

OSGUG President's Report 2019-2020

Looking Back

Donation to the University

At the 2019 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.

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. This donation is being used by the university to alleviate financial hardship faced by students as a result of the pandemic. We could only afford £800 this year. We recently asked members for individual donations to this fund via OSGUG.

Moving On

Two of our founder members Carol Bateman and Irene MacKenzie moved away in 2019, 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 physically three times in 2019. In 2020 we have met over zoom several times. Up to a dozen have attended. No lunch but an enjoyable lunchtime chat.

Burns Lunch 2020

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. Little did we know then what this year would hold.

Margaret Stevenson presented former President Tom Hanson with a GU quaich 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](#)

Other events.

In June 2019 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.

OSGUG Web Site

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

Losses

In 2019 we said a sad farewell to Dixon Halliday. In 2020 we said goodbye to Brian Syme, Jim Robertson, and Archie Ferguson. Dixon had a private family funeral followed by a memorial service attended by many OSGUG members. The others passed away during lockdown, so the funerals were family-only. Our sympathies go out to all their families.

In The Year 2020

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.

Lockdown

The main effect of lockdown was to cancel all events we were planning, including our AGM. Many of us are now competent in Zoom and other remote collaboration tools. Ideas for remote events we could organise are welcome.

We circulated some reports by email in springtime, confirming our co-opting of Jackie Hruby onto the committee and approving our donation to the University.

Events

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

Until then we can only meet remotely. Our Last Tuesday Club Virtual Lunches are one example but the online events like lectures organised by the University are another. the Development Office say they are planning some events for alumni.

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. I'd like to thank all the other members of the committee.