



**ASSOCIATION OF OPEN UNIVERSITY
GRADUATES in
SCOTLAND-NATION 11
NEWSLETTER.** Edition 2 Autumn

Hello to all the AOUG members in Scotland. This is the second Newsletter I have had the privilege to write for you the members of the AOUG in Scotland. May I thank those of you who have contacted the office with their updated email address. While it is very useful to have email addresses be assured we will continue to send the Newsletter by post.

THE OCTOBER MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE REPRESENTATIVES AT MILTON KEYNES The autumn meeting of the AOUG Executive Representatives of the Regions and Nations took place on the 5th and 6th October, 2012 at the AOUG offices on the Open University campus at Milton Keynes. This is one of three meetings the Representatives have annually: February, the AGM meeting and the October meeting. At the meetings on the Friday there is a workshop wherein the Executive Representatives have a general discussion on a chosen topic. "The Way Forward", in which members generally are asked previously to comment on and send in their viewpoints, was such a topic. Then in the evening there is a meal where the committee can have a more relaxed discussion and gathering. The next day, the main meeting begins on campus at the office about 9.30am and continues until about 3pm, if necessary. This is when the organisational discussion occurs and plans for the magazine and the website during the next months can be made.

At the October meeting there is also a special event to which all AOUG members can attend and this is the Foundation Lecture and the presentation of AOUG Foundation for Education Awards to individuals who have made important efforts in their specific field of study.

This year's Awards can be viewed in the new edition of OMEGA which should be with you by December. There are photographs of the winners and a grand article on how it all progressed.

A highlight of the day was the Foundation Lecture which is year was given by Dr, James Bruce. There is a summary, which I had the pleasure of writing, in OMEGA. The lecture was basically on the use of light in regard to procedures in medicine, for example the diagnosis of cancer and its treatment. Dr. Bruce cleverly titled it, "A little light chemistry"



AOUG REGIONAL AND NATIONAL EVENTS.

Honorary Membership; Nominations are required to mark the 25th anniversary of the AOUG. It is important that anyone nominated is not informed of their nomination - please see OMEGA for details.

An Olga Camm bursary; A special bursary in the memory of Olga, our Founder, a lovely lady who died just after the AGM at Liverpool. All details are in OMEGA.

The 2013 AGM is at Walsall. 17th to the 19th May, 2013. Region 04 West Midlands.

Executive Representative Mohammed Motawalla is the host for the next AGM in May 2013. The Weekend is advertised in OMEGA. There will be many lovely excursions including a visit to the jewellery quarter in Birmingham. Stay for the Friday to Sunday and see the West Midlands.

DIARY DATES

Saturday 8th December: Cinderella at the Lyceum Theatre, Edinburgh

Johnny McKnight has written this new version of the fairy tale for this year's Royal Lyceum Christmas show, promising a modern twist on the story with a good sprinkling of magic and slapstick to keep families happy.

Saturday 19th January : Annual Dinner/ Lunch at the Royal Overseas League on Princes Street, Edinburgh

Superb vista of Princes Street (hopefully with the tram works finished!) and Edinburgh Castle.

Tuesday 12th February: Tour round the Lady Haig Poppy Factory

Meet at 11.am at 9 Warriston Road where the manager will tell us about the history and show us round the factory. Cost: £3.00 (as a donation).

Please see the next edition of OMEGA for the complete list of Diary Dates. Please advise of attending. Friends and family welcome. Best Regards.

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A TRIP TO JEDBURGH

Where I live is only 59 miles from Jedburgh, so it is even nearer to Scotland. I often travel to the border town where the presence of Mary Queen of Scots is all around. It was in the Queens House where she stayed during a serious illness and from where she rode to Hermitage Castle to see Lord Bothwell. The area is beautiful, the forests around the town, the hills formed by the glaciation of the Ice Age. And the journey there is food for the soul.

Travel passed Newcastle Airport, with taxi cabs hurrying in and out and then before ten minutes have gone by, the Wilds of Wannie stretch out into the distance with the green fields spotted with the white of the grazing sheep. Two years ago when there was a very severe snowfall this area, it was not the place for the faint hearted. Otterburn is often the halfway point for many and a cup of tea and a visit to the toilet at the Otterburn Mill refreshes and provides sustenance.

There is a first and last pub in England near the Catcleugh Reservoir, if one wants to stay for longer and tour for a few days. Travelling on, Redesdale surrounds the lake which provides the area with a scene similar to the Lake District, of trees seen into the distance and the sight of Carter Bar and crossing into Scotland. The view from the border point takes some beating. One of the best views anywhere and people do stop and wonder at its beauty. Some time ago I took a video of the scene and put it on YouTube.

There is a plaque on the wall of a hotel in Jedburgh which indicates who has visited the town in past times. The names include Sir Walter Scott and Wordsworth and his sister. In the High Street there is the "Spread Eagle" hotel which was once a coaching inn and still retains some of its charm. The journey to Jedburgh takes in what was the route of what was termed the Chevy Chase stagecoach. A romantic journey from Northumberland into Scotland.



THE AOUG SILVER ANNIVERSARY – 2013

Yes, AOUG will be 25 years old in 2013, so how would the members in Scotland like to celebrate this event. Although the AOUG is holding events to celebrate our 25th anniversary.

It is also planned for each region and nation to hold some special activity of their own. One region is planning a Garden Party at a member's home, while another is planning a canal trip. Should we plan one event or two or perhaps three events to take part in different areas of your nation. Please send us your suggestions here on this response form. Many Thanks.

Developing AOUG in Scotland

I suggest for the Silver Anniversary Celebration in Scotland.

I am interested in attending other events around the area.

I am interested in types of activities.

I am willing to organise a single event

I am interested in becoming a Local Contact for area.

I am interested in learning more about the role of Executive Representative

Name: PI Number:

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Please type or print your name clearly

**Please return to the AOUG Office aoug@open.ac.uk
Or AOUG Office, Walton Hall, Milton Keynes. MK7 6AA**