QWG Secretary’s Report

As we all know, 2020-21 has been a year like no other, although there is now light at the tunnel in the form of the Covid vaccine. So it is to be hoped that this time next year we will have returned to some normality.

The year began with the AGM on Saturday 25 January 2020. This was well attended, and the speaker was Judith McAdam, who runs a thriving practice in Dublin allowing people to tap into their unique creative intelligence and strengths.

President Isobel reflected on a successful year and thanked all those involved, before passing the chain of office to the incoming President, Leighanne Montgomery. Clare-Louise Wilkinson was elected as Vice-President and Deirdre McCauley as Secretary. Andrea Wilkinson was also elected as a committee member.

The first (and as it turned out, last) QWG Committee meeting of 2020 took place on 5 February 2020. The Committee discussed potential events for 2020 and for the 175th Anniversary of QUB. It was decided that the main aim of 2020 would be to increase QWG membership. Natasha Sharma from the Development and Alumni Relations Office (DARA) was also in attendance and discussed some ideas for the 175th anniversary of QUB. The annual Public Speaking Competition took place on 11 February 2020 and was won by a team from Rathmore Grammar School (separate report on this kindly compiled by Anne Hunter, the competition organiser).

As we are all aware, no events were able to be organised due to the pandemic, and the UWE ‘Meet and Greet’ which we were all looking forward to also had to be cancelled. However, all was not lost as Leighanne organised a virtual event on Zoom for 14 November 2020. This was a talk by Dr Moyra Haslet, a Professor in 18th century and Romantic Literature at QUB, entitled “Claiming a Place: Group Portraits of Women”. This was well-attended and most interesting and thought-provoking, giving rise to much discussion and many questions.

Leighanne and I also attended the IRFUW Council meeting via Zoom on 5 December 2020, in which the potential increase in fees was discussed, amongst other things.

It is to be hoped that the latter part of this year will see us able to come together once again, in the meantime I hope everyone stays safe and well.

Deirdre McCauley

Secretary, QWGA