

Colleagues' and friends' tributes to June in full:

Tina Kirwin wrote:

'June has been an inspirational teacher of Cued Speech within the Manchester hearing impaired community. She has taught many staff and parents, many of whom didn't have English as a home language, to use Cued Speech with their profoundly deaf signing children. The staff have gone on to sit Cued Speech exams, running courses for parents and other staff within the HI team, and of course using it successfully with deaf signing pupils. We are currently looking at extending its use in the wider community.

June and her invincible personality will not be forgotten in Manchester!

Tina is a Teacher of the Deaf, who is currently the senior manager of the Hearing Needs team in the Sensory Support Service in Manchester and has a special interest in cochlear implantation, and is also a Trustee of the Cued Speech Association UK.

Cate Calder wrote:

I met June at the Cued Speech trustee meetings in Canterbury in the mid nineties, the journey out to Canterbury took hours and hours on the train but they were always worth the time. June chaired these meetings with great attention to detail and always had much to contribute. She also travelled to Exeter for some of our summer schools and I remember her teaching a group of Welsh foundation students to cue with the Welsh adaptation to match their own dialects.

Anyone who met June could not fail to be impressed by her commitment and passion for all that Cued Speech offers to deaf children and their families. I think she was unmatched in her diligence and seemingly inexhaustible creativity when it came to generating teaching materials. I imagine she and Dr Cornett as a formidable team in heaven watching over us as we continue to fight for deaf children's access to spoken language through Cued Speech!

Cate, who is the CSAUK's Educational Development Officer, is a tutor and Cued Speech Transliterater who has developed materials to teach CS and to teach English through CS.

Win Burton wrote:

Ever since my older deaf son, Toby, was diagnosed as profoundly deaf in 1980, and we were introduced to Cued Speech, I have been in touch with June on a regular basis through correspondence (we were living in Belgium at the time) and occasionally in person. She was a redoubtable personality with a very kind heart; a dedicated and demanding teacher who could also become a friend.

Two encounters will stand out in my memory. One was the Cued Speech summer camp she organised in Canterbury on the campus of the University of Kent in 1986. It was a delightful gathering, both well-structured and very informal and friendly, with much time spent interacting on the lawns in the summer sun. I ran daily sessions of music and singing while cueing, with action songs and mime, to which June (and Sheila Skillings) contributed actively. My mother, already quite elderly, also attended and June was always very welcoming and encouraging to all family members: she knew how important it was for Granny to learn to cue, for grandmother and grandsons alike.

Another summer course we both attended was run by the Swiss Association LPC in Leysin in 1998. We were both teaching English CS to French cuers. The final day of the "stage" was a magnificent event involving a trip up a mountain in a cable car (for everyone), then walking gently back down through the alpine pastures. I say gently – but it was not only at least 3

hours in duration but involved some pretty rough paths and all manner of obstacles. But June – despite mobility difficulties – was determined to do it and just loved looking out for the alpine flowers as we walked. She made it all the way down and it was a huge achievement! And we arrived on a plateau overlooking another mountain opposite with the valley beneath, where a barbecue picnic was laid out. As the sun set over the mountain a huge bonfire was lit and we all sat round – each class as per tradition “performing” the piece learnt that week. June’s group? “Old Macdonald” of course!

Not only did she bring Cued Speech to Britain - and so many families like mine owe her an enormous debt of gratitude for that – but for many years she embodied it, including during periods that were personally very tough for her. She was indeed a pioneer, and Chris’ support alongside her has also been crucial.

She will leave a big gap – but has left a great milestone. And we owe it to her memory to do even more to ensure that Cued Speech is something every child diagnosed deaf in Britain has the chance of benefitting from.

Win is the mother of two deaf sons, who were brought up bilingually with CS - in French (at school in Belgium) and English (at home). Now resident in the UK, she is also a Trustee of the CSAUK

Brigitte Charlier, Director of Comprendre et Parler Centre, Brussels, writes:

Je conserve en mémoire une image très forte de June que j'ai rencontrée à plusieurs reprises. C'est tout un morceau de l'histoire du Cued Speech européen qui s'est éteint avec elle...[The memory of June I have in my mind is a very strong one: I met her on a number of occasions. Her death spells the close of one chapter of the history of Cued Speech in Europe ..."]

Andrew Garratt writes:

'I first knew June in video form.

I'd learned of Cued Speech through my friend, Daniel, a Cued Speech user. It seemed right to learn Cued Speech and so I ordered the video. Within hours, June and others had guided me through the handshapes and positions. (I still flap my wrist very badly. Sorry, June.)

I first met June when I became a co-opted member of the Association's management committee. Three or four times a year our paths crossed as we all worked to steer the Association's course.

She immediately struck me as a woman with purpose – formidably determined to ensure that Cued Speech was promoted widely and used well to change the lives of deaf children and their families. Over time, I saw how deeply committed she was, investing countless hours to developing Cued Speech and delivering her training as part of the Association's team.

There is no doubt that June's is a tremendous legacy. There are people whose use of Cued Speech has helped them realise their potential – directly through June's teaching, or indirectly through her work to develop Cued Speech into other languages. For this alone, it was a privilege to have known her.

Of course, that was June the campaigner. But however focused and determined, June was not a one-dimensional person. Our meetings could be long ones, and so we would break for lunch. This is how I will particularly remember June's inherent warmth and good-humour, always interested in other people and their hopes and dreams, and a great teller of intriguing stories from a life of rich and wide experience. She made me smile. What happier way could I wish to remember someone.'

Andrew works in public relations and first got involved with the Association when he volunteered to help promote awareness of Cued Speech to MPs. He went on to be a CSAUK trustee for many years, several of them as its Chair.

Anne Worsfold:

June's vision, and her drive and tenacity on behalf of others was awe-inspiring. She never lost sight of the end goal: the deaf baby, child, or adult who could benefit from Cued Speech and the need to get Cued Speech to them wherever they might be in the world. When I took over the running of the Cued Speech Association UK (then called The National Centre for Cued Speech) she and her husband Chris were continually supportive and always there to answer any question and to undertake any task. June was an indefatigable pioneer, and was endlessly generous with her time. She will be widely missed.

Anne Worsfold is the parent of two deaf children, now adults, who were brought up with Cued Speech. She became Executive Director of the Cued Speech Association UK in 1999.

Daniel Milford-Cottam

'June Dixon-Millar, one of the most important people in my formative years, was a deeply formidable person with great determination and focus, who demanded great respect from all that crossed paths with her. She continued to be very supportive and actively interested in my progress and achievements even after I had grown up. The last I heard from her was a lovely letter in which she congratulated me on my book, Edwardian Fashion. It is difficult to imagine a world without her strength and presence - June never seemed to change in the 30-some years that I knew her, and I guess I imagined that she would always be there. She had a great strength and permanence about her, and was, quite simply, unforgettable. I hope to continue being a credit to her good work, and that whatever I do, she would have been among the first to express how proud she was of me.'

Daniel was brought up on Cued Speech from the age of two and a half years old. After achieving a Masters degree, he went on to work in museums, and has spent the last ten years at the Victoria and Albert Museum as an assistant curator and cataloguer. He has also written two books on fashion history (one due out in the New Year) and contributed to other publications on the subject.

Nicholas Orpin writes:

'It's incredible to think that the initial development of CS in the UK and other countries all comes back to June. From the first contact with Cued Speech via her training video to our last meeting at Canterbury Cathedral, my memories are of June in the act of cueing. I think I'll always be grateful to June for her initial belief in the power of Cued Speech and if we can cue today, it is because we are standing on the shoulders of a giant.'

Nicholas and family have been using Cued Speech and its French equivalent LPC for nearly 20 years. He joined CSAUK on attending one of the early summer camps and was its Development Officer for 18 months.

A personal tribute to June from Ken Orpin

I first met June a few years ago when I attended a meeting of the CSAUK having recently become a Trustee and I was immediately struck by her commanding presence.

There are two definitions of the word "Formidable" I like. The first is "inspiring respect and awe and the second is "likely to be hard to overcome, resist or deal with"

Because I had not met June before I certainly had respect for her and that continued. I was also slightly in awe of her because of what she had achieved in establishing Cued Speech in the UK.

As time went on and I met her more frequently I probably found aspects of the second definition true as well. She certainly knew how to put her point of view across and was not easily swayed. It was however her strong character, knowledge and determination that was vital in putting Cued Speech on the map.

June was also a very kind and thoughtful person always asking after my son Nicholas and daughter-in-law Tracey and how their daughter Pearl was getting on. Together with their son Eugene the family had been living in France for many years but soon after Pearl was born they discovered she was profoundly deaf. To cut a long story short Nicholas and Tracey heard about Cued Speech and after attending a training course in Exeter began cueing to Pearl. They have said it was a lifeline, a life saver and life changing to be able to communicate with Pearl with all the benefits that Cued Speech brings. Pearl will be 20 early next year and will be starting a nursing course focusing on midwifery at university.

It was for this reason I became involved with the association and June always supported and expressed interest in our family and for this I will always be grateful and for which I say "Thank you June"

Ken is a Trustee and Vice-Chair of the Management Committee Meetings.