



ASSOCIATION OF OPEN UNIVERSITY GRADUATES in the EAST MIDLANDS

EDITION 17

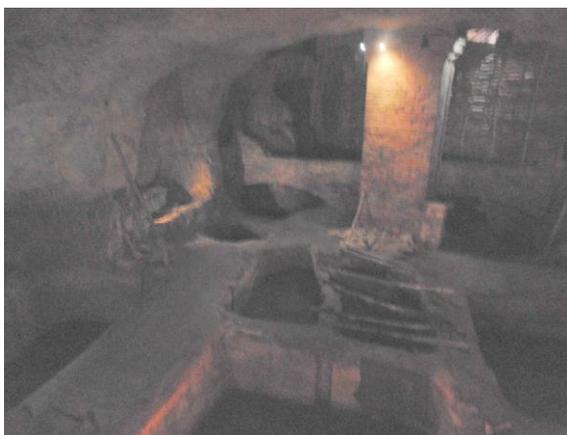
Spring 2018

Recent Events

Members met at the William IV Lincoln pub in December for our Christmas Dinner. I had not previously realised that the date coincided with the ever popular Lincoln Christmas market and the local Park and Ride only went as far as the cathedral and so Jean and I had to negotiate through masses of people to get to the waterfront for the venue. Nevertheless we had a good turn out and after pulling festive crackers some of our attendees suggested possible outings for 2018.



In early January members literally went underground. At Nottingham there are masses of caves dug into the sandstone beneath houses and roads. Having donned helmets, our excellent guide took us through the caves under a new shopping centre. Some caves, in earlier days, had been utilised as a tannery and we were told that no persons working there ever caught the plague. Other caves were used in the Great War as shelters and we were able to don a gas mask used at the time. Later a short walk from the caves took us to the National Justice Museum where members of the public took various parts in a mock trial in the court which until a few years ago was used as a Crown Court. Later we witnessed a mock hanging.



Future Events:

In March we are visiting the Newark Air Museum to view some complete aircraft as well as some under preservation – this coincides with this year being the one hundredth anniversary of the RAF. Towards the end of May there is a visit to the well preserved Victorian Workhouse at Southwell, Nottinghamshire. Then on a Sunday in June, there is a special demonstration of Medieval Jousting and Horsemanship in the grounds of Rockingham Castle which was built on a hilltop for William the Conqueror. Also in June I am hoping that at the William IV pub, on the waterfront at Lincoln, members will join me in a toast to our Association which celebrates its thirtieth anniversary on 25th June this year. Our August event is a visit to Melbourne House and Gardens once owned by Lord Melbourne, a Prime Minister under Queen Victoria`s reign. Later in the year there is a visit to the brand new International Bomber Command Centre on the outskirts of Lincoln. So we have a full programme and you can get further details from the Diary Dates at the end of this Newsletter or in your copy of OMEGA.

Can you help us award a Pearl Anniversary Bursary?

The Executive Committee would like to offer a special Bursary to an OU Research Student to mark our 30th Anniversary.

- We need your assistance to raise the £1,000 traditionally presented.
- Bursaries go to exceptional final year PHD students, to allow them to undertake additional research, attend a related conference or publish papers about their research.

If you would like to contribute to this important aspect of our AOUG's charity work, please send a cheque made out to:

'AOUG Foundation for Education (Bursary)'
to AOUG Office, Walton Hall, Milton Keynes
MK7 6AA.

Thank you in anticipation for your support.

We need to increase our membership and we need your help!

AOUG has a supply of posters that might encourage OU graduates to join our Association.

- Do you go to your local library?
- Has your local supermarket a community notice board?
- Would you be prepared to place one of our posters on their notice board?

Your Executive Representative has a supply of these posters and can provide you with some.

If you have no current Executive Representative, you can contact the AOUG Office and they will post you some out.

Please remember to take in down if it gets damaged and replace it with a fresh one.

Thank you, in anticipation of your help!

This is our thirtieth year, our Pearl Anniversary and the Annual General Meeting and Social Weekend promises to be a great celebration. A full forty eight hours of activities so you can socialise fully or take time out as you please. There is still time to book any of the following four options, however we are afraid that you will now have to pay the full price straight away because we have passed the deposit date.

- **OPTION 1:** Saturday meetings with tea/coffee and Saturday lunch **£17.00**
- **OPTION 2:** Gala Evening - drinks reception, dinner, speaker, music **£70.00**
- **OPTION 3:** Gala Evening as above plus Saturday night B&B **£150.00**
- **OPTION 4:** FULL WEEKEND PACKAGE **£280.00**



The hotel is very comfortable and provides excellent amenities. You can take the full package and stay in the Norton Grange Hotel, in Castleton, Rochdale or come just for the day time to join in any of the activities in the hotel or just to join on an optional excursion to Robinson's Brewery, the Museum, the Hat Works or the Lowry. You can read all about it in the Winter OMEGA. Remember friends and family are very welcome too.

So go on treat yourself, celebrate with us and enjoy good company. Contact AOUG Office now for more details. AOUG Office, Walton Hall Milton Keynes MK7 6AA - 01908 653316 - aoug@open.ac.uk

If you require accommodation or meals, please make sure you book with the AOUG Office before the end of March. Excursion only visitors can still book up to the end of April.

Pearl Anniversary Celebrations

Since the Association of Open University Graduates was officially endorsed by the OU in 1988, 2018 is AOUG's Pearl Anniversary (30th) and so a perfect time to celebrate all the friendships that have developed and the great support that members give to each other and our university.

The AGM in the North West will have extra celebratory features and all Regions and Nations are being encouraged to arrange their local celebrations. Our area is planning special lecture when local members can join together to remember and celebrate. (see Diary Dates) However in addition, AOUG is hosting an extra celebration based around Milton Keynes which will link with the annual Research Awards Ceremony and Foundation Lecture in the first weekend in October.

On the Friday after these traditional events, whilst the Executive Committee are holding their Workshop, other visitors will have the opportunity of a visit to either the OU Campus Observatory or the OU campus Library. Then whilst the Executive Committee have their main quarterly meeting, there will be walking tours around the campus's beautifully maintained grounds, including the Zen Garden and the Legacy Garden, whilst learning about the history of

the campus's development and the varied geology of the stones used for buildings construction and on the way viewing the items on the campus sculpture trail. After a buffet lunch with your Executive Committee you can join a coach trip to Stoke Bruerne to visit a Blacksmith's Forge before a trip aboard a canal boat.

On Saturday evening there will be a Celebration meal. Then on Sunday there will be another coach trip, this time to Bletchley Park. All aspects will be individually priced so you can do as much or as little as you please. Full details and booking arrangements will be in the Spring OMEGA, so do watch for this and book early as unfortunately places will be very limited.

Foundation for Education Award:

Some members from our Region were present at the OU Centre, in Nottingham, when I was pleased to be able to present a new graduate with a certificate to acknowledge that she had obtained her degree despite overcoming some adversity, over and above that of an average student. Her family attended in support and the OU Head of Student Support based in Nottingham, made us very welcome and thanked AOUG for their ongoing interest in students.



Executive Committee Meeting:

On the first weekend of February I attended the Spring Executive Committee Meeting held on the OU campus. The most important Agenda item was, as usual at the start of the year, the setting of the budget. Money will be very tight this year and various ideas were considered to reduce expenditure. Final details are still ongoing.

The venue for next year's AGM and Social weekend is in the process of being selected but it will be in the South East of the country as opposed to up North as in recent years. There has been a good response for members to represent AOUG at the various Degree Ceremony processions. It is not too late to still apply if you would be willing to participate although some Ceremonies, as advertised in the last OMEGA, have already changed their date or time so it is advisable for you to check the revised details on the OU website or contact the AOUG Office for details of the changes. As you know unfortunately AOUG will not be invited to host stands at the 2018 ceremonies.

Anniversary Year:

There was much discussion, both at a Workshop prior to the official meeting, and the Executive Committee itself, about how we should celebrate our thirtieth anniversary. Each

Executive Representative put forward suggestions about their own local special events and in our Region I am proposing a special lecture in Lincoln later in the year. Work is still in progress on this. It was agreed that it would be a good idea if any members who have photos from past AGMs could submit copies of them to the AOUG Office to be added to a display on a board for the AGM Gala Evening. These could then be added to AOUG archives for any future displays.

OU Student Association Links

Some years ago, in Yorkshire, we used to have regular meetings with the local OU Student Association Branch which ranged from meals to a challenge game of ten pin bowling in Doncaster. In order to try to re-establish links. (After all OU Student Association members are our possible future members), I intend to attend forthcoming 'Meet ups', with OU Student Association members, which have been advertised on the internet. During 2017, the OU Student Association agreed to insert leaflets, about our Association, when purchases were made from their stands at the various Degree Ceremonies.

Officers and Executive Representatives:

I hope that you will be aware that following the AGM this year there are vacant positions for the Chairman, Development Officer and Publicity Officer. I remain as Executive Representative for Region 05 but there are also vacancies for a number of other Regions and Nations. If you are at all interested in fulfilling any of the Officer posts do contact our AOUG Office, or our Chairman direct who can supply you with more details. The official nomination date for this was in January but any possible new holder of the post could be co-opted during the AGM Weekend by the members of the Executive Committee who are in post at that time.

Newsletter

At the last count our Region has one hundred and sixty two members of which it would appear that forty six have no email facilities. I posted out the Winter Newsletter to all of these but to date only four have sent in stamps to receive it by post. Can I remind you to let both me and the AOUG Office know if you have an email address, or if any of your other contact details change, so that our records can be kept up to date.

Diary Dates

Saturday 3rd March. 11am

Meet at the café at the Newark Air Museum located on a former RAF Airfield, Drove Lane, Newark, Nottinghamshire NG24 2NY, to view the many complete, or restoration, aircraft on the site. Current admission price £8

Saturday 24th March. 12noon

Meet at the Royal William IV pub, Brayford Wharf North, Lincoln, LN1 1YX for our regular lunch. Please can members and guests pre-book with the Executive Representative so that a suitably sized table can be booked. Look for the OMEGA on the table or ask at the bar.

Saturday 26th May. 11am

Meet in the new café at the Workhouse, Upton Road, Southwell, Nottinghamshire, NG25 OPT, to visit a well preserved Victorian Workhouse. Tours and exhibitions are available. Adults £8.65. Free for National Trust members.

Sunday 17th June. 12noon

Meet at the tea rooms in Walkers House, an annexe off the courtyard of Rockingham Castle, near Corby, Market Harborough, LE16 8TH for a light lunch. Once we are suitably refreshed, we can watch the 'Knights of Nottingham' who are going to demonstrate Medieval jousting in the grounds with displays of swordsmanship and skill at arms. Members can also visit the castle which was built for William the Conqueror and stands on an escarpment affording great views of the surrounding countryside. Adult £14 for the event and castle visit, or £12.50 for the event only.

Saturday 30th June. 12noon

Meet at the Royal William IV pub, Brayford Wharf North, Lincoln, LN1 1YX for our regular lunch but with an added chance to celebrate the thirtieth anniversary of AOUG by drinking a toast to our Association. Please can members and guests pre-book with the Executive Representative so that a suitably sized table can be booked. Look for the OMEGA on the table or ask at the bar.

Saturday 25th August. 12noon

Meet at the restaurant at Melbourne Hall and Gardens, Melbourne, Derbyshire, DE73 8EN for a light lunch prior to going around the gardens, which are well worth a visit. Then any time after 2pm we can explore the Hall which was once owned by Lord Melbourne who was a Prime Minister in the time of Queen Victoria. Lord Melbourne was married to the infamous Lady Caroline who had a well publicised affair with Lord Byron. Adults £7, Concessions £6.

Saturday 15th September 12noon

Meet at the Royal William IV pub, Brayford Wharf North, Lincoln LN1 1YX for our Autumn meal, this time with the opportunity of an hour's boat trip on the 'Brayford Belle' to see Lincoln from a different perspective. Please can members and guests pre-book with the Executive Representative so that a suitably sized table can be booked in the pub. Look for the OMEGA on the table or ask at the bar.

Executive Representative – Ramsey Hertzog

Contact Details

AOUG Office – 01908 653316 aoug@open.ac.uk

Executive Representative: Ramsey Hertzog – 01908 414746 ramseyhertzog@hotmail.co.uk

Local Contacts:

Burton-on-Trent – David Bellerby – 01283 214017 dhbellerby@gmail.com

Lincoln – Susan Bradley – 01522 750292 rev.s.bradley@gmail.com