

ODA PRESIDENT 2021-22

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

It is always a great honour to represent any organisation, but this last year has been something very special to me. To represent the Old School Association which gave me my grounding in life has been a fantastic experience.

The Committee which run the ODA are a varied but very dedicated team who follow in the footsteps of those who set it up nearly 100 years ago, based on the common theme of being an Old Dy'vorian, either because we were taught there, or because we did the teaching. Ours is a very proud society, founded on our common affection for that wonderful collection of buildings between De la Beche Street and The Kingsway.

Recent events are totally unprecedented for most of us who are not War babies. And there have been so much information and so many uncertainties. But we have survived, and still in good shape despite the problems put in front of us.

It has been a remarkably busy year. We have continued to hold the regular and other various ODA events:

Our Annual Lecture was given on 10th March 2022 by Prof Iwan Davies. This was a very interesting and successful event, and we are grateful to Prof Davies for his time and enlightenment.

Our delayed Annual Dinner was held on 22nd October 2021 in the Village Hotel. The venue was changed for a variety of reasons to The Village Hotel. It had originally been scheduled for May 2020, but events of course derailed it. From all the comments received afterwards, the event was as successful as in previous years, and everyone enjoyed catching up with old friends, having a glass or two, and generally reminiscing.

We made a donation to the Gwent Boxing Club – a superb local organisation catering for young people with a very strong local history. This was a highlight for me. I must confess that boxing would not be in my top ten of sports, but the trip to the Club with Pam to present the cheque to Terry Grey, the long term manager and Organiser was an eye opener. The equipment they have built up, the help given to youngsters, the disciplines they instil in behaviour and work ethic, and the whole environment was an education to me.

Pam prepared a press release, and I was very pleased to see that the South Wales Evening Post used it – a very worthwhile occasion.

Pam, with Michael Davies, also made a presentation and donation to St Thomas School on behalf of the ODA in memory of Phill Davies. This was a donation which had originally been planned for Phill personally as a token of the work he had undertaken as Secretary, and the Committee felt that he would have wished for his old junior school to benefit.

Thanks to the good work by a number of Committee members we successfully repelled an attempted a Copyright incursion – my grateful thanks on what could have been a very difficult situation for the Association.

The Old Dy'vorian magazine continued to be published twice annually.

We were all delighted to learn that Selwyn Walters had been elected Mayor of Lampeter for a third year

The long term review into the future of the ODA proved there is still much to do, and much to look forward to – my thanks to Ted Nield, who initiated this review in 2017, and Roger Williams and his team for reviewing and updating it.

There is of course, no certainty about future plans, but the Committee is keen to continue the work of the ODA, and to give everyone associated with the school and the campus the opportunity to enjoy its history.

A few thanks:

To Pam Bashford, who had a hard act to follow, but who has brought much enthusiasm and hard work to the role of Secretary, and been a tower of strength to me, and the Committee;

To Jeff Vaughan who has done so much to organise the Annual Dinner and other social events;

Steve Way whose knowledge of the ODA is awesome, apart from his work as Treasurer;

To Phil Stone for organising and the members of the Committee for attending the *Zoom* meetings which have enabled us to function despite the best efforts of the pandemic – one huge benefit has been that our magazine Editor, Francis Morgan, has been able to join us despite an 8 hour time difference;

To Keith Evans for his work in communications, and his advice and counsel;

To Peter Samuel, who keeps in touch with so many members, and is so diligent in his role as Membership Officer

To all the Committee members for they unfailing efforts – it shows just how much the School meant to so many people;

To my predecessor John Walters for his help, support and wit;

And my very best wishes to David Taylor for his term of office, and to the new Vice President Hywel Davies.

And apologies for all omissions, and the many mistakes during the year.

Keith Ferguson

President

2021-22