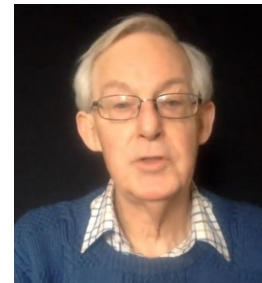


# Charlton Kings Community Players Newsletter

## September 2022



**CHARLTON KINGS  
COMMUNITY PLAYERS**

From 'NEW SLANTS ON  
THE WORD'

A collection of dramatic  
materials for use in staged  
productions or in worship  
by Tony Jeans,  
Lynne Glover and Peter  
Grainger

Published in electronic  
form

### 'Ruth's Story'

© Tony Jeans

#### The wife of Simon Peter speaks

Street Theatre recorded as a  
virtual performance for 'Good Friday' 2022.

The Players normally provide street theatre  
for the Charlton Kings Churches  
**Good Friday 'Walk of Witness'.**

© Charlton Kings Community Players production

For the second year running the Players have provided a virtual piece of street theatre for viewing from their YouTube channel. A piece of street theatre has been provided since 1992 as part of the Charlton Kings Walk of Witness on Good Friday and enacted in the Church Piece Precinct. This involves a presentation piece, often involving the crowd present, a reading, a prayer and the singing of a hymn. There has not been a Walk of Witness in Charlton Kings since 2019.

Performers recorded their pieces at home and the results were assembled supported by music also recorded by a member of the Players.

An additional recording was also made and released this Easter of the retelling of the story of **'The Other Wise Man'** by Henry van Dyke. This was written and read by Lynne Glover.

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### 'The Other Wise Man'

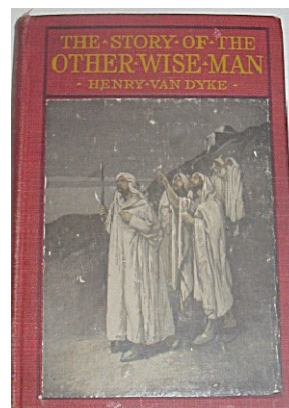
Retold by Lynne Glover  
from the story written by  
Henry van Dyke and published in 1896

© Lynne Glover

A story about the Fourth Wise Man  
whose travels ended in Jerusalem  
on the day of the crucifixion of Jesus.

The Players normally provide street theatre  
for the Charlton Kings Churches  
**Good Friday 'Walk of Witness'.**

© Charlton Kings Community Players production



"THE OLD MAN FOLLOWED THE MULTITUDE"

## AGM held in April 2022

The meeting was held on Zoom following advertising widely in the local community. The financial position was presented by the Treasurer and a report by the Chair. The Committee was re-elected for the year 2022 to 2023.

There was lively discussion amongst members present on the potential ways forward. The Players have continued to function as a local Amateur Dramatics Group during the recent difficulties posed by the Covid pandemic.

Play readings have been held on Zoom, again with open invitation through the mailing list, there has been one 'live' performance at Christmastide being **'Let Us Be Merry'**, and videos have been uploaded to YouTube for both LUBM and for the Charlton Kings Walk of Witness street theatre on Good Friday.

### Play reading September

There will be a play reading at the Charlton Kings Baptist Church on Monday 12 September at 7.30 pm.

This will be our first in person reading since the start of the pandemic. There will be a small charge to help cover the cost of refreshments and hire of the hall. There is no need to register - just come along!

See page 6 of this newsletter for a list of the plays we have been reading since 2020. Some have taken more than one evening to finish. *It has been great fun!*

### Let Us Be Merry 2022

**Saturday 3 December 2022 7.30 pm  
at Charlton Kings Junior School**

A planning meeting will be held at the Charlton Kings Baptist Church on 14<sup>th</sup> September to put together a programme for our annual Christmas show.

Please come along with your ideas for discussion.

## Janet Freeman



It was with great sadness that we heard of the death of Janet Freeman. Janet has been a supporter of The Players for many years, as a participant, a member of the Front of House Team for many productions, and an audience member with her husband Ted. Her last performance was as Veronica in Tony Jeans' short play **'Veronica's Veil'** performed as part of the

Walk of Witness at Easter 2018.

Janet was also a member of the Charlton Kings Junior School Open the Book Team, delivering Christian stories every Wednesday during the school assembly. She often had to play kings because of her height! She also participated in the WWII History workshops put on by The Players following **'Some Sunny Day'**, her excellent teaching skills being very useful in controlling groups of excited children playing 1940s games.

Janet was a kind, reliable and loyal person who will be greatly missed by all who knew her, and our thoughts are with her family.

*Jane Jones*

At a Service held in St. Andrew's Church, Montpellier, on 11<sup>th</sup> February 2022, a presentation of a bible reading as an OTB story was dedicated to both the memory of Janet Freeman (St. Mary's, Charlton Kings) and Kate Alger (St. Andrew's). They were both valued members of the CKJS OtB team.

*Sandra Jeans*



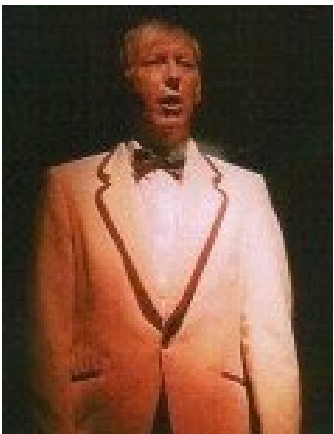
Janet will be sorely missed as a member of the OtB group visiting CK Junior School. The calm confidence of a former teacher was clearly seen in her fruitful interactions with the children and we all learned so much from her. Rest in peace Janet, we remember

you with love and gratitude. *Lynne Glover*

<http://www.charltonkingscommunityplayers.com/>



# Gwilym Davies 1946-2022



In June 2022 the Players lost Gwilym Davies, one of their best and most longstanding musicians and actors. Gwilym died at the age of 76 after a brave struggle against a heart infection, which he was unable to shake off because of a lowered immune system after his kidney transplant.

Gwilym brought to the Players a lifetime of expertise and experience in the folk music world. My most vivid memory is of performing alongside him on so many occasions in **Green Willow**, **Puzzlejug** and **Waytes and Measures**, where he often took the lead: on melodeon, playing the intro and setting the tempo for country dancing; soloing and harmonizing in his folk-inspired unique baritone; or suddenly enriching a medieval piece by his English bagpipe. In company with Gloucestershire Morris, and Happenstance Border Morris, I'll miss his expertise on the whole range of Morris tunes and their many variants – and even more his post-Morris singing and playing in dozens of Gloucestershire pubs over 50 years.

Though he could play from music, Gwilym rarely did so - almost all of his playing and singing was from his prodigious memory of folk music and song. This superb musical memory was a great asset in the folk collection which was his life's work. Gwilym started song collecting in his early twenties, recording source singers. His first publication was '**A Hampshire Collection**' (1974) which he co-authored with his wife Carol. Since then, Gwilym's song collecting activities expanded to include Devon, Gloucestershire, Shropshire and the Eastern USA, where he spent some time on secondment in the early 2000s.

Over time he created a significant archive of field recordings of source singers, including previously undocumented songs and many other songs formerly only recorded in manuscript. Throughout the latter part of the C20th Gwilym got to know the traveller community, from whom he recorded songs and tunes. He delved deeper than just the songs, collecting also from step dancers and musicians.



**'Let Us Remember' 2014** (British soldier '*The Rose of No man's land*', French soldier '*La Chanson de Craonne*').

**'Players Please!' from Kaleidoscope of Romance 2002, 'Let Us Be Merry' 2020** (video)

In the early C21st Gwilym donated his original field recordings of over 1000 songs to the British Sound Library, and he considered how to make the material more widely available. Following a pilot project and consequent Heritage Lottery Funding, a partnership was set up with Gloucestershire Archives and in 2016 the *Single Gloucester* project was born. With Carol as project manager, this delivered the GlosTrad archive ([www.glostrad.com](http://www.glostrad.com)) – a large multi-media website containing over 1400 items collected in the county of Gloucestershire.

Gwilym first joined the Players in 1995, taking several parts in **'Oh What A Lovely War'** and singing solos *'Adieu La Vie'* and *'Goodby-ee'*, plus the *'Roses of Picardy'* as a duet with Margaret Walker. In **'A Kaleidoscope of Romance'** (1997) he sang three solos, and several duets with Carol. In **'Oliver'** (2006), he sang *'Who will Buy'*.

In **'A Midsummer Night's Dream'** (2008) he choreographed, played and sang for a stick dance by the mechanicals (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bOQnC8UiqHE>). This is on the CKCP YouTube channel.

*'The Rose of No Man's Land'* and *'La Chanson de Craonne'* were performed as solos in **'Let Us Remember'** (2014) and Gwilym joined the CK Community Singers for **'My Fair Lady'** (2010) and **'Some Sunny Day'** (2017).

Carol and Gwilym, as lead members of **'Puzzlejug'**, have participated since 2000 in all 21 annual performances of **'Let Us Be Merry'**, the Players' Christmas Show. I am sure Puzzlejug will be there again this year, but perhaps there will be an empty chair, and a silent melodeon.

A great family man, Gwilym delighted with Carol in their children Mary-Ann and Robin, and four grand-children. They, and we, will miss a friendly, cheerful, warm and uniquely talented character, who has deeply touched our lives.

Geoff Ramshaw



A video is available of Gwilym, and members of the cast of *'A Midsummer Night's Dream'*, performing **'Umpsey the Gumpsey'**.



**'Let Us Be Merry' 2000**



**'Let Us Be Merry' 2017**



**Let Us Be Merry' 2021**



## *A tribute to Keith Norcott*

It is with great sadness we record the passing of Keith. He and his wife Elvina were regular attenders at various Players' productions, particularly the Christmas shows. His book **'Chalk on my shoes – Memoirs of a Chilterns childhood'** contributed to the stories researched and published for the Players' production, in 2017, of **'Some Sunny Day'**.

His dialogue recalling his childhood experiences in air raid shelters was built into the actual script of the production. Keith and Elvina came to one of the performances and were introduced to the audience.



Photographs above show members of the Players using Keith's recorded script from his book and local children volunteered to portray the experience of those who spent nights in air raid shelters all over the country during WW2. Keith said he found watching this a quite moving experience to relive this traumatic time.

*Sandra & Tony Jeans*

Copies of Keith's book published by The Book Castle, ISBN 978-1-903747-68-1, may be found on-line.

## *Val Flippance*

Many members of The Players will have heard of the death of Val Flippance with great sorrow. Involved in the production side of the Players, Val gave production support backstage in such notable productions as **'Oliver'**, **'A Midsummer Night's Dream'** and **'Murder in the Cathedral'**.

I will never forget working with Val on the props for **'Oliver'** – her kindness, interest in other people (she never failed to ask after my daughter, Helen, whenever I saw her) and her resilience in the face of many years of ill health are a rôle model many of us would find hard to live up to. Our thoughts are with her husband, Chris, and the rest of her family in this difficult time for them.

*Jane Jones*

Val contributed a significant amount of information which enabled the Players to put together the publications of the history. For those who were involved in the Players in the 1990s, you may remember she was a co-producer with Cynthia Birks in **'A Kaleidoscope of Romance'** (1997) and **'A Lovely Day Tomorrow'** (1999) working with the young people's groups (**'The Company'** and **'Blitz'**).

*Sandra Jeans*

## *'New Slants On The Word'*

This publication, by Tony Jeans, Lynne Glover and Peter Grainger, of readings and sketches has just been updated. Its content is for use in staged productions or in church worship. This new Edition 3 is available in electronic form and may be obtained from [jeanstda@jeanstda.plus.com](mailto:jeanstda@jeanstda.plus.com)



*Messages from Bethlehem*  
*Performed at 'Let Us Be Merry' 2015*

<http://www.charltonkingscommunityplayers.com/>

## *The Players' history*

The Players' web site has a comprehensive library of photo storybooks about previous productions which may be downloaded as pdf files. For electronic copies of the full performance record contact Sandra Jeans at [sjeans@jeanstda.plus.com](mailto:sjeans@jeanstda.plus.com)

## *Play readings on-line since April 2020*

The regular play readings have been an engaging and, at times, a challenging experience for the group of regular participants. Producer Jane Jones has ensured everyone has had an opportunity to explore their talents and people have developed some very interesting character studies for well-known classics, modern pieces such as **'Wolf Hall'** to modern comedies. Below are the plays enjoyed.

**A Christmas Carol**, Charles Dickens, adapted by Michael Morton, publisher Lazy Bee Scripts

**Aladdin – Seventies Style**, Mark Jack, publisher Lazy Bee Scripts

**A Midsummer- Night's Dream**, William Shakespeare, Abridged (condensed) by Gerald P. Murphy, publisher Lazy Bee Scripts:

**Audience**, Michael Frayn, publisher Methuen

**Benny Manhattan and the Caponi Diamond**, Carol Hill, publisher Lazy Bee Scripts

**Dracula The Final Countdown?**, Geoff Bamber, publisher Lazy Bee Scripts

**Napoleon's Shoe**, Ben Henderson

**Nude with Violin**, Noël Coward

**Our Day Out**, Willy Russell

**Pride and Prejudice**, Jane Austen, adapted for the stage in 1906 by Mary Keith Medbery Mackaye (Mrs Steele Mackaye on original script, her own name on the Gutenberg Project permitted copy)

**The affairs at Meddler's Top**, Richard Coleman

**The Clamourings at Giggly Halt'**, Richard Coleman, publisher Lazy Bee Scripts

**The ghosts of Marvin Grange**, Richard Coleman, publisher Lazy Bee Scripts

**The Government Inspector**, Nikolai Vasilyevich Gogol in translation [translator not identified]

**The Merry Wives of Windsor**, William Shakespeare

**The Pilgrim's Progress**, Christopher Morgan

**The Winter's Tale**, William Shakespeare

**Under Milk Wood**, Dylan Thomas

**Wolf Hall**, Hilary Mantel

## *Players' video Library CKCP YouTube channel*

**'Josh on Trial'** – Charlton Kings Churches Good Friday 'Walk of Witness' street theatre in Church Piece Precinct

Full video 4.28 mins

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9kkj-VX6gK0&t=36s>

**'Good Friday Conversation'** - Charlton Kings Churches Good Friday 'Walk of Witness' virtual street theatre

Full video 13.45 mins

<https://youtu.be/h1DHVl5fpz8>

**'Let Us Be Merry 2020' – A Christmas Celebration** virtual production

Full video 57.06 mins

<https://youtu.be/TO2WNBtJocl>

**'Pride and Prejudice'** - Audio recording

Full video 2 hrs 35 mins

<https://youtu.be/WHsFNEoLw1k>

**'Let Us Be Merry 2021' – A Christmas Celebration** virtual production

Full video 58.54 mins

<https://youtu.be/tPIVcQqfzn4>

**'Melissa's Dress'** – a story of how three wise women were involved at the birth of Jesus, illustrated recording

Full video 8.21 mins

<https://youtu.be/Hj3dcfIOPyE>

**'The Stable Door'** – An incident in Bethlehem – an innkeeper and his wife tell their stories, virtual production.

Full video 7.36 mins

[https://youtu.be/PFKgQXgo\\_j8](https://youtu.be/PFKgQXgo_j8)

**'Ruth's Story'** - Charlton Kings Churches Good Friday 'Walk of Witness', virtual street theatre. Full video 16.30 mins

<https://youtu.be/Vd8yUEJq4YA>

**'The Other Wise Man'** - whose travels ended in Jerusalem on the day of the crucifixion of Jesus. Full video 13.59 mins

<https://youtu.be/rJBRCQBvu18>

**'Gwilym Davies'** – The stick dance from 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' 2008.

Full video 1.13 mins

<https://youtu.be/bOQnC8UiqHE>



# Previous Walk of Witness street theatre

## Were you there?



1996 'The Light of the World'



1998 'Easter Eggs and Easter Errors'



2002 'Veronica's Veil'



2003 'Whose Birthday Did You Say (extract)'



2005 'Last Words'



2009 'Shopping Day to Easter'



2014 'Pilate and Joseph'



2017 'The Newcomer'