

# OSGUG President's Report 2023

## Looking Back

Things have been quiet for the last couple of years. I was surprised to find that it is over two years since our last 'Annual' General Meeting. I beg your forgiveness for this breach of the constitution.

We have met over zoom most months on the last Tuesday of the month. Attendance has varied from 2 to 12 and the chat is usually enjoyable. In February 2021 and 22 the zoom lunches were enhanced by some Burns toasts, videos and songs (recorded, don't try singing together on zoom!)

We have met for a physical lunch three times: at the Quod in Oxford (October 2021), the Spread Eagle in Abingdon (November 2021) and the Fox & Goat in Tiddington (June 2022). There still seems a reluctance to meet up physically but we will try again this spring.

## Donation to the University

In 2020, In view of the exceptional circumstances of the COVID-19 pandemic, the committee decided this year to donate to the University of Glasgow COVID-19 Response Student Support Fund. We could only afford £800 that year but we also encouraged members to make individual donations to this fund via OSGUG and a number did.

In 2022 OSGUG made a contribution of £1,000 to the University which was donated to the Student Hardship Fund.

We don't yet have a proposal for a donation for the coming year but would like your general approval in principle.

## OSGUG Web Site

The web site <http://www.osgug.org.uk> run by Alistair is still running well. It continues to provide a useful repository for photos from our events and has been particularly useful recently as the place to find the zoom details for our virtual Last Tuesday Club meetings.

## Losses

Since the last AGM a few members have sadly passed. These include Bill Toner in 2021 and Tom Hanson, former President in 2022. Our sympathies go out to both their families.

## **The Year Ahead**

This year I hope we can meet up in person again. I have planned a pub lunch on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> April in Oxford with an optional walk beforehand. If that is successful other lunches and walks can follow. Suggestions for events always welcome.

## **Thirty-third Anniversary of OSGUG**

OSGUG was founded in 1990 so this year is our thirty-third anniversary. You will remember we were planning to hold a lunch at Exeter College in Oxford to mark our 30<sup>th</sup> in 2020 but that was cancelled for obvious reasons. We have revitalised that plan and have fixed a date of Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> June. The Rector of Exeter College, Sir Rick Trainor is a former academic at Glasgow in the Department of Economic History. He later became Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences and then Vice Principal. He was most encouraging and I hope he will be able to attend.

The committee plans to invite the Chancellor Dame Katherine Grainger to become our Patron and attend our anniversary lunch in June. I have only just asked her as I wanted to confirm the lunch date in June first. Her attendance might influence our choice of donation this year.

## **Summary**

In conclusion, OSGUG continues, albeit with fewer members but still enough to be viable and to contribute to the University. Many members appreciate the chance to meet socially (albeit virtually just now) and recall their university days. The University appreciates us as one of only a few UK-based alumni groups. I'd like to thank all the other members of the committee and all of you for joining us today.