



## ASSOCIATION OF OPEN UNIVERSITY GRADUATES IN THE NORTH WEST – 08

**Edition 10**

**Spring 2018**

Some North West AOUG members and their friends had an excellent visit to a local Warrington Police Museum. Having not known what to expect, we were very impressed with the voluntary guide's knowledge and enthusiasm and the amount of artifacts and memorabilia that were on show. Cheshire Police Force had organised the whole collection, with many donations from around the world. The visit included historical stories about criminal acts in the past and consequences. A traditional blue police box, as seen on 'Doctor Who', formed the entrance way to experience the prison cells. We viewed an old Anglia police car and were able to dress in police helmets and capes. This would be a really exciting visit for children but book well in advance it has limited opening times because part of the building is still a working police station.



During the festive season we met for lunch at Waterford Farm, which has been a restaurant of choice for some time, if you would like to join us there at future meetings please let me know. As you can see in our Diary Dates, we intend to have a few exciting visits, so we do hope you can come along.

### **North West Members – We Need You!**

As you have just read in the section above the AGM/ Social Weekend is to be held here in our Region and so we are calling on as many North West members as possible to join in. There is still time to book for any of the options above. However if you are local, you might consider attending during the day to show members from other areas what a warm welcome we have to offer. Some local members are also needed to volunteer to help lead the excursions groups each day and others to sell and fold raffle tickets on the Saturday evening. If you require accommodation, any meals or to go on a excursion, be sure to book with the AOUG Office before the end of March.

## *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 30<sup>th</sup> 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!

## **Executive Committee Feedback**

The Executive Committee held its one hundred and tenth meeting in February and once again a great many issues were discussed. Low recruitment numbers, due to the restrictions placed on AOUG by the OU caused concern and the lower related membership income for 2017 meant the 2018 budget had to be set much tighter than ever before.

However the meeting, whilst being realistic, was not negative and, especially in this our thirtieth year, there was a very positive mood to make this a year of celebrations throughout. all Regions and Nations are asked to hold special events and many ideas were generated for ways to celebrate and how to make even the most simple of events into a celebration. This year there will be two residential weekends available – the AGM/Social Weekend in our area and a special Pearl Anniversary Celebration at Milton Keynes. Apart from adding different forms of decoration to the AGM Gala evening, one suggestion was a display of photos of members from previous AGM Weekend to rekindle memories of people and places and all local members who have attended any AGMs in the past are asked to dig out their piles of old photos and send digital or hard copies into the AOUG Office to add to those already in our archives. We would be grateful if you could let us know the date you think it was taken and the names of any people featured. Please do not send us your original as we shall not be able to return it and afterwards, all photos received will be stored in our archives for a future occasion.

A very good response was reported for volunteers for processing at Degree Ceremonies but those volunteering to stand in the elections and by-elections for Executive Committee positions was disappointing. We look to you all members to consider volunteering to be co-opted from May for any of the vacant

Officer or Executive Representative roles. The North West need an Executive Representative to co-ordinate our activities and give the Region a boost of new ideas and some Local Contacts to organise just three events a year, doing things that interest them in a small area near to where they live. How about you making this the year you get more involved!

## 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](mailto: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 (30<sup>th</sup>) 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 active group is still to decide and make arrangements for local members to join together to remember and celebrate. Please forward any ideas to me. 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.

## Diary Dates

### **Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> February. 1pm**

Meet for lunch at the Waterfold Farm, Waterfold Business Park, Bury. BL9 7BR. All are welcome. Please pre-book with the Chairman at least a week before.

### **Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> March. 11am**

Meet in the café at Norton Priory, Tudor Road, Manor Park, Runcorn, Cheshire WA7 1SX (SATNAV users please use WA7 1BD) This is an historic site comprising the remains of an abbey complex dating from the 12<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> Century and an 18<sup>th</sup> Century country house. Adults £6.70 (Concessions £5.95)

### **Monday 30<sup>th</sup> April. 11am**

Meet at the café at Ryland Library, 150, Deansgate, Manchester. M33 EH. Here we will view Gothic revival architecture and peruse books, manuscripts and maps of interest. The building is breath-taking. There is a lift to all floors and chairs on all levels. This is very central and you can visit other interesting buildings if you would like to walk around. Free admission No parking on site.

### **Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> May. 11am**

Meet at the café in the Avro Heritage Museum, Chester Road, Woodford, Stockport SK7 1AG Here you will view Aircraft from the past which includes a Vulcan and a Lancaster amongst others. There is disabled access and a lift. The café offers only light snacks and drinks. Adults £8.00 (concession £6.00) or if you would like the 'Cockpit Experience' it will cost a further £2.00

### **Friday 8<sup>th</sup> June. 1pm**

Meet for lunch at the Waterfold Farm, Waterfold Business Park, Bury, BL9 7BR. All are welcome. but please pre book with the Chairman at least a week before.

### **Monday 9<sup>th</sup> July. 11am**

Meet in the café downstairs at Lady Lever Art Gallery, Port Sunlight Village, Wirral CH62 5EQ. We have done this visit before but it's back by popular choice. There is an amazing collection of paintings especially Pre- Raphaelite and many Victorian depictions.

## Contacts

**AOUG Office** 01908 653316 [aoug@open.ac.uk](mailto:aoug@open.ac.uk)

**Executive Representative** – Vacant

**Local Contact** – Margaret Stobirski (AOUG Chairman) 01925 263161 [margaretstobirski@gmail.com](mailto:margaretstobirski@gmail.com)