

Oxford University Society, Annual General Meeting 2021 Chairman's Report

I took over as Chairman on 1st January 2021, so this report of past activities also covers the period when my predecessor Jan Könighaus was Chairman. As you will see, despite the problems created by the Covid19 pandemic, the Society managed to maintain an active programme. For this much credit must go to the Committee and, in particular, to our past Chairman who remains on the Committee as a Vice-President having joined the Committee in 2009. In addition, our new Committee Member and Membership Secretary, Mette Ahlefeldt-Laurvig, managed to oversee an increase in paid-up Membership numbers to 64 - which is close to a record.

Despite Covid-19 restrictions, which sabotaged many of our planned events, we organised four physical events for our members – the 2020 AGM, including a speech by Francis Carpenter on China, wine tasting at the Dominikaner Weingut in Kasel near Trier attended by the UK Ambassador, and the talk by Professor Bouillon on the philosophy of Austrian economics, with two Embassies being represented. In addition, we hosted the Freshers' Dinner and some virtual events: Foire, mock interviews, etc. A hybrid joint event with the British Luxembourg Society and the Cambridge Society was held at the Residence of the British Ambassador, where the Vice-Rector of University of Luxembourg, Professor Léglu, spoke about the University and its plans. We also participated in events organised by Oxford Society in Belgium, including a fascinating talk by Sir Brian Unwin about his career and an enjoyable quiz night. Write-ups of all these events together with future events can be found on our website <http://oxford.lu/index.php/events/> .

Looking to the future] we will once again join forces with the Cambridge Society in our annual varsity cricket match and picnic on 3rd July. Please see our website for information.

On 30th September, we will be organising a tri-Universities black-tie dinner together with the Cambridge and LSE Societies of Luxembourg at the Château de Bourglinster. The dinner will be addressed by Dr Hubertus von Morr, former German Ambassador to Luxembourg and currently Secretary General of the International Club La Redout in Bonn. More detailed information will be supplied shortly but if you are interested in attending, please contact me at chair@oxford.lu . Tickets are expected to be about €100-110 per person, and places, subject to Covid regulations on the day, will be limited. A busy schedule is envisaged for the Autumn, and more details will be circulated once dates and venues have been established.

Further down the line, we are organising, together with the Cambridge Society, a Benelux, and Rhineland O&C Reunion around the weekend of 5-8 May 2022. This is designed to lead up to Europe Day 2022 on 9th May. This follows on from the highly successful Oxford Benelux Reunion held in 2013.

I should mention our other Committee members – Jos van Bommel, Vice President and Web Master, Harriet Stone, our Secretary, Henri Dupong, our Counsel and Agnieszka Walczak, our Treasurer. Gerard Schockmel and Marta Roberti both added lustre to our Committee line-up if busy professional lives prevented their more active involvement.

Finally, I must thank our very long-serving Honorary Auditor, Richard Goddard, who has shown wisdom and patience in guiding a series of Treasurers (including myself) through the procedures for preparing the Annual Accounts.

Our Annual Accounts and Auditors Report may be found towards the bottom of the 'about' page on our website <http://oxford.lu/index.php/about/>

David Clark
Chairman