



Flag of Essex

Association of Open University Graduates Region 06 – The East of England

Edition 11

Winter 2017/18

Welcome

If you are a new member of the Association of Open University Graduates, welcome! Do let me know if you have any ideas for social events within the Region. Also, do enjoy reading about recent events within the wider Association and our plans for 2018 which will be the 30th Anniversary of the Association.

Executive Committee Meeting - October 2017

On the day following the October Research Awards Ceremony there was the Executive Committee Meeting. A number of Agenda items are worth reporting on. Scotland has been without an Executive Representative for a good number of years but at this meeting a new Representative, Nicholas McDonald-Lyons, a previous winner of one of our Awards for the Regions and Nations and a regular attendee of the Edinburgh AOUG Group, was co-opted. As you may recall The Open University has stated that as from the start of the New Year they will `withdraw` support for AOUG. The Chairman has requested more details but nothing further has been received other than AOUG can no longer have stands at Degree Ceremonies.

Next year's AGM/Social Weekend is to be held in the Greater Manchester area at at The Norton Grange Hotel and Spa, Castleton, Rochdale from 18th to 20th May 2018. This will be our thirtieth Anniversary year, so why not join us to mark this very special event. Booking forms are in the Winter edition of OMEGA or are available via the AOUG website at www.aoug.org.uk . There will be optional visits to Robinsons Brewery and the Hat Works, and a walk around Media City/The Lowry. If you don't know this area, why not explore while you're there, or just take advantage of the spacious hotel facilities. The weekend is open to all AOUG Members and your family and friends, as well as any interested OU Graduates, OU students and OU Staff.

You will have seen that in OMEGA readers are asked to submit any Resolutions or Motions for the next AGM. This is your chance to offer ideas to change the way AOUG works. There is also notification of vacancies arising after the AGM for the positions of Chairman, (our Chairman, Margaret, has served in that role for the last five years) and Publicity Officer both for the next three years. There are also by-elections open for the Treasurer and Development Officer roles for the forthcoming two years. At present AOUG is only run by the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Publicity Officer and ideally there should be five Officers. Any fully paid up full member may stand for an Officer position but you will require six other fully paid up

full members from any Region or Nation to act as your assenters. If you or any other AOUG member is interested in filling any of the vacancies, please contact the AOUG Office for further details.



2018 is the thirtieth anniversary of AOUG and so as well as making the AGM/Social weekend a little more special, it has been agreed that following the October Award Ceremony and Lecture members might wish to celebrate the Pearl Anniversary by staying at the Ramada Hotel, Newport Pagnell for the Friday and Saturday nights. Extra events, such as a visit to Stoke Bruerne canal and the World War II code breaking Bletchley Park are being arranged together with a special celebration meal. Full details for this will be in the Spring 2018 OMEGA.

In 2019 the OU will be celebrating its fiftieth Anniversary but although AOUG, as at other similar Anniversaries, has offered to assist, no information has, as yet, been forthcoming.

Ideas for Fund Raising

We are always looking to find ways to increase the funds for our Charity. The Yorkshire Region held a 'Friends for the Foundation' fundraising day, raising £150. How about a Car Boot, Sponsored Walks, selling unwanted items on eBay or filling Smartie boxes with pennies, 20p pieces or even pound coins! This idea provided by a member from Region 05 recently resulted in 63 one pence pieces, £4.25 in five pence pieces, £5.50 in ten pence pieces and £12.20 in twenty pence pieces - £22.58!



Recent events

Our first event was a handshake event with Region 02, visiting Bletchley Park, near Milton Keynes. There was one member from each region and therefore it still did qualify as a handshake event! Bletchley Park now has an extensive visitor experience for those wanting to find out more about the code breakers of World War II and has been used as a backdrop for films such as 'Enigma' and 'The Imitation Game.' The fairly new Visitor Centre includes a display on code breaking in World War I, as well as an introduction to Bletchley Park and an exhibition about keeping safe online which is as pertinent now as it was in the past. After then walking round the lake and grounds and seeing the cottages first used for code breaking before the larger huts were built we then enjoyed a pleasant lunch in one of the old code breaking huts before visiting the mansion, garages and other code breaking huts. We then watched a replica Bombe machine being put through its paces before looking at an exhibition on the life of Alan Turing.

There have been two coffee morning meetings in St Albans since I was co-opted, the first was not well attended but at the second I had an opportunity to meet some local members as well as being joined by my colleagues from Region 01 who came out to join us. This was a good opportunity to get to know each other and to confirm that there is a desire for coffee mornings in this area.

I have also run a coffee morning in Cambridge. This was well supported by local members who were pleased to see an event more central to the region. We plan to hold a post-Christmas lunch in Cambridge and will look to organising a visit to Norwich later in 2018.

Future events

Monday 29th January at 1.00pm

Meet for a post-Christmas lunch at Brown's Restaurant, 23 Trumpington Street, Cambridge CB2 1QA.

Please let the EC Representative know if you wish to attend before 10th January 2018 as a table will need to be booked. We hope to plan visits in the area over the warmer months so please come with your ideas. There will be an AOUG backpack and a copy of OMEGA on the table.

Tuesday 13th February at 11.00am

Meet for coffee and a chat at Café Roma, 79a St. Peters Street, St Albans AL1 3EG. There will be a copy of OMEGA and an AOUG backpack on the table. Hopefully I will meet some of you there!

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