

London Watsonian Club, Annual Report 2019-2020

Prior to the widespread disruption of best laid plans for 2020, the London Watsonian Club and its members enjoyed a host of memorable events during session 2019/20. We kicked off our year with the Club's AGM, held for the very first time at London Scottish House, Westminster. Following a lively meeting, our company was treated to a guided tour of the in-house museum, housing a fascinating collection of military items and artefacts, including reference to Watsonians who had served with the Regiment.

In December, 5 London Watsonians gathered in Battersea Park to mark The London Watsonian Club's contribution to the Forest of Remembrance programme, planting a young oak tree donated by the Club in remembrance of the Fallen of our School. A unique event for the Club, it was certainly one of the most enjoyable, and poignant, in recent memory. Those in attendance were proud to pay their respects on behalf of all London Watsonians, and to have been present at the start of a growing and lasting tribute set in the heart of the nation's capital.

Shortly before the world around us went into lockdown, in January we held our annual Cenotaph Observance at Whitehall, followed by lunch at the Caledonian Club. As always we were honoured to be joined by representatives from GWC, including the Principal, who contributed to another well-attended afternoon of respect for the fallen, memories of the Old School and conviviality amongst fine company.

Sadly, the plans for our Annual Dinner in April fell victim to the pandemic. However, we hope to return to normality with another lively evening to be announced for 2021.

As a final important note on the year gone past, all at the Club were very saddened to learn of the passing of Peter Goldsmith in July this year. Peter was a long-standing and highly respected member of our school community in London, having also held office as President in 1990. We will miss his warm smile, generous conversation and famous kilt at our gatherings and send our condolences to his loved ones.

John Robertson