace was right, the accents were spot on, and the props and costumes were minimal but completely correct. She even gave us additional value for money in a brilliant monologue she performed herself.

The WI provided a wonderful supper, including many homemade salads and puddings which were enjoyed by all.

Joanna Scott-Smith, played the mother to Richard Hartley, Phillip Croxson and Ed Reynolds in three scenes in which the 'brothers' used visits to their mother to swap vapid comments about directions, property and birthday presents. In all there were 14 scenes or monologues, which neatly hung together around the theme of

everyday events with a humorous twist. Mark Izard, Jill Collins, Claire Brown, Paul Lovick, Jenny Leyland, Amanda Clarke and Andrew Pitman all outdid themselves with hilarious performances.

The stage in Milton Hall was the right setting for these intimate little pieces, and as usual the Wychwood Players Team entertained us very well and the evening raised £820 for the Village Hall.

Peggy Walmsley

How Did It Get That Name? Judd's Grave

When Terry Wilson moved to Shipton, more than 30 years ago, he was told by a 'local' one theory on the naming of Judd's Grave. During the First World War a man called Henry Judd died in Leafield. His body was being brought to Shipton for burial through heavy snow when the hearse got stuck in a particularly deep drift where the Leafield road crosses the Charlbury/Burford road. Unable to go on to Shipton they off-loaded the coffin, leaving it at the side of the road and returned to Leafield with the mourners. A couple of days later, when they were able to get back through the snow to retrieve

the coffin they found it had disappeared without trace. Hence the crossroads have been known as Judd's Grave ever since, or do you know better?

Joan Howard-Drake's theory is that it was the burial place of a suicide whose burial would not have been allowed in the churchyard.

John Rawlins thinks that the site in this anecdote was elsewhere in the Forest. He thinks the name simply derives from the local pronunciation of dead – 'judd'.

And for our next puzzle, does anyone know about the fiddler of 'Fiddler's Hill'?

Christine Halliday