



**Association of Open University Graduates  
Nation 11 - Scotland**

**EDITION 6**

**SPRING 2014**

The year opened with terrible weather, and we are still looking for the warmth of the Summer to enter our lives. This year sees the Commonwealth Games being held in Glasgow, a marvelous event, and one which many people will enjoy. Walking Glasgow's Style Mile will be done by many visitors who like the shops along the way. All the best for the Summer and take care and keep safe.

**Violet Rook - Development Officer**

**Revival Meeting Get Together in Dundee**

A revival meeting is to take place in Dundee on Wednesday May 28<sup>th</sup> at 2pm when members will be able to have a cup of tea at the local Hilton Hotel and discuss their needs and aspirations in regard to Local Contacts in the area. Please complete the attached form to indicate attendance. An invitation will also be sent to local area members by post and they will be telephoned nearer the date.

**Edinburgh Open University Graduates 24<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting**

There were fourteen members present on 15<sup>th</sup> March in the Quaker Meeting House, Victoria Terrace. We began the formal business, namely to review the Minutes of the previous meeting, receive the Chairman and Treasurer's reports and elect a new committee. Unfortunately we were unable to persuade any members to join the committee but luckily the existing committee agreed to continue.

Our group had another successful year of regular events – particular highlights included our visit to Rosslyn Chapel in July, a talk on Edinburgh's landscape by Angus Miller a well-known geological tour guide, a visit to Torness Nuclear Power Station in October and the RSCO's Christmas Concerto, preceded by a delicious supper at a member's home. Needless to say we have an equally good line up of events for 2014.

Our group is in need of new graduate joiners. In regard to the requests from our existing membership, we've made some changes - our annual dinner is now a lunch and our AGM, a morning rather than evening event. We have emailed our current programme to members, Scotland – wide. These initiatives are proving successful in encouraging members to come to events.

Following the formalities we broke for refreshments and were joined by six members of the Scottish China Association. Professor Tony Butler of St Andrew's University gave a fascinating and well-illustrated talk on China's Mogao caves. These were built by wealthy merchants and decorated with statues of the Buddha to give them protection for the dangerous journey along the Silk Road. In the 1890s a walled-up chapel was discovered with over 40,000 documents the oldest and most important a printed book from 868AD – the *Diamond Sutra* – now in the British Museum for restoration.

**Lewis McKay and Diane Day. - Local Contacts.**

## **OU Study- A new venture in co-operation with many other Universities.**

Mooc (Massive On-line Open Course) is new and is setup by the OU and includes courses from many universities. I did a six week course on Richard III and how Leicester University discovered him in a car park. The study is for three hours or so a week, for six weeks, and one can do it when and at what time one wishes. I found it so interesting I then did a course from Strathclyde University on Understanding Forensic Science. If you like the police shows on the topic this you will find very informative. One can comment on each module and see what others say too. An excellent idea and it is free! Take a look at <http://www.futurelearn.com> there are short courses on setup similar to the ones I have described on many topics including, Hamlet, Inside Cancer, Causes of War, Innovation and Enterprise.

## **‘Members only’ AOUG Forum on the AOUG Website**

The AOUG website is continuing to develop and last year we introduced a new-style Home Page, 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 and improper items can be 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 you have internet access on your computer, or equivalent, and log on in the usual way.

**Step two:** Type [www.aoug.org.uk](http://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 birthday (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**

## **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. The role of a Local Contact is simply to try to maintain links between other members who live close to them.

### **Memories of a Nice Holiday.**

A few years ago my family and I went on a tour of around the lowlands between Edinburgh and Glasgow. Each day we decided to visit an historic building. I had been reading many books on the history of Scotland especially the Stuarts, so the first building on the agenda was the Palace of Linlithgow where Queen Mary was born. It was a lovely day, which started with trying to find a parking place but that was easy, right in front of the Palace. It looked huge. I took a deep breath and got my camera. The stones looked ancient and worn, but the grandeur was clear for all to see. We stood in the courtyard and looked around to determine where to start first. My husband was keen to have a look upstairs, but the way seemed a little daunting, so I was told to stay put and he would venture forth and I was left in a stairwell. No one was around in the building, whose structure was not in the best of repair. I heard a baby crying above me, it went on for about two minutes. It was not really the place to be visiting with such a young baby. It was too dark to take photographs or read the guide book, but blazing Summer outside. When he came back I asked my husband if he saw the people with the baby. He said he did not see anyone, but he had felt very cold out of the Summer sunshine and we needed to go for a cup of tea. In the car I mentioned how apt it was to hear that baby in the place where Queen Mary had been born. He looked at me quizzically.

**Violet Rook**

## **Developing AOUG in Scotland**

- I will / will not be able to attend the Dundee Revival Meeting. ....**
- I would like to be involved in a Dundee group .....**
- I am interested in ..... types of activities.**
- I am interested in attending events around the ..... area.**
- I am willing to organise a single event in ..... area.**
- 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: .....**

**Please type or print your name clearly**

**Please return to the AOUG Office [aoug@open.ac.uk](mailto:aoug@open.ac.uk) or AOUG Office, Walton Hall, Milton Keynes. MK7 6AA**

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY.

### Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> July 2pm

Meet at the Tea Room at Calendar House, Falkirk, for a visit to the Antonine Wall. The Antonine Wall was the frontier built by the Roman army in the years following AD 140 on the orders of the Emperor Antoninus Pius. It runs for forty Roman miles (60 km) from modern Bowness on the Firth of Forth to Old Kilpatrick on the River Clyde and consisted of a turf rampart fronted by a wide and deep ditch. Explore with us a part of this fascinating part of our history.

**Fridays in August:** Edinburgh Fringe Events – Contact the Local Contact for details

### Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> September

Join us for the ‘Open Doors Day’ in Edinburgh. We will choose two or three properties close to the city centre which we can visit on open Doors Day. Institutions normally off-limits to the public open their doors and allow their staff to explain the history and function of these fascinating establishments. Contact the Local Contact for details.

## Borders

### Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> June 2pm

Join members visiting the Queen’s House Jedburgh. This is the house where Mary recovered from her serious illness, her near death experience, after her romantic ride to Hermitage Castle. The House is in the centre of the town and can be seen from the road, it is in its own grounds and is very pretty and a delight to view. We will meet in the car park at the Information Centre by the Abbey and later have tea at the Edinburgh Mills. Please ring the Development Officer for details.

### Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> July. 2pm

This visit to Jedburgh will include the Abbey a focal point of the town. King David founded the Augustinian Abbey of St.Mary in 1138. A route takes visitors around the ruins and there is a visitors centre and visitors boards explaining monastic life. There is a small charge. Contact the Local Contact for details.

## Local Newsletters

My e-mail address is .....

I do not have an e-mail address and therefore am donating some stamps .....

I would be willing to write Newsletter articles about .....

Name : ..... PI Number: .....

Please type or print your name clearly Please return to the AOUG Office  
[aoug@open.ac.uk](mailto:aoug@open.ac.uk) or AOUG Office, Walton Hall, Milton Keynes. MK7 6AA

## LOCAL CONTACTS

Executive Representative -Vacant

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