THE DOWLING CLUB: DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES 2013-2014

September 13th–15th 2013 "A Taste of Wales" at Gliffaes Hotel, Crickhowell, Breconshire
Tuesday October 15th 2013 Dowling journal club and dinner, Media City, Salford Quays
Thursday December 19th 2013 Dowling Christmas dinner, Garrick Club, London
Thursday February 6th 2014 Dowling Oration and dinner, Royal College of Surgeons, London
May 9th–10th 2014 Dowling Club weekend, Norwich
June 8th-15th 2014 Dowling Club visit to Moscow and Kazan
June 15th-18th 2014 Optional extension to cities of "Golden Ring"

As incoming President of the Dowling Club for the coming year, I should first of all like publicly to congratulate Stephanie Munn and her Secretary, Fiona Worsnop, for a truly excellent and exciting 2012-2013. Those of you who were fortunate enough to join the visit to Ethiopia will treasure the enthusiasm and friendliness of our Ethiopian hosts for many years to come. DC overseas visits are a wonderful way not only to see new places and unfamiliar diseases, but also to enable all of us to reflect on our own practice from the outside: what we do well and what others perhaps do better, often with fewer resources. They are also a splendid way to make friends. As a registrar on my first DC trip, to Texas in 1982, I met a young American trainee who has remained a close friend ever since: this year we were able to watch him celebrate his Presidency of the American Academy of Dermatology in Miami. I urge all DC members to persuade their trainees to join, if they have not as yet done so, so that they can take advantage of the splendid opportunities that the Club affords for them to get to know their colleagues nationwide and to broaden and deepen their knowledge of dermatology.

Plans are well under way to take the DC to Russia next June with visits to Moscow and Kazan, capital of Tatarstan, which we would reach by an overnight journey on the Trans-Siberian railway. Dr Katya Burova and I have been busy planning this for some months and are due to make a preliminary visit in August. Katya is a long-established UK consultant dermatologist but originally trained in dermatology in Moscow. Her help with organising this trip is of course invaluable and I am very grateful to her. We are arranging the visit to ensure that trainees would need to take no more than five days’ leave for the main trip. We plan a short extension afterwards to enable those who are able to stay longer to visit some of the historic cities in the Golden Ring north and east of Moscow.

Our first event is a family weekend in Breconshire in September hosted by the Cardiff team. We hope that trainees and young consultants with young families will be tempted to spend the weekend with us at the beautifully situated Gliffaes Country House Hotel near Crickhowell, a mere three hours drive from London. We have reserved the hotel for the weekend and have been offered very reasonable rates. Richard Motley and Professor Vincent Piguet will be laying on a tempting scientific programme entitled "A Taste of Wales" on the Friday afternoon and Saturday morning. We plan a dinner in the hotel on Friday evening and a pub meal at the nearby Cider Mill with Richard Logan’s folk band on Saturday evening. Tennis, croquet, fishing on the Usk, climbing the Brecon Beacons or strolling around the gardens are all possibilities for the Saturday afternoon and Sunday. We hope that many of you will make a weekend of it. Our second DC weekend will be in Norwich in May 2014 as guests of Nick Levell and his colleagues.

The Dowling Oration will be given by Surgeon Captain Richard Ashton, formerly of Haslar Naval Hospital, at the Royal College of Surgeons of England and will follow Dr Julia Schofield’s Business Skills course at Willan House in early February. Between the Oration and the dinner there will be a reception and quiz in the famous Hunterian Museum at the RCSE. The tradition of a Christmas dinner at the Garrick Club in December is being continued. This year, however,
we are holding the first of the three DC dinners outside London to coincide with the North of England Dermatological Society’s meeting in Manchester in October. This will be held in a magnificent venue with spectacular views of Salford Quays and adjacent to the new BBC headquarters in Media City. Professor Christopher Griffiths has agreed to preside.

My secretary, Dr Faisal Ali, and I think we have created an exciting programme for the forthcoming year and hope to see you at least at some if not all of the events we are planning.


For further information visit the Dowling Club Facebook page, a link to which can be found on the BAD website.