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Introduction

Welcome to AOG 2020. In this document we have tried to provide all the information you will need about this year's AOG in Stirling, whether you are staying on or off campus. Please take time to read all the sections that are relevant to you.

Getting there

Click [here](#) to go to the university's web page about how to get to the campus.

By car:

The campus is easily accessible by road, taking the M9 to junction 11, then the A9 through Bridge of Allan.

By rail:

Stirling is served by frequent rail services from Edinburgh, Glasgow and Perth. The typical rail journey time from Manchester, for example, with a change at Edinburgh, is less than four and a half hours. Frequent buses either to the campus or to near the campus depart from Goosecroft Road, just outside the railway station in Stirling. Bus 15A, which is hourly, goes into the campus and takes 10 minutes to get there.

There is also a station at Bridge of Allan, about two miles from the campus on the opposite side of the town, which also has frequent rail services and is much better for parking. Bill Fuller has once again kindly offered to give lifts in his campervan to people travelling by rail and will be picking up from this station. If you would like a lift with Bill, please contact him by text as soon as you have details of your estimated arrival time at Bridge of Allan. He will then circulate details of which trains members are travelling on and seek to meet all of them.

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Bill's phone number is shown under *Members only information* on the AOG event page.

If in doubt about whether you will be getting off at Stirling or Bridge of Allan and you are coming from the south, as most people will be, get a ticket to Bridge of Allan, as this is beyond Stirling.

Click on the following links for further information:

[National Rail Enquiries](#)

[Traveline](#)

See also *Bus 15A Timetable* which you can access from the AOG event page. However, please note that this is the version current as at January 2020 and is only provided for guidance as it may have changed by the time of the AOG.

By coach:

There are Megabus, National Express and Scottish Citylink coach services to Stirling, but connections to England tend to be overnight.

Megabus runs services twice daily from London to Stirling via Birmingham, Manchester, Preston, Lancaster, Glasgow and Cumbernauld, but this either reaches Stirling after midnight or goes overnight and arrives at 8.00am. Return journeys either depart at 6.00am or go overnight, departing at 9.30pm.

There is also an overnight National Express service from London to Stirling via Heathrow, High Wycombe, Carlisle, Hamilton and Glasgow. The return journey is also overnight.

Click on the following links for further information:

[Megabus](#)

[National Express](#)

[Scottish Citylink](#).

Arrival and registration

For those who have booked accommodation on campus, the earliest check-in time is 2pm. Check in will be at reception in the Stirling Court Hotel. GOC plans to operate a welcome desk in the reception area from 2pm-6pm on the Friday. Otherwise you will be able to check in at reception as you normally would in a hotel.

See *Campus Map* which you can view from the AOG event page. The Stirling Court Hotel is marked in green in the bottom left hand quadrant. From the main entrance (towards the top left hand corner of the map) follow the road as it bends right by the loch, pass the swimming pool and sports centre on your right (marked in blue on the map), then the hotel is on your right, just after where the road bends left, opposite the large group of buildings in the centre of the campus (also marked in blue).

Accommodation and other facilities on campus

The rooms are all located in the Stirling Court Hotel. The quality of the accommodation is excellent, with all rooms having:

- en-suite bathrooms
- complimentary WiFi
- tea and coffee making facilities
- flatscreen TV with Freeview
- direct dial telephone
- hairdryer
- trouser press
- well-lit desk area.

Most of the rooms have queen-size double beds and are available for either single or double occupancy. In addition there are six twin rooms.

Guests also have free use of the swimming pool and gym on campus during their stay.

Evening meals, the RAP session, AGM, ceilidh and quiz will take place in the Pathfoot Building, which is about ten minutes' walk from the hotel. Pathfoot Eatery - the space where we will be having our evening meals, bar and entertainment - is light and spacious with a great view of the Wallace Monument and direct access to an outdoor terrace with picnic tables.

For those who have booked bed and breakfast, breakfast will be served in the Stirling Court Hotel. For those who have booked room only toasters, kettles, a microwave and a fridge will be available in a meeting room in the hotel.

Walks around campus

Click [here](#) for information about walks around campus.

Accommodation off campus

There are plenty of guest houses and hotels in Bridge of Allan and Stirling.

Camping

The recommended site for those wanting to camp is Witches Craig Camping and Caravanning Site, Bairlogie, Stirling, FK9 5PQ. Tel 01786 474947. This is about two miles from the campus. Jamie Harris, our caravanning and camping co-ordinator, will be staying there. Click [here](#) to go to their website.

Car parking

There should be plenty of parking space for those coming by car. There is free car parking at the Stirling Court Hotel for those staying on site. If the barrier is down when you arrive, you can get a free ticket when you check in.

Those coming to the campus by car, but not staying on site should also be able to park for free either at the Stirling Court Hotel (if arriving for outdoor activities) or at the back of the Pathfoot Building (if arriving for evening activities).

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Cycling

The nearest cycle racks are at the bus hub, about two minutes' walk from the Stirling Court Hotel. Bikes are not permitted within the buildings.

Click [here](#) and go to the 'By bike' section under 'Getting to campus' for information about cycling and a campus cycling map.

Meals, bar and ceilidh

Evening meals will be served in the Pathfoot Eatery. Breakfast will be served in the Stirling Court Hotel. You will be required to show a voucher to the serving staff in order to be served your breakfast or evening meal. You will be provided with your vouchers when you check in. We will let you know nearer the time whom to contact if you do not receive your vouchers.

Breakfast will be provided between 7.30 and 8.45am on the Saturday, Sunday and Mondays only to those staying on campus who have paid for bed & breakfast in advance through the online booking system. Breakfast will be served in the hotel.

Evening meal consisting of a main course and pudding/dessert will be available on the Friday, Saturday and Sunday to those staying both on and off site. It must be ordered in advance through the online booking system. The price of the Saturday evening meal includes the charge for the ceilidh. Meals will be served from 7.00-8.00pm on the Friday and Sunday, but a little later on the Saturday, 7.15-8.15pm, to allow sufficient time for the AGM to finish.

Packed lunch, consisting of a sandwich, bottle of water and two of the following – crisps, chocolate bar or fruit – will be available on the Saturday and the Sunday. This must also be ordered in advance through the online booking system. It can be collected from 8.00-8.30am in the place where breakfast is being served in the hotel. GOC volunteers will ensure that those who have ordered the packed lunches get them. As we have opted for the most basic version, you may wish to supplement yours with items from the grocery store.

There will be a pop-up bar provided for us in the Pathfoot Eatery on the Friday, Saturday and Sunday evenings. You should be able to pay for your drinks either by cash or card. We are expecting that the bar will open half an hour before evening meal starts on the Friday and Sunday and that it will open half an hour before the AGM starts on the Saturday.

For our Saturday evening entertainment we have been lucky enough to book one of Scotland's top ceilidh bands, the Sensational Jimi Shandrix Experience, led by the legendary Sandy Brechin. The ceilidh will take place in the Pathfoot Eatery, and start at about 8.30pm, when we have finished dinner. The charge for the ceilidh is included in the Saturday evening meal price. Those not having the Saturday evening meal who wish to join us afterwards must (irrespective of whether they actually join in the dancing) pay separately for the ceilidh through the online booking system.

The Edinburgh Gay Men's Chorus has also kindly agreed to sing for us, although details are still to be finalised.

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Grocery stores

There is a Nisa store in the middle of the campus open from 8.00am until midnight seven days a week. In Bridge of Allan there are also a Tesco Express and a Co-op.

RAP session

The RAP session, which is for group co-ordinators, will take place in seminar room PD1 in the Pathfoot Building from 8.00-9.30pm on the Friday.

Annual general meeting

The AGM will be held in the Lecture Theatre, Pathfoot Building at 6.00pm on the Saturday.

Extending your stay

With a packed programme for the AOG weekend, you may wish to extend your stay. This will give you time to explore the many local attractions including the Wallace Monument and the imposing Stirling Castle - one of the largest and most important castles in Scotland, both historically and architecturally – without which no visit to the area would be complete.

You can book additional nights on campus direct with the university by phoning 01786 466000. Please note this is subject to availability and that full payment will be needed at the time of booking. The university has indicated that it will charge individuals the same for the night before and the two nights after the AOG, i.e. the Thursday, Monday and Tuesday nights, as it is charging GOC for the AOG bookings.

Departure

Check-out time for those staying on the campus is 10.00am. Members will be able to leave luggage at the hotel after they have checked out.

And finally...

We wish you a most enjoyable AOG!

Appendix – Provisional Timetable

Friday 24th July

2.00pm	check in starts
6.30pm	bar opens in Pathfoot Eatery
7.00-8.00pm	dinner served in Pathfoot Eatery
8.00-9.30pm	RAP session in room PD1, Pathfoot Building
11.30pm	bar closes

Saturday 25th July

7.30-8.45am	breakfast served in the Stirling Court Hotel
8.00-8.30am	packed lunches available for collection at the hotel
9.00am	earliest time to convene for outdoor events
5.30pm	bar opens in Pathfoot Eatery
6.00pm	AGM in the Lecture Theatre, Pathfoot Building
7.15-8.15pm	dinner served in Pathfoot Eatery
8.30pm–11.00pm	ceilidh in Pathfoot Eatery
11.30pm	bar closes

Sunday 26th July

7.30-8.45am	breakfast served in the Stirling Court Hotel
8.00-8.30am	packed lunches available for collection at the hotel
9.00am	earliest time to convene for outdoor events
6.30pm	bar opens in Pathfoot Eatery
7.00–8.00pm	dinner served in Pathfoot Eatery
8.00-9.30pm	quiz in Pathfoot Eatery
11.00pm	bar closes

Monday 27th July

7.30-8.45am	breakfast served in the Stirling Court Hotel
9.00am	earliest time to convene for walk
10.00am	check out