



Flag of Cambridgeshire

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

Edition 10

June 2017

### Welcome

If you are a new member of the Association of Open University Graduates, welcome! Please enjoy reading my first newsletter as I have recently been co-opted as the Executive Representative for the Region. I hope to start to organise a social calendar for the Region – due to the lack of a Representative for a number of years this has been lacking – if you have any particular events you would like me to organise please let me know. Initially I plan to organise a couple of coffee mornings in St. Albans as there is a history of coffee mornings in the area and also a coffee morning in Cambridge in the autumn but do let me know what you are interested in.

I have been a member of the Association of Open University Graduates for a number of years. I started studying with The Open University in 1989, and have never stopped! I have achieved three Open University undergraduate degrees and I am due to start a postgraduate degree with The Open University in September 2017.

### 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](mailto:aoug@open.ac.uk)

### This Year's AOUG Foundation Lecture

At 2pm on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> 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, is currently researching for a Doctorate in Education whilst working full time in Saudi Arabia. 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](mailto:aoug@open.ac.uk) or by phone 01908 653316 before 8<sup>th</sup> September.

### **Foundation Funding**

Every year, the AOUG Foundation for Education offers nine Research Awards and fourteen Awards for new graduates who have overcome adversity to obtain their degrees. You will have read about previous winners in OMEGA. The Awards for 2017 have been advertised and soon the nominations will be coming in. However, this year there is real concern that there will be insufficient funds to cover them.

As in the past, interest from investments has been added to your donations and at our recent AGM in Darlington, we were pleased to receive money from the raffle and the piggy bank (which is on display wherever possible). However, this is still unlikely to be enough.

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 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 01908 653316 or by annual covenant (please request a form). Thank you.

### **Recent events**

My first visit to the Region since my co-option was to attend my own (latest) degree ceremony which I had decided many months ago that I wanted to experience in a ‘cathedral setting’ and so had decided on Ely. Unknown to me at the time was the fact that I would become the Executive Representative for the Region! My family and I travelled to Cambridge for the weekend, my parents travelling from Yorkshire to join me in celebrating my latest achievement.



The Open University Graduation – Ely (photo courtesy of Jayne Littlejohn)

The weather was glorious as you can see from the photo above and I must say the setting was

everything I hoped it would be. The Cathedral is beautiful and a wonderful setting for graduates on their special day. It was a shame that AOUG could not have a stand at the graduation but I proudly wore my AOUG badge on my hood for everyone to see!

## **Future events**

### **Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> June at 1.00pm**

Meet at the main entrance to Bletchley Park to find out more about the home to British codebreaking and the first computers. Visit what is often regarded as the best kept secret from World War II. Meet by the entrance. Entry is £17.25 with a £2 discount for seniors. Advance tickets are £16 and available at [www.bletchleypark.org.uk](http://www.bletchleypark.org.uk) . Located on Sherwood Drive, Bletchley, Milton Keynes, MK3 6EB. This is a handshake event with Region 02.

### **Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> July 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. This will be an opportunity for me to meet local members and take suggestions for alternative venues for coffee and also visits people would like me to organise.

### **Monday 11<sup>th</sup> September at 2.00pm**

Meet for coffee and a chat at Indigo Café, 8 St. Edwards Passage, Cambridge CB2 3PJ. It would be lovely to meet some local members who can tell me what you would like your representative to do for you. There will be an AOUG backpack and a copy of OMEGA on the table.

### **Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> November 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!

### **Jayne Littlejohn – Executive Representative**

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