



Association of Open University Graduates South East - Region 13

Edition 9

Spring 2015

Local News – The Future of Region 13?

Region 13 may be embarking on a possible change of structure as I'm sure that many of you will remember that we advised you that the OU Regional Office based in East Grinstead was to close. This has now happened and all OU administration previously covered by East Grinstead is now controlled from the London, Camden Town Office. Thus as AOUG has always followed the OU structure for the organisation of our areas, we now need to consider the situation for AOUG Region 13 members. Region 13 is currently without an Executive Representative but there are two Local Contacts arranging events in Hastings and Eastbourne and there are still many activities on offer in one of the surrounding areas. However we need to look to the future to decide whether Region 13 should stay as a Region in its own right or whether it should come under London AOUG in future. Maybe a further suggestion might be for the area to be broken down and for smaller sections to be allocated to the East of England, the South or London. What do you think would be the best solution?

Whatever is decided, if change is to happen, it would not be a quick process as Resolutions would need to be presented to an AGM for the membership to vote prior to alterations in our regulations. It is already too late to do anything for the 2015 AGM as Resolutions for that had to be submitted in January, so there is plenty of time for full discussion and planning of ideas before Resolutions would need to be submitted for January 2016.

In the meantime, Region 13 still needs members to get more involved and meet together not only to enjoy events and the company of others but to start to discuss their feelings so that the Executive Committee can be fully briefed on your viewpoints. More Local Contacts will be needed and an Executive Representative is still required to co-ordinate the activities of the various groups until any definite decisions are made.

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

Members from this Region are also invited to attend all activities advertised by the London Region or to contact their Local Contact for activities in Eastbourne or Hastings.

Thursday 16th April. 11.30am

Meet main line station concourse by Marks & Spencer, London Bridge Station, Station Approach, London SE1 9SP (venue subject to alteration because of station re-building) for 'Pirates Of Wapping', a three to four mile stroll along the Thames Path re-visiting famous alehouses such as 'Town of Ramsgate', 'Captain Kidd', 'Prospect of Whitby', 'The Grapes'. We shall lunch at a convenient hostelry before returning to London Bridge by Clipper Boat or Jubilee Line from Canary Wharf. Comfortable shoes and waterproofs are recommended.

Tuesday 21st April. 12noon

Meet at the Trattoria Verdi Restaurant, 110 Southampton Row, Holborn WC1B 4BL. (020-7405 8001) for another great Italian lunch (cost for two-course meal with wine remains at £13 per head). Book in advance with the London lunch coordinator.

Executive Representative – Vacant

Local Contacts:

Eastbourne Group Marie Linwood 01323 722144

Hastings Group Paul Emerson 07789564102 paul@emerson84.freeserve.co.uk

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

Executive Representative for London – Rosemary Hammick 020 86886629 /

Mob.07908371529 hammick.ros36@talktalk.net

London Lunches - Margaret Brett 020 73874975

Name : PI number

Tel:E-mail address:

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

I enclose my views on the future of Region 13

If Region 13 were to cease to exist, I would like to be transferred to London East of
England or the South.....

Members in Region 13 are also invited to join in any events in other neighbouring areas.

East of England Area

Saturday 18th April. 12noon

Meet at The Nene Valley Railway at Wansford Station, Old Great North Road, Stibbington, Peterborough PE8 6LR, signposted off the A1 just South of Wittering for a handshake event organised by Region 05. Here we can board a train, normally steam powered, for the seven mile trip on the preserved line through the picturesque Nene Valley with stops at various stations. The cost for concessions is £11.50. Contact the East Midlands Executive Representative for more details.

Tuesday 19th May. 12noon

Meet at the Peahen 14, London Road, St Albans AL1 1NQ for a coffee or a light lunch with AOUG Officers to discuss ideas for the future of this local area.

Sunday 5th July. 10.30am

Meet at the 'Cafe in the Park', Castle Park, High Street, Colchester, CO1 1DN for a morning coffee. You are able to use the Castle Car Park in the High Street. This will be followed by a small walk through the gardens to Colchester Castle. Colchester Castle is the largest Norman Keep in Europe and houses many artefacts from Roman times. This is an English Heritage gem. Adult Admission £7.50 (Concessions £4.75) The Castle is open from 11am until 5pm and you can spend as long as you wish enjoying the Castle museum. The Castle gardens are beautiful and have previously won awards. Lunch could be taken in the 'Cafe in the Park'.

Portsmouth and South Downs Area

Wednesday 15th April. 11am

Meet at the entrance of the Explosion! Museum, Priddy's Hard, Gosport, PO12 4LE. Explosion! is an award winning museum of naval warfare created within 18th Century buildings at the Royal Navy's former armaments depot. The museum is housed in a group of listed buildings which centre around the original powder magazine of 1771. These sit on the edge of a camber basin on the Western shore of Portsmouth Harbour, with views across to Port Chester Castle, Whale Island and the Naval Base. Explosion! traces the development of naval armaments from gunpowder to the Exocet missile...but the museum is not just about big bangs! There is no bus service to the museum, but a waterbus operates from the Historic Dockyard in Portsmouth, leaving hourly from 10.15am.

I/we will be attending the London 'Pirates of Wapping' Walk

I/we will be attending the London April meal

I/we will be attending the Nene Valley Railway event

I/we will be attending the May coffee morning in St Albans

I/we will be attending the Colchester Castle event

I/we will be attending the Gosport Event

I/we would like to attend events in the Hastings areaEastbourne area