



# ASSOCIATION OF OPEN UNIVERSITY GRADUATES in NORTH

Edition 3

**REGION 09 NEWSLETTER** Winter 2013

## Local News

Hello to all AOUG members in the North and welcome to this Winter edition of the Newsletter. The AOUG Silver Celebrations were a great success which demonstrated the excellent organisational abilities of a great team and the commitment of our members. I hope that you will enjoy reading about this important occasion in the latest edition of your OMEGA magazine and also, enjoy browsing the photographs. Also, I would like everyone to pause and remember the long-term enthusiastic support of Olga Camm who is sadly no longer with us and her tremendous influence over the last twenty-five years as an avid OU devotee. As we look to the past we should now be planning for the next twenty-five years as Jean Hertzog quite rightly points out “let us not just celebrate our 25<sup>th</sup>. Anniversary but, let all members join in planning to be able to celebrate our future!”

Currently, I have made essential progress in finding a location which may be a suitable venue for AOUG members to get together and form a discussion group and to plan further events. If any members are interested please contact myself or Violet as detailed at the end of this letter. Also, I would like to express my gratitude to Violet for her continual support and most importantly being ever present as the Newcastle Local Contact maintaining links between other members in our Region.

If anyone is interested in further study there are several interesting short courses on the OU Future Learn Platform. I have recently enrolled to study the ecosystems course over six weeks which is interesting and complex. There are many aspects to it that perhaps, I have taken for granted for too long and this has opened my eyes to everything around me. The website address is [www.futurelearn.com](http://www.futurelearn.com) if you wish to enrol.

This has been a momentous year as we head towards the festive season and look towards the New Year and all that remains to be said is a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year to all AOUG members.

**Jean McKenna – Executive Representative**

## Association News

### AOUG Website:

The 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 now 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 many 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. Please send your website contributions to the AOUG Office at [aoug-website@open.ac.uk](mailto:aoug-website@open.ac.uk).

### OU Degree Ceremonies 2014:

Every year The Open University holds Degree Ceremonies for new graduates and their families 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.

Everyone who is a member of AOUG has 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 20<sup>th</sup> 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.

### In the North there is just one ceremony:

|                                     |               |                           |           |
|-------------------------------------|---------------|---------------------------|-----------|
| <b>Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> May</b> | <b>2.30pm</b> | <b>The Sage Gateshead</b> | <b>09</b> |
|-------------------------------------|---------------|---------------------------|-----------|

Our Regional ceremony are listed but if you prefer to volunteer for another area then please consult the full list in your Winter OMEGA. I have included those on the periphery of the Region should you wish to go outside of the Region itself. 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.

### **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.

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### **Developing AOUG in the North Region 09**

I am interested in attending other events around the ..... area.

I am interested in ..... types of activities.

I am willing organising a single event .....

I am interested in becoming a Local Contact for ..... area.

Name : ..... PI Number: .....

My e-mail address is .....

Please type or print your name clearly

## Diary Dates

### **Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> December. 2.00pm**

Meet at the Hatton Gallery, Newcastle University Campus NE1 7RU for a photographic exhibition and especially, the work of photographers Bryony Bainbridge and Kami Dodds entitled, "Inspirational Women of the North -East" Celebrate the achievements of women who played a vital role within the North -East including politician Mo Mowlam, suffragette Emily Davison and explorer Gertrude Bell.

### **Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December. 12.30 pm**

Meet at the Gala Theatre, 1 Millennium Place, Durham DH1 1WA to enjoy a lunchtime concert played by the Ruth Lambert Trio and experience the best of the North - East jazz talent. Refreshments are provided in the theatre foyer. This concert will need to be booked in advance (Box Office 03000 266600) at a cost of £4.

### **Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> January 2014. 2.00pm**

Meet at Hartlepool Museum shop to visit Hartlepool Historic Quayside, to enjoy a guided tour around HMS Trincomalee, the second oldest floating warship in the World. Refreshments in the Café

### **Newcastle Area**

#### **Monday 13<sup>th</sup> January 2014. 2.00pm**

Meet in the entrance near the shop in the Laing Art Gallery, John Dobson Street, Newcastle for refreshments prior to viewing the paintings of John Martin. Martin is now considered one of the great painters of the 19th Century. Please advise Local Contact in advance.

#### **Monday 17<sup>th</sup> February 2014. 2.00pm**

Visit the world famous Baltic Art Gallery Gateshead, which lies on the banks of the River Tyne next to The Sage and also The Open University in the North headquarters. There are numerous galleries and a special café near the roof which is well known for its views of the riverside. Car parking is available at the back of the building and also in the Sage car park nearby. A visit to the Sage, is possible too, though there are a number of steps via the route from the quayside.

### LOCAL CONTACTS

**Executive Representative** - Jean McKenna 07984 969359 [jean.mckenna@btopenworld.com](mailto:jean.mckenna@btopenworld.com)

**Newcastle** - Violet Rook 07962276091 [viollettrook@btinternet.com](mailto:viollettrook@btinternet.com)

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## LOCAL NEWSLETTERS

I would be willing to write Newsletter articles about .....

I enclose an item for consideration for the next Local Newsletter .....

**Please return to the Executive Representative: Jean McKenna, 54, West View Road, Hartlepool, PS24 0BH 01429 232959 e-mail: [jean.mckenna@btopenworld.com](mailto:jean.mckenna@btopenworld.com)**