



Catholic Association of Performing Arts

December 2015

[Molly Steele, Hon. Secretary](#)

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Dear Member

I hope you had a very happy Christmas and wish you a blessed and peaceful New Year. At the Extraordinary General Meeting in February to discuss the future of CaAPA various suggestions for consideration were put forward by those members who were present, one of them of which was having a “Hub” where members could get together on a regular basis to socialise and get to know each other better. This has proved to be a successful event as we have had three of these already and there will be more in the coming year. So if you haven’t yet come to one then do come along in 2016.

PAUL RANDALL RIP

I am very sorry to let you know that **Paul Randall** has died. He had not been in good health for many months and very sadly he died just before Christmas. **Paul** was not just a member of CaAPA but a Trustee, a member of the Committee and one of the Administrators of the Sir Alec Guinness Award. He had been a member for many years and his contribution to all three of the above was invaluable. His wise counsel has been sadly missed over the past months as he has not been well enough to attend any meetings. We will miss him, not just as a member of the committee, as a Trustee or an Administrator, but as a friend. Our love and prayers go out to Ursula, his wife, and to his daughters Emma and Sarah and his grandchildren. Rest in peace, Paul.

KEVIN CONNEALY RIP

Kevin Connealy was a journalist by trade. He was also a member of CaAPA for many years but I understand from his daughter that he had not been in good health for some time and died in July. May he rest in peace.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

A warm welcome to **Gemma Fanning** and **Catherine Dunne** who have both recently joined CaAPA. We had the pleasure of meeting **Gemma** at the Carol Service and hope to see lots more of her. **Catherine** was unable to come to either the Annual Dinner or the Carol Service as she was appearing in *Good King Richard* at The White Bear Theatre in Kennington, but we look forward to meeting her soon.

NEWS OF OUR MEMBERS

PATRICK LEE

For the 4th year in a row, Patrick, accompanied by his girlfriend, Jessica, has opened the Christmas bazaar at St Vincent's Nursing Home in Pinner. The following is an account by Patrick of this year's opening.

"On Saturday 28th November, I had the honour of opening the Christmas bazaar again. Jessica and I were also invited to lunch before the opening ceremony. St Vincent's is a wonderful place. It was formerly an Orthopaedic Hospital and is now a retirement home providing en suite rooms over four wings for 60 residents, many of whom are retired priests and nuns. Both Jessica and I were delighted to see Sr Anne de Sousberghe again who had recently celebrated her 111th birthday!! A priest, who had visited Rome, told Pope Francis about her and he sent her a beautiful Rosary in a box with the Papal Arms on it which she adored. Her wish, when blowing out the candles, was "**For every person to know happiness**", an inspiring thought and one much in keeping with the ethos of St Vincent's."

Other CaAPA members who have opened the Christmas bazaar were Richard O'Callaghan and Michael Slater. Once Patrick, accompanied by Jessica, were invited St Vincent's haven't contacted me annually to find anyone else!!! So well done to both Patrick AND Jessica and thank you both for doing this so well.

DYMPNA LE RASLE

Dympna appeared in *I'll Tell Me Ma* at the Pentameters Theatre, Hampstead.

MARTIN O'BRIEN

Congratulations to **Martin** and his company Ten Ten Theatre on winning the Best Stage or Film Production Award for his play **This Is My Body** which was presented by the Home Secretary, Teresa May at the Anti Slavery Day Media Awards.

MICHAEL SLATER

Michael presented a Concert of Sacred Music – **Light to the Nations** – at St James' Church, Spanish Place, on 2 January, in aid of Tyburn Convent and its Mission Foundation.

Please be sure to let me know if you have any news for the quarterly newsletters. The next one is due at the end of March.

PAST EVENT

Letters from the Front

This was a lovely event, organised by member **Peter Haycroft** who read letters from the front written to Peter's mother by his father while serving in the Army during World War Two. The letters were both nostalgic and amusing and gave a clear insight into how it must have been, not only for both his father AND his mother but also for all the other brave men who served our country during this awful time in our history. The letters really showed just how worrying it must have been for all those who were involved in fighting and those left at home. After Letters from the Front there was a short break after which there was a sing-a-long of songs of the era with Peter's nephew, Nathan Murphy, starting it off by singing A Nightingale Sang in Berkeley Square. Member **Neville Sinclair** was the pianist and I think everyone enjoyed singing the songs which, surprisingly, we all seemed to know! A very good evening and many thanks to Peter for organising this whole event – he worked really hard.

CAA

We have available dates at the CAA next year in May, October and November. If any member would like to use one of these dates to put on their own production they would be most welcome to do so. Please let me know if you are interested.

ANNUAL DINNER

The Annual Dinner took place at Allen Hall on 11 December. It was good to welcome back our Chairman, **Richard O'Callaghan**, who for the past few months has been appearing in **The Importance of Being Earnest** at the Vaudeville with **David Suchet**. It was also lovely to welcome one of our Vice Presidents, **Frank Finlay** again. We were also delighted to have **Jane Garioni's** husband, **Judge Nicholas Hilliard**, with us. The guest of honour this year was **Michael Simkins**, actor and author who was extremely funny and almost brought the house down with his accounts of attending auditions and being cast when he least expected it as an Irishman. Our thanks again to the Catering Manager, Karl Bennett, and his staff. It was a really lovely evening and a good start to Christmas.

CAROL SERVICE

The Carol Service took place at Corpus Christi Church on 18 December and was led by our Chaplain, **Fr Alan Robinson**. **Michael Slater** had done a VERY good job of publicity for this event because there was a

good turnout, mostly of people we had never met before which was fantastic. There were readings by **Gabrielle Lister, Peter Haycroft, Phyllis McMahon and Jane Garioni**, well known carols and a soloist (**Phoebe Rodrigues**) sang O Holy Night. **Jonathan Coote** read the Sermon of Pope Leo the Great and **Lorna Reed** read an excerpt from A Christmas Carol. Following the Carol Service wine and mince pies were served at the back of the church. At the suggestion of **Sebastian Nicholas**, Mary's Meals was our chosen charity this year. Below is their Mission Statement,

Mary's Meals is a global movement supported by people from many walks of life and different backgrounds. Their mission is to enable people to offer money, goods, skills, time or prayer and, through this involvement, provide the most effective help to those suffering the effects of extreme poverty in the world's poorest communities.

They do wonderful work and we were so pleased that we managed to raise over £200 for this charity which was boosted by a further £100 from **Sebastian's** company and the Government will also contribute to this so to those who were at the Carol Service thank you so much for your generosity. I received a lovely letter from Anne Dolan (Mary's Meals) who was so grateful to CaAPA for such a successful evening and for choosing Mary's Meals as our charity.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

MEETING AT THE GOLDEN LION

We will be arranging another "Hub" meeting at the Golden Lion in March – the date is yet to be arranged but I will let you know in good time when it will be. Hopefully by March the weather will have improved although I wouldn't put any money on it!

DAY OF RECOLLECTION

This was also discussed at the Extraordinary General Meeting and is already in hand. **Michael Slater** has been in touch with the Mother Prioress at Tyburn Convent and we are planning to hold this in May. Further details will be in the March newsletter.