



ASSOCIATION OF OPEN UNIVERSITY GRADUATES in the EAST MIDLANDS

EDITION 15

SUMMER 2017

Recent Events



In mid-June following a suggestion by a member, a group of members visited the Gibraltar Point Nature Reserve on the East Coast overlooking the North Sea at Skegness and we were fortunate that one of our local members from Skegness was able to arrange for a Nature Reserve volunteer to provide an introductory talk. Following the talk our members dispersed to various hides dotted around the site. The site incorporates two large dunes with a salt marsh between, believed to be over three hundred years old. At one time a small coastal community was based around here, but due to the ever changing coastline the coast had since moved out to the East, and the buildings were abandoned. In 1984, the site was declared a National Nature Reserve. However this area still is prone to flooding and recently the Visitors Centre was destroyed and so the replacement is now built on stilts to prevent the risk of future damage. We were fortunate in that another visitor in our hide was in possession of a bird identification book and so we were able to spot many different species of birds enjoying the sunshine.

For our July event, members travelled to the Welbeck Estate near Worksop - a venue suggested by another one of our members as being very interesting. As well as the two Art Galleries, Welbeck also has a courtyard café and a large Garden Centre and Farm Shop. The Harley Gallery has rotating exhibitions throughout the year. On our visit there was an exhibition of many portraits by local artists which had just been judged in a competition. There was also an impressive exhibition of a variety of drawings which all had a magnifying glass hanging at the side of them. From a distance these drawings seemed to represent a



single sea creature but on close inspection through the magnifying glass they revealed a mass of other smaller drawings within the overall shape, ranging from mountains to rivers and each concealing tiny little animals within their landscapes. Nearby there was a good collection of artefacts collected over centuries by various Dukes of Portland, who through marriage are connected to the Cavendish family, of Chatsworth fame. I was particularly impressed by a small wooden truck on rails which in past times conveyed food from the kitchens to the dining area.



Earlier this month members enjoyed lunch at a pub on the waterfront at Lincoln. On the day of our visit there was a collection of model painted knights on horseback creating a historical trail around the city. This venue is now by popular agreement, a regular quarterly meeting place for members living in that locality. I have planned for a further lunch there just before Christmas and another for the New Year.

Future Events

Many historic houses close up for the Winter months, but prior to this I have arranged to visit Belton House, near Grantham, which is a National Trust property, described as a near perfect example of an English country house and then in October a visit to Newstead Abbey in Nottinghamshire, which was the ancestral home of Lord Byron.

Just across our boundary in Yorkshire, the city of Hull has been designated as the 2017 City of Culture and throughout the year there have been varied activities there. This seems too good an opportunity to miss and therefore I have arranged a Handshake Event with Yorkshire members (Region 07), to visit the city starting from the recently re-furbished Ferens Art Gallery. The four shortlisted artists for the Turner Prize, one of the world's most renowned art prizes, which is awarded by the Tate Gallery to an artist who has exhibited outstanding work in the previous year, will be exhibited here from September to December 2017. Depending on time, it is intended to visit some of the nearby museums of Hull, all of which have free entry.

AOUG Foundation Lecture

Last year AOUG Foundation for Education, AOUG's own charity, as well as presenting Awards to several Research Students, was also able to offer a Bursary to one Research Student which allowed the winner, Tamsin Waterkeyn to attend a conference to present her work. This October we are fortunate to have Tamsin coming to the OU campus to present our Foundation Lecture. The subject of this lecture will be her doctoral thesis 'The Socio-cultural Impact of Globalisation and English in Saudi Arabia: A Narrative Enquiry' but she will also explain the highs and lows of undertaking such research.

Prior to Tamsin's lecture on the afternoon of Friday 6th October, AOUG Foundation for Education Awards will be presented to the various 2017 Research Students put forward by Faculties and Research Centres of The Open University. These Award presentations commence at noon and then are followed by a buffet lunch prior to Tamsin speaking at 2pm. The event is a ticket only event and tickets for the whole of the day, or any part of it, are available from the AOUG Office at a cost of £10. All are welcome so you can bring family or friends along with you. However the tickets must be purchased prior to 8th September to enable catering numbers to be arranged.

AGM 2018

Following a very successful AGM in Darlington this year, we can now look forward to next year's event which is to be held at the Norton Grange Hotel in Rochdale, in the North West Region. This will be our thirtieth Anniversary year and so plans are in hand to make this a really special event. The date has already been booked for 18th to 20th May 2018 and so I recommend you put it in your diary now and hold the weekend free as even if you have never attended an AGM before, it is well worth making the effort for this significant landmark. Booking forms will be available in your Winter copy of OMEGA or via the AOUG website from October onwards.



Please remember that all friends and family are welcome at these events and that the official meetings only take up the morning of the Saturday with all the rest of the weekend being filled with a variety of optional social excursions or evening activities including the Saturday night Gala Dinner with an After Dinner speaker and then the opportunity for dancing to a live band. There is even an additional optional excursion on the Saturday morning for non-members to attend whilst the formal meetings take place.

Pearl Anniversary Celebrations

The thirtieth year will be a Pearl Anniversary and as well as the special AGM Weekend other celebrations are being considered and so to would be really good if we could have additional celebrations within our own Region. Maybe some special celebration meals in different parts of the area might be possible if sufficient of you are interested. If you would like to attend such an event or have any other celebration ideas, please get in touch with me so that research can be undertaken and plans progressed as soon as possible.

Associate Membership

As well as attending just as family or friends of members, all interested folk can now become members in their own right. Such members are now known as Associate Members with all the usual benefits of membership available to them other than voting rights or being able to stand for the Executive Committee. Each month I receive a list of new members and I am delighted to see that this includes some new Associate Members in our Region. If you know of anyone who might be interested in joining then you can nominate them and they can complete an Associate Membership form which is available online or via the AOUG Office. I should like to offer a very warm welcome to our area's Associate Members and hope that I will get to meet you soon at one or other of our forthcoming events.

Diary Dates

Saturday 2nd September. 12noon

Meet in the Stables Café, Belton House, Grantham, Lincolnshire, NG32 2LS for a visit described as a perfect example of an English country house. The café serves snacks and hot foods. Owned by the National Trust and therein can be viewed a fine collection of porcelain and silver. £15.00 (free for NT members)

Saturday 14th October. 12noon

Meet in the café at the South West Wing of Newstead Abbey, Ravenshead, Nottinghamshire, NG15 8NA to view the ancestral home of the poet Lord Byron. The cafe serves hot and cold refreshments. Many of Lord Byron's artefacts are on view in the house, (once a monastery that survived the Dissolution). Entry to house £8.00. Car parking charges also apply.

Saturday 11th November. 12noon

Meet at the La Loggia café at Ferens Art Gallery, Queen Victoria Square, Hull, HU1 3RA for a Handshake Event with Region 07, prior to visiting the gallery which has just reopened as part of the City of Culture 2017. There are many other places of interest to visit in the city as well as a Heritage Walk. Entrance to the Art Gallery and most of the museums is free. Donations welcome.

Saturday 9th December. 12noon

Meet at the Royal William IV, Brayford Wharf North, Lincoln, LN1 1YX for a pre-Christmas lunch. This venue is now popular for Lincoln members but others are most welcome. Contact Executive Representative so that a suitably sized table can be arranged.

Ideas for Events

It has been really pleasing this year to be able arrange a variety of events that were suggested by our members themselves and so I invite all members to let me have any ideas you may have suitable for 2018. I need to send in my list of events to the AOUG Office for January through to May 2018 by October 2017 so that they can be advertised in the Winter OMEGA. Events for after May 2018 will need to be finalised by the end of January 2018.

Executive Representative – Ramsey Hertzog 01246 414746 ramseyhertzog@hotmail.co.uk

Local Contacts

Burton-on-Trent – David Bellaby 01283 214017 dhbellaby@gmail.com

Lincoln – Peter Green 01522 569657 peter@greenpeter8.orangehome.co.uk