

June Secretary's Report

Greetings to you all.

Summer is here, vaccinations are rolling out, and the time is right for VOCS activities.

When you all signed up for VOCS, you completed an activity questionnaire. As matters currently stand, 164 of you indicated you liked hiking, 77 cycling, 76 sailing, 89 kayaking, 30 swimming, and 79 of you were interested in participating in family events. With the weather warming up (hopefully) we ought to be able to put on something over the summer.

To date, we have very active VOCS book and movie clubs, and have also done one (excellent) bike ride among the cherry blossoms during Spring. Last summer, we organised a picnic, and we intend doing another one this August. More details will appear in the July Sec's Report. However, I cannot help but feel that we could, and perhaps should, do more. Here at VOCS HQ, we can handle the communication and promotion side of things, and we can also advise on the prevailing COVID regulations, but the actual planning and organising of events depends on you, the VOCS membership.

I have been wondering whether other Oxford and/or Cambridge associations are as inactive as we seem to be. From what I can gather, although quite a few are, there are others who are much more active, and who seem to be far more social than we are.

So here is my plea to you all: Please do not shrink back from putting suggestions for social activities to me. If one of you wants to organise, for example, a kayak trip, or a hike, whether in the North Shore mountains, or an amble along the sea wall, shoot me an email (vanoxbridge@gmail.com). We will then include your event in the Sec's Report, will collate those interested in attending, and will include all this information on a spreadsheet for you.

Neither should we be limited to outdoor activities. I see that our Halifax cousins have a monthly lunch, and Toronto a monthly pub night (both virtual at the moment). On June 24th, Toronto is also organising a cannabis event!! True, it's a panel discussion rather than a smoke in, but one has to admire their inventiveness.

If this month's report seems a bit hectoring in tone, I apologise. I do not apologise, however, for wanting VOCS to be more than the Boat Race Dinner (good fun and important though that is). And if it turns out that I am in a minority of one, so be it. I will cease and desist.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Simon Taylor