



ASSOCIATION OF OPEN UNIVERSITY GRADUATES

Region 03 – SOUTH WEST

Edition 14

December 2016

Welcome to your Winter 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 R03 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.

Hopefully you will have received your Winter OMEGA in the post by now. If not, 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 year's Social Weekend & AGM being held in Darlington. There are details and a link to the hotel's website on page 2. Booking forms are included with the Winter OMEGA.

Vacancy

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

Would you be willing to be co-opted to serve until May 2017?

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

**Philip Evans
Development Officer**

Joke Corner

Teacher: I want you to tell me the longest sentence you can think of
Pupil: Life imprisonment!

Executive Committee Meeting

Following the annual AOUG Foundation for Education Awards and Foundation Lecture on Friday 7th October, the Executive Committee had its October meeting on Saturday 8th October. As usual, there was a lot on the Agenda apart from the standard updates from the Officers and from the Regions and Nations. We discussed the ever-evolving relationship between the AOUG and The Open University; financial plans for 2017; future social events around the AOUG's thirtieth anniversary (in 2018) and the OU's fiftieth anniversary (in 2019) and also the various communication channels used by the Association (such as OMEGA, these Newsletters and the Website).

Don't forget that the members of the Executive Committee are working on your behalf. If you have any ideas, feedback or comments about the Association, please let us know!

Philip Evans
Development Officer

Social Weekend & AGM 2017!

The 2017 weekend is to be held from 19th to 21st May in Region 09, the North. The hotel that has been selected is the Blackwell Grange Hotel in Darlington, have a look at their website at: www.sjhotels.co.uk/hotels/blackwell-grange-darlington/

There are many interesting places to see in the area.

See the Winter OMEGA for full details and booking form. Details also available on the website at: www.aoug.org.uk/events/2017.html

2016 Region & Nation Awards

Each year our linked charity the "AOUG Foundation for Education" makes awards to recent OU graduates who have overcome some adversity over and above that of the average student.

Keep an eye out in the Winter and Spring editions of OMEGA for reports and photographs of the Award Winners.

You can find out more about these Awards at www.aoug.org.uk/awards/regional.html

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

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:

Bristol Group

Wednesday 8th February. 12.30pm

Meet for lunch at the Jubilee Inn, Flax Bourton (formerly known as the Dew Drop Inn), BS48 3QX. You can view the menus at www.sabrain.com/pubs-and-hotels/the-south-west/bristol-somerset/the-jubilee-inn . Please notify your Local Contact by 31st January whether or not you plan to attend and put AOUG in the subject line of any e-mails.

Exeter Group

Friday 27th January. 12noon

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

Friday 24th February. 2.30pm

Revivalist Talk at a member's home in Lypstone. Further information from your Local Contact.

Friday 31st March. 12noon

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

Cornwall Group

Meet in Victoria Inn, Roche, St Austell PL26 8LQ for the Book Club's monthly meeting on the following dates -

Thursday 29th December. 8pm

Thursday 26th January. 8pm

Thursday 23rd February. 8pm

Thursday 30th March. 8pm

Contact Details

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