



ASSOCIATION OF OPEN UNIVERSITY GRADUATES

Region 03 – SOUTH WEST

Edition 15

August 2017

It's some time since I've written a Local Newsletter for this Region, but as you may know, Philip Evans finished his term of office as Development Officer at the AGM in Darlington in May. As no-one has taken on the role, I am now supporting Executive Representatives and those Regions and Nations without Executive Representatives, as well as being Publicity Officer. And unfortunately, though a few people have asked for more information, we are still without an Executive Representative in Region 03. If you are interested, please contact AOUG Office.

As I wasn't keen to drive to Darlington from Bristol where I live, I went up on the train to the AGM weekend with my husband, Mike. It gave me the chance to meet up with an 'old' school friend first and then we had a very enjoyable weekend at The Blackwell Grange Hotel. The final proof of the Summer OMEGA has just gone to the printers – you'll be able to read all about the weekend when it comes through your letter box in mid-August.

The 2018 AGM/Social weekend will be held at the Norton Grange Hotel, near Rochdale from 18th - 20th May. This event is being organised by the North West and will be special as 2018 is AOUG's thirtieth anniversary. Booking details will be in the Winter OMEGA and I do hope to see some South West members there. Please put the date in your diary.

Because of the publication date, we weren't able to include the Cornwall Group's August events in OMEGA, but they are included in this Newsletter. Also I'm grateful to Raymond Prescott for sending me an article and photo taken by Kate Macve about the Exeter Group's visit to Powderham Castle.

Pam Pearce
Publicity Officer

Associate Membership

The AGM 2017 at Darlington has overwhelmingly voted to allow friends and relations to join our organisation as Associate Members. They will not have any voting rights or be able to join our Executive Committee, however they are very welcome to receive the OMEGA and Newsletters and join our organisation to benefit from our social activities. Previously at the AGM in 2016 we have allowed Students from the OU to join us. The cost is £20 per year (£24 for Continental Europe and £28 for the rest of the world), the same as a full member. They have to be nominated by a full member of AOUG. So let's welcome as many people as we can to allow our organisation to grow in strength.

We have had a great deal of interest and have already had Associate Membership applications, so please spread the word. Please request Associate membership forms from the AOUG Office 01908 653316 aoug@open.ac.uk

This Year's AOUG Foundation Lecture

At 2pm on Friday 6th October 2017, at The Open University, Walton Hall, Milton Keynes, Tamsin Waterkeyn will be delivering the AOUG Foundation Lecture. Tamsin, an Open University postgraduate student, has been researching for a Doctorate in Education whilst working full time in Saudi Arabia and has just returned to the United Kingdom.

The subject of her lecture is "The Socio-Cultural Impact of Globalisation and English in Saudi Arabia: A Narrative Enquiry". This promises to be a very interesting and informative lecture deserving of full support and, for those who have not been to the campus in recent years, it also gives the opportunity to see how things have changed. Members who have not been to one of the Lectures before will be particularly welcome.

Admission is by ticket only at a cost of £10.00 which also includes a buffet lunch, tickets available from AOUG Office – aoug@open.ac.uk or by phone 01908 653316 before 8th September.

Exeter Group



The weather let us down for our trip to Powderham Castle at the end of June, so most of us failed to explore the grounds as intended - apart from the Rose Garden (weather beaten) and a quaint chapel attached to the main house. BUT ... the tour of the castle (in which the current Earl of Devon and his wife still reside) was excellent. Our guide was a walking encyclopaedia of relevant facts and history, and managed to impart it in an interesting way. For anyone with an interest in stately homes and castles, who lives within driving distance of Powderham, this is to be highly recommended.

**Raymond Prescott
Exeter Local Contact**

Photo: The Music Room. Taken by Kate Macve

Bristol Group

There was a disappointing turnout for the Museum's stores tour at the M-Shed in Princes Wharf, Bristol. Pam Day would like to have more feedback from you about the kind of events you want. There will be another lunch in November, as the last one was well attended (see Diary Dates). Here is a photo I took of the Matthew, on a previous visit to the M-Shed.



Pam Pearce

Executive Committee

There have been some big changes on the AOUG Executive Committee following the AGM. Not only has Philip finished as Development Officer, but Jean Hertzog has come to an end of her term of office as Treasurer. However, Derrick Franks was elected as Vice-Chairman (he was co-opted in the previous year) and Margaret Stobirski continues as Chairman. As nobody else came forward for the other Officer posts, there are just three Officers currently. Jean has become a voluntary consultant and has also been appointed as OMEGA Editor for the next two issues. Rosemary Hammick is no longer Executive Representative for Region 01, but continues as Local Contact and Jayne Littlejohn has completed her term of office as Executive Representative for Region 02.

Mohammad Motawalla has been newly elected as Executive Representative for Region 04 (West Midlands), and David Cox as Executive Representative for Region 02 (South). At the Executive Committee meeting which followed the AGM, there were the following co-options: Jayne Littlejohn as Executive Representative for Region 06 (East of England), Jude Warren for Nation 10 (Wales), and Caroline Cowan for Region 01 (London and the South East). Jayne Littlejohn continues to be AOUG Company Secretary.

It is quite challenging to have just three Officers covering the different responsibilities. Please contact AOUG Office if you might be interested in either post.

Foundation Funding

Every year, the AOUG Foundation for Education offers nine Research Awards and fourteen Awards for new graduates who have overcome even more adversity than most students. The Awards for 2017 have been advertised and nominations have been received. However, this year there is concern that the charity funds will not be able to finance the same monetary value for the Awards as in previous years.

These Awards are highly regarded by The Open University and we are proud to be able to acknowledge what its students have achieved. Please consider sending a donation to the AOUG Office if you can spare it. Cheques should be made payable to 'AOUG Foundation for Education Limited' and sent to AOUG Office, Walton Hall, Milton Keynes, MK7 6AA. Payment can also be made by phone at 01908 653316 or by annual covenant (please request a form). Thank you.

Diary Dates:

Bristol Group

Thursday 30th November. 12.30pm

Meet for lunch at the entrance to the White Hart Inn, BS1 2LU, located close to Bristol Bus Station on Lower Maudlin Street (opposite the Eye Hospital). You can access the menu at www.thewhitehartbristol.co.uk . If you intend to come, please let your Local Contact know by 23rd September.

Exeter Group

Tuesday 22nd, Wednesday 23rd or Thursday 24th August. To be confirmed
Devonport Naval Heritage Centre. Tours by appointment only, please contact your Local Contact as soon as possible if you are interested.

Friday 29th September. 12noon

Meet in the Lounge Bar of the Countess Wear Beefeater Restaurant, Topsham Road, Exeter, EX2 6HE. Pre-booking with your Local Contact is essential.

Friday 8th December. 12noon

Meet at main entrance for a Christmas Lunch at the Puffing Billy (tbc.), Station Road, Exton, Exeter, EX3 0PR. Pre-booking with your Local Contact is essential.

Cornwall Group**Friday 4th August. 12.30pm**

Garden Visit. Pencarrow House, Bodmin, PL30 3AG Please note: Both the house and the café are closed on Fridays. We will meet at the entrance to the gardens and, if you would like some sort of refreshment, I suggest bringing it with you.

Friday 11th August. 12.30pm

Lunch at The Bay Tree Restaurant, Newquay Road, Goonhavern, Truro, TR4 9QQ. The restaurant is located inside Goonhavern Garden Centre. Just right for indulging in some plant shopping after lunch!

The Book Club meets on the last Thursday evening of each month in the Victoria Inn, Roche, St Austell PL26 BLQ

Contact Details

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