



**ASSOCIATION OF OPEN UNIVERSITY GRADUATES
IN SCOTLAND – NATION 11**

Edition 10

September 2015



Glasgow Science Museum

As you will have seen from your recent OMEGA, the Edinburgh group continues to enjoy a varied programme of events and thanks go to Lewis and his group for their efforts. We are also grateful to our Treasurer, Jean Hertzog, for organising events in Glasgow, Dundee and Aberdeen - a long trip from south of Sheffield!

Do you have a coffee house near you where you could offer to sit for an hour and hope that other members would join you? We would publicise it!! Events do not have to be elaborate. Or do you have other ideas!! Please let us know.

OMEGA

As I am sure you will have noticed, our magazine, OMEGA, has undergone some changes and we would love to hear what members think about them. Our aim was to make OMEGA brighter, more colourful and interesting. Only you, our members, can decide if we have succeeded, and we will only know your opinions if you let us know. We have already had some positive feedback, but everyone's views are important. Please send yours to the AOUG Office, Walton Hall, Milton Keynes, MK7 6AA or aoug@open.ac.uk.

Association News

Social Media: AOUG have resisted the use of social media for a long time, due to concerns over the possible content and the time involved for monitoring. However now there are more opportunities for pre-setting controls and especially with 'Corporate' sites rather than personal sites, the safeguards are much greater. Thus since Social Media is the favoured method of communication for the majority of people in today's world, AOUG must move with the times.

So a few weeks ago, our Treasurer set up a Corporate Facebook page and then our Chairman launched a Corporate Twitter account. Both of these are open to members and non-members and are monitored by the Officers. The intention is to raise the profile of AOUG amongst people who might otherwise not have heard of us. Then it is hoped that after a period of interaction through these mediums, that any OU graduates that we have reached may decide to view our website. The ultimate goal is to encourage them to join our organisation. In order for this to happen, the social media interactions must firstly be pitched appropriately but even more important is that our own website must be completely up to date at all times and be interesting enough to inspire them to join up. Then once these people have joined us, we need to ensure that all communications inspire them to keep involved with AOUG for the future.

Thus you now have several electronic opportunities to engage directly with AOUG:

- the AOUG website aoug.org.uk managed by our Publicity Officer.
- the special 'Members Only' Forum (with an additional Executive Committee section) which can be found by clicking on the word Forum at the bottom of the AOUG website Home Page and creating your own password for future access.
- Corporate Facebook – You can find this through your own Facebook account if you have one and typing in [Association of Open University Graduates](https://www.facebook.com/pages/Association-of-Open-University-Graduates/710287149081499) or if you do not as yet have a Facebook account, your direct link is using <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Association-of-Open-University-Graduates/710287149081499>
- Corporate Twitter - Once you have your own Twitter account you can find us on [@TheAOUG](https://twitter.com/TheAOUG)

We would like as many as possible to get involved with these electronic communications but you can of course continue to write to us by 'snail mail' or phone the AOUG Office [01908 653316](tel:01908653316)

Local symbol or motif

Now that all Regions and Nations are producing three Local Newsletters a year, we are looking for ways to develop a more local feel for each of the AOUG areas. Some Executive Representatives are considering more local content and some are experimenting with different layouts or fonts.

However what would really make each area's Local Newsletter distinctive would be to have a unique symbol or motif that was representative of the area for that particular Newsletter, in addition to the AOUG logo. Yorkshire has always had a Yorkshire Rose in addition to the AOUG logo and that was an easy choice for those members as there is only Yorkshire within Region 07. However what about Regions or Nations with many counties, what would represent the whole area?

I am therefore asking you to put on your thinking caps and send in suggestions or images to me of any simple design that you think would be suitable to represent the whole of our area which covers the whole of Scotland. I will then consider all suggestions and choose the one that I feel is most suitable and this will appear as our motif on the Winter Newsletter and it might also be used in OMEGA too.

Lesley Sleigh – Vice Chairman

May Executive Committee Meeting

The Executive Committee met in Caernarfon, after the AGM meetings, for what was the one hundredth meeting and the Vice-Chairman treated us all to celebration cake at our coffee break. The meeting welcomed Margaret Stobirski, Pam Pearce, Ramsey Hertzog and Jean McKenna back to the Committee and received the Resolutions passed at the AGM before progressing to other business. Marian Corns was co-opted as the new Executive Representative for the North West (08) but unfortunately there were no other nominations for co-options to any of the other vacant positions.

Name : PI number

Tel:E-mail address:

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

I enclose an article on a local issue for the next Newsletter

Please return this slip to: Lesley Sleigh, 6, Rockcliffe Mount, Luddenden Foot. HX2 6AJ

July Executive Committee Meeting

At the July meeting after all the official reports, one of the main items of information was relating to the AOUG Foundation for Education Awards. It was reported that five of the nine Research Awards had been approved for this year and that there had been twenty two nominations for the Awards for the Regions and Nations. These latter Awards are given to new graduates who have managed to gain their OU degree whilst overcoming adversity, over and above that of the average student and seventeen of these nominations were accepted as having passed the criteria and worthy of recognition.

Information was also given relating to an important very positive meeting that the Officers had held with Lucian Hudson, Director of Communications and Becca Mills, also from the OU Communications Department. The Officers are to meet with Vice-Chancellor, Peter Horrocks, in September.

Diary Dates

Saturday 26th September 10.30am

Meet in the Quaker Meeting House, 7, Victoria Terrace, Edinburgh EH1 2JL for coffee and then enjoy a full day of visits to Open Door properties. Institutions normally off-limits to the public open their doors and allow their staff to explain the history and function of many fascinating establishments. For details of the selection please email or phone the Local Contact.

Wednesday 14th October. 10.30am

Meet the guide at Reception, City Arts Centre, 2 Market Street EH1 1DE for a guided tour of 'The Artist and the Sea'. The City Arts Centre has step-free access with a lift to galleries, wheelchair accessible toilets and a wheelchair available for use on site. To book in advance, phone 0131 529 3993. Entry is free.

Wednesday 18th November. 3pm

Meet at the entrance for a tour of the recently completed Edinburgh Sculpture Workshops, t 21, Hawthorndale, Leith, EH6 4JT. There will be a chance to visit and talk to a couple of artists in their studios. Hopefully their new café will be open by then but, if not, they can supply coffee, tea and cake for a small charge. Admission - £2 as a donation.

Executive Representative –Vacant

Local Contacts

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

Edinburgh Group – Lewis Mckay 01314 453598 lewis.mckay1@btopenworld.com

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I /we would like to be involved in a Glasgow Group

I /we would like to be involved in a Dundee Group

I/we would like to be involved in an Aberdeen Group

I should like to know more about being a Local Contact

I should like to know more about being the Executive Representative