



ASSOCIATION OF OPEN UNIVERSITY GRADUATES IN WALES

EDITION 5

WINTER 2013

Local News

There is now a Local Contact for South Wales in Cardiff, Philip Thomas, who has recently volunteered. This was the successful outcome of the Chairman's visit to Cardiff in the Autumn where she was welcomed by The Open University Office in the city. Another result of the visit is symbolised by the photograph on the new edition of OMEGA of the stone hands which are one of many stone attractions in the city of Cardiff.

The new Local Contact has organised an event for all members. This will be in February visiting a museum in Cardiff and Art Gallery. It is hoped to increase local support from the city and the surrounding area and anyone from Wales who maybe visiting Cardiff at this time. Please try to join Philip he will give you a real AOUG welcome.

Violet Rook – Development Officer

AOUG AGM in WALES

The next AOUG AGM and Social Weekend is to be held in St Albans in May 2014 but each year it is hosted in different Regions or Nations of the United Kingdom and in 2015 it will be the turn of Wales to host this important event.

Since there is currently no Executive Representative for Wales, the Officers are researching possible Hotels which have sufficient rooms and facilities to accommodate this event and they are also checking both road and public transport access. Some possibilities have already been found but if you know of any Hotels with over seventy bedrooms which you think might be suitable, please send the details to the AOUG Office so that these can be researched too. Once the Hotel is agreed in February next year, then excursions, musicians and a speaker will be under consideration. Again if you have any ideas, please let the AOUG Office know.

Then once the major details are confirmed we shall be looking to you, the members on Wales to offer your support and volunteer to help with various little activities over the weekend itself. Helping on the Reception Desk, selling raffle tickets or stewarding attendees on an excursion. Please let the AOUG Office know of anything that interests you.

Jean Hertzog – Treasurer

Association News

We had the Silver Celebration in October, a 25th Anniversary, when the AOUG recognised loyalty and support via the granting of Honorary AOUG Life Memberships to members from many parts of the United Kingdom and retired OU staff. The Honorary Life Members of AOUG included Roger Walters and Will Swann (OU retired staff), Lewis McKay (Scotland), Tom Nisbet (Scotland), Elizabeth Mount (South West) and Ginny Feeney (Yorkshire) There was also the Foundation Lecture on Handel in London, an exciting and colourful menu for the Autumn meeting of the Executive Representatives and the many members who decided to attend the Anniversary dinner on The Open University Campus at Milton Keynes. The excursion to Bletchley Park on the afternoon before the Dinner was also a very interesting and popular event.

I saw the play “Breaking the Code”, the story of Alan Turing on stage a few years ago - a good play, but a very sad story. Turing was the famous code breaker who is part of the Bletchley legend and the buildings where he worked with all the other brave individuals during the Second World War is now a fabulous tourist attraction where one can see all of their work sites and imagine what occurred so many years ago. The trip proved very popular with AOUG members and their photographs and comments are in OMEGA.

Trevor Taylor is now the Editor of OMEGA. He was appointed on a trial basis and has been assisted and supported by Margaret Stobirski, our current Chairman. In other news the AOUG Publicity Officer Kate Macve has unfortunately resigned, the Officers sent their thanks for her sterling work for the AOUG.

Wales is famous for its poetry and we hope that many of you will forward examples of this special talent which is found in Wales, to populate the new improved website of the AOUG. There is a section for members to illustrate their writing talents and to place articles regarding studying with The Open University. Please have a look at the website if you can and send in any of your work for uploading.

Violet Rook – Development Officer

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 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.

Diary Dates

Wednesday 19th February 11am

Philip Thomas would like to meet members in the below stairs Café at the National Museum, Cathays, Cardiff. There are very impressive impressionist paintings on display there. He will have an OMEGA on the Café table. Please join him.

Local Contacts

Executive Representative -Vacant

Cardiff- Philip Thomas tel: 02820751309 Email: philip.thomas@sky.com

Development Officer-Violet Rook <tel:07962276091> Email: viola.rook@btinternet.com

Being a Local Contact

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. 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. 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.

Please complete both sides of this response form and return to the AOUG Office, Walton Hall, Milton Keynes, MK7 6AA or by email to aoug@open.ac.uk

Name. P.I. Number.....

My email address is

Telephone number Mobile number

I would be willing to write a Newsletter article about

OU Degree Ceremonies in WALES 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 ceremony in Wales is 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.

Saturday 3 rd May	2.30pm	Wales Millennium Centre, Cardiff	10
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Please complete both sides of this response form and return to the AOUG Office, Walton Hall, Milton Keynes, MK7 6AA or e-mail to aoug@open.ac.uk

I am interested in attending events in

I am willing to organise a single event.....

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

I am interested in learning more about the role of Executive Representative

I would like to be considered to process at the Cardiff Degree Ceremony

I would like to be considered to process at the Degree Ceremony