

How did it all start?



First... an inspiration!



Wendy Jones (née Griffiths)

**Our First
Producer/Director**

*When
time
allowed!*

With a group of parents...and some friends!



'THE LATE LATE PANTO SHOW'

May 1986

The first 'all age' *plays*



'ROCK NATIVITY' 1984



'FROM PHARAOH TO
FREEDOM 1987

with *our* script linking songs

in Balcarras School Hall

...and the stage was set!

‘People of all ages & beliefs pooled their enthusiasm & talents into a religious rock musical...’

RECOGNITION!

‘Gloucestershire Echo’

MUSICAL LINKS

People of all ages and beliefs pooled their enthusiasm and talents into a religious rock musical ‘From Pharaoh to Freedom.’

This Charlton Kings community project, performed at Balcarras School, follows a recent production ‘Rock Nativity’ that was also directed by drama enthusiast Mrs Wendy Griffiths.

The ambitious task of producing a musical story from the time of Moses to Jesus was achieved with dramatic intensity and smooth co-ordination. Key points were lifted and condensed with colour and conviction and the simple scenery added to that impact.

A novel and imaginative approach was used in portraying certain scenes. Orange-leotarded girls dancing under skilful lighting produced a convincing burning bush. And a clear picture of a plague of flies terrorising the nation was conjured up by a crowd of Egyptians frantically slapping themselves!

A sensitive selection of changing moods captured the audience as



Pharaoh (Peter Grainiger) clutches his dead first-born son (Sebastian Luna) in ‘From Pharaoh to Freedom.’

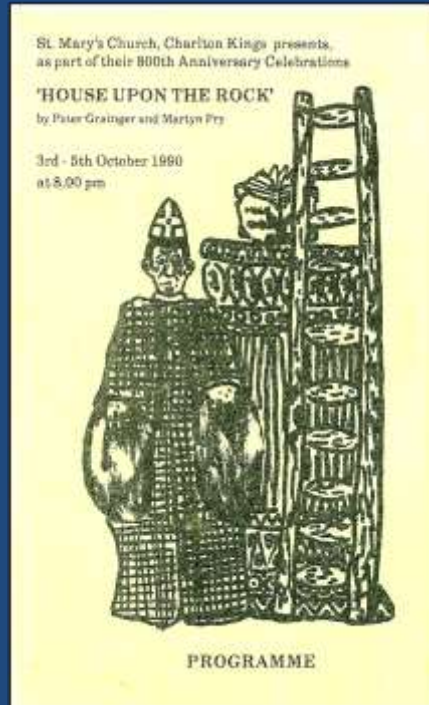
they were led from a modern-day Jewish family enjoying a relaxed and contented family meal to the tormented grief of the majestic Pharaoh holding his dead son in outstretched arms.

It was the atmosphere of sheer energy and enjoyment created by the performers that made ‘From Pharaoh to Freedom’ a community success in every sense of the word.

Money raised from the musical’s four performances will be used to finance Charlton Kings’ Youth Centre.

‘It was the atmosphere of sheer energy and enjoyment created by the performers that made ‘From Pharaoh to Freedom’ a community success in every sense of the word.’

All-age, church, history & *written by us*



'Amateur actors aged seven to 70 are taking part in an original production...' 'Gloucestershire Echo'

'The Players' were launched!

'A new music and drama group was launched on Wednesday at a well attended meeting at Charlton Kings Junior School.

The group...will be linked to all the churches in the village and aims to build on the success of the two earlier community drama productions...

The group will also offer less formal opportunities for members to use their talents in all sorts of dramatic and musical entertainments in the village...'



Drama group set up

A NEW music and drama group was launched on Wednesday at a well attended meeting at Charlton Kings Junior school.

The group, to be known as the Charlton Kings Community Players, will be linked to all the churches in the village and aims to build on the success of the two earlier community drama productions, *Rock Nativity* and *From Pharaoh to Freedom*.

Opportunities for young people to take part will be encouraged by the group's next major production 'Toad of Toad Hall' at St Edward's Middle School next winter under the direction of Martyn Fry.

The chairman, Peter Grainger, said the group will also offer less formal opportunities for members to use their talents in all sorts of dramatic and musical entertainments in the village "based on faith, fun and fellowship".

Anyone wishing to find out more should get in touch with Peter Grainger, tel: 526947, or Martyn Fry, 239903.

Our first play since organisation



'TOAD OF TOAD HALL'
December 1992

Martyn Fry directed at St Edwards School

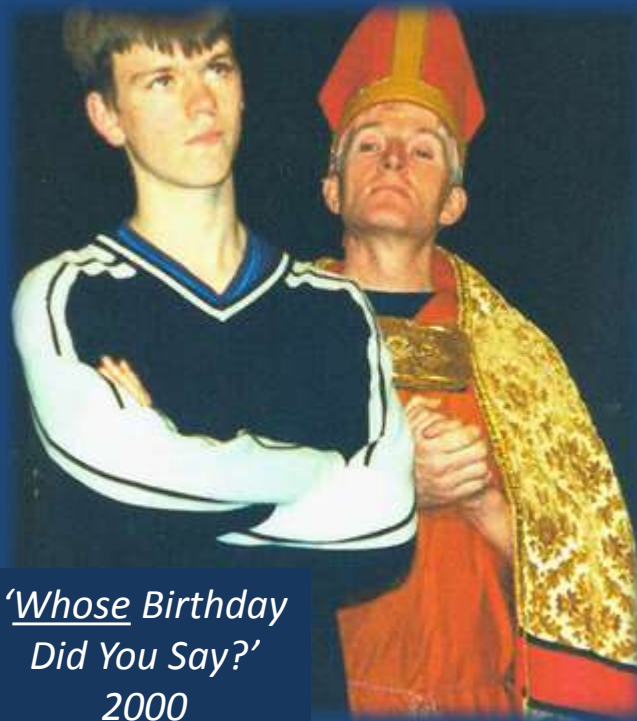


Officers, 'AGM' & *Constitution in 1993*

'To encourage faith, fun and fellowship
through ecumenical drama
and musical activities for all ages'

*Membership of the group shall be
from the churches, residents or
those with strong connections with Charlton Kings*

All ages together!



*'Whose Birthday
Did You Say?'
2000*

£25,000
raised for Charity
in our 21 Years!

Gloucestershire Echo, Thursday, February 15th, 2007 13
Picture: Anna Lupton £745112.5



A great show of support

CHARLTON Kings Community Players put in a great performance by raising £3,650 for charity.

The money was raised from the theatre group's production of *Oliver!* at Balcarres School last year.

It was a massive undertaking, with a cast of 82 led by director Peter Grainger.

A cheque was presented to former Mayor of Cheltenham Brian Chaplin, who will forward the money to his charities – the Gloucestershire Prostate Cancer (brachytherapy unit) Trust and the Parkinson's Disease Society.

Receiving the cheque outside the Municipal Offices, Mr Chaplin said: "This amount raises the total raised for the mayor's charities to £39,650 – a record."

DONATION: from left, Judith Lorton, Brian Chaplin, Geoff Ranshaw and James Tibbles

£3650
for
Parkinson's
& Prostate
Cancer Funds
from
'Oliver!'
2006

*In the end... it's live entertainment
within the community*



Live entertainment within the community





**To be
continued...**