

Old Dyvorians Association  
2015 Annual General Meeting  
Secretary's Report

It has been a very good year for the Association.

Total Membership has climbed to 659;

There was an increased attendance of 190 at the Annual Dinner (up by 10%);

Both of our Lectures were very well attended, with over 70 members coming to the Lecture given by David Mercer;

The Annual Golf Day continues to be popular, with an entry of 27 competitors last year;

And 40 Old Dy'vorians, wives and friends enjoyed the cricket, the catering and the reminiscences of Ossie Wheatley at St Helen's on Balconiers' Day.

But in addition to the healthy numbers, one has to express pride and pleasure in relation to the Quality of these events; and in particular, I am sure the entire membership is grateful to:-

**Dudley Sinnett** in his Presidential Year for inviting and arranging truly outstanding speakers to educate and entertain us;

**David Dickinson, Peter Samuel and Ken Sharpe** for their hard work in organising respectively The Annual Dinner, The Golf Day and The Balconiers' Day;

**The Catering Departments** at Swansea University and at UWTSD for the first-class arrangements they provide for us;

**And our hosts** at Clyne Golf Club and at St Helen's.

Historically, there would have been much to record about our annual calendar of Events in the Secretary's Annual Report, but thanks to our biannual journal, TOD, members routinely receive full details presented in a truly professional publication, and I am happy (*and grateful*) to let TOD be the document of record for these matters. TOD has evolved over the years thanks to the efforts of several editors and production staff to become a jewel of a journal that we all look forward to receiving through the post. We express our hearty congratulations to **Jeff Humphreys, Jim Waygood** and all the contributors to TOD over the past year.

Turning to Modern Media, the Association is now on the Internet, Facebook, and Twitter too ! This charge into the future has been led by **Keith Evans**, assisted by outside help from Tony Wright of A W Graphics. They continue the pioneering work led by Dave Tovey, which allows us to preserve the history of a school that is no more and helps us maintain a fellowship that is important to us all.

Amongst the improvements introduced over the past year is Mail Chimp, a system that allows us to contact the entire membership by e-mail literally within minutes, if not seconds. With a large membership spread out over the country and over globe, this is an invaluable communication tool..... and its use is free to us.

The digitisation of the School Magazine Archive was completed last year in a project led by **Roger Williams**, which places a virtually complete archive of much of the school's history and the literary efforts of its students in the years 1910 – 1970 on our Website. This is no dry and dusty archive; it is a fascinating and remarkable record of social history. What is remarkable too is that this project was funded entirely by an appeal to members for donations that was answered in just a few weeks. It is the policy of the Association to keep donations anonymous, but it should be recorded that large sums of money have been generously donated to the ODA to fund both the Magazine Archive Project and the building of the new Website.

I have already mentioned a number of individuals who have given of their time in the running of the Association over the past year, and there are others who should be acknowledged for the work they are undertaking, for example, organising Reunions of their Year Groups; but I would like to mention two people in particular. The first is **Phil Stone**, who regularly makes an escape from Cardiff and travels down the M4 to attend every ODA Event and every Committee Meeting; and the other is our Treasurer, **Steve Way**, who is of vital importance in keeping us solvent and financially ship-shape, which is no mean task with over 600 members.

Finally, may I refer to one of our Key Constitutional Aims: charitable support of educational development in Swansea. Currently, our main channel for delivering this aim is through the President's Awards (which are reported in TOD). The annual Award Ceremony is both delightful and humbling; and I would encourage as many members as possible to attend the ceremony which gives recognition to students who have overcome adversity to pursue their studies. Recently, the letters of thanks from last year's award winners were passed to me by the University and it is absolutely clear that the Awards mean a very great deal to those who have received them. Doubtless, the letters will be published shortly on the Website and in TOD.

So, '**May the Force be with Us**'....and with **Selwyn Walters**, who will be the first 58er to become President of the ODA !

Phill Davies

Hon. Secretary

5<sup>th</sup> March 2015