



ASSOCIATION OF OPEN UNIVERSITY GRADUATES in the EAST MIDLANDS

EDITION 12

Spring 2016

Recent Events

Our first event of the year was a mid-January visit to the Richard III Visitors' Centre, opposite Leicester Cathedral. After viewing an introductory film about the life of the king, we were able to wander at our leisure through rooms containing all sorts of exhibits. I found the most interesting exhibit was a mock-up of a modern MRI scanning machine with a recreation of the king's body therein. By pushing buttons, we could see where the various wounds were inflicted on his final day with explanations as to which injuries would have caused his death.

Towards the end of February members met at Wollaton Hall, near Nottingham. This Elizabethan House stands on top of a hill with great views over the Deer Park and also over the City of Nottingham. Apparently in 1924, the City bought the Hall and Park and a Natural History Museum is housed in the venue.



Wollaton Hall

Future Events

Our next visit is to spend the day on Saturday 19th March at Newark. We are to meet at the interestingly named 'Gannets' Day café, 35, Castlegate, (directly opposite the castle) at 11am. Crossing the road we can visit the 12th Century castle, beside the River Trent. Then just off the Market Square there is a 15th Century church with its enormous spire and then later we can end with a visit to the brand new Civil War Museum.

Association News:

AGM and Social Weekend 2016

Members, friends and family are to meet at the Palace Hotel, in Buxton, Derbyshire on Friday 13th to Sunday 15th May, for this year's AGM/Social Weekend. This hotel, completed in 1868 was one of a number of grand hotels built at a time when visitors, arriving by train, were attracted to see the famous Crescent financed by the 5th Duke of Devonshire. Our hotel, perched on top of a hill, affords great views over the very centre of the town and maintains an air of opulence and splendour very obvious as soon as you enter the building. Through constant upgrading the standard of maintenance is very high.

Excursions during the weekend visit Poole Cavern, Chatsworth House and Gardens and Eyam. The latter is the famous little Derbyshire village, where inhabitants sacrificed themselves to the plague to prevent it spreading to surrounding villages. There is also a trip around Buxton itself for non-members on Saturday morning when members are busy with the official meetings.

Although the official cut-off date for balance payments for bookings is 12th March 2016, if you contact the AOUG Office they may still be able to accommodate you up until 19th March but after that you are unlikely to be able to get accommodation. You can however still attend for the day and of course go on any of the excursions, but once again all meals and excursions must be booked and paid for in advance of the weekend. There is no charge for anyone just wanting to attend the AGM meeting but you must still book with the AOUG Office so that a voting card can be prepared for you. For further details see the Winter OMEGA, which had a full article and advert about the weekend, or ring the AOUG Office on 01908 653316.

As you will now be aware, our Region is hosting this weekend and so this is our chance to show the rest of the membership the hospitality of the East Midlands and so I am calling on as many local members as possible to attend either for the full weekend or as a day visitor. I shall need your support as volunteers are required to donate prizes for the Saturday Gala Dinner raffle. These do not need to be large items as small items are grouped together in types, (toiletries, food, giftware etc.) and displayed as composite prizes in baskets. Then on the evening I shall require four local members to assist in the selling of the raffle tickets and in preparing the tickets for the draw. At the end of the evening all money raised will be given to back to our Region as a thank you for our work. This money will then go into a local bank account for future use for the benefit of local members.

Executive Committee Meeting - February 2016

On the first weekend in February I attended an Executive Committee Meeting, which as usual provided a good opportunity to meet other representatives and to catch up with AOUG News. At the main meeting I met Kathy Wallwork, who was appointed our new OMEGA Editor, and Sandra Higgins, our new Office Administrator. The Chairman reported that the Officers had met the Vice-Chancellor, Peter Horrocks and that later she and the Treasurer had met with Steve Hill, newly appointed to oversee all external relations. They discovered that Steve had three degrees from the OU and was very interested in learning all about AOUG. He expressed the wish that all our members should be ambassadors for the University. Further meetings are being planned.

Included in the Spring OMEGA will be proxy voting forms for those unable to attend the AGM this May. All members can vote with regard to the Resolutions or Motions presented on this form. There will also be a ballot paper enclosed and please remember that all of you can vote with regard to the Officer position but that you can also vote for the position of Executive Representative for the East Midlands.

Fund raising for the AOUG Foundation for Education charity

Every year the Association's own charity offers nine Awards to Research students, in their final year. The successful recipients are presented with their Awards at a prestigious Ceremony on the OU campus. Each Award comprises of a framed certificate and a cheque for £300. Occasionally a Bursary is also offered. These Bursaries usually offer a monetary Award of £1,000 in addition to their framed certificate. This money can be used to develop their research further than originally planned, be it extending the area of research, attending a conference, or publishing papers.

AOUG Foundation for Education also funds Awards for new graduates in the Regions and Nations who have gained their first degree whilst overcoming adversity over and above that of the average student. There have been some amazing new graduates nominated for these Awards and during 2015 seventeen such Awards were approved. These new graduates received £100 along with their framed certificate.

However in order to continue presenting these Awards each year, AOUG has to ensure that there are sufficient funds to cover them and this is where you come in as these Awards rely on the generosity of you, the members, as it is mainly your donations (with a little help from bank interest) that enables us to continue with this good work. You will see in the Spring OMEGA that we are offering an AOUG 2016 Ted Castle Bursary this year and you can therefore make a special donation of as much as you like, or as little as one pound, in the memory of Ted or any other deceased AOUG member that was dear to your heart. Or you might consider making an annual covenant to help ensure that this good work is able to continue for many more years.

Contact Details

AOUG Office		AOUG Office, Walton Hall, Milton Keynes MK7 6AA	01908 653316 aoug@open.ac.uk
Executive Representative	Ramsey Hertzog	43 Barnard Avenue, Coal Aston, Dronfield S18 3BP	01246 414746 ramseyhertzog@hotmail.co.uk
Lincoln	Peter Green	3, Riseholme Road, Lincoln LN1 3SN	07779578544 peter@greenpeter8.orangehome.co.uk
Burton on Trent	David Bellaby	12, Carnarvon Court, Bretby Hall Park, Bretby, Burton on Trent DE15 0UA	01283 214017 dhbellaby@gmail.com

Name : PI number

Tel: E-mail address:

I enclose a donation of stamps to receive my Newsletter by post

I enclose an article on a local issue for the next Newsletter

Diary Dates

Saturday 16th April. 11am

Meet in Redwood Restaurant at Anglesey Abbey, Lode, Cambridge, CB25 9EJ for coffee prior to exploring the 17th Century House, built on the site of a priory. The house is surrounded by over a hundred acres of gardens and an arboretum. There is a fully functioning three floor watermill with demonstrations. This is a National Trust Property. This is a Handshake event organised by both Region 05 and Region 06 members, families and friends.

Saturday 23rd April. 10.40am

Meet in the Coffee Bar at the entrance to the National Brewery Centre, Burton on Trent, DE14 1NG for a Handshake event to join Region 04 members for the 11am guided tour and handshake with members of Region 05. Tickets are priced at £8.95 (£7.95 concessions), although a Group Discount might be applicable dependent on numbers. Booking is essential before 1st April with the Region 04 National Brewery Centre organiser.

Saturday 21st May. 11.00am.

Meet at the Aiseford Tea Rooms, Church Street. Ashford in the Water. DE45 1QB, to view the Derbyshire custom of Well Dressing. See the flower festival in the village church and then walk around the village trail to view the six Well Dressings, including a children's picture. There is a possibility of village entertainment throughout the day and also a chance to watch the traditional sheepwash. This is a handshake event organised by Region 07.

Saturday 4th June. 11am

Meet at the tea shop in Lincoln Cathedral, Minster Yard, Lincoln LN2 1PX followed by a short walk to visit the Lincoln Medieval Bishop's Palace, once one of the most important buildings in England, with great views of the city and its surrounds. Entrance costs £4.80 (Free to English Heritage members).

Tuesday 5th July. 12noon

Meet at the restaurant for a tour of Rockingham Castle, Rockingham Castle Estate, Market Harborough LE16 8TH, one mile north of Corby on the A6003. The castle, privately owned, gives great views over five counties and it was built for William the Conqueror. Charles Dickens was apparently a regular visitor and he enjoyed the large gardens surrounding the property. Admission to the gardens and castle is £11 (Free to Historic House Association members).

Executive Representative – Ramsey Hertzog

I/we will be attending the Newark visit: the Cambridge visit: the Ashford in the Water visit:The Lincoln visit..... : the Market Harborough visit
Please tick all that are applicable.

I/we have booked with the 04 organiser to attend the Brewery Visit.

I should like to know more about being a Local Contact

I am willing to assist as a volunteer at the Buxton AGM Weekend and have booked to attend.

I am available to help on Friday 13th May at noon to 5pm to welcome guests

Arrange flowers for tables for the Gala evening at 5 - 6pm Sat 14th May

Sell Raffle tickets during the Saturday 14th May Gala Evening 7pm onwards

I would like to donate a raffle prize I will post it to Ramsey Hertzog

Bring it to The Palace Hotel, Buxton on Friday 13th May

Enclose a cheque made out to 'Ramsey Hertzog' for to allow him to purchase a gift on my behalf.