

## April Secretary's Report

Greetings to you all.

As I sit here, on the deck of my house, it is difficult to remember that we are only in April, not June. Although I would love this fantastic weather to continue, experience tells me that it is only a matter of time until it gets cold and wet once more.

Still, make the most of it whilst it lasts, says I.

As regards VOCS, there are a couple of things to report.

First, there was a boat race in the UK, and approximately half of you will have been pleased with the result. For those who identify with the other half, take some comfort from the fact that the Great Ouse isn't the Thames, so it wasn't a proper boat race anyway!!

Closer to home, we had our first ever VOCS bike ride to enjoy the cherry blossom, and what a fabulous event it was. Excellently organised by one of our members, some 14 people attended to enjoy a two hour bike ride through the streets of Vancouver. The weather became bright and sunny, although it did start off grey and ominous. Here is a photo of most of the attendees, all socially distancing.

I can also report that both the VOCS book club and the VOCS movie club continue to go from strength to strength, and meet on a monthly basis.

What I find so very encouraging about these three activities is that they are organised and run by VOCSians who do everything needed to make their events happen without any input from the Board. All we on the Board did was to encourage, and make available the VOCS communications software to advertise their events. And this seems to me to be the essence of a healthy, committed organisation.

Yes, the Board organises the big ticket items, such as the Boat Race Dinner and Bardnic, or at least, we did in pre-COVID days (and hope to do so again just as soon as we are able to). But it is you, the members, who have put together social events which appeal to you. So if any of you are sitting there, reading this Secretary's Report, thinking to yourselves that VOCS ought to do more, please reframe the question! Your Board does not exist to provide you with entertainment possibilities. We can, and will, however, put at the disposal of any VOCSian our communications platforms so when any of you wish to organise a social activity, you are able to advertise it within the VOCS community.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Simon Taylor