Greetings and Happy New Year to you all!

My Christmas involved many family Zoom calls and only two for Christmas dinner. I suspect that many of yours did too. Oh well, nothing we could do about this, other than hope that by Christmas 2021 we will have reverted to more usual festivities.

As you all well know, one casualty of 2020 was the cancellation of both the annual Boat Race, as well as our Boat Race Dinner. As of this moment, the 2021 boat race is still scheduled to run (April 4th) on the Ouse at Ely rather than the Thames in London, owing to engineering work on the Hammersmith Bridge. Those who wish to keep up to date with boat race news from the UK may do so by accessing <https://www.theboatrace.org/>.

We therefore hope to be able to host a Boat Race Dinner, on a date to be specified but definitely not before late September / early October. Dr Bonnie Henry has now published a schedule for COVID vaccinations, and subject to continued vaccine availability, we should all have been done by the end of September. The completion of vaccinations in the province obviously calls for a massive and heartfelt celebration. The running of the boat race also calls for celebration; run the two together and we ought to enjoy a bash of epic proportions. We haven’t actually done much in the way of planning (yet), but rest assured, your board will be turning its keen intellect to this.

On the subject of epic bashes, a word about Oxford Gaudies (or Reunions, if you are a Cambridge person). The Oxford colleges arrange a Gaudy (apart from New College, which for reasons known only to itself, arranges a Gaude) for those matriculating in specified years. The word Gaudy (or Gaude) comes from the Latin Gaudeamus, let us make merry (but you already knew that!). Although I wouldn’t call the ones I have been to epic bashes, they are nonetheless most enjoyable events.

Peter Moskos has now put pen to paper and produced a brief reminiscence of the Gaude he attended on 2016. You can read it here. Peter has thus motivated me to produce my own reminiscence of my 2019 Gaudy. I will attend to this over the next few weeks, and if any other members out there have attended with Gaudies or Reunions and wish to put their pens to paper, please do so and send them to me at vanoxbridge@gmail.com. Once our lawyers have scrutinized your offerings for libellous intent, I will include them in future Secretary’s Reports.

I hope to be inundated with your offerings.