

PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2019-2021
ADRODDIAD Y LLYWYDD 2019-2021

Annwyl gyfeillion, braint a phleser yw cyflwyno'r adroddiad hwn i chi ar ddiwedd cyfnod a thymor estynedig yn rinwedd swydd Llywydd Cymdeithas Ysgol Dinefwr.

Dear friends, it is both a privilege and a pleasure to present this report which, due to the Covid lockdowns covers a period of two years. May I thank you all for entrusting me with the office of President, and may I assure you that it has proved to be an honour and a delight.

Looking back over this extended tenure of office, the Annual Reunion Dinner seems a long, long time ago. Held at Swansea University on May 10, 2019, it was a wonderful occasion and thanks are due to Jeff Vaughan and Keith Ferguson for the arrangements.

The Annual Golf Day that year was held at Clyne Golf Club and we thank, once again, Pete Samuel for organising the event.

The report of the 2019 Balconiers' Day at St Helen's is available on the ODA website. May I here take an opportunity to thank Ken Sharpe for his years of service in organising the day and liaising between us and the St Helen's Balconiers. With the future of cricket at St Helen's in the realm of uncertainty, we don't know whether there will be another ODA/Balconiers' Day.

October 2019 saw a new innovation, a music night at "The Hyst" in High Street. The occasion was a great success and has been reported in "The Dy'vorian (36)" magazine. Thanks again, Jeff Vaughan, for arranging it. It is hoped that a similar event can be arranged sometime.

The Annual ODA lecture in 2019 was presented by Dr. David Jeffreys (year of 1966) and his talk on his involvement with excavations on the sites of Memphis in Egypt is again reported in "The Dy'vorian (36)." We wish to acknowledge that David turned down the offer of expenses for travel from London and hospitality in Swansea and generously asked that the Association might find a way of offering a prize to a young, school-age, enthusiast of archaeology or ancient history. The committee continues to pursue this.

Earlier that evening it was a real joy to be able, once again, to present the President's Annual Awards to students at the University of Wales Trinity St David Swansea Campus.

The Past Presidents' Lunch, always an enjoyable occasion, was held in Langland Golf Club on November 8th 2019, arranged as usual by Edgar McCarthy, the guest speaker was Phil Stone, President 2012.

And then, with the early Spring of 2020, and hoping to hand over the Presidency to Keith Ferguson, Coronavirus interrupted the Association's activities, as it has the rest of all of our lives. This has been a strange eighteen months. Events re-arranged, then cancelled or pushed further into the future, and so many aspects of life put on hold. We are grateful that Rowan Williams was willing to share some thoughts with us in "The Dy'vorian" (37) trying to see what life might or could be like as the pandemic recedes.

The committee kept in touch regularly and in November we held an experimental on-line lecture. impressively given by Dr John Alban, he spoke of the blitzes on Swansea during World War 2. A report is given in "The Dy'vorian" (39). We are most grateful to John, and to Phil Stone for arranging and hosting the lecture via the wonder of Zoom.

One of the moving and poignant aspects of being the president is the duty of sending a message of condolence to the families of departed members. During my term of office I have sent 28 cards to bereaved families, including to those of three past teachers at the school. Among these messages was also one to Phill Davies' family. We were shocked and saddened to learn of Phill's untimely passing. Tudor Price's eloquent and heartfelt eulogy to Phill can be read in the current issue of "The Dy'vorian" (39) but I should like to say that we all, as a committee and as members, owed him much. We miss his wit, his patience, his friendship and company.

It has been a pleasure to invite eight members to take up Honorary Life Membership on attaining their 90th birthdays. Their names, alongside our other Life Members can be seen on the website.

On June 18th, at an informal ceremony in Singleton Park, the presidency was transferred to Keith Ferguson. We hope to celebrate his term of office at the annual dinner in October. My best wishes go to him for his time in office and to the new Vice-president, David Taylor, who although not a past pupil has, as a teacher there for well over thirty years, spent more time in Dynevor than any of us.

I hope that, as life and society both begin to open up we may, as an association, take up the challenges of the various reports on our future which the committee presented some three years ago. We shall continue to support our aims, in fellowship and friendship, by the medium of a magazine and an archive, and may we uphold the honour and memory of Dynevor School, in all its incarnations from Municipal Secondary, through Boys' Grammar, to Mixed Comprehensive.

Finally a word of thanks to Keith Evans, my predecessor, for advice and counsel, Steve Way, our treasurer, Francis Morgan our "Dy'vorian" editor, the committee members, to those involved with the website and to our new Honorary Secretary, Pam Bashford, who has miraculously taken up Phill's mantle and has already worked hard in these difficult months to keep the committee in touch, and in preparing the necessary things for our AGM. Without them, and all fellow Dy'vorian, the presidency means nothing. Thank you all.

Diolch i bob un ohonoch, a phob hwyl a dymuniad da i'r Gymdeithas.

John Walters.
President/Llywydd
2019-2021