

Tribute to June Pearce, member of CKCP



June Pearce, Prompt, 'Treasure Island – almost a pantomime'
October 2019

It is with great sadness that Charlton Kings Community Players record the death of longstanding member, June Pearce. She was a stalwart supporter of The Players, and was involved in many productions.

June was elected Chair of The Players in 1994 – 97 alongside her husband CKCP Treasurer, Derek Pearce, who was also an active member of CKCP. June then served on the committee for a further three years. Working primarily backstage, June was Assistant Producer of Toad of Toad Hall in December 1992, working with Martyn Fry, and then, with Peter Grainger, in 1994 in the production of 'The Vigil' and again with Peter, in 1998 for 'The Sound of Music' which was performed at Balcarras School. More shows followed – 'A lovely day tomorrow' and 'Harlequinade' in 1999, 'The Browning Version' and 'Joseph' in 2002, when June took on the role of Stage Manager as well as Assistant Producer, 'Players please' also in 2002, 'Oliver' in 2006 and 'My fair lady' in 2010 when June was Stage Manager, but for which she also took on some choreography as well, in conjunction with Deb Masling and Andrea Wood. She also produced many one-off shows as well, particularly in the early years.

Rarely found on the stage, June did take part in 'Let Us remember' and 'Some sunny day' – both shows developed by Sandra and Tony Jeans, and she also took part in the Christmas 'Let us be merry' shows.

'Bunkered' in 2018 saw June and Caroline Sparkes working with Debbie Dundas as Assistant Stage Managers. From then on, June and Caroline made a brilliant team, working on the props for future productions, June also taking on the role of Prompt – a safe, reliable pair of hands which gave the actors on stage great confidence.

After COVID, the CKCP took the step of putting on a pantomime to access a new audience and to raise much needed funds, and June supported us in making that move, and became as involved in the pantomimes in recent years as she was in productions before that. Her last roles were as Prompt and Props (with Caroline) for 'The little mermaid' in 2024.

June was a quiet and constant support to everyone – happy to turn her hand to sewing backcloths, to go through lines with anxious cast members, to assist the Producer, to stage manage, or to find and make props. She will be greatly missed by The Players, a group to which she gave her many talents and time over many years, doing whatever was needed, through all the changes the group has experienced since its inception in the late 80s.

Our thoughts and prayers go to her family and her friends who will be greatly grieved by their loss.

Jane Jones, Member CKCP