



Catholic Association of Performing Arts

DECEMBER NEWSLETTER 2017

Molly Steele – Hon. Secretary. E-mail – secretary@caapa.org.uk

FR PAT MOLONEY

Many of our members know Fr Pat. He is always a presence at the Annual Dinner and supports other events throughout the year. This year he cannot be with us as he will be undergoing surgery on 9th December. Please remember **Fr Pat** in your prayers.

PAST EVENTS

Drop in at Gerry's – 14 November

Only three members turned up at Gerry's. We will be arranging another "Drop In" sometime in the New Year so I do hope that more members will be there then.

Event at the CAA on 16 November.

Siobhan Murphy's Miscellany including songs from the musical theatre and popular Shakespeare verse went very well. Congratulations to Siobhan.

Locks and Shocks – 23 November

The second showing of **Michael Harrington's** play at Holy Apostles Church in Pimlico was very well supported. The following is from Michael himself. **"The event was totally dependent on the excellent support of Holy Apostles, in particular the local organisers Pierre, Anne and Jutta, and also our wonderful actors, Jane Garioni and Robin Marchal and, of course, Kenn and Terry, who all willingly gave their time and expertise. I think, however, that it would be remiss to think of this as just a money raising exercise as it brought people together, raised awareness and, whilst a huge amount of work for every single person involved, it was also good fun and richly rewarding."** The part of Ben was played by Alasdair Melrose who, I believe, recently graduated from Central and he did this very well indeed. The Head of the West London Mission wrote: **"Let me say what a pleasure and delight it was to witness such an excellent performance of "Locks and Shocks", a play of such depth, wisdom, insight and poignancy. It left me and others who shared with me, that the play is such a powerful reminder of the importance of the work of Homeless**

services and the staff and volunteers who serve the most vulnerable people in our society. Congratulations, Michael, for bringing this to life so convincingly. ‘H’, Ben and Reagan, characters who, from my more than 20 years of working in homeless, are very real and sadly too often the hidden stories rarely heard beyond the confines of those who care for people on the front line. I really do hope that you are able to get your play to a much wider audience to re-sensitise the general public to the crucial and worsening homeless crisis we face here in the UK”.

ST VINCENT’S NURSING HOME CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

The following was written by Patrick Lee.

On Saturday, 25th November, I had the great honour of opening the Christmas Bazaar at St Vincent’s Nursing Home in Pinner for the fifth year running. The nuns are always kind enough to invite me and my girlfriend, Jessica, for lunch beforehand, but unfortunately, due to Jessica’s workload, she was unable to attend this year and was much missed by staff and residents. I had the pleasure of dining with five of the residents, including a nun and two priests, one of whom was a former hermit. St Vincent’s used to be an orthopaedic hospital and is now a retirement home providing en suite rooms for 60 residents, many of whom are retired priests and nuns. The atmosphere is wonderful and, as I said in my speech, every time I come through the door I feel my spirit is lifted. The staff are so helpful, kind and friendly and they certainly worked hard, along with the residents, to make the bazaar a success. They had a raffle, tombola, stalls with goods for sale, homemade food and cakes, including excellent fresh samosas and spring rolls (I always go home with a bag of delicious samosas and chutneys!!) made by the resident chef, an auction of fine glassware and porcelain and (of course) Father Christmas and his grotto! St Vincent’s is a very special place and long may it continue to be so.”

Our thanks to **Patrick** for continuing to do this every year. He and **Jessica** are now so much appreciated and welcome at St Vincent’s that they don’t bother to invite anyone else to open their bazaar each year – and THAT says volumes about them both.

ANNUAL DINNER – 8 DECEMBER

There is a reception commencing at 7 p.m. followed by dinner at 7.45 p.m. Please allow plenty of time to get to Allen Hall – as Christmas approaches there is far more traffic and the busier and more deadlocked London becomes. If you are driving there should be space in the road

outside for you to park, but again allow plenty of time as there is a lot of traffic which does tend to come to a standstill.

CAROL SERVICE – 15 DECEMBER

The Carol Service commences at 6.30 p.m. As you know, Corpus Christi is still undergoing renovation works. **A WORD OF WARNING** – if you are coming to the Carol Service then please be sure to wrap up well as the heating may not be working. If it is then you can disrobe but if it isn't and you have ignored the warning then you may well be cold!!

Look forward to seeing you on the 15th.

**WISHING ALL OUR MEMBERS A VERY
BLESSED AND HAPPY CHRISTMAS.**