

# **Old Dy'vorians' Association**

## **Secretary's Report to the 2014 AGM**

We have a membership of over 600; a full diary of Association events; an expanding website carrying news and archive material; and a first-rate biannual journal.

This all adds up to quite a substantial undertaking, which runs smoothly and without major crises thanks to: -

The sound procedures and systems developed by our predecessors;  
The enthusiasm and commitment of the executive committee; and  
Our excellent relations with Swansea Metropolitan University.

But all this would count for nothing without the support for the Association given by the broad Membership,

Who provide the finances;  
Who attend the Events; and  
Who read and contribute to the Journal and to our Archives.

Their interest and participation keeps the Spirit and the Ethos of Dynevor School alive and healthy.

### **Some of the Highlights from the past year:**

#### **Certainly, the Annual Dinner**

Numbers were down somewhat on previous years; but the catering and the service were outstanding; and our guest speaker, Professor Peter Stead, and our President, Kevin Johns, were highly entertaining.

Thanks are due to Graham Hanford and David Dickinson for organising this Event.

#### **Balconiers' Day at St Helen's**

This event was graced by the presence of Alan Jones, one of Glamorgan's Greats; and there was a good attendance by Old Dy'vorians and their guests, who greatly enjoyed Alan's reminiscences.

Our thanks go to Ken Sharpe for making the arrangements for this very successful day.

## **The 2013 Lectures**

The 2013 Lectures were given by Gerald Gabb, an Old Dy'vorian, and Professor Garel Rees. Both masters of their subjects, the delivery was superb on each occasion.

## **The Old Dy'vorian**

Jeff Humphreys took over the editorship of The Old Dy'vorian from Peter Macpherson; and in his first two editions Jeff's professional background as a journalist is clearly in evidence.

## **Digitalisation of the School Magazine Archive**

Roger Williams has led the project to digitalise the School Magazine Archive and it is most gratifying to hear that the appeal fund target has been achieved and the digitalisation process is now under way.

## **President's Awards**

As mentioned earlier, our good relations with SMU are vital to our ongoing activities. In particular, the University makes available to the ODA the facilities to hold our meetings and lectures and also the printing services to produce The Old Dy'vorian. It is our great pleasure, therefore, to sponsor the President's Awards that are made annually to students who have overcome adversity in pursuing their studies. These awards are much appreciated by the students receiving the Awards, and by the University Authorities for the recognition they give to the determination and perseverance of the Award Winners.

The President's Awards are a most appropriate fulfilment of our Constitutional Aims of supporting local education.

## **Future Challenges and Expectations**

There is an important long term challenge to recruit more young people into the Association and we must continue to explore ways of attracting their interest.

Regarding communications with the Membership, we have 600 plus members, who are widely dispersed throughout the UK and further afield. If we are to operate efficiently, keeping Members informed about events and developments without delay - and at a reasonable cost - we must take full advantage of Electronic Communications. To this end, Keith Evans is investigating a system called Mail Chimp, which will facilitate the sending of

e-mail communications quickly to the entire membership or groups of members .....AT NO EXTRA COST.

The mailing of The Old Dy'vorian costs over £350 twice a year, and this will increase when the new postage charges are implemented. An on-line version of TOD is possible without additional costs and an experiment has shown that very high quality results are possible. Significant savings can be made if sufficient members elect to receive their copy of TOD electronically. Indeed, with one eye on the possibilities in this area, Jeff Humphreys has agreed to become Webmaster in addition to his role as Editor of TOD.

Regarding the cost of the Website, the technical development of the site has now achieved a level where the work can be scaled back; and going forward only hosting and registration fees and regular maintenance of content is required. We have recently changed our technical support provider and we are confident that we will see a significant reduction in the annual costs of the Website.

**The Coming Year** promises to be another good one for the Association, commencing with the inauguration of the Peter Sward Cup at the Golf Day and the Annual Dinner tomorrow night. (*We have been told that the catering team at Fulton House regard our Annual Dinner as the best organised of all the events they work on.*) We look forward to hearing Sir Alan Thomas speak at the Dinner tomorrow evening; and also to the Lectures later in the year from Sir John Meurig Thomas and David Mercer.

Hopefully, the planned enhancements in communications with the Membership will stimulate yet greater participation in the activities of the Association - in particular, drawing in greater numbers from the younger generations of Old Dy'vorian.