



ASSOCIATION OF OPEN UNIVERSITY GRADUATES in NATION 10 - WALES

Edition 6

July 2014

Revival Meeting in North Wales

Did you know that South Wales has a Local Contact in Cardiff Mr Philip Thomas who is arranging activities within his local area? Wales is still without an Executive Representative but the Officers are doing their very best to ensure that opportunities to meet or to communicate via e-mail continue. 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 and following the success of previous events, I have arranged another Revival Meeting, this time to be held in **North Wales, Caernarfon, at the Galeri, Doc Victoria, Caernarfon Gwynedd LL51SQ**. However may I request that those of you who are unable to attend send me your ideas for alternative meeting places to try to create local groups.

Being a Local Contact

Often members ask what being a Local Contact for a small area within a Region or Nation involves and so we have decided to give you an idea of the role. A Local Contact is an AOUG member who volunteers to be a link between other local members within a small area of any Region or Nation. They need to sign a Data Protection form to give them permission to receive contact details of other local members and then agree to have their own contact details printed in OMEGA and on the AOUG Website. Their one responsibility is to arrange at least one event within their small area, three times a year and to pass all the details to their Executive Representative (or the Development Officer) before the OMEGA submission date so that it can be advertised in OMEGA and on the Website. They then need to ensure that they attend their event in time to welcome other members. During the event it would be helpful to take some photos and then after the event to send brief feedback and photo to the Executive Representative. Local Contacts do not have to stand for election or attend any formal meetings, nor do they need to write any formal reports or take on any additional responsibilities unless they wish to do so. A Local Contact's role is simply to try to maintain links between other members who live close to them.

Looking ahead to AGM 2015 in Caernarfon -

The AGM and Social Weekend, to be held 8th -10th May 2015, will be at Caernarfon in North-Wales. The Hotel is The Celtic Royal in the middle of Caernarfon, within easy reach of the Castle, built by King Edward 1st in 1283. Note that the Castle is not a ruin and is in a very reasonable condition. The Hotel has a fully equipped gym and a pool, as well as the usual facilities of a bar, lounge and restaurant. The Website is: www.celtic-royal.co.uk I sincerely hope you can join us.

The full details and booking form will be available on the AOUG Website over the Summer and then a paper copy will be available as an insert in your Winter edition of OMEGA.

On the Friday there is to be an optional trip to the top of Snowdon by train which should be a very interesting one for anyone who likes looking at scenery or taking photographs of views. In effect, it is a photographers' paradise. The scenery is magnificent, when viewed from the peak on a clear day. You can see right over Ynys Mon and along both the North and West Wales coasts, right out beyond Penrhyn Llyn. There is a modern viewing area and café right at the peak where the train pulls in and this building has all the modern facilities. This gives the impression that the building is connected

with the public utilities but this is not the case, as both water for drinking and other uses, along with oil for the generator, has to be brought up by the train daily.

Saturday offers a visit to the Llanberis Slate Mine Museum. This is on the site of the Dinorwig Quarry where slate was mined until 1969. The Victorian workshops built in the shadow of Elidir Mountain allow you an insight into the work and daily lives of the men who once worked there. The site has been designed to look as though the miners and engineers have just finished their shift, put down their tools and left for home and gives the visitor a realistic view of quarry life. The slate was dressed in the workshops, that is, to have their edges trimmed and split into the thin sheets, which we see on roofs today. The slates are split by a worker knocking a chisel into it, between the layers with a hammer. This is a skilled function requiring a good eye and a steady hand. The trimming is undertaken by the use of a guillotine to produce the different sizes of slate required. Depending upon the time one makes the visit, one may see many aspects of the work being undertaken, in the form of talks or demonstrations. There is a café and shop on site, where one can acquire different items, made of slate.

The third optional excursion, which will be on the Sunday morning, is a trip to the Electric Mountain, which it is the Hydro Electric power station. From the centre, a First Hydro bus will transport us to the Power Station itself. Descending deep inside ancient Elidir mountain's labyrinth of dark and imposing tunnels, to experience one of man's greatest engineering achievements. From the main inlet valve gallery, you can then witness Dinorwig's massive pump/turbines in action and from the viewing gallery an underground film show explains the building and commissioning of the Power Station. There are two lakes in this Hydro system, one above the Power station and one below it. I have been told that, during the night, when the load on the power system is reduced, the surplus is used to pump water from the lower to the upper lake

Kind regards. **Margaret Stobirski - AOUG Chairman**

Members only AOUG Forum on the AOUG Website

The AOUG Website is continuing to develop and last year, we introduced a new-style of Home Page, as well as an on-line Membership facility and an on-line Trading section. Now we have taken it one step further with a Members Only AOUG Forum. AOUG does not endorse the use of Facebook, or Twitter, or other similar social media sites, in the name of AOUG, as they are impossible for a volunteer organisation to monitor and thus too greater risk, to the reputation of AOUG. Obviously what individuals, who also are AOUG members, decide to do, is their own responsibility. However a Members Only Forum is within the Association's control and this can more easily be monitored, with improper items being removed, or prevented. Since we want all members to have the confidence to take part, we are now including a step by step guide to registering and being authorised. We apologise to all of you who are very familiar with these things already. Once authorised the site will give you guidance on using the various features and if you have any problems at all you are very welcome to ask the Officers for help.

Step one: Ensure that you have internet access on your computer, or equivalent, and log on in the usual way.

Step two: Type www.aoug.org.uk into the address line at the top of the page. The AOUG Website should now appear with our logo clearly at the top left hand-side.

Step three: Click on the word Forum along the bottom of your screen. This will open a new window which you will need to enlarge to fill your screen

Step four: You will now be asked for your **Username** and a **Password**. Your user name can be your own name or a shortened version or nickname. Your password can be anything you like but we

advise a mixture of numbers and letters about 12- 15 characters in length. Now click on the word **Register**

Step five: The screen will now show you the **Terms and Conditions**. Take as long as you like to read these but in order to progress you need to click on **Accept** at the bottom of the screen.

Step six: You will now be asked to complete a form with Username, e-mail address, password, (these must be the same as you used on the first page) first name and surname (These must be your names as used as a member of AOUG) PI Number (the number you used at the top of all those OU assignments!) your preferred Region or Nation, your gender and your date of birth (day and month and year). Finally click on the word **Save**

Step seven: You will need to confirm your **password** yet again and copy a **Registration code** (to prove you are human!!!)

Step eight: Then you will need to come out of the website and go to your **own e-mail account** where you will see an **e-mail acknowledging** your application for the Forum.

Step nine: Wait until you receive a **second e-mail** which will acknowledge you as authorised – (this may be within a few minutes or a few days, depending on if an Officer is currently on line to see your request) and then go back onto the **AOUG Website** – click on **Forum** at the bottom of the **Home Page** and the forum will open and allow you to sign in with your **User name** and **Password** and then you can start exploring the instant communications possibilities.

Step ten: If you need more help just ask! **Have Fun !!!! Jean Hertzog – Association Treasurer**

Jean Hertzog – AOUG Treasurer

Contact Details

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AOUG Chairman	Margaret Stobirski	1 Walton Heath Road Walton, Warrington, Cheshire WA4 6HZ	01925 263161 margaretstobirski@gmail.com
Local Contact for Cardiff	Philip Thomas	72, Station Road, Llanishen, Cardiff CF14 5UT	02920751309 Philip.thomas8@sky.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
Saturday 23rd August 2014	<p>Revival meeting in Caernarfon The AOUG Chairman invite any members within a convenient travelling distance to join her at the first floor meeting room C1 of the Galeri, Doc Vicoria, Caernarfon, Gwynedd, LL55 1SQ to socialise with other members over afternoon refreshments and to discuss ideas for activities and the representation and future of the Nation.</p> <p>Please complete the response slip below.</p>
Saturday 30th August	<p>Cardiff Group; Local Contact Philip Thomas</p> <p>At 11 am meet at the Abbey Mill, Wye Valley, Craft Centre café, Tintern near Chepstow NP16 6SE. Then after coffee take a short walk to Tintern Abbey, one of the finest relics of the country's monastic age. Please note there is an admission charge.</p>
Saturday 27th September	<p>At 11am meet at the Tommy Cooper statue in the car park at the centre of Caerphilly, CF8 1JL to assemble for a visit to Caerphilly Castle. This castle was built over three islands in surrounding water, in the late 13th Century, Afterwards adjourn to a local café for lunch and maybe some World famous Caerphilly cheese.</p> <p>Please consider joining Philip he will very pleased to meet you.</p>
Friday 3rd October 2014	<p>Meet at Noon in the Michael Young Building on the OU Campus for the Research Award Ceremony and Foundation Lecture – Tickets from the AOUG Office.</p>
Friday 8th – Sunday 10th May 2015	<p>AGM and Social Weekend at the Celtic Royal Hotel, Caernarfon, North Wales. Contact the AOUG Office for information. Full details and booking form in the Winter OMEGA</p>

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 Caernarfon

I can / cannot attend the visit to Tintern Abbey

I can / cannot attend the visit to Caerphilly Castle

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