



Association of Open University Graduates Nation 11 - Scotland

EDITION 9

SPRING 2015

New Groups to start in Scotland

Scotland already has a very active group in Edinburgh and they have their group AGM and talk this month, so please if you live in the Edinburgh area, do attend and offer support to the local volunteers.

However Scotland is a very large Nation and Edinburgh is too far to travel for many of you. Since you are currently without an Executive Representative, the Officers of AOUG are directing their attention to starting opportunities for members in other areas. Thus with this in mind the AOUG Treasurer is travelling, at the beginning of May, to meet local members in three other areas. Events have been arranged in Glasgow, Dundee and Aberdeen and therefore we do hope that all local members within suitable travelling distance of these events will note the date in their dairies and make every effort to join the Treasurer, not only to enjoy the day out but also to discuss ideas for re-establishing contact between members within the Glasgow, Dundee and Aberdeen areas. With members' support we could soon have four thriving groups in Scotland and then we can start to consider other areas too.

If you have any suggestions for other areas to consider establishing groups or for any activities in these areas that might interest other members, please let the AOUG Office know so the Officers can research all possibilities.

Association News

AGM and Social weekend in Caernarfon, North Wales

There is still time to book for the Association's annual get together which this year will be held at the Celtic Royal Hotel, right in the heart of Caernarfon, just five minutes' walk from the famous castle. Full board package from after Friday lunch until after Sunday lunch is £270 and this includes all the evening entertainment on both Friday and Saturday evening. The Gala Dinner on Saturday is a real chance to dust off your finery and enjoy a relaxing evening with a pre-dinner drink, a three course dinner, an after dinner speaker and then musical entertainment. This year we have a 'twmpath' – the Welsh equivalent of a Scottish Ceilidh.

In addition there are the optional excursions starting on Friday afternoon with a train ride up Snowdon and weather permitting, a chance to take in the views from the top. Then on Saturday afternoon, there is the chance to visit the National Slate Museum, based on the site of the Dinorwic Quarry, and on Sunday morning, a unique opportunity to take a bus ride go deep inside the mountains to experience the Electric Mountain Power Station. All the excursions and other activities are open to all OU graduates, friends and family whether they are AOUG members or not. Everyone is very welcome. So come on your own or bring a group, the choice is yours but do come!

Voting

If you are not able to attend this year's AGM, under Company Law, you are entitled to a proxy vote, the appropriate insert being in the forthcoming issue of OMEGA. Do please cast your vote both for the Executive Committee elections and for any Resolution or Motion to be considered at the AGM.

Summary of Executive Committee Meeting at Milton Keynes

At the meeting on Saturday 7th February the Executive Committee re-appointed Trevor Taylor as our OMEGA Editor for the next twelve months and it was also noted that the Spring edition of OMEGA would be produced in full colour. Lesley Sleigh was also re-appointed for the coming year as Company Secretary. Unfortunately due to family commitments, Violet Rook has had to resign as Development Officer and so all her areas of responsibility are now being shared out amongst the remaining four Officers.

Cheryl Cowley our Clerical Officer has had a request for a reduction in her hours approved and so from the start of February, Office hours will be 10am until 4pm Monday to Friday. You are still able to leave messages on the answer phone when Cheryl is not available and she will respond to you as soon as is possible on her next working day. It has been approved that AOUG advertise through Reeds Employment Agency for a Clerical Assistant to work just one day a week alongside Cheryl to learn the Office procedures.

The AOUG Foundation for Education Awards for the Regions and Nations are once again to be widely advertised. Nominations for any new graduate who has gained their OU degree within the last twelve months despite overcoming adversity over and above that of the average student need to be received at the AOUG Office by 22nd June 2015. Information will also go out in March to all OU research departments to encourage nominations for our AOUG Foundation for Education Research Awards. The presentations for these will take place as usual on the first Friday in October on the OU campus and will be followed by our Annual Foundation Lecture which this year is going to be by Paul Catley, the Head of the Law School. Tickets, for any or all of the day, including a buffet lunch, are priced at £10 each and can be obtained from the AOUG Office (01908 653316). If you have never been to the OU campus before, then this is your perfect opportunity to explore the beautiful grounds.

The Officers have had several meetings with the OU over the Winter months and further meetings are in the process of being arranged. All of these seem to present positive support. The new OUSA President, Ruth Tudor, has also met the Officers and it has been agreed that links with AOUG will be included on the OUSA Website. Research is in progress as to AOUG making more use of various electronic communications in order to promote our Association and to provide more fluid communications between members.

The most important function of the Spring EC Meeting is to set the budget for the ensuing year. Money is always extremely tight and priorities for the year have to be agreed. Executive Representatives' budgets increased over the last two years to enable the production of the Local Newsletters but this has now been reduced back down to just £100 for most areas for the year. You may recall that in the Winter 2014 OMEGA, members' attention was drawn to the ever spiralling cost of sending three Newsletters annually by post. We cannot promise postal versions unless you can help by sending in postage stamps. Please do check that AOUG Office has your current e-mail address so that you do not miss out.

Diary Dates

Saturday 14th March. 11am

Meet for the Edinburgh group AGM at the Quaker Meeting House, 7, Victoria Terrace, Edinburgh EH1 2JL and for a talk by Steven Brown on the Queensferry Crossing after 11.30am. Admission including coffee and biscuits is £3. Steven Brown, the Roads and Infrastructure Manager of the Queensferry Crossing, will give a presentation on the challenges and geological considerations involved in the construction of the new three-tower, cable-stayed bridge between Fife and Edinburgh.

April

The Edinburgh Group will be attending the Edinburgh Science Festival but events are to be selected later. Send your e-mail addresses or a stamped addressed envelope to the Edinburgh Local Contact if you would like information.

Friday 1st May. 11am

Meet in the Elements Café of the Glasgow Science Centre, 50, Pacific Quay, Glasgow G51 1EA to meet up with other AOUG members, and any family or friends that wish to accompany them, for a coffee before exploring the three floors of interactive science displays. Stop a short time or make a day of it, the choice is yours. Entry to the Science Mall is £10.50 (concessions and Annual passes available). This event is hoped to be a starting point for re-establishing an AOUG Group in Glasgow and the AOUG Treasurer will be travel to be with you to act as facilitator to meet and share your ideas. Please bring your diary to aid the selection of future dates.

Saturday 2nd May. 11am

Meet in the Verdant Works Café, in Scotland's Jute Museum, West Henderson's Wynd, Dundee. DD1 5BT for coffee with other local members, and meet the AOUG Treasurer prior to experiencing what people who worked in the Jute Mills during the nineteenth Century endured. Then compare this with the life of the Jute Barons. The sounds of the restored original machinery will take you back over a hundred years to when jute was king. Entry to the Museum is £8.75 for adults (Concessions available) All friends and family are welcome to join us. Please bring your diary as this will be an opportunity for local members to talk over ideas for future events with the view to starting a Dundee group.

Name: PI number

Tel:E-mail address:

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

I enclose an article for a future Local Newsletter

I would like to suggest the formation of a group inarea.

More Diary Dates

Sunday 3rd May. 11am

Meet other local AOUG members and any friends and family, along with the AOUG Treasurer for coffee in the Starbucks Café, Union Square Shopping Centre, Aberdeen, Guild Street, Aberdeen AB11 5RG. Once refreshed we shall walk, or drive over to the Aberdeen Maritime Museum, Shiprow, Aberdeen AB11 5BY to discover this unique collection covering ship building, fast sailing ships, fishing and port history. The Museum opens at noon and admission is free. It is hoped that this excursion will re-kindle the fellowship for an Aberdeen Group to be formed after a break of around ten years so please remember to bring your diary.

Sunday 17th May. 1pm

Meet at the entrance of Dawyck Botanic Gardens, Stobo, Peebles, Scottish Borders EH45 9JU. Dawyck is one of the four Royal Botanic Gardens of Edinburgh (RGBE) and Dawyck's Azalea Terrace is one of the garden's most colourful features which should be in flower for our visit. There is a café and an information centre. Admission £6 (Concessions £5) Free to RGBE members. This venue is also a similar distance from Glasgow so members from that area may like to attend. Booking is essential with the Edinburgh Local Contact prior to the visit to confirm all details.

Wednesday 8th July. 2pm

Meet at the entrance of Gilmerton Cove, 16, Drum Street, Gilmerton, Edinburgh, EH17 8QH to discover the 'Mystery of Gilmerton Cove' with a guided tour, lasting about forty five minutes through a network of tunnels and chambers carved out of the rock, their origins shrouded in mystery. Adult £7.50 (Concessions £6.50) Booking is essential in advance with the Edinburgh Local Contact.

Executive Representative – Vacant

Local Contacts

Edinburgh Group – Lewis Mckay 01314 453598 lewis.mckay1@btopenworld.com

Glasgow, Dundee and Aberdeen events – Jean Hertzog 00246 414746 Mob 07908964816 (event days only) jrhertzog@hotmail.com

AOUG Office – 01908 653316 aoug@open.ac.uk

I /we will be attending the Edinburgh Group AGM and talk

I /we will be attending the Glasgow event.....

I/we will be attending the Dundee event

I/we will be attending the Aberdeen event

I /we will be attending the visit to the Dawyck Gardens

I/we will be attending the Gilmerton Cove event