



OXFORD UNIVERSITY SOCIETY OF LUXEMBOURG a.s.b.l.

www.oxford.lu

Chairman's Report to Annual General Meeting, 19th June 2013

2012 was another good year for your Society and our activities continued strongly into 2013. Thanks to our new Membership Secretary paid up membership rose to 67 in 2012 and currently stands at 60 for 2013 with a number of subscriptions yet to be received. Reports on all our past activities can be found on our website www.oxford.lu/news.htm

Three new members joined the Committee last year-David Weis, Hervé Hansen and Dawit Demetri. They provided a welcome infusion of new blood reflected in the high level of activity in the Society. In order to prosper, any Society such as the OUSL requires a combination of experience, youthful enthusiasm and retirees with time available.

Much of the effort of the Society has been directed towards encouraging applicants to Oxford and more recently also working jointly with the Cambridge Society.

The first Oxford & Cambridge Information Event for school-leavers was held on 19th April 2012. With the support of CEDIES (the student guidance service of the Luxembourg Ministry of Education) we attracted 200 students and teachers to the Forum building to learn more about studying at Oxford and Cambridge and how to win places there.

The UK Ambassador, the head of CEDIES, Dr Simon Smith, Senior Tutor and Tutor for Admissions at Brasenose College, Oxford and Dr Laurent Frideres, Bye-Lecturer at Girton College, Cambridge all spoke on different aspects of the admission process and of funding for students from Luxembourg. Alex Christie, a former Oxford student who is disabled, eloquently expressed the care and support given to students throughout their studies.

The talks were followed by workshops where interested school leavers could question former students in different disciplines. Meanwhile teachers joined a special workshop where they were able to discuss selection criteria and entrance procedures with Dr Smith and Dr Frideres. A follow up Event was again held in 2013 and while inevitably attracting a smaller audience was no less successful.

Later in 2012 we as usual manned a stand at the Foire d'Etudiants and recorded over 74 expressions of interest for admission to Oxford for undergraduate studies as well as nine for graduate studies. Dr Simon Smith, Senior Tutor and Tutor for Admissions at Brasenose College also joined us at the stand and visited schools.

Association sans but lucratif, R.C.S. Luxembourg: F478 • Registered office: c/o Dupong, Metzler & Diderich, 11 avenue Jean-Pierre Pescatore, BP472, L-2014 Luxembourg • Committee: David Clark (Chairman), Andrew Hallan (Secretary), Henri Dupong (Counsel), Jan Könighaus (Treasurer), Jane Feehan (Membership), Gérard Schockmel, David Weis, Demetri Dawit, Hervé Hansen

*Roderick Dunnett (Emeritus), Jean-Claude Muller (Cultural Advisor) •
Bank Account: BCEELULL IBAN LU21 0019 1755 3010 3000*

OXFORD UNIVERSITY SOCIETY OF LUXEMBOURG a.s.b.l.

www.oxford.lu

37 applicants for Oxford and Cambridge received interview training last year. Of the 20 applicants for Oxford 8 or 38% were called for interview and three were offered places. Aggregating statistics over recent years we have established that success rates in turning interviews into offers at Oxford closely match those of UK applicants and are significantly higher than non-UK EU countries as a whole. We feel that we have helped to achieve a significant levelling of the playing field for Luxembourg applicants even if there are a number of very promising candidates who have failed to obtain places.

Other events in the year included two social dinners for members, the Annual Dinner addressed by the Head of Finland's Supreme Court, Pauliine Koskello, a Varsity croquet match played on the lawn of the British Ambassador's residence, a visit to Nancy and a guided tour of the old city of Luxembourg.

So far in 2013 there have been a number of events. His Excellency Wataru Nishigahiro (Corpus Christi), the Japanese Ambassador, gave a talk at the Musée National d'Histoire et d'Art, on "Kabuki, Chikamatsu and Shakespeare". The Oxford Belgo-Luxembourgish Society hosted a dinner on 15 February 2013 at University College in Oxford. Several members of our society and their partners attended.

The antiquarian John Aubrey's amusing sketches of the lives of 17th century celebrities, interspersed with music from his time, formed the basis for a well-attended evening's entertainment in Oetrange on 23 and 24 February 2013 at the home of Edward and Philippa Seymour. 39 people attended the event, and the organisers are glad to announce that the 500 EUR raised is to be contributed to Oxford University funds for needy students.

In March, Laurent Mignon, a Luxembourger and University Lecturer in Turkish and a Fellow of Saint Antony's College, Oxford spoke about the reception of Rabindranath Tagore in Turkey.

Our first joint Oxford and Cambridge Social evening was held later in March attended by over 30 people.

On top of this much effort has been expended organising the first Oxford and Cambridge Benelux Reunion weekend in Luxembourg which is to take place over the weekend of 28th-30th June. Some 80 people have registered to attend the activities including around 25 visitors from Belgium, the Netherlands and Germany.

I would draw your attention to the charity concert to be held on 28th June at 18:00 at the church of St Jean du Grund in aid of SOS Villages d'Enfants Monde.

The Committee

It is hard to express my appreciation and hopefully that of all of you for the hard work that goes into making the OUSL one of the most flourishing Oxford Societies.

First amongst these is Andrew Hallan our Secretary who has moved our activities in the area of student support onto a highly professional plane recognised as such by the University and the

Association sans but lucratif, R.C.S. Luxembourg: F478 • Registered office: c/o Dupong, Metzler & Diderich, 11 avenue Jean-Pierre Pescatore, BP472, L-2014 Luxembourg • Committee: David Clark (Chairman), Andrew Hallan (Secretary), Henri Dupong (Counsel), Jan Könighaus (Treasurer), Jane Feehan (Membership), Antonella Calvia, Gérard Schockmel, David Weis, Demetri Dawit, Hervé Hansen •

*Roderick Dunnett (Emeritus), Jean-Claude Muller (Cultural Advisor) •
Bank Account: BCEELULL IBAN LU21 0019 1755 3010 3000*

OXFORD UNIVERSITY SOCIETY OF LUXEMBOURG a.s.b.l.

www.oxford.lu

communities in Luxembourg. Andrew has been ably assisted by Naomi his wife who also acts as joint webmaster. Jane Feehan the other joint webmaster has already been mentioned as our highly effective Membership Secretary. The three new Committee members have been active in arranging sporting and social events. David Weis has also been a very active member of our working group organising the Benelux weekend which in addition included Jan Könighaus, Andrew Hallan and myself.

During the year we moved our registered office from rue de la Boucherie to avenue Jean-Pierre Pescatore as the offices of our Counsel, Henri Dupong, also moved. Henri has had a significant workload complying with Luxembourg's legislation regarding asbls and advising the Committee on a number of issues. After some discussion and having sounded out members we decided to distribute a list of members with their commune of residence. A similar list is available publicly at the Registre de Commerce.

Gerard Schockmel, one of our longest serving Committee members, is a regular provider of comment and advice. Finally I should mention our Cultural Advisor Jean-Claude Muller and our Emeritus Member and former Chairman, Rod Dunnett. These gentlemen add a high degree of gravitas to our letterhead as well as being regular sources of excellent advice.

Two members of the Committee have resigned-Antonella Calvia and Dawit Demetri. I would like to express my and the Committees' appreciation for the work they have done.

We have received two nominations to take their places-Florian Heupel and Harriet Stone.

Finally I will be standing down as Chairman at the next Committee meeting and I would like to wish my successor, who has yet to be elected by the Committee, good fortune for the future. I intend to remain on the Committee and to provide my successor what support I can.

David Clark

19th June 2013

Association sans but lucratif, R.C.S. Luxembourg: F478 • Registered office: c/o Dupong, Metzler & Diderich, 11 avenue Jean-Pierre Pescatore, BP472, L-2014 Luxembourg • Committee: David Clark (Chairman), Andrew Hallan (Secretary), Henri Dupong (Counsel), Jan Könighaus (Treasurer), Jane Feehan (Membership), Antonella Calvia, Gérard Schockmel, David Weis, Demetri Dawit, Hervé Hansen •

*Roderick Dunnett (Emeritus), Jean-Claude Muller (Cultural Advisor) •
Bank Account: BCEELULL IBAN LU21 0019 1755 3010 3000*