

President's Report 2023

When I was honoured by becoming your president in 2022, I took time to revisit the aims of the association as laid out in our constitution. I hope that, 'standing on the shoulders of giants', we have been able to further those aims this year.

The first of those aims is

"To provide a means for keeping past pupils and staff of the School in touch with one another."

We have continued those long standing events that further this aim. The annual dinner, organised with their customary efficiency by Keith Ferguson and Jeff Vaughan, was held in the Village Hotel in October. The event was very well attended, friendships were renewed or reinforced. I was particularly pleased to meet those I had taught, many for the first time since they left the school.

TOD continues to be a fascinating and informative magazine. It opens windows on the lives and interests of our ex pupils as well as reflecting on school days. We have been very fortunate to have had Francis Morgan as our editor. Working from the United States and collaborating with the association remotely, Francis has produced magazines of great quality, both in presentation and content. He has even attended zoom committee meetings at some unearthly time for him in the States. Francis is standing down as editor and I would like on behalf of the committee and the association to express our gratitude to him for his service to the association.

New technology has enabled us to keep members informed in ways not possible previously. Events have been flagged by MailChimp, a particularly effective communication tool. Thanks to Keith Evans for all his efforts. Zoom has allowed Old Dy'vorians from a distance to have a greater involvement in the group, with hybrid committee meetings. The zoom annual lecture has enabled those who live in different parts of the country to stay in touch. My thanks to Phil Stone for arranging these meetings.

A new development has been the introduction of occasional coffee mornings in the cafe of Trinity St David's Dynevor campus. They have been well attended and have attracted younger ex pupils who are not, as yet, members of the association. These are welcome additions to the association's activities.

Members will know that the annual golf day had to be cancelled this year. We wish Peter a swift recovery.

A number of Old Dyvorians have been honoured this year. In the New Year's Honours List the Rt Hon Julian Lewis was awarded a Knighthood. We congratulate him.

In the Birthday Honours list of 2022 two of our old boys were recognised: Alan Griffiths in recognition of services to construction industry and the Community in Wales and Gerald Gabb was awarded the BEM for services to historical research in Swansea. The Association sent them congratulations on this well-deserved recognition.

I attended the Past Presidents' lunch in November. John Walters gave us an interesting and amusing talk.

Our second aim is "To take an interest in supporting educational development in Swansea and its environs by using the skills and expertise of its members, and by making charitable donations."

One of the great joys of the last year for me has been seeing the good work in education in which the association has been involved. Of course, we have provided a scholarship for students at UWTSO for some years and it was a great pleasure to attend the University's Awards Day to

present them this year. Your committee also decided to donate to schools associated with Dynevor.

One of my first duties was to visit St Thomas Community School with our secretary, Pam Bashford, to see the results of a donation made in the previous year in memory of Phil Davies aided by a donation from Dr Jeffreys. We were both struck by the enthusiasm and depth of knowledge shown by the pupils about their visit to the Egypt Centre.

Unfortunately, illness prevented me being present when donations were made to Terrace Road, Seaview and St Helen's schools but I do know that they were well received and I look forward to hearing of the results.

Towards the end of my term, the secretary and I visited Mixtup a youth club for 11-25 year olds with mixed abilities. We presented them with a donation of £100 to further their inspiring work.

Of course our annual lectures also contribute towards our second aim. This year we were fortunate to have Peter Kokelaar, Herdman Chair of Geology at the University of Liverpool, who spoke on the "Landscape evolution of southwest Wales: revelations of a dynamic Earth". It was fascinating to see how the landscape of Gower developed.

Our links with UWTSD continue. In June the Association was well represented at the bicentennial celebration of Trinity St Davids. We processed from Dynevor to St Mary's. We were placed just behind the University Mace and after the impressive bicentennial service we took the opportunity to have a photograph taken by the Dynevor pew. An article in The Old Dyvorian in 2013 by Peter Macpherson tells us that the pew was presented to the church in 1959 as part of the rebuilding of St Mary's following damage during the war. It was good to relive this part of Dynevor's past.

Our third aim "To garner and conserve material relating to the history, heritage and outreach of Dynevor School and its staff and pupils from its foundation as a Higher Grade School in Trinity Place in 1883, in order to secure, maintain and promote a literary, physical, audio, and digital archive resource. "

Our website, overseen by Phil Stone and Pam Bashford has grown in the last year. Many photographs have been added to the gallery section. They are fascinating. I commend it to those who have not discovered it yet. One of the main concerns of your committee has been to ensure that the history of the school is available to future generations. The website will be a valuable resource.

I have enjoyed meeting Old Dyvorians from across the globe during my time in office. It has been very rewarding.

Sadly, we have lost a number of members this year. We remember their contribution to the association and the school with gratitude. Of course, the sympathy of the association has been conveyed to their relatives.

The presidency of the Old Dyvorians is a fleeting role. It has been increasingly clear to me that our association continues only because of those officers and committee members who work so hard, often without recognition, behind the scenes year by year. When I stand down, they will be continuing to work for the benefit of us all. I am grateful to them all, but particularly to Steve Way, our treasurer and Pam Bashford, our secretary. They have ensured that I have been kept on task and have guided me throughout the year. I am in awe of them both and very grateful to them.

It is a pleasure to hand over to your new president, Hywel Davies and Andrew Clemes, the incoming vice president, particularly as they were members of the school during my time in Dynevor.

I wish them both well and hope that they enjoy their term in office as much as I have done.

David Taylor

President of the ODA, 2022