



**Association of Open University Graduates
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SUMMER 2014

The summertime in Scotland, especially August, is synonymous with the Edinburgh Fringe Festival, and world renowned for its art, literature and events which encourage thousands to attend. This year Glasgow received its share of acclaim in regard to the Commonwealth Games, which have been considered as one of the most successful in the history of the Games, and to which the AOUG had an interest. A member from the South of England was a volunteer and many of our members in Scotland were proud attendees.

The Edinburgh Group of the AOUG have arranged many visits to the Fringe this year and, on previous occasions, to events all over the city. The new Tramway in the City Centre is playing its part in the City attractions and transportation for the Fringe. It is marvellous that the AOUG members in Edinburgh can be so active and positive. They are a great example to other cities who wish to form groups of AOUG members for social events, visits to places of interest and to maintain their University links. With this in mind the visits to other cities on the East coast of Scotland are gaining some interest and success.

The coastline of South East and North East Scotland is amongst the most inspiring to be found anywhere in the world. Travelling by train across the Firth of Forth, one sees the marvellous Forth Railway Bridge which crosses the wide expanse of water and provides a picture which is food for the soul. Recently I have travelled to Dundee and Aberdeen to look into forming AOUG Local Groups on the North East coast of Scotland. I have sometimes travelled by car to the North East, but this time I thought the train would provide a different perspective. The train journey is long but worth it. The line cuts in and out of the vast countryside up the coast past cliffs and long sands where in the distance are ships and yachts, testing themselves against the wind and the currents of the North Sea. And there are in the Firth of Forth even some oil rigs standing against the weather, and also up the coast to Aberdeen the busy port is a hive of industry with the ships and traffic of the oil industry.

On the visit to Aberdeen I visited the Maritime Museum near the Harbour which has a model of an oil rig in its centre. Over five floors, this tells the story of Aberdeen from its beginnings as a fishing port through the centuries until the present day, with the details of ships, diving equipment and mini submarines which help to support the oil industry. There is even an Art Gallery which shows the lives of the fishermen during the 19th century, also a Shop and a very comfortable Café where reasonably price food is on the menu. Seafaring is also the source of wealth for Dundee which was once the home of the jute and jam industry in Scotland. There on the Firth of Tay the City is to be found, with a lovely reminder of the days of sail on its harbour side, The Discovery, the ship of Captain Scott who died so tragically in the Antarctic. One can hear the wind in the sails passing the vessel to get to the Visitors Centre which is opposite Dundee Railway Station. The connections with the sea are everywhere on the East coast.

AOUG NEWS FOR MEMBERS - EVENTS AND PARTICIPATION

This Newsletter has with it an application form for processing, as a representative of AOUG, at the OU Degree Ceremonies in 2015 and one to put forward a candidate for the AOUG Foundation for Education Awards in the Regions and Nations.

Processing at Degree Ceremonies

We have adopted a new system for selection of AOUG processors next year. If you would like to be part of the formal academic procession party, representing the AOUG at one of the Degree Ceremonies in 2015, please complete and return the application. Gowns are provided. If you haven't processed before, it's a very special experience. You may choose a venue near you, or a Degree Ceremony in another part of the country, subject to availability. The full list of Degree Ceremonies for next year will be in the winter issue of OMEGA.

AOUG Foundation for Education Awards in the Regions and Nations

The AOUG Foundation for Education sponsors an annual Award in each of the Regions and Nations, which was first introduced in 1997. All recipients receive a cheque and a framed certificate, presented at a ceremony in the Region where they live. Nominees must have overcome some adversity over and above that of the average student. If you know someone who may qualify, we'd like you to put their name forward

Do you know someone who has graduated in the last 12 months?



**Did they have to overcome any major life problem during their period of study?
If so they might qualify for an AOUG Award.**

**AOUG offers fifteen Awards:
One new graduate residing in each of the thirteen Regions and Nations,
plus Europe and the Rest of the World**

- The recipient must be nominated for the Award.
- The recipient must have gained their Open University degree at either ordinary level or honours level.
- The recipient's Open University degree must be the first degree they have gained.
- The recipient must have overcome some adversity over and above that of the average student.

Why not nominate someone you know this year!

Contact AOUG Office for information:
e-mail AOUG@open.ac.uk tel 01908 653316
or go to website link www.aoug.org.uk/awards/application.html
to download a form.

Closing date is 22nd September for all applications to reach the AOUG Office. Contact AOUG Office for information: e-mail AOUG@open.ac.uk tel 01908 653316 or go to www.aoug.org.uk/awards/application.html

AGM 2015 in Caernarfon

The next AGM of the AOUG is to be visiting North Wales on the 8th – 10th May 2015, when members will be staying at the Celtic Royal Hotel which is in the centre of Caernarfon, near the Castle where the Prince of Wales received his title from his mother in 1969. The Hotel has a fully equipped gym and a pool, as well as the usual facilities of a bar, lounge and restaurant www.celtic-royal.co.uk . A booking form will be in the Winter copy of OMEGA and will also be available from www.aoug.org.uk . Excursions will include an optional trip to the top of Snowdon by train on the Friday, and 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 third optional excursion, which will be on the Sunday morning, is a trip to the Electric Mountain, which is the Hydro Electric power station.

Olga Camm Bursary winner to give Foundation Lecture



Natalia Kucirkova, winner of the AOUG Foundation for Education 2013 Olga Camm Bursary, will be giving the annual AOUG Foundation Lecture on Friday, 3rd October at 2pm on OU campus. The Lecture follows the AOUG Foundation for Education Research Awards, which are presented at midday in the Michael Young Building on the campus at Milton Keynes. The title of the lecture is ‘Personalisation in Early Years – Processes and Outcomes’. Natalia is a research student with the Centre for Research in Education and Educational Technology at The Open University. She is looking into innovative ways of promoting parent-child shared book reading and

investigating the impact of self-made books. She has recently been working with the Booktrust – you can see her blogs at www.booktrust.org.uk/news-and-blogs/blogs If you are interested in attending, please contact the AOUG Office as soon as possible aoug@open.ac.uk or 01908 653316.

Violet Rook – Development Officer

Developing AOUG in Scotland

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

I expect to attend the following events
.....

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
.....

I am willing to arrange a single event to

Diary Dates

Edinburgh Group

Saturday 27th and Sunday 28th 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.

Borders

Saturday 18th October 2pm

A visit to Hawick Heritage Hub, Kirkstile, TD9 OAE. The Scottish Borders Archive and Local History Centre. Free entry. Meet in the car park near the main entrance.

Monday 10th November 2pm

Visit to Jedburgh, to visit the Edinburgh Woollen Mill for tea and chat about future meetings and events in the area. Meet in the Car Park which is situated on the main road A68.

Highlands

Tuesday 9th December 2pm

A visit to Braemar to see the Christmas lights. Meet for tea in the entrance of the Information Centre near the car park. Please advise attendance a week prior to date.

Local Contacts

Executive Representative – Vacant

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Does AOUG Office have your current email address? Please send it to

AOUG@open.ac.uk

Name **PI Number**

Address

Email address:

Home phone: **Mobile:**