

ODA SECRETARY'S REPORT 2012-2013

The past year has been yet another successful one for the ODA.

The Annual Dinner in 2012 was, again, very well attended and the speakers, Behnaz Akhgar, Old Dy'vorian and BBC Wales weather presenter, and Tudor Lewis, an old classmate, provided contrasting perspectives of their experiences of the newer and the older Dynevor. Behnaz is one of that younger generation that we hope to attract to the ODA.

The Annual Lecture in October 2012 was given by Tim Richards, law lecturer and writer for "Private Eye". Entitled "The Real News is What They Don't Want You to Know", his talk gave a revealing insight into the workings of Welsh politics at a national and local level.

Membership has reached an all-time high, thanks to the tremendous work and enthusiasm of Noel Blows, who has also been responsible for the huge success of the Annual Dinners. We shall certainly miss his influence and we are much indebted to him.

The Association continues in its efforts to broaden its appeal to members, and the Golf and Cricket events, ably organised by Ken Sharpe and Peter Samuel, have proved to be very successful.

The Members' Directory, which has been put together by Keith Evans and which represents a tremendous amount of work by him, offers another means for Old Dy'vorians to contact each other.

Under the guidance of Keith Evans, Jim Waygood, Keith Morris, the team at BSS, and, in particular, Dave Tovey, the ODA website has been transformed. It is hoped that it will appeal to a wider – and younger – audience, with its social networking links and greater interactivity. Also, we hope to place archive material on the website. Graham Hanford and Allan Smith, the last deputy head and head of Dynevor, made strenuous efforts to save unique and valuable archive material when the school closed. Roger Williams has kindly offered, in conjunction with the archivist at SMU, to research this material and, eventually, perhaps, publish a book on the history of the school.

The Old Dy'vorian Journal has continued to flourish under the steady guidance of Peter Macpherson and Jim Waygood. With the rising cost of postage and the

new website, a possible future development will be the publication of the journal electronically, online, to members.

The ODA was proud to continue its tradition of SMU Student Awards, now presented to four students, all of them thoroughly deserving candidates. It has been suggested that this successful event should be opened up to all ODA members who wish to attend, not just those on the committee.

Our close relationship with the SMU continues to flourish and we are very grateful to Professor David Warner for his support in all things Dy'vorian, from printing the journal to providing facilities for our activities. I understand that his successor, Professor Medwyn Hughes, intends to maintain this relationship and we very much appreciate that.

Part of the success of the ODA is its ability to evolve and this involves change, including a change of personnel. The ODA will make greater use of sub-committees to spread the workload, sometimes meeting instead of a full committee. An example of this is the Annual Dinner sub-committee comprising Graham Hanford, Geof Tanner and David Dickinson. This will involve changes to the Constitution, as proposed by Edgar McCarthy.

Dave Tovey, our webmaster, has tendered his resignation. Dave spent many years developing the ODA website and his hard work has laid the foundations for the success of the new website. We are very grateful to Dave for his great efforts over the years. Peter Macpherson will also be retiring from his editorship of the journal and, again, his work over the years has given his successor, Jeff Humphries, an excellent base from which to carry on. Brian Willis is retiring from the ODA committee but will continue in his role as MC at the Dinner. I, too, will be finishing as Secretary, as I already have other secretarial commitments with a transport museum. Phil Stone has been an excellent President and will be handing over to Kevin Johns, who in turn will be succeeded by Professor Dudley Sinnett.

Finally, I would like to thank colleagues for their support over the past year, and I wish every success to our new President and the Association.

David Bemmer