



# Let Us Be Merry - Travelling to Christmas 2016



The 16th in the  
Players' history -  
thanks to all those  
in the community  
who have  
contributed to  
this annual  
Christmas Event  
over the years,  
raising money for  
local charities.



## Rehearsals

Jane and Nigel get  
rehearsals started,  
and the '**CKCP  
Singers**' pick up  
their music, with  
Keith ready to give  
direction.



## Charlton Kings Community Players

*'The Wednesdays'*, local Community Singers, rehearse their numbers with Louise.



### The Performance night

Station Master, Tony, dons his top hat and uniform to be the guide on the journey.



Sandra, dressed as WW2 Women's Land Army, looks after the display of photographs and story books for the CKCP productions for the last 30 years. Also on display were the storybooks for their next big production in February 2017.



Gill reads her own story set at Christmas 1916.



Lynne reads a letter to God, written by a young child which was answered by the then Archbishop of Canterbury, Rowan Williams.



## Charlton Kings Community Players

Linda reads cautionary tales. Grandma has a most unpleasant encounter with a reindeer (plus a bad driver). Jim forgets to hold on to nurse's hand and is eaten by a lion!

Sue makes a protest about finding a baby in her manger. She doesn't mind sharing her bedroom but not being able to feed was the last straw!



Sue's reading '*The Donkey's Carol*' was dedicated to the memory of Ann Cross.

David recounts the experiences of a German WW2 prisoner of war when he was invited to spend Christmas Day with an English family.

*(The BBC People's War national archive.)*



Katie and Joshua read various '*Letters to God*' causing much amusement. Katie reads of the worm which came in with the milk bottles and threatened to spoil Christmas dinner.

Sam dressed up as one of Herod's soldiers puts things in context.



(No photo of Sam - sorry)

## Charlton Kings Community Players

Brenda in wet weather gear recounts their first cruise.

Joyce reads an animal poem about the nativity story.

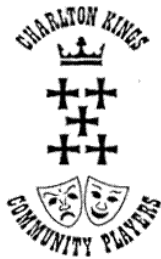
Carol Axford plays a range of happy tunes on her harmonica which were received with much enthusiasm by the audience.



Something red was the order of the day for the '**CKCP Singers**', who not only performed a special selection of carols with the theme of travel and journeys, but also supported the audience in their participation of '*the favourites*'.



Lighting and sound by Peter Ryan and Nigel Jones.



Acknowledgement given to all support teams in the programme.



## Charlton Kings Community Players

Sylvia dons her shepherd's kit to talk about the problems of looking after a flock of sheep.

*'All so true'* said Master of Ceremonies, Tony, who has a small flock grazing his pasture at home.



*'The Wednesdays'* – a local community singing group who meet to sing on Wednesdays, in holly berry bright clothes, perform under the direction of Louise.

This is their second appearance as part of the CKCP annual Christmas Show and they have been received warmly by audiences and performers, bringing a range of songs to complement the traditional carols and songs of the *'CKCP Singers'*.



## Charlton Kings Community Players

No Christmas show is complete without its panto! Peter and his team of players perform **'Dick Whittington'** in their own unique way.

Throughout Station Master and Guard, Tony, kept us moving with the boat train, the night mail, the slow train and the Orient Express, remembering the romance of trains, and their special names from the past such as The Cheltenham Flyer, The Flying Scotsman, the Blue Train and others (*some of course still used by Railway Preservation Societies*).

Jane doubles up as the *'Sultan of Morocco'* as well as Stage Manager!



Don as *'Rat Face'*, Dick's enemy.



## Charlton Kings Community Players

**'Puzzlejug'**  
(Carol, Gwilym, Geoff) perform Christmas carols and songs from the local folk tradition in their own arrangements, and encourage the audience to participate.

The traditional carol "*A Virgin Unspotted*" provides the chorus

**"So Let Us Be Merry"** – the title of our annual Christmastide shows.

The show finished with a rousing rendering of "*I saw Three Ships*", bringing the journey to its close back on the boat train.

Lynne, Jane and Tony (in 40s style outfits) distributing Flyers for '**LUBM – Travelling to Christmas 2016**', and for the next big production '**Some Sunny Day**' (February 15<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>), in The Precinct during the switching on of the Charlton Kings Christmas Lights.



<http://www.charltonkingscommunityplayers.com/>  
<https://www.streetlife.com/page/charlton-kings-community-players/>