

Report from the Secretary 2025

Looking back, the year since the last AGM has again been a busy one. There are many highlights commencing with the Annual Dinner last May, where we were entertained by rugby broadcaster and former Ospreys' coach, Sean Holley. In the autumn a group of ODA members enjoyed a visit to Penderyn distillery at Swansea Copperworks, as well as a Curry Night at Rose Indienne. A further autumn event; the Joint ODA and UWTSD Annual Lecture, was delivered by Jo Ashburner. More recently past president Hywel Davies delivered the Annual ODA Lecture. A donation of £100 was made to both lecturers' nominated charities. Andrew Cledes presented a £100 to Talking Hands, a charity that runs a youth club for hearing impaired children in Swansea, which will help fund a trip to Folly Farm.

Coffee mornings, held in the spring and autumn at Dynevor Café, continue to attract non-members, some attending regularly, however, converting individuals to members remains an uphill battle.

The first year of the Dynevor Days' initiative has proved to be highly successful, exceeding all expectations. Last year, approximately 250 pupils from five local primary schools took part in a range of exciting activities such as gorge walking and paddle boarding, with the cost covered by the ODA donation received in 2023. Digital, waterproof cameras were delivered to schools to ensure children and staff could record activities without having to risk damaging their phones. The photographs and written material uploaded to the Dynevor Days [website](#) are clear evidence of the initiative's success. Apart from the children (and staff) having the time of their lives, Dynevor Days has ensured the name of the school lives on. At the time of writing, activities have been planned for 2024-5, and instead of a sum being awarded per Year 6 class, as last year, schools have received £75 per Year 6 pupil ensuring parity. School staff, pupils and parents are greatly appreciative.

In addition to Dynevor Days providing the above funding David Taylor and Andrew Cledes presented £500 to Crug Glas and Pen-Y-Bryn special schools. The former will purchase a 'My Way Pedal', a revolutionary elliptical trainer which will help improve strength and functional stepping ability for children with mobility issues. Pupils on the school council at Pen-Y-Bryn will decide how best to use the donation and will let us know what has been planned.

Two editions of The Dy'vorian magazine have been published this year. Without a full-time editor, we relied on Brynymor Digital Press to collate articles. The design cost, along with printing and posting both editions, have been covered by the ODA as the university's funds could not stretch to help us. Decisions will be considered at the AGM on how best to minimise these costs. With regard to the production of TOD, I am very grateful to those who have submitted articles and to Andrew Cledes for proofreading articles. Andrew recently appealed to members for support in the production of future editions and John Summerwill, Year of 1955, responded. John will undertake proofreading and will drop the articles into the template that had been designed and utilised by Francis Morgan when he edited TOD. If you have ideas or items for inclusion in the summer edition please forward them to me without delay.

Due to the ODA's overlapping financial, academic and presidency calendars Andrew Cledes will present the **President's Award** to UWTSD's Dynevor students at the Graduates' Summer Show on 16th May. The ODA donates £1,500 to be shared by up to five students who have successfully completed their year of study whilst facing significant challenges. It's an ideal opportunity to raise the ODA's profile at this prestigious event, with typically ten different groups presenting awards during the show.

The sudden passing of Steve Way shocked us all. Anyone who worked with Steve would agree that he was a consummate professional, reliable, conscientious and an honourable, gentle man. It's hard to credit that Steve worked to complete the accounts for 2024 despite being unwell. In recognition of Steve's time on the committee a £250 donation has been made to the Wales Air Ambulance in his memory. We will certainly miss him. While we endeavour to find a new treasurer committee members, along with Margaret Llywelyn, have agreed to oversee facets of the accounts. Andrew Clemes has posted an appeal for a new treasurer, if unsuccessful, the way forward will be discussed at the AGM.

Due to poor attendance at the two Joint Lectures organised since COVID the committee has reluctantly decided to drop the event from our calendar. Our colleagues at the university concur with the decision. Similarly, adverts for the Golf Day failed to attract sufficient attention and sadly is no longer included on our calendar of events. Undoubtedly our membership demographics has had an impact, however, the committee continues to work hard to engage with members and non-members alike utilising technology to keep people informed.

Robert Treharne Jones is taking a break from the Mailchimp communications role while he recovers from surgery. In the mean-time I have been working to hone my limited skills to fill the gap. If you are not receiving these emails, and wish to subscribe, please [contact me](#). We wish Robert a full recovery and look forward to his return to the role.

In addition to regular Mailchimp emails news is regularly shared on Facebook by Phil Stone, very pleasingly the number of followers continues to increase, indicating that past pupils are not uninterested in the association.

Zoom is now utilised regularly for committee meetings with Teams used for lectures and the AGM. Using the latter has been problematic despite the university providing IT support. We continue work to improve the experience and have put in place alternatives when technology has let us down e.g. by uploading recordings to YouTube e.g. [Jo Ashburner's Joint Lecture](#) or by adding an annotated PowerPoint presentation to our [website](#); thank you Hywel for expediting this.

In recent weeks the Dynevor Revisited website has been transferred to NetBop, a professional IT company based in Swansea. The committee felt the move necessary in order to ensure the site was updated and kept secure in a timely manner. We extend our thanks to John Ashley who updated the website to WordPress from its original iteration and for training Phil Stone and me as website administrators.

There is still material to upload to the website, including undated photographs and documents that were received from our archivist. We are very grateful to Roger Williams who has retired after giving many years to the role. If you have memorabilia that hasn't been included on our site please get in touch.

As Hon. Sec. to the Association, I wish to end this report by thanking all the committee members for their time and hard work this past year; without them we would not have such a pro-active and ambitious association. Nihil Sine Labore!