

Journalists' Charity

Helping journalists in need since 1864

May
2011

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PRAISE: David Cameron, who paid tribute to the charity, with Irish Ambassador, Bobby McDonagh



CAROLLING: Lionel Barber



CAROLLING: Jonathon Grun



CAROLLING: Dominic O'Connell

Top people back our charity

TWICE at the end of last year big names in politics and journalism provided strong backing for the charity.

Last November, Prime Minister David Cameron joined charity members and their

friends at the Irish embassy annual reception, hosted by ambassador Bobby McDonagh. And at Christmas, seven Fleet Street editors attended the charity's St Brides carol service – see Page 3.

Big tribute from David Cameron

By NICHOLAS JONES

PRIME Minister David Cameron could hardly have done more to highlight the role of the Journalists' Charity when he made a guest appearance at the annual reception. It was, he said, a brilliant example of the Big Society at work.

He delivered his tribute after being welcomed by the Ambassador of Ireland, Bobby McDonagh, the generous host once again for the charity's

most popular get-together at the embassy every November.

An era of unprecedented co-operation between the British Government and the Republic of Ireland ensured that the annual reception became a night to remember in Anglo-Irish relations as Mr Cameron, determined to enter the spirit of the occasion, was only too keen to point out.

"It's a great pleasure to be the first

Who's
won
our
Special
Award?

See Back Page

-serving Prime Minister to come to the Embassy of Ireland... and I am enjoying my glass of Guinness," he said.

Welcoming the Prime Minister, Mr McDonagh said relations between the two governments had never been better, not just a close friendship but partners in the European Union and in the peace process in Northern Ireland.

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www.journalistscharity.org.uk

Make a long-standing commitment... sign up today

I AM proud and honoured to become chairman of this fine charity. I am also extremely fortunate in that I succeed Chris Boffey, whose two years at the helm were most successful and continued to build upon the foundations for a bright and blossoming future.

Foundations were laid by a succession of vigorous and resourceful chairmen who changed the face – as well as the name – of the old Newspaper Press Fund and made sure it hit the ground running, rather than limping, into the 21st century.

Thanks to them the Journalists' Charity now has a state-of-the-art care home to complement the extra care and sheltered housing at Dorking. What's more, a programme of fundraising events – invariably wholly sponsored by our corporate friends in order to maximise profits – continue to attract and delight supporters in London, Glasgow and the Midlands.

Combined, these lunches, receptions and

The new chairman's first report by BILL HAGERTY



disparate evenings – such as the Midlands' greyhound racing nights and London's "Cash for Questions" political bunfight on the House of Commons Terrace – add up to a nationwide income-generating web of which once we could only dream.

It is going to be a tough job to match the work of these past chairmen, but I hope that during my time in the chair I can help to expand these activities and to enlist more supporters from within the news media trades, especially those younger journalists who, understandably, tend to concentrate on

the here and now rather than tomorrow and the day after, and the problems the less fortunate among them might face.

Journalism is a wonderful trade and those who, like me, have earned a good living from it should be grateful. There are many less fortunate, particularly so in these difficult times when many newspaper and magazine houses and broadcasting companies are cutting both staff and budgets in their fight for what appears to be a constantly diminishing audience.

Those lucky enough to be employed should remember those who, for reasons ranging from ill-health to enforced redundancy, find life a struggle.

A dedicated council is determined to build on the successes of recent years by broadening our supporters within the media industries and attracting more sponsorship and goodwill from media companies and closely-related businesses.

Please wish us well.

You are truly part of the Big Society

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Mr McDonagh, accompanied by his wife Mary, said he feared Mr Cameron might have been invited to the reception under false pretences. The aim of the event was to raise awareness for an organisation which showed charity towards journalists, rather than journalists showing charity to politicians.

But Mr Cameron took the joke in good part. It had been, he said, one of those days. He took Prime Minister's questions in the House of Commons, had an audience with the Queen, met the Archbishop of Canterbury, and was now "genuinely on the fourth estate".

The Prime Minister said he wanted to be the first to pay tribute to the Journalists' Charity because it was a perfect illustration of his belief that the country should not look just to the government but to all sort of organisations, charities and churches to create a better country and a stronger society.

"The Journalists' Charity started with a few hacks in a pub. You wanted to provide for journalists who fell on hard times. You didn't wait for the government. You got on and did it. That's the Big Society and that's why we're here to celebrate the charity's work."

Mr Cameron coupled his tribute with a plea for a new era of responsibility between politicians and the press. "I am at an early stage of my Premiership when you can just about open a newspaper without foaming at the mouth and falling over backwards.

"But I do hope that between the politicians and the press we can find a new sense of responsibility. As a government we are trying to be more open, more frank and transparent. I hope in return we can have a reasonable debate.



PRIME TIME: David Cameron addresses the throng at the Irish Embassy

"We are at a time of great national stringency and whoever was in government would have to make cuts. I sometimes listen to Radio 4 in the morning and think there won't be a school or hospital left standing."

The Prime Minister had come armed with an exclusive, to prove his point that the Government was releasing more detail. He said the Chancellor would be announcing the date of the Budget in the morning.

What Mr Cameron said he was hoping that politicians and the press would enter into a tango – "not a tango with Ann Widdecombe, which was justification for the BBC's licence fee go, but a tango of solid, mutual respect.

"We should respect the press for its vigour and independence and I hope the press will recognise that most people who go into politics are not crooks, criminals or sleaze bags but

'You didn't wait for government, you just got on and did it yourselves'

want to do a good job for their constituents and the country".

Mr Cameron's parting shot was an expression of congratulation to all involved in the Journalists' Charity: "You are part of the Big Society, part of what makes this country great."

It was a sentiment immediately picked up by charity chairman Chris Boffey in thanking the Prime Minister and the ambassador. "We have been doing it for 150 years. We are a very small part of the Big Society: unpaid trustees who rarely claim expenses, who work to make life better for those who are worse off."

He hoped the Prime Minister's praise would raise awareness across the news media to the charity's work. Only 5 per cent of those working in the industry were members of the charity and Chris appealed for greater support.

What a profitable way of going to the dogs



WEST Midlands District held another enjoyable and successful greyhound night last October. And thanks to the generous sponsorship of Heineken UK, and those who provided raffle prizes, they raised £3,000 for the charity. Pictured, from the left: Pauline and Frank Mills, Gwyneth James, Derek and Daisy Inman, John James



By NICHOLAS JONES

INSTEAD of Sevens swans a-swimming – as in *The Twelve Days of Christmas* – the annual carol service of the Journalists' Charity presented Seven editors a-speaking.

The editorial cast-list for one of the highlights of the charity's social calendar was as impressive as the choir of St Bride's Church, which delighted the congregation with a captivating rendition of the *Little Drummer Boy*, accompanied by a drummer boy resplendent in a brilliant red uniform.

A glass (or two) of wine and a plentiful supply of mince pies – provided by our supporters, the communications consultancy Luther Pendragon – rounded off a memorable December evening.

Lionel Barber, editor of the *Financial Times*, and Jonathan Grun, editor of the *Press Association*, gave two of the readings. They were joined by Sarah Sands, deputy editor of the *London*

Editors go a-carolling

Evening Standard, Dominic O'Connell, business editor of the *Sunday Times*, and Tom Bradby, political editor of ITN, who chose *Ring Out, Wild Bells* by Alfred, Lord Tennyson.

Journalists, friends and relations were welcomed to the service by the Rev George Pitcher, former religion editor of *The Daily Telegraph*, who praised the Journalists' Charity for its work.

He reminded the congregation that ever since the first printing press was established in the corner of St Bride's church yard just off Fleet Street, the church had been the protector of those who told stories and who set type.

In his address, Chris Boffey, chairman of the charity and news editor of *The Guardian* and *Observer*,

CHORUS OF APPROVAL: The congregation in St Bride's for the annual Journalists' Charity carol concert, when mince pies and a glass of wine (or two) were also enjoyed

said he realised that for those outside the media, the idea of a charity that helped journalists was ludicrous, on a par with a "students' union whip-round for the Liberal Democrats, or an honesty box in the House of Commons".

But the point was that if those working in the media did not try to help colleagues who had fallen on hard times, no-one else would. There were 100,000 people working in the British media and only five per cent were helping the Journalists' Charity.

Chris appealed for more journalists to sign up for regular donations, preferably £5 a month, for life.

lutherpendragon

Tragic John's thank you

By ALLAN CALDWELL

A TRAGIC car accident ended John McCarroll's career as a successful newspaper photographer.

A subsequent struggle to make ends meet on a single person's pension plus invalidity benefit made life unbearable.

Paying for the basics – electricity, gas, food and clothing – took almost all of his meagre income. The good life he had enjoyed, socialising with friends and holidays, was no longer an option.

But then, several years ago, I was able to put my friend John in touch with the Journalists' Charity, and its support has helped John regain his pride and mobility.

I first worked with John on the *Evening Times/Herald* in Glasgow. Previously he joined the *Daily Express* as a darkroom assistant at its Glasgow office straight from school in 1958.

He then became a photographer and worked on the *Express* for 24 years

before being made redundant in 1984 due to staff cuts. He joined Olympic Airlines in Greece as a staff photographer for three years before returning to Glasgow as a freelance photographer.

For years John had suffered with hip problems, but then in 2000 that accident ended his career. He fell from the editorial car which had started to drive off before he was fully in the passenger seat.

This led to an operation for a double hip replacement – paid for by the company's insurance – but John received only minimum compensation.

He returned to work but struggled with his immobility and the pain. In 2003 he did his last job before reluctantly hanging up his camera.

John's now aged 69, and with the charity's support he can make ends meet. He can't use the bus, but from his small, rented apartment in Glasgow he is able to afford a taxi a few times a week to go into town to socialise, and not worry too much about paying



COMFORT: John McCarroll in the forward-and-backward reclining chair, which makes his life so much better

domestic bills. One of his greatest pleasures is a forward-and-backward reclining chair, provided by the charity's support, enabling him sit and stand with ease.

He says: "The charity has been tremendous. You work so long in newspapers but you never think that kind of financial support will be there when you need it at the end of your career. Thank you."

Our award for the welcoming rector



David Meara

THIS year's winner of The Journalists' Charity Special Award – part of the British Press Awards – is David Meara, Archdeacon of London and Rector of St Bride's, Fleet Street.

The Charity's council makes the Special Award to an individual or body that has made an outstanding contribution to journalism and journalists in any way.

Archdeacon Meara was coupled with his church – the spiritual home of all journalists and situated in what was, until

recently, the heart of the British newspaper industry – at the Awards dinner at London's Savoy Hotel on April 5.

Ordained in 1973, Archdeacon Meara became Rector of "the cathedral of Fleet Street" in 2000 and was appointed Archdeacon of London by the Bishop of London, the Rt Rev Richard Chartres, in 2009.

As well as ministering to the spiritual needs of journalists and driving forward St Bride's work in this and other areas,

Archdeacon Meara has written extensively on church architecture and monumental brasses.

In a British Journalism Review interview at the time of the 50th anniversary of the re-opening and re-dedication of St Bride's after severe wartime

bombing, Canon Meara said: "I feel people in the [newspaper] industry value somewhere where they feel they belong, where they are understood and welcomed just as they are. And where God looks down on them with a smile."



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House of Commons Terrace reception, June 20, 2011

THE Journalists' Charity is delighted to offer its supporters and their guests the opportunity to attend another VIP fund-raising reception at the House of Commons.

Tickets are £30 each. (Ticket price includes drinks and canapés)

Not a Lotto luck at the ball

GUESTS attending the Glasgow and West of Scotland Press Ball were each given an opportunity to become millionaires by landing a bumper £13.1million Lotto jackpot.

Lotto organisers Camelot sponsored the ball and provided the 350 guests with lucky dip tickets for what was a double rollover draw.

Organisers Archie Mackay, who runs the PR consultancy media2k, and Margaret Morrison, from The Herald & Times Group, arranged for the draw to be displayed live in the room.

Sadly there wasn't a jackpot winner at the ball, although some guests landed £10 prizes.

A raffle and quick auction – with superb prizes donated by leading Scottish companies – boosted the total raised for the Journalists' Charity to £20,000.



HOPING: Guests at the Press Ball with their Lotto tickets, from the left: Steven Castelluccia (Scottish Sun art desk) and his partner Jacqueline McGhie (NoW deputy news editor), Ron Moore and Charlotte Carmichael (NoW reporters), and freelance Stephen Houston

Scottish get-together raises £4,000



GUEST: Nicola Nimmagh, Miss Scotland and Miss UK

MORE than £4,000 were raised for the Journalists' Charity during an evening of Christmas cocktails at the prestigious 29 Club in Royal Exchange Square, Glasgow, which attracted about 100 key members of the Scottish media. A lively pub quiz with a prize of 10 bottles of champagne was followed by a raffle with prizes including a makeover from top stylist Taylor Ferguson and VIP tickets to see Kylie Minogue. Organised in only a few weeks by committee member Nadine Hawkins, editor of No 1 Magazine, guests suggested it might become a regular Christmas event.



GUEST: Janis-Sue Smith, fashion editor of the Scottish Sun

Please send me tickets

My name

Guest 1

Guest 2

Guest 3

Address (where tickets will be sent)

.....

Postcode

Tel

Email

I enclose a cheque payable to The Journalists' Charity for £

Please send to: Journalists' Charity, Dickens House, 35 Wathen Road, Dorking, Surrey RH4 1JY.

Note: Tickets will not be available on the door. Places are limited.