

Dame Alice Owen's School newsletter



Letter from the Head

Hannah Nemko

Dear All,

It is fantastic to feel that life at school is slowly starting to return to something a little more pre-pandemic-normal. The gradual easing of restrictions means that, slowly, extra-curricular activities are returning and it has been wonderful to see how much

students are enjoying being able to play and compete. Our Under 17 Cricket team have made a fantastic start to the season, ploughing through rounds of the National Cup with our most recent win being against Aldenham by a nail-biting three runs!

We have held three Live@5 concerts this half term. These live streamed performances have featured a variety of year group ensembles, orchestras, jazz and soul bands, choirs, wind bands, chamber ensembles and percussion ensembles. We hope to be able to hold a Year 11 and 13 ensemble concert at the end of June, so watch out for more details.

As rules increasingly relax, we can gradually embrace the Dame Alice Owen's lifestyle we have missed so much. An academic year at Owen's wouldn't be the same without our theatre productions, expertly led by Miss Govier. Fingers are crossed that we will be able to showcase our talented thespians towards the end of the academic year – maybe even in front of a live audience!

Our Maths Department continues to thrive with 350 students sitting the Junior Maths Challenge of which we are eagerly awaiting the results. We embarked on a new challenge this half term, the Maths Feast, in which Eva Kelly, Josh Tate, Eiden Ishraq and Max Bhowmik in Year 10 came first – our congratulations go to all of them. In addition to this success, we are pleased to announce that our team of students, who took part in the finals of Herts for Learning's Year 7 Maths Challenge, came first in their heat out of 24 teams. Congratulations also go to Andreas Efsthathiou, Adrian Hakimi, Stella Odysseos and Jaik Parmar.

Minds Underground run an annual Essay Competition where thousands of students from around the world submit an essay or research proposal. We are extremely proud that two of our students, Zoe Gunasekera and Raveena Bhullar, were highly commended for the work they produced over lockdown for this competition.



Issue highlights...

Owen's gains art award commendations [page 5](#)



Owen's musicians take to the stage again [page 6](#)



Sports successes and class highlights [page 8](#)



As we are coming towards the end of the Year 11 and 13 Assessment Period, I would like to wish a fond farewell to those students who are leaving Dame Alice Owen's School to embark on new adventures. Congratulations for all your hard work and enthusiasm during your time at Owen's and we hope that you will stay in contact with us through the alumni network, keeping us aware of all your successes!

Hannah Nemko

PASTORAL TEAM STAFF UPDATE

From half term, responsibility for Year 9 will move from Mr Jackson and Mrs Jackson to Mr Ward and Ms Surry.

YEAR 12 PUPIL ACHIEVES MODEL UN DELEGATE RECOGNITION

Year 12 student Abbie Cook attended a Model UN Conference – an academic simulation of the United Nations in which students play the role of delegates. Abbie represented Pakistan and the conference debated the use of drones. We are proud to announce that Abbie was recognised with the 'Outstanding Delegate Award'.

OWEN'S YOUNG WRITER ROTARY SUCCESS

This year's Rotary Young Writer Competition was embraced by both intermediate and senior students at Dame Alice Owen's.

Working with the theme of 'My Happiest Day', students began formulating their thoughts and planning their writing. The theme was a welcome reprieve from what has been a somewhat challenging time for all.

We are pleased to announce that Hayden Cohen won the Intermediate category and Arta Kurti won the Senior category in the local heats. Both entries have been submitted for District judging.

Young Writer Competition 2020-21
Information on the Rotary Young Writer competition



Theme - "My Happiest Day"

The theme for this year's Young Writer competition is "My Happiest Day". Our young people are asked to produce a piece of fiction or non-fiction/story or poem, relating to this theme. It should be up to 550 words long or 1 side of an A4 sheet.

There are 3 age groups:- Junior (7-10 years), Intermediate (11-13 years) and Senior (14-17 years).

Clubs are asked to inform Jackie Grigor no later than **Friday 9th October 2020** if they have pupils wishing to enter. For Club entry forms, e-mail: jackie@rotary.org

NEWS FROM THE D&T DEPARTMENT

YEAR 10 STUDENT WINS DESIGN COMPETITION

The Design and Technology Department would like to congratulate Alfie Robinson in Year 10 for his winning entry in a competition organised by Buttle's Building Supplies. Alfie's design of a NHS Super Hero can be seen in all branches of the company as well as in the national Builders Merchant Federation magazine.

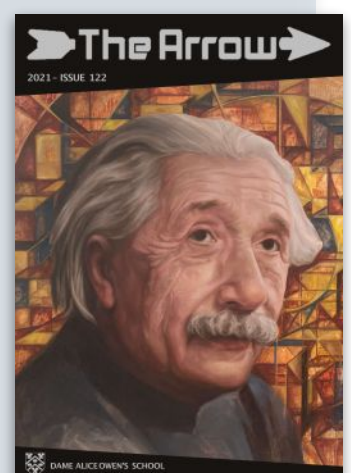


THE ARROW 2021 ON SALE

The Arrow magazine is a staple of life at Dame Alice Owen's. Run every year by a group of Year 12 students, it features articles, poetry and artwork from pupils of all ages throughout the school.

This year's edition is no different. With pieces on everything from elections to ethics, it showcases the curiosity and talents of the students at the school.

This is the 122nd edition of *The Arrow* since its first publication in 1892, and the first to be published post-COVID. It will be available to buy after half term from the school office, and will cost £3.



Message from Dame Alice Owen's parent governors

Dear Parents

We are writing this newsletter as three parents of current or recent pupils of the school, elected by parents to the Governing Body.

As Governors, our role is to exercise independent oversight of the School's affairs including:

- ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction;
- holding the school's leaders to account for the educational performance of the organisation and its pupils, and the performance management of staff, and;
- overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its finances are managed efficiently and effectively.

We carry out our responsibilities through attendance at Full Governing Body meetings alongside additional Committee meetings. To carry out our roles effectively, we attend relevant induction and ongoing training as well as bringing our own knowledge and expertise, as relevant, to support the governing body in its duties.

As a reminder, any issues of concern regarding your child/children are normally dealt with informally in the first instance by raising them with the relevant class or subject teacher. If, however, this does not result in a satisfactory outcome, there are clearly signposted channels to escalate matters within the school by following the procedures set out in the School's Complaints Procedure, published on the School's website.

Parents are, of course, welcome to speak to any Governor, and we can be contacted via the school reception, on admin@damealiceowens.herts.sch.uk.

In the past, Parent Governors have been available during Parents' Evenings at the School to answer any questions you wished to raise, or signpost you to the appropriate contact within the School – we look forward to meeting you in person when those opportunities arise again in the not too distant future!

For now, we continue to remain available to you via the email address above and would welcome your views and any ideas that may improve school life, along with any feedback that might not otherwise be channelled into or through the School system.

In the meantime, your best way of supporting our excellent School is to work with the staff and your son/daughter to support them in their studies, to support OSA activities which raise much needed funds to put to great use in the School – see further information [here](#).

We look forward to supporting our students and yourselves during the remainder of this school year and into the next.

With best wishes,

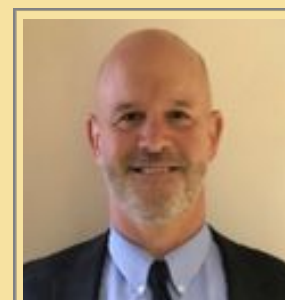
David, Sally and Glenn



David Burrowes



Sally Tanner



Glenn Taylor

NEWS FROM THE MATHS DEPARTMENT

Senior and Intermediate Maths Challenges winners

Despite the challenges of lockdown, we have been able to continue to run the maths challenges, even sitting papers online when necessary. We would like to congratulate all the students that took part, especially our gold medal winners.

Senior Maths Challenge Gold Winners:

Ashta Barbor	Year 12	Charvi Dave	Year 13	Jonny Rugg	Year 13
David Sleeman	Year 12	Gregoire Denjean	Year 13	Safia Safdar	Year 13
Huan Xu	Year 12	Yasindu Jayasakera	Year 13	Esha Seechurn	Year 13
Trevor Zhao	Year 12	Annabel Hall	Year 13	Oscar Siddle	Year 13
Luca Choteborsky	Year 13	Abigail Peel	Year 13	Patrick Whitman	Year 13

Special congratulations go to David and Charvi who achieved Best in Year awards and to Annabel who achieved a merit in the Senior Kangaroo follow-on round. Charvi also achieved the Best in School award.

Intermediate Maths Challenge Gold Winners:

Matei Pirtac	Year 9	Daniel Goodlad	Year 11	Rebecca Underhill	Year 11
Melis Ethemsoy	Year 9	Roisin Keohane	Year 11	Aimi Weightman	Year 11
Eiden Ishraq	Year 10	Andrew Lockett	Year 11	Helena Ye	Year 11
Eva Kelly	Year 10	Karrishma Seechurn	Year 11		
Joshua Tate	Year 10	Anish Shah	Year 11		

Special congratulations go to Matei for the Best in Year (Year 9) award and also the Best in School award, to Eva for the Best in Year (Year 10) award and to Daniel for the Best in Year (Year 11) award. Matei and Melis have been invited to sit the Cayley Olympiad follow-on round.

Liam Buchgraber (Year 9), Sophie Chanan (Year 9), Stephen Goodlad (Year 9), Jacob Roberts (Year 9), Leo Nichols (Year 9), Eiden Israaq (Year 10), Eva Kelly (Year 10), Joshua Tate (Year 10), Daniel Goodlad (Year 11), Roisin Keohane (Year 11), Andrew Lockett (Year 11), Karrishma Seechurn (Year 11), Anish Shah (Year 11), Rebecca Underhill (Year 11), Aimi Weightman (Year 11) and Helena Ye (Year 11) have also been invited to sit the Kangaroo follow-on round. We eagerly await the results...

NEWS FROM THE PSYCHOLOGY DEPARTMENT

A-LEVEL PUPILS AWARDED *MINDS UNDERGROUND* COMMENDATIONS

The Psychology Department is very proud of Zoe Gunasekera and Raveena Bhullar for their highly commended entries for the [Minds Underground Competition](#), which took place during this year's lockdown. The Psychology Essay Competition provides students with an opportunity to engage in university-level research and hone their writing and argumentative skills. The competition saw over 1,000 international entries.

Zoe wrote a research proposal entitled 'Investigating the effects of age on levels of conformity within actions' and Raveena's essay was 'How deeply ingrained is our sense of self?'. Both worked independently and produced work which exceeded A-Level requirements. They are fine ambassadors of the subject.

NEWS FROM THE ART DEPARTMENT

Owen's pupils win commendations in global competition

Students from Owen's were encouraged to enter the Never Such Innocence: International poetry, art, speech and song competition 2020/2021. The 2020/21 competition theme was '*The Unheard Stories of Conflict: Stories from Around the World*'.

Over 3,100 children from 99 countries, territories and dependencies participated in this year's competition. Entries were received from all corners of the United Kingdom and as far and wide as Armenia, Greece, Sri Lanka, New Zealand, China, Guatemala and Nigeria. The students really are part of an international movement!

Congratulations to the following 28 students across Years 7, 8 and 9 who have received a very well deserved Certificate of Commendation for their sensitively achieved art entries signed by President, Vice Admiral Sir Tim Laurence KCVO CB ADC(P), and Chief Executive and Founder, Lady Lucy French OBE:

Kai Almeida-Jones, Holly Shelton, Angeline Ong, Joel Sibley, Alissa Khederian, Lexie Carroll, Sina Dana, Rowena Kwon, Malaika Al Rahman, Katia Temple, Alexander Kuper, Natalie Wardrop Day, Indira Shakespeare, Thekli Violaris, Clio Profitt, Vanshika Tummala, Penny Houghton Hardy, Ellie Beebee, Sajiv Saha, David White, Olivia Cripps, Caitlyn Lee, Jack Oxley, Yoni Nemko, Sophie Chandan, Marina Pothos Tapper, Alice Cleverley and Matei Pirtac.



Thekli Violaris



Clio Profitt



Sophie Chandan



Ellie Beebee



Caitlyn Lee



Matei Pirtac



Sina Dana

NEWS FROM THE MUSIC DEPARTMENT

Owen's musicians return to the stage with Live@Five

Owen's musicians in Years 8-12 have returned to the stage this term in a series of live streamed performances – "Dame Alice Owen's, Live@Five". In line with the current arrangements, these were 'bubbled' performances, with each event featuring ensembles from one particular year group.

At 5pm on the evening of each Live@Five, the Edward Guinness Hall fell silent as the musicians for the opening performance awaited the signal from the Tech Crew: "**Going live in 3, 2, 1...**" and lights up!

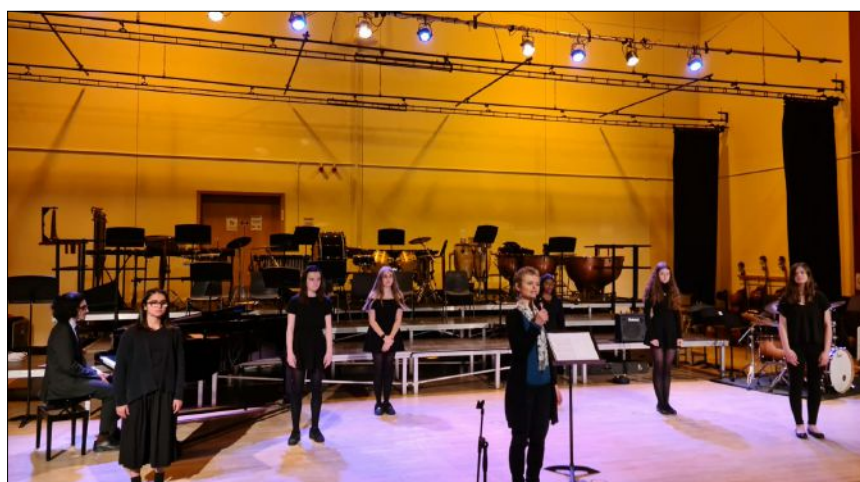
The frisson of excitement, the sense of having an audience to play and sing for (both those in the room and also the virtual, online audience), being transported by each other's performances – the musicians rediscovered all of this, and more, as, finally, we were able to share the results of all our work.

Click on the links on page 7 to listen to these performances on private YouTube channels.

We are both fortunate and proud that the large numbers of musicians at Owen's, (both in terms of students and staff), means that each year group is able to put on stage its own orchestra, a band of some sort – jazz band / soul band / wind band – chamber groups, plus a choir in most year groups. In addition, there are performances of a range of students' own original compositions and arrangements, with students taking leadership roles as directors, as well as taking major supporting roles, such as piano accompanists for choirs.

We would like to thank all of our ensemble leaders and tutors: Ms Bamber, Mrs Brady and Mr Marshall, as well as Visiting Music Teachers, Mr Bean, Mr Crossley, Mr Kelly, Ms McChrystal, Ms Makepeace-Lott, and Mr Widden, for all of their help and inspiration.

All of these livestreams have had the technical steering of the DAOS Tech Crew, overseen by Mr Pickering, who have enabled us to reach our virtual audiences (the videos have had hundreds of views already!). We would like to thank them for giving of their time and expertise so generously, as well as Sam Levy, Maz Bryden and Mrs George for all their help.



Year 9 singers



Year 9 jazz

As I write, we are still looking forward, with great anticipation, to the Year 8 Live@Five on Thursday 27th May. Look out for the link to watch this event!

We hope you enjoy listening to our performances as much as we have enjoyed playing and singing for you.

[Year 12 Live@Five](#)

[Year 10 Live@Five](#)

[Year 9 Live@Five](#)

Year 7 musicians perform their first orchestra concert

The Year 7 orchestra had the largest live audience of the year so far as the rest of their year group, masked and separated into their teaching-group bubbles, came in from the torrential rain to take their seats in the auditorium of the Edward Guinness Hall.

They were treated to a concert given by their own year group's orchestra, consisting of more than 30 players, covering the full range of orchestral instruments. The concert opened with Edward Elgar's rousing *Pomp and Circumstance March no. 1*. The orchestra's conductor, Mr Crossley, introduced the different sections of the orchestra to the audience which they showcased in their own version of a young person's guide to the orchestra (to borrow a concept from Benjamin Britten), using a traditional Hungarian round.



The Year 7 Orchestra in rehearsal

After this, Year 7 student Zev Sebastian took to the stage to perform a piano solo that started us off with a bit of a waltz theme for the afternoon, the virtuoso *Grand Valse Brillante* by the Polish piano composer Fryderyk Chopin. His thrilling rendition of this piece was greeted by tumultuous applause from his year group!



The Year 7 pianist Zev Sebastian

The orchestra returned to the stage for the rest of the concert, which culminated in a performance of French composer, Camille Saint-Saens' *Danse Macabre*, which featured the orchestra's leader, violinist Kiara Taylor, playing the solo violin part (representing the character, 'Death'). The orchestra demonstrated the component parts of this piece to the audience quite brilliantly, starting with the 12 chimes of midnight on the harp, illustrating how the composer has used the instruments to tell the story, with not a word in sight, of the eerie happenings in a churchyard at Halloween.

It was enormously exciting to have a large audience back in the EGH! The Year 7s were a warmly responsive and enthusiastic audience, and the musicians' performances certainly warranted this appreciative reception.

Once again, we would like to thank the Year 10 and Year 12 Tech Crew for all their help in recording and sharing this performance. Well done to all involved!

Click [here](#) to watch the concert.

NEWS FROM THE PE DEPARTMENT

NATIONAL HOCKEY CALL UP

A massive congratulations to A-Level student Rajan Shukla who has been selected to play for the England U18 Hockey squad. What a fantastic achievement and we wish you all the very best.



CRICKET

Year 7: Our Year 7 boys team completed their first competitive fixture, losing out narrowly to Haileybury in the County Cup. In their second match, the students performed fantastically well; beating Enfield Grammar school by 102 runs. There has been a real enthusiasm for the sport among the students with over 30 pupils attending training each week.

Our Year 7 girls team will partake in cricket festivals in the second half of the summer term. Hopefully the weather will be kinder after half term and both the boys and girls can continue their fantastic start to cricket at Dame Alice Owen's.

Year 8: The Year 8 boys team have been the unluckiest team in school with all three fixtures cancelled because of rain. Hopefully the weather will improve after half term and the students will have the opportunity to represent the school.

The Year 8 girls cricket team played their first match against Mill Hill. The game was a thriller with Mill Hill needing 5 to win off the last over. Neha bowled it and got it down to 2 off the final ball before she knocked over the Mill Hill batter's middle stump.

The DAOS T10 festival that was scheduled for 21st of May was cancelled due to the ridiculous May weather. Numbers have been excellent at lunchtime cricket practice which bodes well for the future of DAOS girls cricket.



Year 9: The Year 9 boys have been particularly unlucky with the weather so far this term. They have played in hail, rain and even sun! The first game of the season was a defeat at home to Aldenham, before they travelled to Richard Hale in the Hertfordshire County Cup and in an absolute thriller, got into the next round with a 3 run victory. Attendance at practice has been consistently good.

Year 10: The weather has again severely disrupted the opportunities for the Year 10 side so far, and despite excellent attendance at training, they have only been able to complete one match so far. Against an exceptionally strong Aldenham School side, the team lost by 8 wickets. The team will, however, have a County Cup match on the first day back after half term against St. George's School.

Numbers have been good at the Year 10 girls' cricket practice. The girls are working hard to improve their individual skills and their game knowledge in preparation for their upcoming fixtures and festivals after half term.

1st XI: The 1st XI have had a mixed start to the season. They have played four matches; winning one game, being in a very strong position when it rained in another and losing two against two very strong schools in Haileybury and Berkhamsted. The boys can be proud of their efforts in the U17 National Cup; as they beat Aldenham by 3 runs. Aditya Sembian has started the season particularly well, starring with both bat and ball. Josh Gunter

accumulated a good half century against Mill Hill and top scored against Haileybury in the U18 National Cup. There is a lot of talent in all three year groups, hopefully the team can continue with their excellent effort and win their remaining three matches which start up after the Year 12 end-of-year exams.

ATHLETICS

We had our first County league fixture on Thursday 20th May at Jarman park. It was not the best weather for the first event but nevertheless the students were brilliant and demonstrated their talent throughout. All four teams of the U14 Girls, U14 Boys, U16 Girls and U16 Boys demonstrated outstanding performances to make sure that we won in each age group and overall. Outstanding performances by Niamh, Omead, Adam, Hope and Milo who each won their event by a convincing distance. Let's hope this trend continues.

Year 7: We have had a slightly disappointing turn out to practices for Year 7. However, since the weather has started to improve so has the attendance. We have our first Athletics competition against Chancellor's and we are looking forward to students representing Owen's in Athletics again. This fixture will give them a chance to practice their events in the run up to the District competition later this term.

Year 8: We have been pleased to see a huge turnout in Year 8 for Athletics practices both at lunch and after school. Students have been working hard at improving their running techniques and working on their field events. During the first County League event, the Year 8's were outstanding and really rose to the occasion, having this been the first fixture for most of the students. Their dedication to training clearly showed with most students either finishing first or second in their events.

Year 9: There has been a good attendance of students at practices. Some students have been selected to compete in the U16 team competing against Year 10's. They are competing in a friendly athletics match against Chancellor's next week, leading onto County league matches and District athletics later in the term. A special mention must go to the parents who are helping transport the students to these events.

Year 10: There has been a good nucleus of students in attendance at practices and they will be attending County league and District competitions over the rest of the term. The U16 team really showed why they were successful as U14's in the first County League fixture. All students were committed fully to their events and were helping the younger students who had not competed before to understand what they needed to do. Both U16's teams were awarded with first place, well done and we hope this continues. Some of the students in this year have also supported us with the lower school athletics practices, which has been a great help to the PE department.

NATIONAL SCHOOLS REGATTA

Year 12 students Hugh Elser and Darcy Wyn-Jones will be racing at the National Schools' Regatta, at the Eton Dorney Lake, which was used for the 2012 Olympic Rowing events. They will race across a 2000m multi lane course with finals being raced side by side across up to eight lanes.

Hugh will be racing on Saturday 29th May, in the 2nd Quadruple Sculls event, for the Pulitzer Trophy, against 11 other crews. Darcy will be racing on Sunday 30th May, in the Championship Double Sculls event, for the Crockford Bowl, against a field of 32 crews. They will first do a time trial and, based on their result, will then be placed in semi finals and then hopefully the final.

The whole weekend will be live streamed and you can follow their progress if you wish. The weblink is: <https://www.nationalschoolsregatta.co.uk>

Best of luck to Hugh and Darcy!

NEWS FROM THE OSA

In a challenging year, the OSA are very conscious that the past 12 months have been very difficult for the whole school community, so we have tried to limit our requests for help. We also recognise the importance of some of the benefits we provide to you and are very happy to be able to tell you that we will continue to do this whilst still adhering to current guidelines.



Nearly New Uniform Sale – On Monday 28th June from 4pm to 5.30pm we will be holding a second-hand uniform sale. We are asking you to please donate any good-quality uniform you have which is no longer of use, by getting your young person to drop it off in the red second-hand uniform bin just outside the lunch hall.

Please also come along to buy uniform for your young people – we have an impressive display of excellent quality items available at very cheap prices, with a great range of sizes. It is a very affordable way to replace and renew uniforms – and of course all funds raised go back to the school.

Match Funding – Due to the limitations on the activities we have been able to hold over the past year, Match Funding has been an invaluable additional source of income as it has made our limited fundraising activities even more profitable, so we would like to thank all those who have offered their assistance and agreed with their employers to Match Fund. If anyone whose company offers Match Funding as an employee benefit has not stepped forward, we would be immensely grateful if you would do so. Please contact us at matchfunding@theosa.org.uk.

Easy Fund Raising – By signing up to Easy Fundraising, the OSA will receive much needed funds when you shop for goods and services online. Sign-up is easy and it won't cost you a penny.

Over 4,300 shops and sites will donate to the OSA – Owen's School Association – for FREE when you use easyfundraising to shop with them. This means you can raise donations for us when you buy anything from holidays and insurance to gifts like toys, jewellery, tech, experiences and more! These donations really help us and all you have to do is use easyfundraising when you're ordering the things you'll be buying anyway. See this [link](#).

Refreshments – This has currently been suspended but if you would like to get involved in the future please email Sharon on refreshments@theosa.org.uk.

Book Covers – We are glad to announce that due to unprecedented demand the OSA have SOLD OUT of book covers for now. But please do email us and we will order more when we get suitable numbers.

200 Club – The OSA operate a Lottery style 200 club with two £50 prizes drawn per month, often with an extra draw taking place in December. Annual membership is £12 per number. For further details, please contact Deepika via 200club@theOSA.org.uk

OSA website – www.theosa.org.uk. The website has had a great revamp and the OSA continues to add content and make improvements. We welcome your feedback – if you have any comments, suggestions or can help in any way please get in touch at contact@theosa.org.uk. And don't forget to follow us on [Facebook](#).

OSA Committee – These are currently held on Zoom on an ad hoc basis. If you would like to join the OSA committee, you would be most welcome, please email: contact@theosa.org.uk.