



## **ASSOCIATION OF OPEN UNIVERSITY GRADUATES SOUTH EAST REGION 13**

**EDITION 5**

**WINTER 2013**

Hello to all our members in the South East. We are so pleased Marie Linwood is supporting the Eastbourne Goup and appreciate her being a Local Contact and maintaining the monthly meetings in the area. We would also like to thank her for the very kind respects she paid to Ralph McCarthy, in the new edition of OMEGA, a grand and respected member, who as she indicated, will be sadly missed.

With the Winter coming and snow on the horizon a warm and cosy home at Christmas is a delight and Members, in Scotland, recently paid a visit to the Torness Power Station which was highly topical in regard to the news in the media. Our members everywhere are active and involved in their communities.

This interest of members in history and community was also illustrated via the excursion to Bletchley Park during the Silver Celebrations of AOUG in October. Bletchley Park is now world famous for the work its occupants did during the Second World War. There have been many books on the subject of the Enigma code breaking machine, and the breaking of the codes which saved so many lives. The machine and the code book were captured from a submarine and this eventually leads to the success of the code breakers. The story of Alan Turing and his colleagues is also vital to the story. There has been a play, a film and a book on this and many other aspects of Bletchley Park.

The historian Asa Briggs worked at Bletchley and at The Open University and he would no doubt be pleased at the new venture of The Open University in regard to Future Learn, an online project of co-operation between a number of universities in regard to providing free courses, in many subjects, to anyone who wants to learn in their spare time. It is similar to Open Learn, but not just with The Open University on OU courses. For instance Leicester University is presenting a course on the history of Richard III and Life and Society during the Wars of the Roses. One can register and then every week for six weeks read articles and see videos in regard to six different topics including, battles and warfare, the condition of peasants, social conditions and health, and there is a short quiz at the end of the modules each week. Comments can be made and support comes from a tutor at the university. There are many other courses including Eco systems, health and the global economy. It is well worth a look on the website.

I have studied the period before and also studied the history plays of Shakespeare at the Birmingham Shakespeare Institute and Richard III is a favourite play. With this in mind, I have commenced the course. Another Executive Representative, Mike Bechley from the South Region 02, e-mailed to indicate he too is undertaking a course on Future Learn.

May I conclude with very best wishes for Christmas and a healthy, peaceful and prosperous 2014. Keep warm and safe if you have snow.

**Violet Rook - Development Officer**

## Association News

**AOUG Website [www.aoug.org.uk](http://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](mailto:aoug-website@open.ac.uk) So come on get involved with your AOUG website.

### MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE AOUG

A revival meeting was advertised to encourage members in the South East in regard to forming new groups and giving advice on being a volunteer in regard to the Executive Representative's position. However unfortunately there has been no correspondence in this regard, to date but the response is very positive from members concerning encouraging activities and social events and therefore we hope to stimulate such ideas further.

Please get involved and feel free to e-mail me if you would like to discuss putting your name forward to be the Executive Representative and would like to complete the form supplied with the new edition of OMEGA. If no one applies in time you can be co-opted at a later date but it is far better that members get the chance to vote for a candidate to offer their support so please remember the submission of nomination forms date is in January 2014. We sincerely hope that someone will put their name forward as we do not like to see the South East miss out on their representation at the Executive Committee meetings.

**Margaret Stobirski - Chairman.**

## DIARY DATES

### **EASTBOURNE GROUP:**

**Wednesday 10.30am or 2pm every month.**

A meeting for a meal at local pubs in the area. Please contact Local Contact Marie Linwood for advice and information on travel information.

### **Executive Committee Meeting - 7<sup>th</sup> / 8<sup>th</sup> February 2014**

This is held on OU Campus. Milton Keynes from 3pm on Friday until 3.3pm on Saturday with accommodation and travel expenses covered by AOUG, for all Officers and Executive Representatives to discuss and plan all issues regarding management of AOUG. If you would like to represent the South East, please contact the AOUG Chairman via the AOUG Office.

### **AGM/SOCIAL WEEKEND - 16<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> May 2014.**

A full weekend package of meetings and activities at the Noke Thistle Hotel Watford Road St.Albans. This includes a Gala Reception and Dinner with a speaker and musical entertainment. There are also optional excursions include the Verulamium Museum, the Hypocaust and the Roman Theatre and Butterfly World, plus a walk around the historic town with a Blue Badge Guide.

### **Election for Executive Representatives:**

All completed forms must be received by the AOUG Office, on or before 4pm on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> January, 2014. Open to all paid up members of the AOUG affiliated to the Region.

### **Association Contacts:**

**AOUG Development Officer**, Violet Rook, [viola.rook@btinternet.com](mailto:viola.rook@btinternet.com) 07967622091

**AOUG Office** at Walton Hall, Milton Keynes, MK7 6AA. 01908 653316 [aoug@open.ac.uk](mailto:aoug@open.ac.uk)

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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 by email to [aoug@open.ac.uk](mailto: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 the South East Region 13 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 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. Our ceremony in the South East 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 5 <sup>th</sup> April, 2014	11.0am	The Brighton Dome	13
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### **Local Contacts**

**Executive Representative -Vacant**

**Local Contact-** Marie Linwood – 01323 722144

**Development Officer** –Violet Rook. Mobile.07962276091 [viola.rook@btinternet.com](mailto: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.

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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](mailto: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 .....