

Report from the Secretary and Committee Officers 2022

Taking over the secretary's role from Phill Davies has been a challenge; he left very big shoes for me to fill! The role is far from an insignificant one however I have been unfailingly supported and guided by the very competent and knowledgeable members of the committee. For this, saying I am exceedingly grateful is an understatement! Throughout the year it has been a pleasure to work on behalf of this wonderful association, in particular having an opportunity to communicate with members and learn of their time at Dynevor School has made my role worthwhile.

During the past year your committee has worked to ensure that the Association has begun to return to the pre-Covid calendar of events.

1. The Reunion Dinner, having been postponed in April 2020 and May 2021, went ahead in October 2021, a case of third time lucky. One hundred and twelve members and guests attended the dinner held at the Village Hotel. Thanks go to Keith Ferguson and Jeff Vaughan for their persistence and organisation. We look forward to meeting up at this year's event, again at the Village Hotel, on the 7th October and hope by then we will all feel safe to attend a large group event.
2. The ODA Lecture was delivered via *Zoom* in March this year by Prof Iwan Davies; those unable to join us on the evening have been given the opportunity to view a recording. *Zoom* continues to be used to facilitate communication between members of the ODA and as a means of conducting the business of the ODA. It also allows those members unable to attend meetings in Swansea the opportunity to play an active role in the work of the Association.
3. The ODA has made a number of donations since the last AGM.
 - a) £1,500 was donated to the UWTSD Student Support Fund. It is intended that we make presentations to individual students this coming year as we did previously.
 - b) £250 was donated to St Thomas Community Primary School to commemorate Phill's unstinting service to the Association.
 - c) £300, received from Dr Jeffreys, was donated, again to St Thomas', for children to learn more about Egyptology.
 - d) £100 was donated to the Gwent Boxing Club.
 - e) £50 to Christian Aid, a charity chosen by Prof. Iwan Davies.
4. Membership of The Association is still at a healthy level with 483 members to date. In 2022, taking into account suspension of members, deaths and resignations, we have managed to keep the membership steady due to 4 new members joining. As reported on many different occasions, the committee's objective is to boost membership with pupils from the mid 1960's onwards. However, little progress has

been made on this front. Could the answer be to try another course via social media? Time will tell. If you have any suggestions in order to achieve our objectives they would be greatly appreciated.

5. Related to the above, a review of the Working Party's 2017 Report has been undertaken by committee members ; points raised will be discussed by committee members and the review document and agreed actions shared with you.
6. The Dy'vorian email service, "Mailchimp", continues to provide notifications to members, with over 80% of members currently subscribing to this service and benefitting from timely updates on when future ODA events are taking place. It has been noticed that a number of members fail to open our Mailchimp emails, possibly because they end up as "Spam". Could those members, who feel that they may be missing out on our emails, please check their Spam folders and change settings, if appropriate. Any members who have not yet provided an email address to the association, or who might have inadvertently "unsubscribed" from Mailchimp, are encouraged to contact Keith Evans at keith_evans4@sky.com to ensure that they receive all ODA communications. Similarly keep us updated if your contact details have changed.
7. A Mailchimp survey was circulated last month to elicit how many members wished to receive printed copies of The Dy'vorian, specifically editions 37-40 that were available on line only for the previous two years. We will endeavour to get these out to members who requested them at the earliest possible date. In the meantime the production of the summer edition of The Dy'vorian, #41, is in progress with the expected online publication date being in August.
8. Our website continues to draw a number of views; at the time of writing there were 600 sessions in the past 30 days and 2,350 separate page views. The Find Your Years photographs and The Dy'vorian magazine are consistently the most frequently viewed pages on the site.
We are keen to update and increase the material on the website. Work is currently underway to make the existing landing page more attractive and the website easier to use. We are also looking at members signing in to access The D'yvorian and School Magazines.
Many archive photos of former pupils have been added to the site in the past year, and we would welcome your help in trying to date some of these or to identify the so far unknown faces. If you can help us to improve our photo archive or have photos of your time at Dynevor please contact us on:
findyouryears@dynevorrevisited.org.uk, describing in as much detail as you can the content of your picture(s).