

HISTORICAL FACTSHEET No 19

Old Oswestrians' Club

The hospital has attracted orthopaedic surgeons for training from all over the world since the 1920s. In order to foster continued friendship and exchange of professional ideas between former trainees, the Old Oswestrians' Club was founded in 1952. Its aims were set out as follows: "Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt created much more than a country orthopaedic hospital with its surgical and social services, and its scheme of after-care clinics; they created a spirit of service so impelling that we have all been influenced by it. Old Oswestrians must kindle the flame, and we hope to meet year by year in social and scientific friendship." An inaugural dinner, attended by 46 members, was held at the Savoy Hotel, London on 30 June 1952. Distinguished Oswestry consultant surgeon Sir Reginald Watson-Jones was installed as the first president. The Club today has around 500 members from all over the world. Each year at the beginning of June, an afternoon programme of professional lectures is held at the hospital, followed by an evening dinner.

Oswestry League of Nurses

The Oswestry League of Nurses was formed to bring together nurses trained at the hospital. Its original membership was around 100 former students, with the first annual reunion held on 26 June 1964. Membership was subsequently extended to include nurses working at the hospital who had trained elsewhere. The annual reunion continues to be held each year on the second Saturday in May, with lunch followed by a professional lecture. In 2007, 92 members attended. Membership also now includes former members of OOPA (see below).

Old Oswestrian Physiotherapists' Association

The first annual meeting of the Old Oswestrian Physiotherapists' Association (OOPA) was held on 19 May 1956. Membership of the Association was open to physiotherapists trained at Oswestry, and also to physiotherapy staff working in the hospital. OOPA annual reunions continued successfully for many years, but following the transfer of the School of Physiotherapy to Keele University in 1994, membership numbers began to decline. A decision was therefore made to disband OOPA and incorporate existing members into the Oswestry League of Nurses. The last OOPA meeting was held on 8 May 2004 when 60 members attended.

Sources

1. *Carter, Marie. Healing & hope: 100 years of 'The Orthopaedic'. Oswestry: The Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic and District Hospital NHS Trust, 2000*
2. *The Old Oswestrians' Club Newsletter No 1 1954*
3. *Orthopaedic Illustrated No 5 1964, p. 2*
4. *Old Oswestrian Physiotherapists' Association Committee Minutes*