



## Oxford Society of Glasgow University Graduates

Saturday, 21 August 2010

Dear Members

I would like to start this News Letter with a humble apology for its being two months late. This summer has proved to be unprecedentedly busy for me with a whole range of family matters here and abroad which has meant I have been unable to give OSGUG the attention it deserves. Nevertheless I hope that I can now put that right and serve you our members well for the rest of the year ahead.

It was a great honour for me at the AGM in April to be elected President of OSGUG for this its twenty first year and in succession to Irene McKenzie. She has served as President for the past three years (and as a committee member for years before that) with great commitment and distinction despite not enjoying the best of health and I thank her on behalf of all members. I would also like to thank Fiona Gearing who stepped down from the Committee for her contribution over the past two years. But thanks are also due to those members of the Committee who have offered to continue working for the society:

**Maureen Aitken** as Vice-President,  
**Alistair Mills** as Treasurer and Web Site Administrator  
**Maureen McKeown** as Minute Secretary.

I value their experience and wise counsel and look forward to working with them.

In accepting the dual role of President and Secretary I recalled the delicious irony back in 1990 when Freda Hughes and Carol Bateman came into my office in the Royal Bank of Scotland in St Giles to open an account for OSGUG and found that the manager himself was a proud graduate of the University of Glasgow who wanted to sign up straightaway! As I look back over the past twenty years I marvel at what OSGUG has achieved. It has brought together in a spirit of warmth friendship and cooperation graduates of all faculties, from diverse backgrounds who have achieved huge success in their professional and academic careers and who through OSGUG have contributed more than £40,000 to the University to assist in its development. We can all be very proud and I wish to pay tribute to all the past Presidents and Committee members who leave behind enormous shoes to fill.

The year just closed (2009-10) was a successful one for OSGUG. Alistair Mills set up our new website [www.osgug.org.uk](http://www.osgug.org.uk) which now provides a very useful means of communicating our history and aims, events past and future and a shop window to attract new members living and working in our catchment area. If any members would like to contribute any items of interest to or through the website please contact Alistair our Webmaster. Good numbers attended the social lunch at Shabbington in September and the Ceilidh at Botley in

## Oxford Society of Glasgow University Graduates

November. The year culminated in a memorable Anniversary Lunch on 27th February in Exeter College in the presence of our Patron Sir William Kerr Fraser. Professor David Barlow read out a warm letter of appreciation from the Principal, Anton Muscatelli, which can be seen on OSGUG's website. During last year we also contributed a further £2,000 towards the Chancellor's Fund and OSGUG is now listed as a **MAJOR DONOR** on the University's on-line wall.

The current year started with the sad news of the death of Dr Alistair McLean after a long illness. Alistair was one of the founder members of OSGUG and at his funeral service in June a goodly number of OSGUG members attended to pay their respects and extend sympathy to Doris and her family.

In planning our activities this year your Committee has agreed four main areas of action:

1. **Social:** We are planning the following events:
  - a. **Saturday 11th Sept at 12.30 p.m** Lunch at The Old Fisherman at Shabbington – a repeat of last year's very successful gathering in a beautiful setting with children's play area. Please note details below.
  - b. **Saturday 5th February 2011** Burns Supper.
  - c. **April 2011** AGM We hope to invite a senior representative of the University to speak.
2. **Fundraising for Glasgow University.** The widely forecast cuts in public spending will impact heavily on university finances and we are conscious of the need to redouble our efforts to provide even more assistance to academic and student support. We have set ourselves a **target of £10,000** and I am delighted that an initial donation of £1,000 has already been offered to set the ball rolling. I am in touch with the Development Office and will be sending out further details of our campaign in the near future. We very much hope to round off our campaign by inviting the Principal to speak to an OSGUG meeting next year.
3. **Visits** to elderly or incapacitated members: Over the past year I have been struck by the number of members who have been unable for reasons of age or infirmity to attend our social events. Most speak of their regret at missing the company, the fellowship and the stimulus which comes from meeting up with their fellow graduates. All members of the Committee would like to visit members who are housebound but OSGUG has always been a very **Inclusive** society and we would be delighted if other members could join in the arrangements and show that they are still very well thought of as members of OSGUG. Please do get in touch with me if you are incapacitated and would like a visit or equally if you would like to participate as a 'visitor' in such a programme.

## **Oxford Society of Glasgow University Graduates**

4. **New Membership:** Our membership numbers have been declining slowly but the average age of our membership is rising steadily and above retirement age. The future viability of OSGUG and our ability to continue to support Glasgow University must depend on our attracting an increase in members particularly younger ones. Mail-shots in the past have not been cost effective and so we shall be attempting a much more targeted and personal approach to major employers in the area. I would urge all of our members to promote the society in their place of work, social milieu or wherever they may come into contact with graduates of Glasgow University .

I have been asked by the President of the Glasgow University Women's Club ( London ) to invite our members to tea and cakes in the **University Church Vaults café** on **Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> September at about 3.00/3.15 p.m.** They are planning a Morse Tour of Oxford in the early part of the day and it provides a good opportunity to meet up with the ladies and welcome them to Oxford . Cost of tea and cakes is £4.00 payable on the day and it would be helpful if you could let Anne Robins know if you will be able to attend.

I hope this News Letter finds you well and that you will readily identify with and share our aims and aspirations for this our 21<sup>st</sup> year. Please do get in touch if you would like me or other members to visit you or if you would like to visit members in your local area. I look forward to meeting as many of you as possible in the course of the year ahead.

With Best Wishes

Tom Hanson  
President and Secretary