

Waddington players in harmony

ANYONE not having been to Waddington Drama Group's latest theatrical contribution missed an hilarious evening.

Greta Wilkinson's splendid production of "How the other half loves" was a feast of entertainment and the audiences savoured every moment of the wit of Alan Ayckbourn and its delivery and performance by a most competent team of actors.

Alan Ayckbourn, one of today's most prolific playwrights, has been responsible for some of the best comedies presented on the professional and amateur stage in recent years, but much of his funniest dialogue is contained in this particular play.

It was a tremendous challenge to stage it at all within the limitations of St Helen's Sunday School as the play calls for a composite set where simultaneous action is required in both scenes.

This can create complications in dialogue and action but the tricky situations were handled with precision, ingenuity and perfect synchronisation.

As devotees of Ayckbourn will know, his plays are all about relationships, mostly of the marital kind and each of his characters is very clearly defined.

In this production we had three couples who became intertwined with each other, by design or by chance, but the whole created utter confusion and some terribly funny situations.

Playing these roles were Eileen and David Clews, Bob Cleeve, Carmel Donald, Graham Mitchell and Glenys Wood and it would be impossible to single out any one performance.

Each was so exactly right in the part, depicting such clear-cut characterisations and each portrayal was quite superb.

With Barrie Wood again responsible for stage design and construction and heading a team of experienced backstage staff, Waddington can once more notch up another unqualified success.

B.T.