



## ASSOCIATION OF OPEN UNIVERSITY GRADUATES

### Region 08 – North West

Edition 08

Spring 2017

Welcome to your Spring Local Newsletter.

A quick introduction to myself: I am the Development Officer for the Association. My role includes supporting Executive Representatives and also supporting Regions & Nations currently without a Representative. Therefore, because Region 08 is currently without an Executive Representative, I am producing this Newsletter! However, would you be willing to help out by producing a future Newsletter? Or perhaps you have an interesting story to share or a favourite recipe that could be included in a future edition? If you have any ideas or might be willing to help and would like to find out more before committing yourself, please contact me.

You have an interesting programme of events coming up next year – please see the Diary Dates on page 3 of this Newsletter. However, please also see the appeal from your Local Contacts on page 2 for ideas for future events.

**Friday 6th October 2017**

### **AOUG Foundation for Education Research Awards**

*At 12 noon*

*on the OU campus at Walton Hall, Milton Keynes*

*Followed at 2pm by*

### **The AOUG Foundation Lecture**

**“The Socio-cultural Impact of Globalisation &  
English in Saudi Arabia: A Narrative Enquiry”**

**to be given by Tamsin Waterkeyn,  
AOUG 2016 Ted Castle Bursary winner**

**£10 for full or part day including a buffet lunch -  
Admission by ticket or invitation only**

**Tickets available from AOUG Office  
[aoug@open.ac.uk](mailto:aoug@open.ac.uk) or 01908 653316 before Friday  
8th September**

You will have recently received your Spring edition of OMEGA in the post. If you have not received it by now, please contact the AOUG Office so that your contact details can be checked and another copy sent out if necessary.

I look forward to seeing some of you at next month's Social Weekend & AGM being held in Darlington.

**Philip Evans  
Development Officer**

## Exciting times for the Association!

Following the Resolutions that were passed at last year's AGM, we now have a new class of membership of the Association: "Associate Members". This new class of membership launched on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> March and is already attracting new members to the Association.

There are three groups of people who are eligible to become Associate Members. The first two groups are related to degree-level study with The Open University. These two groups include people who:

- a) have completed an amount of study with the OU to be eligible to claim a degree but have yet to formally accept it (such as if they are still studying in order to achieve their degree with Honours) or
- b) are current OU students who are signed up to study a degree with the OU.

The third group is for the friends or spouse of a deceased Full Member who are now ineligible to come to events. They can be nominated as an Associate Member by any current Full Member who knows them.

Associate Members will pay the same subscription as any other member and will receive the same communications and be eligible to attend all events. However, Associate Members will not be eligible to stand for election to serve on the Executive Committee nor will they be able to vote in any Association elections.

**Philip Evans**  
**Development Officer**

### Your ideas needed!

Your Local Contacts need your help. They organise local events for you to enjoy, but in order to do this they need your suggestions for where to visit, ideas for talks or recommendations for places to eat.

Have you visited somewhere recently that you could recommend?

Is there somewhere you've always wanted to go?

If the answer to either of these questions is "yes", then please let your Local Contacts know!

All you need to do is send them a quick email; pop a tourist information leaflet in the post to them or give them a quick telephone call.

**Your Local Contacts work hard for you so please show them your support**

### Vacancy

There is an immediate vacancy for the position of Executive Representative.

**Would you be willing to be co-opted to serve from the AGM until May 2018?**

This is the perfect opportunity to see if this is something for you, with the knowledge you're only committed to next May.

Contact the AOUG Office if you'd like to know more, without committing yourself!

[AOUG@open.ac.uk](mailto:AOUG@open.ac.uk)

### Don't forget...

There are many ways in which to interact with your Association:

- Face-to-face events
- OMEGA magazine
- Local e-Newsletters
- Facebook: [Click here](#)
- Twitter: [Click here](#)
- AOUG private forum: [Click here](#)

## Diary Dates:

### Friday 26th May. 7pm

Meet at the Waterfold Farm, Waterfold Business Park, Bury, BL9 7BR for an evening meal. Meeting at 7pm for 7.30pm. All are welcome.

### Saturday 3rd June. 11am

Meet at Liverpool Cathedral, St James' Mount, Liverpool, L1 7AZ at 11am for a coffee then visit The Hardmans' House, 59 Rodney Street Liverpool, Merseyside, L1 9ER. This visit had to be postponed last year. It's well worth a visit but you need to contact the Chairman Margaret Stobirski to book two weeks in advance from the date because tickets are for a timed entrance and they advise to book beforehand.

## Contact Details

AOUG Office	Office Administrator	AOUG Office, Walton Hall, Milton Keynes. MK7 6AA	01908 653316 <a href="mailto:aoug@open.ac.uk">aoug@open.ac.uk</a>
North West Local Contact	Peter Williams	Telephone: 01925 223200 Email: <a href="mailto:petercynwyd@gmail.com">petercynwyd@gmail.com</a>  <i>Please note Peter's new email address</i>	

### Joke Corner

Teacher: I want you to tell me the longest sentence you can think of

Pupil: Life imprisonment!