



Friends of Mount Athos



Date: Saturday 6 June 2026

**Venue: Tsuzuki Theatre, St Anne's College,
Woodstock Road, Oxford OX2 6HS**

Time: 10.45 a.m. (registration) – 17.30 p.m.

**Entrance fee: £25 (students £15 each),
lunch £25 each.**

Our 2026 summer conference will highlight the significant contribution the Friends of Mount Athos has made to the Holy Mountain over the past 36 years. Since the charity was founded, it has provided both practical and moral support to the spiritual life of Athos and its unique landscape through awareness raising, advocacy, fund-raising for building restoration work, and travel bursaries to promote research. In particular, this year marks the 25th anniversary of FoMA's Footpath Clearing project, inspired by our Royal Patron, King Charles. Over the years, the project has seen 460 trips by 216 different FoMA path clearers from around the world to Mount Athos to help clear and signpost the many overgrown pathways between the monasteries to aid monks and pilgrims alike.

**Summer Conference and
AGM 2026**

**'Friends of Mount Athos:
36 Years of Service,
Pilgrimage, and
Inspiration'**

Conference Programme

10:45 Coffee and registration in the Tsuzuki Theatre Foyer, St Anne's College

11:30 Andrew Buchanan: 'FoMA's journey around the Holy Mountain': A pictorial journey illustrating FoMA's contribution to Mount Athos including anecdotes, reminiscences and pictures from FoMA members and others.

13:00 Buffet lunch

14:15 AGM: reports, elections, approval of accounts, and any other business.

15:00 Peter Howorth: 'The story of the FoMA map': As FoMA expands its activities by taking over the printing and publishing of the definitive Pilgrim Map of Mount Athos, its author will join us from New Zealand with the fascinating story of how his passion for the Holy Mountain and its landscape was sparked by a World War II hero.

16:00 Tea

16:30 Juliana Lynch: 'Homage to Athos from Macedonia'.

Juliana will take us through this year's pilgrimage to Greece continuing the conference theme with memorable anecdotes and striking photographs.

17:30 Vespers (in Greek) at the Orthodox church in Canterbury Road, Oxford (a short walk from the college – leave at approx. 17.15 p.m.).

The conference will be live streamed online; details to follow on the FoMA website www.athosfriends.org/news. There will also be the opportunity to browse books, cards, and other merchandise from the newly expanded FoMA bookshop.

Please note:

1. There will be a service of Vespers at 5.30 p.m. on Saturday, 6 June, at the nearby Greek Orthodox Community of the Holy Trinity church in Canterbury Road, Oxford.

2. There will be a service of Matins at the church at 9.15 a.m. on Sunday 7 June (All Saints), followed by a Divine Liturgy at 10.30 a.m.

All are welcome at these services

Our Speakers



Andrew Buchanan

Our keynote speaker will be Andrew Buchanan, a long-time FoMA member and path clearer. After working in theatre, feature film and TV drama, Andrew moved into making wildlife documentaries at the BBC, then ITV. His diverse credits range from period dramas and Dr Who, through computer animation and commercials, to quiz programmes, a David Attenborough series, and a reality show. Now retired, he lives in Somerset managing a small nature reserve, volunteering for countryside organisations, cider making, and trying to become a better archaeologist. Andrew's first visit to the Holy Mountain was in 2006, while recovering from cancer. Deeply impressed by the natural beauty and the sacred monasteries, he joined the Footpaths project in 2008 and has made fifteen pilgrimages.



Peter Howorth

After leaving university, Peter worked as a project manager in the Pacific Islands, Chile, Japan, Burma and New Zealand. His work included managing ship repairs, building power stations, and processing plants for meat and cheese. He retired as the projects got bigger and the clients more unrealistic and began to build harpsichords. Peter was approached by a family member, Sandy Thomas, to provide maps for a reprint of his book about Mount Athos, and so his fascination with Mount Athos began. He knew nothing about cartography. However, there have been many trips to the Holy Mountain, the establishment of a cartographic business, and participation at international conferences. His maps have been sent to 44 countries.



Juliana Lynch

Juliana has a degree in Herbal Medicine and practises as a Medical Herbalist where she brings to bear her skills in Psychodynamic Counselling together with experience of many years teaching Yoga. Her abiding interests are Astronomy, Depth Psychology (Carl Jung), Biblical Hebrew, and the Philokalia. Study of the Ancient Greek Language has been, and continues to be, both pivotal and foundational to all these subjects.

To book places, please complete the slip below, ticking the payment option chosen, and return it, by email if possible (to arrive no later than 1 June) to the administrator, Dr Maria Harff at foma.accadm@gmail.com OR send by post to the Membership Secretary, Peter Lea, at 58, Manor Road, Woodstock, Oxfordshire OX20 1XJ.

There is no charge for attending the AGM.

I can attend the summer conference on 6 June. I shall be bringing guest(s)

Please reserve entrance ticket(s) (£25.00 each; students £15.00)

Please reserve lunch ticket(s) (£25.00 each)

I have paid by bank transfer to The Friends of Mount Athos, Sort Code 30-96-64, Acct No. 00058730, quoting as reference Summer + my surname OR

I have paid £ via PayPal (please add £1 for PayPal costs) OR

I enclose a cheque for £ payable to The Friends of Mount Athos.

Name Signature

Address

Email Name(s) of guest(s)