



ASSOCIATION OF OPEN UNIVERSITY GRADUATES in WALES

Edition 1

NATION 10 NEWSLETTER

July 2012

Hello to all AOUG members in Wales. My name is Violet and I am the new Development Officer. I was elected in May 2012. I shall be sending information to you, including these Newsletters, until I can encourage a local member to become the Executive Representative for Wales. May we wish Bill Clarke all the best in his future endeavours and thank him for his efforts. I was, until recently, the Executive Representative for Region 09, North. I come from Newcastle-Upon-Tyne. I have been to Wales many times. Once I travelled to Bangor University and back to Newcastle in less than twelve hours just to read at a poetry event. I saw a little of the Isle of Anglesey in the distance as I passed it. I liked the castles and spent a lovely holiday at Conway with my husband, as both of us love the countryside, mountains and lakes.

I gained my BSc. Hons (Open) in 2001, but I had started studying some time before, and had two breaks, returning in 1998 when I completed five modules to then graduate in 2001. I am a great supporter of the OU and like to encourage you to use all of the many websites the university provides. OpenLearn for instance is very useful, supplying free courses, where one can get a taste of an OU course before officially applying for it. And then there is Platform which provides a forum for discussion on topics concerning the OU and many other general topics which are in the news nationally concerning education and social events. The Open University has many societies, history, writing and the one I like a lot the OU Shakespeare Society which produces a magazine "A Groat's Worth of Wit", to which members can contribute reviews and essays.

Supporting AOUG members in Wales:

AOUG Newsletter for Wales: This needs input from you, so please send items of news events and idea for AOUG in Wales. We would like stories of your studies, photographs and general news of how AOUG Members are progressing. Please send any contributions you would like to make to this Welsh Newsletter to the AOUG Office, Walton Hall, Milton Keynes. MK7 6AA. It is hoped to send out three local Newsletters per year.

The AOUG website: Members should take a look at our website www.aoug.org.uk, as there you will find a Welcome Page, a Newsletter Page, a page for Diary Dates and another for archiving photographs of local events designed especially for each Region and Nation with an additional facility for Booking forms. The website has a large selection of pages to view including Association and OU News and many archive sections. We now have the facility for online membership so you can renew your subscription. For general enquiries or queries on membership, telephone the AOUG Office on 01908 653316 or e-mail: aoug@open.ac.uk Or you can also use the website to forward any changes in your e-mail, telephone or address details, by contacting the AOUG Office more quickly.

Association News:

The AGM at Liverpool – May 2012: The AGM weekend was held in the historic Adelphi Hotel built in 1914 which had all the grandeur of an Atlantic liner of the period. Large meeting rooms with high ceilings and bedrooms with four poster beds. The formal business of the AGM, the reports on finance and the election of Officers and Executive Representatives over, there was a Gala Dinner on the Saturday night when members were entertained by a duo who gave a delightful presentation of Beatles songs and members danced the night away to the tunes. The excursions around Liverpool were a great success. A success illustrated, in the new edition of OMEGA, which will reach you shortly.

The AGM: Members, who came from many parts of the UK and even from Malta, were seated just after 9am. There were reports from the Chairman and Treasurer leading to healthy discussions, with the results of recent elections for Treasurer, Publicity Officer and Development Officer also given. The audience participated widely in regard to the discussion on the future relationship of AOUG and The Open University. Many members had sent in their comments to the Chairman regarding his request in a previous edition of OMEGA.

AOUG Founder, Olga Camm: Sadly this grand lady, aged 93, died within a few weeks of the AGM. She was a fine example of living a full life to the end. Chairman Ramsey Hertzog spoke of her many abilities at her funeral which was held in Blackpool.

Welsh News:

Llangollen Canal: A leisurely ride on a horse drawn long boat on the Llangollen Canal seemed a wonderful way to spend a sunny Sunday. This had been arranged by the AOUG Chairman to try to revive interest in activities in North Wales since most of the recent events had been centred in the Cardiff area. We were fortunate, after all the dreadful weather this year, to be gifted with a warm and sunny day. The set canal set high above the railway, offered a bonus of the viewing of the steam trains.

The trips on the Llangollen Canal cover many sections of the vast waterway system some going over a viaduct, others through a series of locks, but AOUG had opted for a flat stretch for the two hour trip on the horse-drawn boat to the Horseshoe Falls and back. Many of these other excursions could be considered for future North Wales` events if local members were interested. On this route, the quiet narrow stretch of canal with a broad towpath most of the way, was ideal for the horse to amble along whilst still allowing plenty of room for many walkers, out enjoying the weather, to pass with ease. We glided along passed the site of the Llangollen Eisteddfod, the setting for the annual Welsh Festival of music, then past the Motor Museum and onto the Horseshoe Falls. Here we alighted for refreshments and/ or a walk to the Falls.

Read the full account of an enjoyable journey written by Jean Hertzog in the next edition of our magazine, OMEGA. It is hoped to arrange many more such enjoyable days out in time for the next edition of this newsletter. Until then, here are dates you might like to note in your diaries.

Violet Rook - AOUG Development Officer – lealand5-vi@yahoo.co.uk

AOUG EVENTS 2012:

Friday 7th – Sunday 9th September 2012 - Holiday in Rouen:

A two night stay with B&B at the Hotel Ibis, Rouen, Normandy plus a tour of Rouen include for £99 per person sharing a bedroom or £156 for single occupancy. Contact Patricia Cowling the Local Contact for Europe by e-mail: cowling@wanadoo.fr or see aoug.org.uk/europe .

Friday 5th October 2012 – AOUG Faculty Awards and AOUG Foundation Lecture:

The Awards Ceremony begins at 12 noon with the presentation of AOUG Research Awards to up to eight different OU Faculties. Buffet lunch is included around 1pm and the annual AOUG Foundation Lecture begins at 2pm. This to be given by Dr James Bruce and is entitled “A little Light Chemistry” which will explain the importance of light. Tickets cost £8 for all or part of the day and are available from the AOUG Office. Friends and family are welcome.

THE AOUG SILVER ANNIVERSARY – 2013

Yes, AOUG will be 25 years old in 2013, so how would the members in Wales like to celebrate this important event?

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Developing AOUG in Wales

I suggest for the Silver Anniversary Celebration in Wales.

I am interested in attending other events around the area.

I am interested in types of activities.

I am willing organising a single event

I am interested in becoming a Local Contact for area.

I am interested in learning more about the role of Executive Representative

Name : PI Number:
Please type or print your name clearly

Please return to the AOUG Office aoug@open.ac.uk
or AOUG Office, Walton Hall, Milton Keynes . MK7 6AA

Development of the Newsletter for Wales:

It is intended that these local Newsletters will, whenever possible, be sent out by e-mail as the postal charges would make such regular contact impossible. However many of you have not as yet submitted your e-mail address to the AOUG Office, or have changed your e-mail address without letting the AOUG Office know of this change. Thus we can not contact you this way. We therefore would like to ask you once again that if you do have an e-mail address that you contact AOUG Office and ensure that we have the correct version o the Data Base – just one dot or hyphen in the wrong place and it bounces back. However if you do not have an e-mail or would prefer to receive this Newsletter by post, we ask you to make a donation of second class stamps to the AOUG Office, which will then be forwarded onto your new Executive Representative, just a soon as they are co-opted.

Content of these Newsletters in the future will also rely a lot on your contributions so please send something into the AOUG Office as soon as possible. These Local Newsletters are not restricted to OU or AOUG related items and so if it interests you, it is sure to interests another member, so send it in for consideration in the next edition.

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LOCAL NEWSLETTERS

My e-mail address is

I do not have an e-mail address and therefore am donating some stamps

I would like to see Newsletters items about

I would be willing to write Newsletter articles about

I enclose an item for consideration for the next Local Newsletter

Name : PI Number:

Please type or print your name clearly

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