



ASSOCIATION OF OPEN UNIVERSITY GRADUATES LONDON 01 REGION

NEWSLETTER 2

WINTER 2013

Executive Representative's Report

Welcome to this Winter edition of the Newsletter from the London Region.

Since the last communication a lunch was held at the usual venue, Trattoria Verdi, on 10th September and this was followed by a visit to the British Museum for the exhibition "Life and Death - Pompeii and Herculaneum", for which tickets had been organised by Margaret Brett. This was extremely popular and those who were able to attend marveled at the details revealed of the catastrophic volcanic eruption.

On 22nd October a small group joined me for a rain soaked tour of "Medieval Croydon". After a reviving cup of coffee we made our way to the High Street and studied the exterior of the Elizabethan Whitgift Almshouses. Sadly these are only open to the public on Open House weekends but we were able to gaze through the gates and admire the beautiful gardens. We then proceeded to the Surrey Street market, which was granted a charter in 1276 by the then Archbishop of Canterbury, past the colourful displays of fruit and vegetables and other wares. We paused briefly at the Minster (previously Croydon Parish Church) but could not linger to admire the interior as a service was taking place. From there a few steps took us to the Old Palace, traditionally a residence of the Archbishops of Canterbury before the Conquest. The present buildings are later but some traces remain from this period. The medieval Palace was built in the form of a square and the Banqueting Hall, where we enjoyed an introductory slide show and talk, still forms the south side of this square.

From there we moved to the solar, or withdrawing room, now named the Guard Room, then on to the Chapel, Dining Room, Long Gallery, where Queen Elizabeth I is reputed to have danced and, at the eastern end of the gallery, Queen Elizabeth's bedroom.

A welcome cup of tea and cakes were served during the tour and one of the Old Palace guides was delighted to learn that we were OU graduates, having herself graduated through the OU many years ago (I took the opportunity to give her information about the AOUG in the hope that she might feel moved to join!) The tour ended with a tram ride back to East Croydon Station for those not indulging in retail therapy.

Rosemary Hammick

Silver Celebrations

As announced in the previous Newsletter, more celebrations took place on 4th and 5th October with AOUG Honorary Life Membership presentations and the Olga Camm Bursary, plus traditional Faculty Awards to research students and the Foundation Lecture. The weekend included a visit to Bletchley Park and additionally tours of the campus were organised, including the library, grounds and sculptures; the weekend culminated in a Celebration Dinner. Details of the weekend activities will appear in the latest edition of OMEGA.

DIARY DATES 2014

Tuesday 21st January - 12 noon

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

Tuesday 11th March - Pirates of Wapping 11.30am

Meet London Bridge main line station by Marks and Spencer on the concourse. 3-4 mile stroll along the Thames Path and learn the history behind famous Thames-side alehouses such as the Town of Ramsgate, Captain Kidd, Prospect of Whitby, The Grapes. Alcohol is not obligatory as most establishments serve coffee or soft drinks. Lunch will be partaken at a suitable (or unsuitable) hostelry and those who have escaped pirates and press gangs will return to London Bridge by Clipper Boat or Jubilee Line from Canary Wharf. **Comfortable shoes and waterproofs recommended.**

Friday-Sunday 16th -18th May

Association AGM/Social weekend, Noke Thistle Hotel, St Albans. Details and booking form will be in the Winter OMEGA.

Suggestions for future events:

- * Lunches at Trattoria Verdi (approximately 4 per year)
- * London Wetlands Centre, Barnes (Wildlife & Wetland Trust)
- * William Morris Gallery, Walthamstow (closed Monday/Tuesday)
- * Bentley Priory, Stanmore (Battle of Britain museum)
- * Capel Manor Gardens, Enfield
- * Valentines Mansions and Gardens, Ilford
- * July/August - Imperial War Museum, Lambeth Road (following refurbishment) - Exhibition to mark centenary of start of WWI (28 July 1914)
- * "Handshake" visit to Oxford (Region 02)

Please advise the Executive Representative of all the suggestions that are of interest.

CONTACT DETAILS:

Executive Representative - Rosemary Hammick, 60 Avondale Road, South Croydon
020-8688 6629 (H) 07908371529 (MOB) hammick.ros@talktalk.net
Lunches – Margaret Brett - 020-7387 4975.

AOUG Website www.aoug.org.uk

AOUG Officers have started work on a mammoth task of both updating and of modernising the AOUG Website. In the first phase of this work they have introduced On-line Trading for AOUG products which now operate under Nochex, the same secure payment system as used for the On-line membership renewals, and so you no longer need to wait until you receive OMEGA to order your gifts.

However the AOUG Home Page is the one we are most proud of as thanks to all the creative work of Adam Jefferson, our web designer, we have moving images that can be clicked on to take you straight through to the related item. This will need to be updated regularly so if you have any high quality photos that we might use please let the AOUG Office know.

Although monitoring issues make it impossible for AOUG to offer social media like interaction, we can offer you lots more opportunities to get personally involved with your site. We are asking members to send in their write up or reviews on lectures, films, plays, visits etc or to contribute items on specialist interest subjects. Do you want to get involved in a science group to debate various theories, an arts group to discuss techniques used in sculpture or maybe the symbolism in paintings? Do you write poetry or short stories you want to share? Or maybe mathematical questions or puzzles inspire your thoughts. All of these opportunities are now available for you to submit your items for uploading.

If academic ideals do not currently inspire you, how about more down to earth aspects? If you go to the Memory Lane pages of the Regions and Nations you will find a selection of photos just waiting for you to contribute captions – something funny about the event maybe or a particular memory it provokes. Maybe you have some other suitable photos about people or places in our area to contribute. The AOUG Office is just waiting for all your contributions to aoug-website@open.ac.uk

So come on get involved with your AOUG website.

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TO HELP OUR FUTURE PLANS PLEASE RETURN THIS SLIP TO:
Rosemary Hammick, 60 Avondale Road, South Croydon, CR2 6JA

My current e-mail address is

Telephone number Mobile number

I / we would like to attend The London lunch on 21st January

Please send me details of all future lunches

I / we would like to attend the `Pirates of Wapping` on 11th March

General Interests

I am willing to arrange an event in

OU Degree Ceremonies in London in 2014

Every year The Open University holds Degree Ceremonies for new graduates and their family and friends to share and celebrate their success. I'm sure you will remember how special your Degree Ceremony was for you and how important some of those people looked sitting up there on the platform as you prepared to walk across the stage.

Well now you have a chance to don an OU gown again and re-live all those very special feelings but as one of those very special people sitting up on the platform. AOUG are invited to send two AOUG members to represent our Association at every one of the Degree Ceremonies throughout the season and so we are inviting you to volunteer to undertake this honour. Names need to be submitted very early and so if you are interested please contact either the AOUG Office or your Executive Representative before 20th December 2013 stating your name, your PI number, your height and your OU degree level and your address, telephone number and e-mail address, plus of course the ceremony that you would like to be considered for.

Our London ceremonies are listed below but if you prefer to volunteer for another area then please consult the full list in your Winter OMEGA. Members will be advised in February 2014 if their name has been chosen and then the relevant gown will be ordered for you and details of your ceremony will be sent out to you shortly before the event.

Friday 28 th March	10.45am	Barbican Centre, London	01
	3.00pm	Barbican Centre, London	01
Saturday 29 th March	10.45am	Barbican Centre, London	01
	3.00pm	Barbican Centre, London	01
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Friday 19 th September	10.45am	Barbican Centre, London	01
	3.00pm	Barbican Centre, London	01
Saturday 20 th September	10.45am	Barbican Centre, London	01
	3.00pm	Barbican Centre, London	01

I would be interested in more information about:

- * London Wetlands Centre, Barnes (Wildlife & Wetland Trust)
- * William Morris Gallery, Walthamstow (closed Monday/Tuesday)
- * Bentley Priory, Stanmore (Battle of Britain museum)
- * Capel Manor Gardens, Enfield
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