



Association of Open University Graduates Nation 10 - Wales

Edition 7

December 2014

Developing AOUG in Wales

An active Cardiff group has developed over the last year led by Philip Thomas who has already had four successful events including the two events organised in the Summer months, one to Tintern Abbey and the second to Caerphilly Castle. Members wandered at leisure through the two venues reflecting on the history of their surroundings but with plenty of time to socialise over refreshments too. Two very different settings but two equally fascinating places as reported in the Winter OMEGA.

In August the Chairman went to a get together at the Galeri, Doc Victoria in Caernarfon to meet Northern members. She was especially taken with the art that was displayed throughout the building. Caernarfon is to be the venue for the next AGM and Social Weekend in May 2015 and the Galeri is well within walking distance. You might like to visit the lovely setting and take coffee looking out to the Marina. The Galeri is a not for profit enterprise which operates as a community development trust. Its mission is *'Anything is possible through creative thought and sustainable action.'* Maybe a thought to consider for AOUG.

Local members are asked to consider volunteering to help with welcoming members from other Regions and Nations and to undertake some of the general tasks during the weekend such as selling raffle tickets or assisting on the Reception desk. The OU Nation Director, Rob Humphries, has already expressed an interest in attending to meet members and Lucian Hudson, OU Director of Communication, has confirmed his desire to attend as well. This will be a grand event for members to enjoy and a chance for Welsh members to bring their family and friends to join in the celebrations and to show members from other areas the hospitality of North Wales.

The Chairman hopes that members from around Caernarfon will come together to develop a new group in that area and she has already arranged another Northern event which is to be held on the North coast in Rhyl, with the prospect of a further group being formed. Although Wales is without an Executive Representative, members have a desire to be involved and to attend events but many do not want to travel far, so many other local groups could be formed. In some cases we just need a local willing volunteer to coordinate the ideas and to communicate arrangements for activities to other interested members. Could you be that willing volunteer? Could you fix a date to visit a place of local interest or find a local coffee shop, restaurant or pub for a chat? Could you e-mail other local members and in addition, let the AOUG Office know so we can advertise it for you? **Would you like to be a Local Contact?** Why not e-mail the AOUG Office to find out more?

Association News

AOUG Research Awards and Foundation Lecture



The AOUG Research Award Ceremony was held on 3rd October at Milton Keynes when our charity the AOUG Foundation for Education presented four of the nine Research Awards. The recipients were research students who had been nominated by their Faculties and who were accompanied by their families and friends to see them receive their Awards. Research covered the varied topics of ‘Crete and the Cretans of Euripedes’, ‘LOw Frequency ARay (LOFAR) studies of the Galactic Plane’, Attitudes towards teaching in the national language in Zimbabwe, and Structural analysis of Java Identifier names. Displays of their research work had been prepared by our Publicity Officer and their supervisors gave glowing reports on why these students had been nominated. Members from AOUG and dignitaries from the OU all enjoyed the Ceremony, which concluded with lunch and the opportunity to socialise. We were especially grateful for the fine October weather which allowed attendees the chance to enjoy their lunch on the patio.

During the lunch period there was an informal presentation of flowers to Karen Bradbury by the Chairman, as a personal thank you from the Officers for her support of AOUG for many years. She is a senior member of staff who works for OU Estates and who has also acted as the Returning Officer for the AOUG election count but who is due to retire at the end of December.

AOUG members and their guests, including some Award winners and their supervisors, stayed to hear the Foundation Lecture entitled ‘Personalisation in Early Years – Processes and Outcomes’, which was given by Natalia Kucirkova, the winner of our 2013 Olga Camm Bursary. She described the research that had led to her Doctorate. The research had been inspired by the relationship that she had had with her grandfather when she was a child and looked at how the interactive creative process of producing their own books using photos, pictures and their own words could positively affect children’s motivation to engage with the stories and to gain pleasure from communicating and reading together with adults.

OUSA Conference

Several of the AOUG Officers attended the OUSA conference which was held in Milton Keynes during the Summer. Our stand was situated in the Jenny Lee Building. This gave the opportunity to meet and talk to many students, some already graduates but continuing their studies, and others who will hopefully be future graduates in a few years’ time. All of these are our potential future members so specially designed information packs had been prepared and these were handed out along with copies of our OMEGAs to any that showed an interest.



AOUG stand at the OUSA Conference in the Jenny Lee Building

Summary of Executive Committee Meeting at Milton Keynes

At the meeting on Saturday 4th October, the Executive Committee co-opted a new Executive Representative for the East Midlands, Ramsey Hertzog, who although having affiliated to Yorkshire for many years, actually lives in Derbyshire. The responsibilities of the different Executive Committee roles were again discussed and ways of mentoring and creating smoother handovers are being tried. Many of the Executive Committee positions will be up for election for Office after May 2015 so please consider getting involved and complete the nomination form in plenty of time to ensure your application is accepted.

Nominations for six different Awards for the Regions and Nations were approved, these being for 01, 02, 03, 05, 13 and Europe so whilst Executive Representatives in the respective areas are busy organising their presentation, the AOUG Publicity Officer is currently arranging the one for Region 13. It is hoped that reports of all these celebrations will feature in the Spring OMEGA.

Degree Ceremonies were discussed, and especially the success of having an AOUG stand at four of this year's venues which resulted in the raising of awareness in AOUG and the recruitment of some new members. A new system for selection of AOUG processors is being introduced for 2015. Gowns can be provided and if you haven't processed before, it's a very special experience. The Committee are also looking for volunteers to learn how to be part of our Meet and Greet team from our own stands, so why not consider that too? So if you would like to be part of the formal academic procession party representing the AOUG, or to work on our stand, please look for the application form in the 2014 Winter OMEGA.

DATES FOR YOUR DAIRY 2015

Cardiff Group

Saturday 8th February. 11.30am

Meet at the café behind the entrance at Cardiff Castle, Castle St., Cardiff CF10 3RB. Entry to the Castle for a roaming ticket is £12 or £10.50 for concessions with a free audio guide. Once inside we can explore the Norman Keep, the Roman Wall, Victorian Apartments and the World War I shelters. We can also visit 'The Firing Line', the Cardiff Castle Museum of the Welsh Soldier. There is an optional guided tour of the House for a small additional cost and also guided tours of the spectacular Clock Tower. Car parking is available nearby along the perimeter road or in the City Centre.

Local Newsletters

I would be willing to write Newsletter articles about

My e-mail address is

Home phone: Mobile:

I enclose a donation of stamps to receive my Newsletter by post

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

North Wales

Saturday 21st March 11am

Meet in the Galleria coffee shop, 7 Market Street, Rhyl, Clwyd, LL18 1RL where members, and their friends and family in the North Wales area can join in an informal chat and exchange ideas for future activities in their area, whilst enjoying light refreshments.

Tuesday 28th April 11am

Meet at in the tearoom of Bodnant Gardens, Tal-y-Cafn, near Colwyn Bay, Conwy, LL28 5RE to join members and friends for a stroll around to view the beautiful Rhododendrons combined with a visit to the 'Poem'. The 'Poem' is a mausoleum which was built by Henry Davis Pochin as a last resting place for him and his family. It is situated in the centre of the garden perched high above the river Hiraethlyn. It has beautiful interior features including ornate stained glass windows. Bodnant Gardens are situated above the river Conway and look across the valley towards the Snowdonia range of North Wales. There is a small shopping area with a Woollen Mill and National Trust shop so don't forget your National Trust Membership Card .

Friday 8th - Sunday 10th May

The Association AGM and Social Weekend is to be held at the Celtic Royal Hotel, Bangor St, Caernarfon, Gwynedd LL55 1AY. Welsh members will be playing hosts to members, friends and family from all the other Regions and Nations in the UK and those visiting from Europe or the Rest of the World. You can attend either as a resident or day visitor for the whole weekend or there are options for smaller periods for the special activities. However as AOUG has made a block booking, members' bookings are essential in advance via the AOUG Office and the necessary booking form is included as an insert in the Winter OMEGA.

Executive Representative Vacant

LOCAL CONTACTS

Cardiff - Philip Thomas 02920 751309 Philip.thomas8@sky.com

Rhyl event Margaret Stobirski 01925 263161 margaretstobirski@gmail.com

I am interesting in attending a group in Rhyl / Caernarfon / Cardiff / Mid Wales

I would like to attend events around thearea.

I am able to organise a single event in thearea

I should like to know more about being a Local Contact for

I am interested in learning about the role of Executive Representative

Please complete the response slip and return to AOUG Office, Walton Hall Milton Keynes MK7 6AA or aoug@open.ac.uk 01908 653316