



AFMS NEWS

Spring 2012

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Conference 2012 Royal Greenwich; October 3rd-6th

Welcome to Greenwich! In the year of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and the London Olympics, Greenwich is an ideal venue for the Society's Annual Conference. Greenwich is a World Heritage Site and famous for its splendid, historical landmarks including the National Maritime

Museum, the Royal Observatory and the Old Royal Naval College (visits to all are included within the social programme). 2012 sees Greenwich becoming a Royal Borough but, for our Conference, it is all about location. On the River, Greenwich Pier has various options for water based travel to the City including the fast 'Clipper' catamarans. Within the Greenwich Village (and a few minutes from the Conference Hotel) is Cutty Sark station (Docklands Light Railway) linking to the London tube system making it possible to travel to heart of London in around 20 minutes. Greenwich Village has its own market (one of London's favourites) and lively shopping hub with a wide range of restaurants and pubs (including the Trafalgar Tavern, a favourite haunt of Charles Dickens).

The Conference will be at the 4 star rated Devonport House Hotel, a DeVere Group hotel which is located in the former Nurse's Home to the Seaman's Hospital and beside the National Maritime Museum. The Hotel's conference facilities are excellent and, unusual in London, include free parking for 60 cars. To the South of the Hotel is Greenwich Park, the oldest Royal Park in London which has some outstanding views across the City. The Scientific Conference will include the established high standard of talks on a varied array of medical topics and will include the student presentations competing for the James Tudor Prize.

The social programme includes a River Thames cruise and a walking tour of Greenwich to explore the impressive buildings designed by Sir Christopher Wren and Indigo Jones. The highlight of the Conference will be the Gala Dinner held in the House of Lords, preceded by a tour of the Houses of Parliament. This exceptional opportunity has only been made possible by invitation. For this conference, the organisers have had to restrict numbers. The maximum numbers that can be accommodated at the House of Lords are 120. The Devonport House Hotel is able to accommodate a maximum of 100 guests and some accommodation has been reserved at the Ibis Hotel, Greenwich (3 minutes walk to the Conference Hotel). Rooms can be booked at the Ibis at a slightly reduced rate but delegates are strongly advised to book as soon as possible to secure a place. Delegates wishing to stay on the Saturday are also advised to book early as places are restricted.



AFMS NEWS

Welcome to the latest edition of the AFMS news. If there is anything you would wish to have included in future editions, please send an email to the administrative secretary at [tonyridge72 \(at\) yahoo.co.uk](mailto:tonyridge72@yahoo.co.uk)

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Scientific Conference Greenwich 3rd to 6th October

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Advance French Conversation Wedgewood College Stoke. TBC

AFMS NEWS

Social Programme for The AFMS Meeting; 3rd to the 6th October

Wednesday 3rd October

From 16.00 Registration at the Devonport House Hotel.

19.00 Meet in the bar followed by buffet meal.

Talk "The History of Royal Greenwich" (by Greenwich Guides)

Thursday 4th October

09.30 Guided tour of The Royal Observatory and Exclusive tour of Rangers House (National Heritage) Coffee in Rangers House (2 groups).

12.30 Lunch at The Devonport House Hotel.

14.15 Depart Hotel for Greenwich Pier and guided Thames River Cruise (afternoon tea on board).

17.45 Return to Hotels.

Evening: Free to take dinner in the hotel or in local restaurants.

Friday 5th October.

09.30 Visit to the Cutty Sark and guided tour of The Fan Museum (2 groups)
Coffee in The Fan Museum.

12.30 Lunch at the Devonport House Hotel.

14.15 Walking tour of Greenwich to include Painted Hall, Chapel, Queens House, and National Maritime Museum.

16.15 Return to Hotels.

17.00 Depart by coach for the Gala Dinner at the House of Lords.

23.00 (approx) Coaches return to hotels.

Saturday 6th October.

Morning free for shopping, sight seeing etc

12.30. Lunch

14.15 For those remaining – post Conference Tour (to be confirmed)

The scientific programme is still to be confirmed. Please contact the admin secretary if you would like to give a presentation.

Manchester Meeting Friday 18th May

The 17th Manchester Meeting will take place on Friday the 18th May. Cost to delegates is only £9 a head with students free of charge. (Students will be asked to pay £9 with their booking forms but will be refunded the fee on arrival at the meeting).

The venue is the

Alliance Francaise Office, 3rd Floor, 55 Portland Street Manchester M1 3HP
Details

Registration 6pm to 6.30pm, Meeting starts at 6.30pm

Presentations, Buffet 8.00pm to 9.00pm with a selection of French wines.

9.00pm Meeting finishes.

If you would like to attend, please complete the enclosed booking form and return with your payment.



Alliance Française

**20th AFMS Medical French Course
Warwick University Campus 23-25th March 2012**

We all held our breath as the AFMS medical French course not only celebrated its 20th year but also moved to the new and very different venue of Warwick University.

The grey matter was moved quickly into gear in trying to find where exactly we should be on campus on Friday evening for check in, teaching, eating and sleeping. All the delegates got full marks for their navigation skills and their powers of comprehension of the site maps and hand waving by Gareth and Zara, course organisers. The new venue proved to be slick and well organized but the distances to move between tutorial rooms took us a bit by surprise.

We had a fully booked course with two thirds of delegates medical students and one third doctors. We were proud to have attracted a Geneva-based osteopath and GPs from as far afield as Luxembourg and French ski resorts. The doctors hailed from many specialties including general practice, orthopaedic surgery, infectious diseases, and anaesthetics to name but a few.

The medical students came from a far afield as Glasgow, Lancaster, Liverpool, London, Nottingham, Newcastle, Sheffield, Cardiff and more. We had one brave student from the University of Lodz In Poland.

The tutors worked hard and the delegates even harder. The sun worked hardest of all, with record temperatures. Elena Hazelgrove-Planel took her tutorial groups outside to boost their skills and vocab on the *système locomoteur*. More space in the fresh air for “heads, shoulders, knees and toes”... Brice Rodriguez with his bilingual, bicultural working expertise sailed his group calmly through the choppy waters of obs and gynae. Nia Griffith, with her experience in French anaesthetics, got pulses racing in tackling A+E issues. Zara Bieler tackled paediatrics from the GP angle with some kiddy vocab to allow us docs to understand the small people directly. Gareth Williams equipped his group to survive in diabetes and endocrinology. Marine Delagrangé, a “real” French medical student, tackled the respiratory system while allowing access to questions on life as a medical student in France. Annie Burnside gracefully imparted how to cope with Francophone patients with cardiovascular concerns and Aurore Grandidier kept all sane with her skills in imparting French Psychiatry.

Networking proved to be as much part of the course as the language, as those ready to take the plunge and work in French gleaned information from those who had already trodden that path (or cycled up that mountain!) Zara Bieler and Elena Hazelgrove-Planel gave two very useful and entertaining talks on the realities of applying to work as a French Junior doctor and GP locum adventures in France. Both gave a message that to get on and work in France is very do-able. It may require a stubborn streak and a big sense of humor to deal with administrative hoops and hurdles but that it can all be hugely rewarding.

The Saturday night gala dinner was delicious and a great chance to mix and mingle and glean info on subjects as widely ranging as where to holiday in Scotland, how to get a job in France, how to book Gareth’s world famous jazz group. We lamented the lack of a piano but we will see if Warwick can sneak us one in for next year.

Sunday breakfast came round sooner than we would have liked due to the changing of the clocks. This didn’t deter delegates from conversing only in French for the remains of Sunday. Classes resumed with heads down until lunchtime.

We ended with a lively feedback session, including an open debate on the usefulness or not of including more grammar in the course. Overall conclusion was that we can help along the way with grammar but the main thrust of the course is to encourage and equip those wishing to have a try at working in French at some point. Delegates concluded that they work hard enough grappling oral French skills and that the grammar can be left to those wishing to dig out their school texts prior to the course. There were pleas for an extended Sunday, with afternoon teaching.

We concluded with a quick sprint into the sunshine for a group photo and a farewell lunch.

All tutors received warm praise on the feedback forms. The variety of teaching styles has the advantage of keeping delegates on their toes while allowing for different learning styles. (continued)



Back Page Notes

Warwick Medical Weekend



Warwick seems keen to have us back next year. With the feedback we hope to improve the course even further for the next session in Spring 2013, better signs on arrival, tutorial rooms closer together and even more socializing! Do look up the comments and pictures in the new AFMS Facebook page and feel free to add your own.

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Anglo-French-Medical-Society/234613263282736>

Some feedback comments

“Exceeded my expectations because it covered idiosyncrasies and pronunciation issues that it would not have been possible to learn on my own”

“Excellent chance to network and practice my French with other med students and doctors. Lots of practical advice very useful”

“The lectures on working/training in France were an excellent complement to the language tutorials”

“Top weekend! Loved it,” “Brilliant course,”

“Make it a few days longer,”

“Bien fait, merci!”



The AFMS is pleased to announce that its new Facebook page is up and running. Many members have already visited the new site and posted photographs from previous conferences

and meetings. If you want to keep up with friends and other members please visit the site at

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Anglo-French-Medical->

Committee

Dr Andrew Hassan

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Dr Robyn Wittersheim

(Webmaster)

Dr Mark Cottrill

(co-opted member)

Dr Colin Mumford

Dr Rex Melville

Dr Carol Barton

Dr David Bell

Dr Nick Mc Carthy

Dr Mark Savage

Congratulations

The AFMS would like to congratulate Robyn Wittersheim (our web master) on her new baby boy. She had a boy called Gaspard Charles Wittersheim. Both are well now and getting back into normal life!

Administrative Secretary

Please send details of any change of address, incorrect addresses, subscriptions and changes in email to

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