

Report of a Working Party on the future of the Old Dy'vorians Association (ODA) - recommendations

- The ODA needs to **define itself** as being for '*any pupil or teacher who attended Dynevor Grammar School or Dynevor Senior Comprehensive School*'.
- The **image** of the ODA should be adjusted to make this inclusive spirit more explicit. [action on this has already been taken - redesigning the logo - but it is a continuing process, to be constantly borne in mind! And, to this end...]
- The Association should refer to itself as '**Dy'vorians**' in informal usage
- The magazine 'TOD' should re-brand itself '**The Dy'vorian**'
- The **ODA Facebook page** should be renamed 'Dynevor Revisited' to make explicit the link with the website of the Association
- **TOD** should try to carry articles written by and for pupils of the post-Grammar School era.
- The successful and popular **Annual Dinner** should remain as it is
- We should seek to ensure that the **archive of records** and achievements of Dynevor and its predecessor schools (Municipal Secondary, etc) should be preserved as a resource for future researchers in local history.
- The key to future development lies in facilitating the creation and activities of **cohort groups**.

### Looking to the future

*Dr Ted Nield, outgoing President, on how the Association can best develop in its final decades*

A year as President is a short time to do anything of lasting consequence – or do any lasting damage! – but I hope my successors will find the conclusions of the *Working Party on the Future of the ODA* useful in years to come. The conclusions of our discussion, following from my discussion paper (which I hope can be made available on the website) were presented to the Committee, which agreed to the following actions.

The ODA shall define itself as being for '*any pupil or teacher who attended Dynevor Grammar School or Dynevor Senior Comprehensive School*'. In view of our close ties with the new tenant of our buildings, rights of membership may be extended to any current student or staff member of the University who has worked within the precinct of the former Dynevor School, and who expresses the wish to join.

The image of the ODA shall be updated to make this inclusive spirit more explicit. The re-design of the Association logo (courtesy of my fellow '67-er Lance Webster of Swansea design firm Ridler Webster, [www.ridlerwebster.co.uk](http://www.ridlerwebster.co.uk)) was the immediate result. We also took the opportunity to upgrade the Association's condolence card (and print off enough copies to dispose of almost the entire membership!).

The Committee agreed that the name 'Old Dy'vorians Association' posed a perception problem for pupils of the Senior Comprehensive, who may assume that the 'Old' refers to the 'Old School', and that they were not welcome. It was decided therefore that we should henceforth refer to ourselves simply as 'Dy'vorians' in informal usage. This would not require changing the official name or bank account details.

There being no need to emphasize the 'old', when all of us are quite obviously no longer young and there are no 'new' or 'young' Dy'vorians left in the world, the Committee agreed to seek AGM approval to re-brand the Association's magazine as '*The Dy'vorian*'.

The ODA Facebook page shall be renamed 'Dynevior Revisited', to emphasize the connection with our web site.

The editor of the magazines shall be encouraged to source articles written by and for pupils of the post-Grammar School era.

The Annual Dinner, being highly successful and greatly valued, should be left in its current format.

The Association shall seek to ensure that the archive of records and achievements of Dynevior and predecessor schools (Municipal Secondary, etc) are preserved as a resource for future researchers in local history.

While accepting that its life is likely to be limited to perhaps another 20 years, the Committee agreed that the key to future ODA development lay in facilitating, publicising and coordinating the activities of cohort groups. This reflects the psychology-change that took place on comprehensivization. After the end of the 11+, Dynevior served a fixed catchment, which eliminated the 'institutional loyalty' that can only really exist under a selective system. Newer pupils therefore tend to show adherence mainly to their contemporaries – namely, they show 'cohort loyalty' instead.

It has been both a pleasure and a privilege to serve as your president, and I wish my successor Dr John Rees every best wish in taking the Association forward.

Ted Nield