

Charlton Kings Community Players Newsletter

September 2015

“Let Us Remember” The Great War 1914-1918 in Words, Songs and Images

This commemorative pageant took place for two nights in October 2014 at St Edward’s Senior School and was produced and directed by Martyn Fry and Tony Jeans.



“Let us Remember” told the story of the Great War using poetry and prose from well known writers, “trench newspapers” and the work of our own members who gave a personal perspective. The pageant began in the high summer of 1914, exploring the start of the War, the enthusiasm and optimism, then the realisation of the horrors and the hard slog until we come to the end, the Armistice and the Peace Treaties.



It recalled not only the conflict in the trenches on the Western Front but also other aspects of the War and what happened at home. There were songs both familiar and less well known and the audience had an opportunity to join in the refrains. The whole show was illustrated with still images from the period and the cast of readers and singers were in full costume.



A publication of photographs may be downloaded from the CKCP web site at http://www.charltonkingscommunityplayers.com/?page_id=985

Photographs Peter Grainger & Ray Talbot

Available on Request



An updated CD Rom is available of the CKCP Performance Record. This consists of pdf format files of the detail of productions and other activities since the earliest roots in the 1980s until the end of 2014. There are selected photographs and digital scans of the programmes for the main productions, and the Christmas Shows ‘Let Us Be Merry’. There is a special publication of photographs for ‘Let Us Remember’ (2014).

Contact Sandra & Tony Jeans at jeanstda@jeanstda.plus.com

Walk of Witness Good Friday 2014



Centre: 'Joseph' (Martyn Fry) petitions 'Pilate' (John Palmer) for custody of the body of Jesus for burial. Left to right: The women (Jane Kane, Sylvia Fry, Debbie Masling, Lynne Glover) look on in hope. 'Pilate and Joseph' written by Tony Jeans.

Photograph Peter Grainger

Walk of Witness Good Friday 2015



The 'Walk of Witness' approaches the Baptist Church.



The Procurator of Judea (Pilate) (played by Martyn Fry), arrives at the Church to deliver his speech defending his actions. 'Pilate in the Precinct' written by Peter Grainger.

Photographs Tony Jeans

Proposal for a production for Spring 2017

This proposal was discussed at the CKCP AGM on 15th April 2015 and received general support.

The show would be set in the 1940s and would comprise songs of the period inter-linked with stories of reminiscences of WW2, and the immediate post war period. Possible titles include 'We'll Meet Again' and 'Some Sunny Day'.

The date chosen coincides with 70 years on from the demobilisation period following VE and VJ day. (This took some 18 months from VE day.)

Possible Scenario

It is the autumn of 1946. The War ended just over a year ago and most of the boys and girls have been demobbed.

The Village (two suggested names – Charlton St. Mary's or 'Little Binding) wants a celebration show so a Committee has been set up, chaired by a leading member of the Parish Council - Mr X.

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The other two members are the local grocer Mr Y and a younger member of the village Miss Z.

They meet to discuss the show and as they suggest items of song and reminiscence, they imagine what these little acts will be like i.e. the show is centred on songs of the period interspersed with small sketches or monologues.

The Committee sit at a table, stage left, while the singers and acts perform centre stage and stage right. A fourth person, Mrs B, (who looks after the Village Hall) appears during deliberations and 'occasionally' interrupts – a forceful kind of character!

As they plan the event, they hear that a young couple from the village – Lillian and Edmund, are to be married at the end of the week for which the show is planned. The young people have been serving – Edmund in the Royal Air Force (RAF) and was part of the Battle of Britain action, and Lillian, a singer, was in the Entertainments National Service Association (ENSA).

The show ends with the whole cast as guests at the wedding with the Bride and Groom. There would be lots of uniforms and 'best dresses and hats' and the audience would be pre-invited to wear 40s style clothes.

There is a more detailed plan which includes photographs/images. If you would like this emailed to you contact us at jeanstda@jeanstda.plus.com

Work on the show would be over the summer and autumn of 2015 ready for casting in the spring of 2016.

Charlton Kings Community Players QUIZ

Come and join us at the Charlton Kings Club,
Church Street
on Friday 20th November 2015 for the
CKCP Quiz
£3.00 per person with a maximum of 6 in each
team

LUBM 2015

Our traditional winter production this year is
on

Wednesday 9th December at 7.30pm

in

Sacred Hearts Hall
Moorend Road
Charlton Kings



'Murdered to Death' by Peter Gordon

17th, 18th & 19th February 2016

Sacred Hearts Hall,

Moorend Road,

Charlton Kings,

7.30 pm



(by arrangement with Josef Weinberger Ltd.)

*Put these dates in your diary as our next
major production is a spoof murder mystery
which promises to be great fun.*

Donations

The Players regularly donate to charity and the donations for 2010 to 2014 are as follows

2010/2011

Cheltenham Open Door	£350.00
Oncology Trust Fund	£500.00

2012

Charlton Kings Senior Citizens	£300.00
Individual (Alison Lunar Bursary)	£100.00

2013

McCabe Educational Trust	£100.00
CK Youth Centre	£350.00
Individual (Alison Lunar Bursary)	£100.00
Individual (Alison Lunar Bursary)	£150.00
Cheltenham Open Door	£227.00

2014

Royal British Legion	£100.00
Trussell Trust (Elim) Foodbank	£200.00

Total Donations 2010-2014	£2477.00
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Thank you for your continuing support as this enables
The Players to help others.

Obituary

Michelle Grainger

My main memory of Michelle will be her warm and inviting smile and her ready welcome to her and Peter's home and her enthusiastic support she gave to the Players. I shall never forget those early meetings at "Kings House" where we were able to set up the Players and the wonderful reception and hosting Michelle offered us. If anyone epitomised the 'faith, fun and fellowship' which the Players aimed to provide it was Michelle.

Thank you Michelle for that.

With her exquisite voice one wonders why she never 'strutted the stage'. Apparently this was because of two setbacks: one whilst playing Elizabeth Bennett in an extract from "Pride and Prejudice" in Herefordshire and it was the high notes in "Who Will Buy" that finished her dramatic career! These are just light-hearted memories - Peter thinks she was glad of an excuse not to appear again.

However, her total support of Peter whilst he was all consumed with the directing of so many wonderful productions can only be admired. She never complained or groaned about Peter being out night after night with rehearsals, backstage meetings and his living and breathing every aspect of the particular production he was on.

Behind the scenes Peter says that Michelle was never anything less than supportive with good suggestions and ideas which he could use. Her displays in the Library and elsewhere concerning the plays were excellent, and who could forget those wonderful big stones for the set of "Whose Birthday", which she managed to make to look like loaves! Michelle did quite a lot of 'touching up' for specific bits of set in her time as well as artistic displays.

As well as her time spent on the Players Michelle was very much involved in the ecumenical movement of the local churches where she was able to encourage them to come together. In this way Michelle had important contacts with all the Churches within Charlton Kings which was immensely useful in the setting up of the Players.

Michelle will be missed in many ways by many people but I think it is the Players who will miss her not being there when a new production is performed.

Martyn Fry

Informing the Community

The Players are providing people with information about their activities through various electronic and printed publications available.

There is a comprehensive web site and people may make contact by that means. <http://www.charltonkingscommunityplayers.com>

Information is published through the 'Where I Live' supplement produced by the 'Gloucestershire Echo', under the section for 'Charlton Kings'.

The Players are documented, with links to the web site, in the Wikipedia article on 'Charlton Kings'. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Charlton_Kings

There is a page about the Players set up on 'Streetlife'. This 'local newssheet' provides a permanent base against which regular postings can be made of up and coming activities. <https://www.streetlife.com/page/charlton-kings-community-players/>