



Flag of Norfolk

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

Edition 12

Spring 2018

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. Do enjoy reading about some of the recent events in the evening and our plans for visits over the coming months.

Recent events

I was invited to a lunch in St Albans recently. These events take place regularly and are attended by some local members and I hope to get advance notice of these gatherings to allow me to advertise them more widely to local members, either in these Local Newsletters or OMEGA. They are organised by a previous Executive Representative and unfortunately a number of the expected attendees were unable to attend due to ill health but I did get to meet some new faces which was good.

The post-Christmas lunch in Cambridge was very well attended with nine people joining together for lunch. ‘Browns’ provided an excellent choice of venue and we had lots of opportunities to talk and get to know each other and discuss our history with The Open University. The weather was rainy on arrival but everyone had an opportunity to explore more of Cambridge after our lunch when, fortunately the sun had come out. We discussed possible visits in the area for the Summer and alternative venues for lunch in the Autumn (this may be our Regional Pearl Anniversary event) – see the future events – and we hope even more people may be able to join us in the future.



Cambridge Streets taken by Jayne Littlejohn

Can you help us award a Pearl Anniversary Bursary?

The Executive Committee would like to offer a special Bursary to an OU Research Student to mark our 30th Anniversary.

- We need your assistance to raise the £1,000 traditionally presented.
- Bursaries go to exceptional final year PHD students, to allow them to undertake additional research, attend a related conference or publish papers about their research.

If you would like to contribute to this important aspect of our AOUG's charity work, please send a cheque made out to:

'AOUG Foundation for Education (Bursary)'
to AOUG Office, Walton Hall, Milton Keynes MK7 6AA.

Thank you in anticipation for your support.

We need to increase our membership and we need your help!

AOUG has a supply of posters that might encourage OU graduates to join our Association.

- Do you go to your local library?
- Has your local supermarket a community notice board?
- Would you be prepared to place one of our posters on their notice board?

Your Executive Representative has a supply of these posters and can provide you with some.

If you have no current Executive Representative, you can contact the AOUG Office and they will post you some out.

Please remember to take in down if it gets damaged and replace it with a fresh one.

Thank you, in anticipation of your help!

It's Organised

This is our thirtieth year, our Pearl Anniversary and the Annual General Meeting and Social Weekend promises to be a great celebration. A full forty eight hours of activities so you can socialise fully or take time out as you please. There is still time to book any of the following four options, however we are afraid that you will now have to pay the full price straight away because we have passed the deposit date.

- **OPTION 1:** Saturday meetings with tea/coffee and Saturday lunch **£17.00**
- **OPTION 2:** Gala Evening - drinks reception, dinner, speaker, music **£70.00**
- **OPTION 3:** Gala Evening as above plus Saturday night B&B **£150.00**
- **OPTION 4:** FULL WEEKEND PACKAGE **£280.00**

The hotel is very comfortable and provides excellent amenities. You can take the full package and stay in the Norton Grange Hotel, in Castleton, Rochdale or come just for the day time to join in any of the activities in the hotel or just to join on an optional excursion to Robinson's Brewery, the Museum, the Hat Works or the Lowry. You can read all about it in the Winter OMEGA. Remember friends and family are very welcome too.

So go on treat yourself, celebrate with us and enjoy good company. Contact AOUG Office now for more details. AOUG Office, Walton Hall Milton Keynes MK7 6AA - 01908 653316 - aoug@open.ac.uk

If you require accommodation or meals, please make sure you book with the AOUG Office before the end of March. Excursion only visitors can still book up to the end of April.

Pearl Anniversary Celebrations

Since the Association of Open University Graduates was officially endorsed by the OU in 1988, 2018 is AOUG's Pearl Anniversary (30th) and so a perfect time to celebrate all the friendships that have developed and the great support that members give to each other and our university.

The AGM in the North West will have extra celebratory features and all Regions and Nations are being encouraged to arrange their local celebrations. Our area is planning on holding a lunch in October in Cambridge for local members to join together to remember and celebrate. (see Diary Dates) However in addition, AOUG is hosting an extra celebration based around Milton Keynes which will link with the annual Research Awards Ceremony and Foundation Lecture in the first weekend in October.

On the Friday after these traditional events, whilst the Executive Committee are holding their Workshop, other visitors will have the opportunity of a visit to either the OU Campus Observatory or the OU campus Library. Then whilst the Executive Committee have their main quarterly meeting, there will be walking tours around the campus's beautifully maintained grounds, including the Zen Garden and the Legacy Garden, whilst learning about the history of the campus's development and the varied geology of the stones used for buildings construction and on the way viewing the items on the campus sculpture trail. After a buffet lunch with your Executive Committee you can join a coach trip to Stoke Bruerne to visit a Blacksmith's Forge before a trip aboard a canal boat.

On Saturday evening there will be a Celebration meal. Then on Sunday there will be another coach trip, this time to Bletchley Park. All aspects will be individually priced so you can do as much or as little as you please. Full details and booking arrangements will be in the Spring OMEGA, so do watch for this and book early as unfortunately places will be very limited.

Regional Bank Account

Since becoming Executive Representative I have become aware that our Region has its own funds in a Local Bank account currently based in St Albans. This money originated from profits made from numerous events in the Cambridge area at the time of the Kings College Christmas Lectures and Summer Strawberry Teas and the responsibility for the management of this money passes from Executive Representative to Executive Representative. Following an enquiry from one of the previous Executive Representatives re the status of this money, research is being undertaken and in AOUG's tradition of full transparency, it is my intention to report details to you all in our next Newsletter.

Future events

Monday 30th April at 11.00am

Meet outside the entrance to Norwich train station (NR1 1EF). There is a public car park opposite and a 'Park and Ride' service is in operation in Norwich. We will then walk down to Norwich Cathedral along the river together. On visiting the Cathedral there may be a temporary exhibition we can also view in addition to admiring the most complete Norman Cathedral in England. Visiting the Cathedral has no admission fee although donations are encouraged. We will then adjourn to The Refectory for a late lunch.

Please let the Executive Representative know if you wish to attend before 16th April 2018 as we will try to book a table.

Monday 21st May 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!

Sunday 17th June at 12 noon

Meet at the tea rooms in Walkers House, an annexe off the courtyard of Rockingham Castle, near Corby, Market Harborough, LE16 8TH for light lunch. Once suitably refreshed we can watch the “Knights of Nottingham” who are going to demonstrate Medieval jousting in the grounds with displays of swordsmanship and skill at arms. Members can also visit the castle built for William the Conqueror which stands on an escarpment affording great views over the surrounding countryside. Adult admission is £14 for the event. This is a handshake event with Region 05 – please confirm your attendance with the East Midlands (05) Executive Representative

Monday 23rd July at 1pm

Meet at the entrance to Kettle's Yard for a visit to this recently reopened art gallery and house in Cambridge (Castle Street, Cambridge CB3 0AQ). Kettle's Yard was the home to an ex-curator of the Tate Gallery and includes a remarkable collection of paintings, sculptures and other art collected through his connections to the art world and donated to the University of Cambridge in 1966.



Monday 15th October at 1pm

Autumn Pearl Celebration lunch at Cote Brasserie, 21 – 24 Bridge Street, Cambridge (CB2 1UF). We will celebrate thirty years of the Association of Open University Graduates at this French inspired restaurant. **Do feel free to wear your pearls (if you have them!!)** Please let the Executive Representative know if you wish to attend before 1st October 2018 as we will need to book a table.

Contacts

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Contact for Sunday 17th June.

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