



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

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David Clark, Chairman.

# Chairman's Report to Annual General Meeting 14th June 2012

Your Society and goes from strength to strength and it is hard to know where to start in compiling a report on its activities.

Thanks to sterling efforts by our new Membership Secretary Jane Feehan and by our Counsel Henri Dupong, whose office Dupong and Metzler mail out the reminders, we now have a record 58 paid up members.

Our work in assisting candidates for entry to Oxford, and more recently in conjunction with the Cambridge Society, grows apace. Last year over 100 school students with a possible interest in applying to Oxford University registered at our stand at the Student Foire. A representative of the Oxford University Admissions Office helped to man the stand along with volunteers from the Society and joined us in visits to some schools.

Our successful interview practice programme has been going for four years now run by **Andrew and Naomi Hallan**. Last year Cambridge asked to join us and with the extra subject coverage this provided we carried out 25 practice interviews. Ten candidates were invited to interviews at each University and 5 offers were made by Oxford and 3 by Cambridge. Successful candidates came from International Schools, Luxembourg Lycées and from the Grande Region.

Volunteers to man the Oxford stand at the Student Foire to be held in on 15-16<sup>th</sup> November 2012 as well as to participate in interview training in October/November should contact **Andrew Hallan** secrtry@oxford.lu

At the beginning of last year **Jan Könighaus** arranged a guided tour of Trier. This was followed by an open debate at the European Investment Bank on economic growth and climate change. The motion for debate was: "This meeting believes that economic growth does not endanger the climate for mankind". The motion was lost and to drown our sorrows the society offered attendees a glass of champagne.

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The Annual dinner was addressed by **Yves Mersch**, Governor of the Central Bank of Luxembourg who eloquently explained, amongst other things, that Europe was not a transfer Union.

Members were invited to attend a lecture by Lecture by Professor Jacqueline McGlade, Director of the European Environment Agency at the European Investment Bank.

Finally **Sir Brian Unwin**, former President of the European Investment Bank spoke to us at the Cercle Munster on 'Napoleon on St Helena'. His book on the same subject is a masterpiece of excellent research and clear and concise language and his talk was no disappointment.

Reports on all our activities are contained on our excellent website <u>www.oxford.lu</u> which is maintained by **Jane Feehan** and **Naomi Hallan**. Members of the Committee and others vie to include the most elegant reports of their activities and I commend a reading of these to you.

### **The Committee**

The Oxford University Society of Luxembourg (OUSL) was launched in late 2003 and incorporated and registered as an a.s.b.l. in early 2004. Since that time until earlier this year it has been guided under the Chairmanship of **Roderick Dunnett**. It is as hard to describe Rod as it is to express our appreciation for all that he has done for the Society but let me try.

Rod is a polymath, educated at Eton and Oxford, with a degree in Physics and a qualified lawyer. Much of his career has been spent outside the UK, in Kuwait and in Luxembourg. He is a keen amateur dramatist and regularly scripts poems on demand at the Anglican Church féte. To celebrate his retirement, he is currently studying for an MA in Physics at London University.

At the EIB he was an Associate Director in the legal Department responsible for institutional affairs and a Staff Representative who fought successfully on behalf of the EIB staff.

Rod's work for the OUSL has been tireless. The OUSL, which is his creation, is the most enjoyable club that I belong to, and I think that many of you will share my view. Rod will remain on the Committee and his advice will be much valued by his successor. Please join me in thanking Rod for his immeasurable contribution.

Chris Vigar MBE, has been on the Committee since the OUSL was founded and has been Secretary for a period. Recently he has set up his own business and in addition he is an active member of the board of the British Chamber of Commerce. Consequently he is unable to commit the time that he would like to actively participate in the work of the Committee and is standing down at the AGM. He will of course remain a member and hopefully he will be able to participate in our musical activities

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Also standing down from membership of the Committee is **Jean-Claude Muller**. Jean- Claude has agreed to continue as the **Cultural Advisor** to the Society and as such we hope he will continue to play an active part in the Society when his other activities permit.

As mentioned earlier, **Jane Feehan** has taken on the new role of Membership Secretary and **Jan Könighaus** takes on my former function as Treasurer.

Nominated for election to the Committee is **David Weis** who is a member of the Luxembourg Foreign Office. He was a post-graduate student at Oxford in 2008/9.

My thanks and yours to all of these individuals and the rest of the Committee, **Antonella Calvia** and **Gerard Schockmel**, who carry out the business of the Society.

Apart from those mentioned above all the Committee are standing again for election at the AGM. David Weis is standing for election for the first time.

David Clark

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