



Association of Open University Graduates Region 09 - North

EDITION 6

AUGUST 2014

Welcome to all AOUG members. Spring has come and gone, the trees have displayed their blooms of pink and white and now Summer is upon us again as the heat increases and people enjoy the delightful weather. The AGM of AOUG was held in May at St Albans which was a grand event where members put on their “glad rags” for the Gala Evening held this time in a lovely marquee with a sparkling ceiling. Lucian Hudson, The Open University’s Director of Communications, was in attendance. Unfortunately, I was unable to attend the event but I look forward to reading all about it in the Summer edition of OMEGA. I was however honoured to receive a different very important invitation to the Garden Party at Buckingham Palace in June. It was an exciting occasion and will be forever etched in my memory.

Now we can look forward to the AOUG Foundation for Education Research Awards Ceremony in October, when there will also be the Foundation Lecture given by the winner of the Olga Camm 2013 Bursary Award, which was presented at the Silver Celebrations last October. There is an advert for this special day in the Summer OMEGA and tickets can be purchased from the AOUG Office for £10 each. All members, friends and family are very welcome.

The Treasurer, Jean Hertzog, and her husband Ramsey attended The Open University’s second Charter Day which was held on 29th April at the OU campus in Milton Keynes. Charter Day celebrates The Open University receiving its Royal Charter at its foundation and is recognised with displays from all the many Faculties and Departments. This year’s theme was innovation and demonstrated many fascinating research projects currently being undertaken by the OU.

AOUG is itself constantly looking for ways to develop, and many ideas relate to electronic communications. Our Website now has a special Members Only section so that we can provide extra information that is not normally available to the general public and this also offers the facility for members to get more involved and express and debate their views with other members. This is called Forum and members can upload photographs, ask questions or retell their memories of the OU and the AOUG. See the directions later in this Newsletter on how to register.

Association News

As your Executive Representative it is my role to act as a communication link between the members in the North and the other Executive Representatives and AOUG Officers on the Executive Committee. Therefore, this section of the Newsletter will be to inform you of topics under discussion and to seek your opinions on these and any other aspects of the Association. Currently one of the biggest concerns facing AOUG is our need to find new ways to connect with the many new OU graduates. AOUG’s changing relationship with the OU has been reported by the AOUG Chairman in OMEGA and I do hope that you will let me have your views so that I can feed these back to the Executive Committee. Electronic communications are being offered via the OU and AOUG is making as much use of these as possible but we need other ideas to encourage OU graduates to join us and to experience the fellowship that our organisation has to offer. One really positive point is fact of the reinstating of AOUG’s own stands at several Degree Ceremonies this year. Officers have already had direct contact with new graduates in Dublin and will shortly be attending the Milton Keynes, Manchester and Harrogate Ceremonies.

AOUG is also constantly looking for ways to improve communications and activities for members so that

all members are able to feel involved both locally and at Association level. So once again all your ideas would be much appreciated.

Jean McKenna – Executive Representative

‘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 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

Being a Local Contact

Often members ask what being a Local Contact for a small area within a Region or Nation involves and so we have decided to give you an idea of the role. A Local Contact is an AOUG member who volunteers to be a link between other local members within a small area of any Region or Nation. They need to sign a Data Protection form to give them permission to receive contact details of other local members and then agree to have their own contact details printed in OMEGA and on the AOUG Website. Their one responsibility is to arrange at least one event within their small area, three times a year and to pass all the details to their Executive Representative (or the Development Officer) before the OMEGA submission date so that it can be advertised in OMEGA and on the Website. They then need to ensure that they attend their event in time to welcome other members. During the event it would be helpful to take some photos and then after the event to send brief feedback and photo to the Executive Representative. Local Contacts do not have to stand for election or attend any formal meetings, nor do they need to write any formal reports or take on any additional responsibilities unless they wish to do so. The role of a Local Contact is simply to try to maintain links between other members who live close to them.

Margaret Stobirski - Chairman

In some AOUG Regions there are many Local Contacts who supply members with a closer view of the Region and add to the Executive Representative ability to supply events which are popular. It would be nice to have a Local Contact in Carlisle and North Northumberland and in County Durham. You will receive a very positive welcome should you be interested in considering undertaking this role.

Violet Rook - Development Officer

Open University News

New Chancellor - Baroness Lane-Fox of Soho has been chosen as our new Chancellor, succeeding Lord Puttnam who is stepping down after more than seven years in the role. Martha Lane Fox is part of the digital world, making her mark as one of the founders of LastMinute.com. For more than four years she served as the government's UK Digital Champion, leading a drive to get more people and services engaged with the online world. In 2012 she launched a charity – 'Go ON UK' – which aims to plug the digital skills gap among British adults.

New OU Pro Chancellor -Richard Gillingwater CBE is to be the new Pro-Chancellor, replacing Baron Haskins of Skidby who completes his Term of Office at the end of 2014 after ten years in the role. Richard is Chairman of Henderson Global Investors and also acts a non-executive Director for a number of organisations including WM Morrison Supermarkets and Scottish & Southern Energy. He is also a trustee of the Board of the British Council and has previously been Dean of the Cass Business School.

Getting involved in Region 09

I am interested in learning more about being a Local Contact.....

I would be willing to organise a single event in Area.

I would be willing to write an article about my local area for the Newsletter.....

I would be willing to put up an AOUG Poster in

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY.

Wednesday 20th August. 2pm

Meet at the main entrance, near to the Booking Office of the Gala Theatre in Durham for tea and then a slow walk around the Bishop's Gate Centre visiting the Guildhall and Market Place and if time allows and people agree a mini bus to Palace Green. We may even view the new Hydro-powered system now part of the regeneration of the city, the only city in the country with such a scheme.

Wednesday 24th September. 2pm

Meet at St. Hilda's Parish Church at the Historic Headland in Hartlepool. Tour this historic 12th Century church which has many architectural features of differing styles from the results of renovations over the years. The tower and nave are the oldest features. There was a "Time Team" TV dig a couple of years ago and Sir Tony Robinson led the discussion about the historic remains that were unearthed.

Wednesday 15th October. 2pm

Meet at Hartlepool Historic Quay shop, Jackson Dock, Marine Avenue TS24 0XZ and then enjoy a tour of HMS Trincomalee – the oldest of the Royal Navy warships, built in the early 19th Century. Go on board and feel the sea beneath your feet and the wind in the sails above your head, for a very small fee. Explore the museum and delve into maritime history. Then enjoy tea in the quayside café surrounded by the historic naval experience.

Wednesday 12th November. 2pm

Meet at the entrance of Laing Art Gallery, John Dobson Street Newcastle. NE1 8AG. The gallery exhibits are both fascinating and inspiring - see John Martin's greatest works. There is no entry fee. Café and shop within.

Wednesday 10th December 2pm

Meet at Newcastle Civic Centre Café, downstairs in the Civic Centre Building NE1 8PP for a Christmas meal and to see the Civic Tree in all its splendour. If numbers allow we could have a tour of the Civic Regalia.

Contact Details.

Executive Representative – Jean McKenna 07984969359 jean.mckenna@btopenworld.com

AOUG Office – 01908 653316 aoug@open.ac.uk

AOUG Website – www.aoug.org.uk

Please complete both sides of this response slip

My e-mail address is

I do not have an e-mail address and therefore am donating some stamps

I would be willing to write Newsletter articles about

Name : PI Number:

Please type or print your name clearly

Please return to the AOUG Office aoug@open.ac.uk or AOUG Office, Walton Hall, Milton Keynes.

MK7 6AA