

**OLD DY'VORIANS ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING FOR 2022
THURSDAY, 12th MAY 2022 AT 4-00 PM (BST) VIA ZOOM**

MINUTES

1. In Attendance: Keith Ferguson (KF); Phil Stone (PSt); Steve Way (SW); Keith Evans (KE) Jeff Vaughan (JV); Pete Samuel (PSa); Roger Williams (RW); David Taylor (DT); Pam Bashford (PB); Hywel Davies (HD); Bill Gibbs (BG); Edgar McCarthy (EM); Julian Couch (JC) and Godfrey Daniel (GD).

2. Apologies for Absence: John Walters, John Rees and Francis Morgan.

3. **The Minutes of the 2020 and 2021 AGM held on 1st July 2021 were accepted.**

These Minutes may be found on the ODA Website at: <https://dynevorrevisited.org.uk/aqm-documents/>

4. Matters Arising:

KF clarified a point in his President's Report; the donation made in memory of Phill Davies had originally been planned as a token of appreciation for his long service to the ODA in the form of a history book.

5. Officers' Reports for years ending 31/12/2021

President

Secretary, including updates on Communication, Membership and The Dy'vorian

Treasurer

The Audited Financial Statements and Reports may be found on the ODA Website at:

<https://dynevorrevisited.org.uk/aqm-documents/>

6. The **motion** was passed to receive the Audited Financial Statements for 31/12/2019 and 31/12/2020, and other reports.

BG noted the amount in the account; a point that was raised and answered in the previous two AGMs. Having endured another year disrupted by Covid nothing has changed since the 2021 meeting. As and when we resolve the issue of printing The Dy'vorian magazines we will be in a better position to review our finances. See minutes of 2021 AGM at:

<https://dynevorrevisited.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/ODA-AGM-2021-Draft-Minutes.pdf>

KF gave special thanks to SW for his knowledge of the ODA and help to us all.

7. To confirm the appointment of the following Committee Officers

President - David Taylor ('68 - '01)

Vice-President - Hywel Davies ('67 - '74)

Past President - Keith Ferguson ('58 - '63)

Treasurer - Steve Way ('65 - '72)

Secretary - Pam Bashford ('74 - '02)

Membership Secretary - Peter Samuel ('59 - '66)

Editor of 'The Dy'vorian' - Francis Morgan ('56 - '63)

Communication Co-ordinators: Facebook – Steve Way ('65 - '72); Mailchimp - Keith Evans ('65 - '72); Zoom - Phil Stone ('59 - '66)

Website Administrators – Pam Bashford ('74 - '02) and Phil Stone ('59 - '66)

All current members of the Committee have confirmed their willingness to continue to serve during the coming year.

However, we are particularly keen to hear from members who are regular users of Social Media and who may be able to spare some time to develop our presence on e.g., Facebook, Twitter, etc.

Please contact Secretary, Pam Bashford, on pam_bashford@hotmail.com to discuss.

8. The Association recorded its appreciation and thanks to **Mr. Robert Howells** as Auditor to the Association.
9. Discussion of ODA Events:
 - i. Annual ODA Dinner – To be held at the Village Hotel on Friday 7th October 2022.
KF noted that generally good feedback had been received on the dinner in 2021. **Action:** Information on the dinner to be held in October 2022 would be circulated soon. KF/JV BG previously submitted questions about the dinner arrangements and commented on a number of issues at last year’s dinner. He noted the Towers Hotel provided a better meal and service. BG’s comments were accepted by KF; there were issues, many related to staffing at the event after Covid restrictions were lifted. However, the majority of comments KF received last year were positive; with only one not being supportive.
The lack of wine promised per table and missing raffle were queried by BG.
In response KF informed that wine per table was never promised, there were however, welcome drinks; it was decided not to hold a raffle as in the past people didn’t pick up their ‘prizes’.
HD commented that the reduced formality of the dinner improved the event.
KF stated that at the time of booking for 2022 there were limited options; the Towers Hotel is a bit far out, so the decision was made to return to the Village Hotel.
 - ii. Golf Day – Hoped to be arranged on or near the date of the Annual Dinner.
PSa will look at organising the Golf Day in September but might require support to run the day itself. KF offered to do this. **Action:** PSa will speak with John Hollis to make initial arrangements.
 - iii. ODA Lecture – It was noted that a lecture is being arranged for November 2022 to be delivered by Professor Peter Kokelaar, formerly Herdman Professor of Geology at the University of Liverpool.
10. Awards
It was agreed to make Prof Brian Williams (1951-58), Earth Scientist winner of the Grover E. Murray Distinguished Educator Award, an Honorary Member.
11. Any Other Business – this section contains responses to questions submitted to the Secretary prior to the meeting. Please note some questions have been addressed in points above.
 - a. BG asked: Why couldn’t we have the AGM on Zoom and the members who live locally can attend and the ones from the USA etc. can Zoom in? Why so early in the afternoon?
PSt informed that we do not have the facilities to run a meeting as suggested. KF stated the time was set by the committee, at a time believed to be convenient for the majority.
 - b. Progress on the planned printing of TD editions 37-40 (previously only available on-line) was shared. A Mailchimp survey has produced limited success due to 40% unopened emails and further lack of response to a Yes/No question. In order to be inclusive, the Committee has been telephoning the 40 members who do not have email accounts to identify their wishes. Although there has been mixed success, it is evident that many of this group of members have been delighted to have been contacted. This led to the suggestion that a local event, such as meeting at the Dynevor Centre for tea and cake, should be considered.
Discussion followed on the questionable interest of the current membership in the ODA and whether the messages being sent out are insufficiently inviting. It is evident that there are small cohorts who meet regularly.
HD noted that although a couple of enthusiasts arrange curry nights, the perception is that the ODA is old fashioned, although they are proud Dy’vorians there is a ‘disconnect’ with the ODA.
The consensus is that more social events should be planned to raise the profile of the ODA. KE stated we need to be more proactive and engage individuals in conversation to find out what

activities they would like to see included, the Committee could draw up a questionnaire. Contacting small groups might increase engagement as well as contacting people by telephone. One suggestion from KE is to involve the Committee to spread the work load. PSa raised the point of how it has been a mammoth task for him to contact people in the past, especially trying to engage with younger members.

It was noted that a Dynevor Comprehensive School Facebook page has been set up with people organising their own events, however, this group do not engage with the ODA. It was recognised that for us to try to second guess what 'youngsters' want is futile.

Although different cohorts engage with each other they do not necessarily wish to engage formally. Communicating more directly by telephone or via Facebook could be considered. Identifying individuals is problematic.

Action: PB to add an item to the agenda of the next Committee meeting to discuss the above, and plan the next steps.

KF closed the meeting, thanking Committee members for their work and wishing DT and HD well for the coming year as President and Vice President respectively.

The meeting closed at: 5.05 pm (BST)