



**COLLECTIVE
ENCOUNTERS**

The Caregiver - by June Hudson

I've always been a person who likes to help people. I looked after some of my siblings as we couldn't always depend on our parents, I liked to volunteer in the Salvation Army as a child, helping feed the elderly and homeless people. I met some lovely people there. I raised three children on my own, which I found so enjoyable, as I have grown. I have immersed myself in volunteering for young children. I was there for 10 years with "Home start". I was 15 years with "Home

Group", training young people to assess services and "Sanctuary, Family Support", caring for people with substance abuses and I've been there 17 years. I find so much joy from, and I've learned so many things along the way.

Maddy Vaz's family member had become addicted to Class A drugs, and she had no idea how to get help for them. She went to Uni, investing herself in management courses, and found all she called about the small amount of help that was around in 1999, which wasn't much. Herself and a handful of women rented a property in Lodge Lane, South Liverpool for families with substance abuse and alcohol problems. She ended up



running "Sanctuary Family Support Group" herself. She has managed to be the only group who helped both the users and the family members together. She has been fund-raising for 21 years. She has amazing staff, counsellors, doctors, therapists, support workers and volunteers.



The amount of people she has inspired, myself included who have had a child on drugs. to accept help. Training hundreds of women in different courses from First Aid, Equality and Diversity, Safeguarding. all manner of what drugs can do to destroy people and families. I cannot begin to write about the change of life for the better. Liverpool people, so many of them, owe their lives to her and all the staff, over the years. Thank you Maddie, my mentor and friend. Sanctuary Peer

She's also done a lot with Collective Encounters and lots of their groups. The awards she has been awarded from the Mayors, the Police, Councils, MPs, etc. Well deserved!

Photos from Top to Bottom:

1. June Hudson taken by Angela Penny with Lighting by Xenia Bayer, in lay photo of Maddy Vaz.
2. Sanctuary Kinship Carers Group
Courtesy of their website
www.sanctuaryfs.com
3. Maddy Vaz, the Sanctuary Kinship Carers and Collective Encounters staff (Joanne Tremarco and Heidi Robinson) at 25 years of Sanctuary Celebration, Courtesy of their website
www.sanctuaryfs.com
4. Maddy's Certificate
Courtesy of their website
www.sanctuaryfs.com



Work from Collective Encounters Archive:

Women in Action started as an arts and heritage project, led by Collective Encounters in 2020-2022, that used drama and creativity to celebrate women's resilience, activism and community organising across Merseyside. The Ballad of 18 Women is the major final outcome of the project, incorporating testimonies recorded in oral history interviews as well as poetic narration and original music and song.

This radio ballad highlights the stories of 18 Merseyside women to give an insight into the incredible contributions women make every day to improve lives in our region. Woven together, they give a glimpse of the multitude of positive actions that hold, nurture and empower our communities. The 18 women share a concern for fairness and social justice, but their causes, actions and impacts



are many and varied. June and Maddy were two of the 18 women. You can hear their stories by scanning this QR Code.

The Ballad of 18 Women was written by Sarah Thornton, Composed by Bethany Kay Hopkins, Directed by Tessa Buddle, Sound Design by Karen Lauke.

<https://collective-encounters.org.uk/the-ballad-of-18-women/>

June has also played *The Caregiver* in some of Collective Encounter's performances.

Below left: Stills from 'Keep Pushing' 2018

Keep Pushing is an interactive activist music video made with artists from across our programme. We made the film as part of a BBC/Space commission to develop our digital capacity and extend our reach.

<https://collective-encounters.org.uk/keep-pushing/>

Below Right: June Hudson is with Alma brown in 'Wealth is Health'. (2016-7).

A variety production performed by Collective Encounters' Third Age Acting Company (2016-2017). It was drawn from desk research into wealth and health inequalities in Britain in the 21st Century; conversations between Collective Encounters' facilitators and older people both living in the community and in care homes and creative exercises undertaken by the Third Age Acting Company. Written by Sarah Thornton and rehearsed and directed by Amanda Redvers-Rowe over a four-month period. The production used comedy, songs, music, tableaux and naturalistic sketches to engage the audience in the debate around health and wealth inequalities.

<https://collective-encounters.org.uk/archive/wealth-is-health/>



Can you see him as *The Caregiver* collage by June Hudson.

