



**ASSOCIATION OF OPEN UNIVERSITY GRADUATES  
LONDON 01 REGION**

**NEWSLETTER 3**

**SPRING 2014**

**Executive Representative's Report**

Welcome to the Spring Newsletter - apologies for the delay in producing this. May I repeat my thanks, expressed in the Spring edition of OMEGA, to all those who replied with up to date contact details and appreciative comments. It has been a great pleasure to meet some of you in person - always nice to put a face to a name. On this subject, if anyone has acquired an e-mail address and is prepared to receive communications electronically it would be helpful if you could let me or the AOUG Office know in view of the astronomical cost of postage and stationery; alternatively a stamped addressed envelope would be appreciated.

The lunches at Trattoria Verdi on 21<sup>st</sup> January and 15<sup>th</sup> April, organised as always by Margaret Brett, were well attended. It was particularly good to see Eric McKinnon, recovering from a bad motor accident, and Jean Grout, who urged diners who had not already booked to attend the AGM/Social Weekend in May and she gave more details of the interesting outings which had been arranged.

In March a group assembled at London Bridge Station for a stroll through Wapping to hear the stories behind some of the historic hostelries such as the "Town of Ramsgate" and "Captain Kidd" and to see where the eponymous notorious pirate, among others, was brought after execution to hang in chains at Wapping Old Stairs for three tides to wash over them. The infamous Judge Jeffreys was captured outside the "Town of Ramsgate" as he tried to escape to Hamburg after presiding at the Bloody Assizes. The "Prospect of Whitby" offered an extensive menu and the party were able to dine in an upstairs room surrounded by paintings and photographs of famous characters from history and from the silver screen. Some of the group had time to continue along the Thames Path to Canary Wharf to return home by underground or River Bus.

Regretfully I have only managed to attend one of the Institute of Engineering and Technology lectures but these continue to be held on the last Friday of each month at the Imperial College campus in Exhibition Road. An excellent lunch is available in the restaurant on site.

I had the privilege of representing AOUG in March at a Degree Ceremony at the Barbican Hall. It was very moving to process on to the stage and applaud the students receiving their degrees, recalling the hard work which preceded this event.

The aforementioned AGM in St Albans in May was quite well attended and I was pleased to meet up with four friends from London Region. The meetings of the Executive Committee which also took place during the weekend produced some fruitful discussions and it was encouraging to see volunteers coming forward to replace retiring representatives from other Regions. It was a particular pleasure to re-acquaint myself with St Albans and explore more of this interesting town.

A number of people have expressed an interest in the Imperial War Museum and I am pleased to say they are at last re-opening on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> July with an exhibition to mark the start of World War I (29<sup>th</sup> July 1914 – 11<sup>th</sup> November 1918). They are expecting record numbers of visitors during the Summer months but although I am attending meetings about the organisation I have not yet viewed the extensive refurbishment. I suspect the museum will look very different from childhood memories but I will keep you informed when I have more information.

**Rosemary Hammick**

## **‘Members only’ AOUG Forum on the AOUG Website**

The AOUG website is continuing to develop and last year we introduced a new-style Home Page, an on-line Membership facility and an on-line Trading section. Now we have taken it one step further with a Members Only AOUG Forum. AOUG does not endorse the use of Facebook or Twitter or other similar social media sites, in the name of AOUG, as they are impossible for a volunteer organisation to monitor and thus too greater risk to the reputation of AOUG. Obviously what individuals, who also are AOUG members, decide to do, is their own responsibility. However a Members Only Forum is within the Association’s control and this can more easily be monitored and improper items can be removed or prevented. Since we want all members to have the confidence to take part, we are now including a step by step guide to registering and being authorised. We apologise to all of you who are very familiar with these things already. Once authorised the site will give you guidance on using the various features and if you have any problems at all you are very welcome to ask the Officers for help.

**Step one:** Ensure you have internet access on your computer, or equivalent, and log on in the usual way.

**Step two:** Type [www.aoug.org.uk](http://www.aoug.org.uk) into the address line at the top of the page. The AOUG website should now appear with our logo clearly at the top left hand-side.

**Step three:** Click on the word Forum along the bottom of your screen. This will open a new window which you will need to enlarge to fill your screen

**Step four:** You will now be asked for your **Username** and a **Password**. Your user name can be your own name or a shortened version or nickname. Your password can be anything you like but we advise a mixture of numbers and letters about 12- 15 characters in length. Now click on the word **Register**

**Step five:** The screen will now show you the **Terms and Conditions**. Take as long as you like to read these but in order to progress you need to click on **Accept** at the bottom of the screen.

**Step six:** You will now be asked to complete a form with Username, e-mail address, password, (these must be the same as you used on the first page) first name and surname (These must be your names as used as a member of AOUG) PI Number (the number you used at the top of all those OU assignments!) your preferred Region or Nation, your gender and your birthday (day and month and year). Finally click on the word **Save**

**Step seven:** You will need to confirm your **password** yet again and copy a **Registration code** (to prove you are human!!!)

**Step eight:** Then you will need to come out of the website and go to your **own e-mail account** where you will see an **e-mail acknowledging** your application for the Forum.

**Step nine:** Wait until you receive a **second e-mail** which will acknowledge you as authorised – (this may be within a few minutes or a few days, depending on if an Officer is currently on line to see your request) and then go back onto the **AOUG website** – click on **Forum** at the bottom of the **Home Page** and the forum will open and allow you to sign in with your **User name** and **Password** and then you can start exploring the instant communications possibilities.

**Step ten:** If you need more help just ask! **Have Fun !!!!**

**Jean Hertzog – Association Treasurer**

## **Diary Dates**

I append a list of future activities and suggestions for your consideration/inclusion in your diaries. Any other ideas will be most welcome for future programmes.

### **Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> June 12 noon**

Meet at the Trattoria Verdi Restaurant, 110 Southampton Row, Holborn, WC1B 4BL (020-7405 8001) for another great Italian lunch (cost for two-course meal with wine £13 per head). Bookings to Margaret Brett on 020-7387 4975.

### **Please note the following correction to a previous announcement:**

#### **Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> July 10.45am for 11.am**

Meet Holborn outside Robert Dyas by underpass to Chancery Lane to view the War Memorials in the City.

### **Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> September - Great River Race**

Meet 12.30pm London Bridge Station concourse (outside M&S) for short walk on to London Bridge to watch this annual event (London's River Marathon). This attracts over 300 crews of rowers from all over the globe and all levels, from those who enjoy fun, fancy dress and charity stunts to serious sportsmen and women. The course covers 21.6 miles and starts at Millwall Dock Slipway at 12.40pm on the basis of 'slowest first, fastest last' to give all crews an equal chance. The first should pass

Tower Bridge at 1.10pm and reach the riverside below Ham House, Richmond at 3.40pm. (The event can be viewed from any of the bridges en route for those not wishing to travel to London Bridge.)

**Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> September 12 noon**

Meet at the Trattoria Verdi Restaurant, 110 Southampton Row, Holborn, WC1B 4BL (020-7405 8001) for another great Italian lunch (cost for two-course meal with wine £13 per head). Bookings to Margaret Brett on 020-7387 4975.

**Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> October**

I am informed by Colin Reed, the Local Contact for Oxford and area, Region 02 (South), that they will be holding their Autumn Lunch on 11<sup>th</sup> October and members from 01 would be welcome to join them. This could be an opportunity for a “handshake” event and a chance to explore the city. More details to follow.

*Two further (very advance) dates for your diaries:*

**“Canalway Cavalcade” 2015**

This unique and colourful waterways and community festival takes place annually at Little Venice in London over the May Bank Holiday, which in 2015 falls on 2<sup>nd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup>May. Admission is free and includes a pageant of boats, Morris Dancers and a wide variety of snacks and food. Further details nearer the time.

**Association AGM 2015**

The 2015 AGM will be held on 8<sup>th</sup> -10<sup>th</sup> May in Caernarfon, North Wales and provisional accommodation has already been booked. Full details will be available in the Winter OMEGA.

**Suggestions for future events - dates to be arranged**

- \* London Wetlands Centre, Barnes (Wildlife & Wetland Trust)
- \* William Morris Gallery, Walthamstow (closed Monday/Tuesday)
- \* Capel Manor Gardens, Enfield
- \* Valentines Mansions and Gardens, Ilford

**LOCAL CONTACTS**

**Executive Representative** - Rosemary Hammick

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**Lunches**

Margaret Brett - 020-7387 4975

**GENERAL INFORMATION:**

All those who participate in events are responsible for their own safety and join entirely at their own risk.