

OSGUG President's Report 2020

Looking Back

Donation to the University

At last year's AGM a few people said they would prefer that our donations were targeted at students with financial difficulties. After discussing this with the Development Office we decided to donate £1,200 to the University's Talent Fund which provides 'Postgraduate Talent Scholarships' of £2,000 for one year. These are awarded to students coming to the university from particularly challenging backgrounds and for whom financial difficulty may prevent completion of their courses. If we had been able to donate £2,000, we could have had a scholarship named for us but our current funds wouldn't allow this.

Moving On

Two of our founder members Carol Bateman and Irene McKenzie moved away this year, Carol to Godalming and Irene (with husband Peter, also a member) to Brighton. We said goodbye at lunches of the Last Tuesday Club, in Abingdon and Cumnor. They are both still on our email list, and Carol attended the Burns Lunch.

Last Tuesday Club

We met for lunch three times last year, the two mentioned above and once at Chieveley. Suggestions for pubs or other venues are always welcome.

Burns Lunch

We had forty-seven at our Burns Lunch on 2nd February. Many thanks to Bob McLatchie, Carol Bateman, Rosemary and Hamish Macdonald, Freda Hughes and Neil Halliday for their contributions. Neil played a couple of favourite tunes of his father Dixon. I certainly enjoyed myself.

Margaret Stevenson presented former President Tom Hanson with a GU quach as thanks for his service. This was something we had planned since he moved to Scotland in 2013 but this was our first opportunity. Photos of the lunch can be found on the OSGUG web site

<https://osgug.org.uk/burns-photographs-2020/>

Other events.

In June a few of us visited the Tom Brown's School Museum in Uffington. which is housed in the former village school building. We ended the visit with tea and cake in the nearby church, with its unusual octagonal tower.

Losses

This year we said a sad farewell to Dixon Halliday and Brian Syme. Dixon had a private family funeral followed by a memorial service attended by many OSGUG members. Brian passed away during lockdown so his was a family-only funeral. Our sympathies go out to their families.

Looking Forward

Thirtieth Anniversary of OSGUG

OSGUG was founded in 1990 so this year is our thirtieth anniversary. To mark the occasion, we were planning to hold a lunch at Exeter College in Oxford but this has been postponed for obvious reasons. At Jackie's suggestion I made contact with the Rector of Exeter College, Sir Rick Trainor. He is a former academic at Glasgow where he was a lecturer in the Department of Economic History. He later became Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences and then Vice Principal. He was most receptive to my approach as he enjoyed his time at Glasgow. Hence our plan for a lunch there.

Events

Once we are again allowed to gather, we shall plan some events. These include an anniversary lunch as mentioned above, a visit to the Diamond Light Source, which has proved difficult to arrange, and a visit to the Oxford University Press Museum. Jackie has a number of ideas which might attract younger, Oxford-based alumni.

A Physical AGM

This is currently planned for Saturday 31st October at St Aldate's Tavern in Oxford. .

Summary

In conclusion, OSGUG continues, albeit with fewer members but enough to support some social events and to contribute to the University. Many members appreciate the chance to meet socially and recall their university days. The University appreciates us as one of only a few UK-based alumni groups.