



ASSOCIATION OF OPEN UNIVERSITY GRADUATES in EAST MIDLANDS

EDITION 4

Summer 2013

Revival Meeting in East Midlands

East Midlands is without an Executive Representative in post at the moment but the Officers are going to do their very best to ensure that you have opportunities to meet up, or to communicate via e-mail. However you do have one Local Contact who is continuing to arrange activities. In the meantime the Development Officer will continue to support him and all members as much as possible. Working as a single unit is sometimes difficult to achieve and so we aim to try to create several small local groups that will make travelling easier and in areas where even that is difficult, we could try to set up e-mail correspondence groups. With this in mind Lesley Sleight, your new Vice-Chairman, has arranged revival meetings in both Nottingham and Lincoln as a starting point for those within travelling distance to meet and discuss the most suitable arrangements. However she requests that those of you who are unable to attend send her your ideas for alternative meeting places to try to create local groups.

Calke Abbey

AOUG members from Yorkshire and East Midlands met in the restaurant of Calke Abbey in early June. Advertised as “The Country House in Decline”, the building, now owned by the National Trust, had deliberately been left so that much of the interior was as it had existed since the late nineteenth century. Electricity was only installed in 1962. Many of the rooms were in the original state of disrepair from when the National Trust acquired it, with peeling paintwork and broken, undusted furniture. Built on the site of an abbey, the house had originally been in the ownership of the Harper family since 1622. The Harpers were collectors of everything but especially nature and when we first arrived, we were greeted with the heads of ancient prize cattle adorning the entrance hall. Then as we explored, many of the rooms contained massive glass cabinets enclosing shells, fossils and stuffed animals, crammed into every possible space. Although much of the house looks as though it is being left to decay, it is apparently being maintained and is in fact being preserved in that state, not being restored but not being allowed to decay any further either, a fine balance. It was certainly interesting and a very different approach to anything I’ve seen before. I was however more fascinated to see the small number of rooms that had been set aside to be restored to their original state and was really taken with the intricate plasterwork and the delicate tones of the colour schemes that research had shown would have been used in the 1600s.

Then a great adventure where we all regained our childlike taste for the unknown as we ended the internal part of our tour by walking through extensive labyrinth of cellar tunnels, that twisted and turned without obvious ending until we finally exited into bright sunlight and completed our tour by climbing up a hill to view the well-manicured walled garden.

Jean Hertzog – AOUG Treasurer

Handshake Event – Bolsover Castle

A fine warm day added to the enjoyment of admiring this castle which dominates the town of Bolsover below when Yorkshire members gathered for a handshake event with members of the East Midlands Region. Unfortunately some members sent apologies as illness prevented them from attending. The current castle, built on the site of a medieval castle, was inherited and completed by William Cavendish in 1617- poet, playboy, courtier and Royalist General. His passion for horses is seen in the grand Riding House. Whilst there is no furniture in the rooms there are exquisitely carved

fireplaces and rich coloured murals, we walked the interiors and grounds and enjoyed fine views over the Derbyshire countryside from the Tower and battlements. The highlight was the horse menage (dressage) by riders in cavalier dress in the Riding House. We also enjoyed an open air lunch in the castle restaurant.

Peter Turvey – Yorkshire member

News from the Association's Executive Committee

The Executive Committee met both during the AGM weekend in May and then again in Milton Keynes in July and many current projects were progressed. Plans are well developed for all the Anniversary celebrations, plans for the 2014 AGM weekend to be held in St Albans are being finalised and, even further ahead, research is underway for an AGM in Wales in 2015.

Communications, such as our OMEGA magazine, Local Newsletters and the AOUG website figure large too, as do ideas for both the recruitment and the retention of members. Then as a result of many previous Executive Committee discussions, and detailed research by the Officers, several Corporate Governance policies have been drafted, along with any necessary complaints procedures. A standardised review process has also been drafted. It should however be noted that AOUG has always had policies and procedures for all aspects of its governance but that these have not been in a standardised quick reference format previously and it is hoped that these will make implementation easier and Executive Committee's responsibilities clearer.

The consideration regarding the relationship with The Open University remains ongoing and this gained a significant boost at the AGM Gala Evening when Lucian Hudson, Director of OU Communications, attended and gave a very supportive speech along with a message of goodwill from Martin Bean, the OU Vice-Chancellor. Since then the new AOUG Chairman, Margaret Stobirski, new Vice-Chairman, Lesley Sleight and the Treasurer, Jean Hertzog have held very open and frank discussions with Lucian regarding ideas for the way forward. These ideas are to be further developed with Amanda Faulkner, the new OU Head of Alumni Relations and the relationship seems to be much more positive than in recent years, so future progress is promising. One of the ways that AOUG support the OU is through our own charity, AOUG Foundation for Education that not only gives Awards each October to OU research students but also offers them to new graduates and you can get involved in nominating someone you know.

AOUG Foundation for Education Awards for the Regions and Nations

AOUG's own charity is offering one Award in each of the thirteen Regions and Nations plus an extra one for Europe and another for the Rest of the World. These Awards are given to a new graduate who has gained their first OU degree during the last twelve months whilst overcoming adversity of some kind, over and above that of the average student. They cannot apply themselves but nominations can be accepted from students, other graduates or any OU staff, so maybe you know someone worthy. Information, and an application form, is available on our AOUG website if you would like to nominate someone yourself. Just go to our AOUG website page entitled <http://www.aoug.org.uk/awards/application.html> to read all the details. The application date is now extended until 13th September.

Association Silver Celebration - 4th and 5th October 2013

You will all see the other write ups on our 25th Anniversary AGM and Social Weekend in the Summer OMEGA and, even if you were not able to attend, you will be able to tell what a wonderful celebration it was but the celebrations continue as over the first weekend in October AOUG Officers have organised another special event. As well as the extra special Award Ceremony on Friday 4th October with AOUG Honorary Life Membership presentations, along with the Olga Camm Bursary, and all the traditional Faculty Awards to research students and the Foundation Lecture, the event is extended over to the Saturday with various campus tours and a visit to Bletchley Park Museum on their special "Are you listening?" day. Bletchley Park is now a Museum but, in World War II, was

the base for the now famous secret code breakers. This special exhibition recognises communication through Bletchley Park's history, from the pigeon carriers to radio waves, the first televisions, right up to the age of computers and the internet, but there are the usual displays relating to the first computers and the code breaking too.

Campus tours include the OU library, the sculpture trail and a puzzle trail along with the opportunity to see the variety of buildings both old and new and the amazing garden planting in the extensive grounds. Then keeping the best until last, we offer our Silver Celebration Anniversary evening meal. For this silver themed dinner in the OU campus VIP restaurant, we ask you all to dress smartly and to wear something in silver – a necklace, a pair of cufflinks or a whole silver outfit - the choice is yours but do come. All members and their friends and family are welcome but there is only room for fifty so confirm your places quickly. Twenty five years for a voluntary Association is certainly an achievement, so make sure you are part of it! A booking form is included with this Newsletter.

AOUG`s 25th Anniversary Trading

Then even if you cannot manage to get across to Milton Keynes, in this our 25th Anniversary year, AOUG have had special celebration merchandise produced in silver nickel. You may have seen these items pictured in OMEGA but the photographs are unable to do them justice and they really need to be seen to be appreciated. These special items of a badge, a tie pin, a stick pin and a pair of cuff links can be ordered via the order form in OMEGA, (or those of you who are receiving this Local Newsletter by e-mail have an extra copy will be sent to you) or by phoning the AOUG Office but if you attend the Silver Celebration Weekend in October you will be able to see for yourself just how good they really are. Be sure not to miss out on these elegant souvenirs. When they are gone – they`re gone! So order now and wear your AOUG logo with pride.

Jean Hertzog – AOUG Treasurer

Contact Details

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AOUG Development Officer	Violet Rook	5, WallingtonCourt, Kingston Park, Newcastle Upon Tyne, Tyne and Wear, NE3 2YZ	0191 2861396 viollettrook@btinternet.com
Local Contact Burton on Trent	David Bellaby	12, Carnarvon Court, Bretby Hall Park, Bretby, Burton on Trent DE15 0UA	01283 214017 dhbellaby@gmail.com

Please complete both sides of this response form and return to the AOUG Office, Walton Hall, Milton Keynes. MK7 6AA or by e-mail aoug@open.ac.uk

Name PI Number

My current e-mail address is

My home phone number is My mobile is

I am interested in being part of an AOUG members` e-mail group

I am willing to arrange one activity or excursion

I am interested in being a Local Contact for area.

I am interested in information on being an Executive Representative

Diary Dates

DATE	EVENT
Tuesday 4th September 10am	Revival meeting in Nottingham - The AOUG Vice-Chairman and AOUG Treasurer invite any members within a convenient travelling distance to join them at the OU Centre Clarendon Park, Clumber Avenue, Sherwood Rise. Nottingham. NG5 1AH to socialise with other members over morning refreshments and to discuss ideas for activities and the representation and future of the Region. Please complete the response slip below.
Tuesday 4th September 3pm	Revival Meeting in Lincoln. The AOUG Vice-Chairman and AOUG Treasurer invite any members within a convenient travelling distance to join them at The Terrace, Grantham Street, LN2 1BD to socialise with other members over afternoon refreshments and to discuss ideas for activities and the representation and future of the Region. Please complete the response slip below.
Sunday 22nd September 11am	Meet at Monsal Head (DE45 1NL), near Bakewell, Derbyshire to explore the Monsal Trail area. After refreshments and chat at Hobbs Café, do your own thing or join a led walk of the Monsal Tunnels which were part of the Midland Railways which closed in 1968. These have now been reopened for walkers, cyclists and horse riders. The walk will include one steady climb, wear walking shoes or boots for safety. Then an option of a drive to Hassop Station (DE45 1NW) where there is tea room, shop and bicycle hire. Pay and display car parks at both venues.
	AOUG 25th Anniversary Event Meet in Nottingham (NG1 6AD) at "Ye Olde Trip to Jerusalem" The 'Trip' was the brew house to Nottingham Castle and claims to be England's oldest public house. The Cellar Caves have the remains of a cock fighting pit, a gaoler's chair and there is Yorkey, the ghost, too. All of these could be seen on a visit which would include lunch and a tour. Please telephone or email the Local Contact David as soon as possible with date preferences and make it a special Regional outing to celebrate the 25 th Anniversary of the AOUG.
Frid 4th – Sat 5th October	Silver Celebration Weekend – Incorporating the Faculty Award Ceremony and Foundation Lecture – Campus tours – excursion to Bletchley Park and Silver Celebration Dinner - OU Campus Milton Keynes

Please complete both sides of this response form and return to the AOUG Office, Walton Hall, Milton Keynes. MK7 6AA or by e-mail aoug@open.ac.uk

I can / cannot attend the revival get together in Nottingham on 4th September

I can / cannot attend the revival get together in Lincoln on 4th September

I am / am not interested in other activities around the area

I would prefer to attend activities around

A suitable meeting place in my area would be

I would like to attend type activities.

I would prefer weekends..... weekdays morningafternoon ,,,,,,,, evening