

Association Secretary Report to the January 2021 ACM

2020 was my second year in office and the busiest. Usually the GMC would meet 3 times in a year but in 2020 we met together just once and then a further 12 times using Zoom. This has resulted in significant progress on a number of fronts as well as catching up on a number of admin tasks that had been put off for a rainy day.

We have now migrated to a different Website so as to avoid the escalating cost of maintaining the previous one and which is much easier to use so enabling more Areas to edit their own events and news content than ever before. The Boat Register had to be migrated too and that is now running well. Elly, for the Website and Alison & Julian for the Boat Register have done an outstanding job at working through many improvements and fixing the glitches along the way so we now have good systems in place for this new year.

We are always looking for new volunteers, not necessarily committee members, to help with a number of tasks such as managing the OGA Merchandise and seeking advertisers in the Gaffers log so if you know of anyone you believe could help please ask them to contact me.

Although we have updated the OGA Rules, for your approval later in today's meeting, the Handbook for OGA Officers has had a major overhaul and our new Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy is a significant improvement on what we had before. There are still some changes to come on these latter two documents, based on the feedback, but they are in place and available in the Officers' Area of the Website.

Outstanding tasks are to continue to get more members to pay their subscriptions using Direct Debit or Recurring PayPal to reduce the task of chasing renewals each year and, inevitably, losing memberships and also to provide more Officers with OGA Email accounts (@OGA or @southwestgaffers) to avoid use of personal email addresses.

Colin Stroud
Association Secretary

January 10, 2021