



**ASSOCIATION OF OPEN UNIVERSITY
GRADUATES in REGION 06
EAST OF ENGLAND**

Edition 4

August 2014

A Very Successful AGM in St Albans

AOUG had a very successful Annual General Meeting and Social Weekend at The Noke Thistle in St Albans. The weather was very kind to us and we had a full weekend of sunshine. The trips which had been organised to the Verulamium Park, The Roman Museum, Butterfly World and a walk around St Albans, were very well attended. There will be a very comprehensive write up with all the details in your Summer OMEGA. I would like to personally thank all the AOUG members who helped the Officers to meet and greet members, decorate Gala Evening tables, and carried our flower arrangements.

On a different note have you ever considered processing at The Open University Degree Ceremonies especially Ely Cathedral. Please look out for our new application/interest form for next year's Degree Ceremony events which will be part of your next Newsletter.

Finally Jean Grout your Executive Representative would like to meet you at the Peahen, 14, London Road, St. Albans for a coffee morning where members can have a chat and make decisions on future events.

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 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. A Local Contact's role is simply to try to maintain links between other members who live close to them.

Looking ahead to AGM 2015 in Caernarfon -

The AGM and Social Weekend, to be held in May 2015, will be at Caernarfon in North-Wales. The Hotel is The Celtic Royal in the middle of Caernarfon, within easy reach of the Castle, built by King Edward 1st in 1283. Note that the Castle is not a ruin and is in a very reasonable condition. The Hotel has a fully equipped gym and a pool, as well as the usual facilities of a bar, lounge and restaurant. The Website is: www.celtic-royal.co.uk I sincerely hope you can join us.

The full details and booking form will be available on the AOUG Website over the Summer and then a paper copy will be available as an insert in your Winter edition of OMEGA.

On the Friday there is to be an optional trip to the top of Snowdon by train which should be a very interesting one for anyone who likes looking at scenery or taking photographs of views. In effect, it is

a photographer's paradise. The scenery is magnificent, when viewed from the peak on a clear day. You can see right over Ynys Mon and along both the North and West Wales coasts, right out beyond Penrhyn Llyn. There is a modern viewing area and café right at the peak where the train pulls in and this building has all the modern facilities. This gives the impression that the building is connected with the public utilities but this is not the case, as both water for drinking and other uses, along with oil for the generator, has to be brought up by the train daily.

Saturday offers a visit to the Llanberis Slate Mine Museum. This is on the site of the Dinorwig Quarry where slate was mined until 1969. The Victorian workshops built in the shadow of Elidir Mountain allow you an insight into the work and daily lives of the men who once worked there. The site has been designed to look as though the miners and engineers have just finished their shift, put down their tools and left for home and gives the visitor a realistic view of quarry life. The slate was dressed in the workshops, that is, to have their edges trimmed and split into the thin sheets, which we see on roofs today. The slates are split by a worker knocking a chisel into it, between the layers with a hammer. This is a skilled function requiring a good eye and a steady hand. The trimming is undertaken by the use of a guillotine to produce the different sizes of slate required. Depending upon the time one makes the visit, one may see many aspects of the work being undertaken, in the form of talks or demonstrations. There is a café and shop on site, where one can acquire different items, made of slate.

The third optional excursion, which will be on the Sunday morning, is a trip to the Electric Mountain, which it is the Hydro Electric power station. From the centre, a First Hydro bus will transport us to the Power Station itself. Descending deep inside ancient Elidir mountain's labyrinth of dark and imposing tunnels, to experience one of man's greatest engineering achievements. From the main inlet valve gallery, you can then witness Dinorwig's massive pump/turbines in action and from the viewing gallery an underground film show explains the building and commissioning of the Power Station. There are two lakes in this Hydro system, one above the Power station and one below it. I have been told that, during the night, when the load on the power system is reduced, the surplus is used to pump water from the lower to the upper lake.

Kind regards **Margaret Stobirski - AOUG Chairman**

Members only AOUG Forum on the AOUG Website

The AOUG Website is continuing to develop and last year, we introduced a new-style of Home Page, as well as 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, with improper items being 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 that 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 date of birth (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**

Contact Details

AOUG Office	Cheryl Cowley	AOUG Office, Walton Hall, Milton Keynes, MK7 6AA	01908 653316 aoug@open.ac.uk
AOUG Executive Representative	Jean Grout	6 Dalton Street, St Albans, Hertfordshire AL3 5QQ	01727 846818 xraytec1@hotmail.com

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

Name PI Number

My current e-mail address is

My home phone number is My mobile is

I am interested in being part of an AOUG members' e-mail group

I am willing to arrange one activity or excursion

I am interested in being a Local Contact for area.

Diary Dates

DATE	EVENT
Friday 26th September and Friday 31st October	Meet for 12 noon for handshake events with London members for the Institute of Engineering and Technology (IET) lunch. A lecture follows and will start at 2pm. Monthly lectures are held on the last Friday of every month. Venue and Lecture topic will be announced on the AOUG Website on the Region 06 pages. Booking via your EC Representative is essential.
Tuesday 14th October,	Meet at 10.30am in the Peahen, 14 London Road, St Albans, Herts, AL1 1NG for a coffee morning. Here members can chat about future events.
Monday 10th November.	Meet at 12 noon in the King's Head, King's Head Passage. Market Square, Aylesbury, Bucks, HP20 2RW. A National Trust property and one of England's best preserved coaching inns (1455) for lunch followed by a stroll around old Aylesbury
Friday 3rd October 2014	Meet at noon in the Michael Young Building on OU Campus for the AOUG Research Awards Ceremony and Foundation Lecture . Tickets from the AOUG Office priced £10.00
Friday 8th – Sunday 10th May 2015	AGM and Social Weekend at the Celtic Royal Hotel, Caernarfon, North Wales. Contact the AOUG Office for information. Full details and booking form in the Winter OMEGA

The Officers of AOUG have produced this Local Newsletter for the members in the East of England due to your Executive Representative being unable to produce one for you at this present time.

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

I can / cannot attend the coffee morning in St Albans.

I can / cannot attend the visit to The Kings Head

I would prefer to attend activities around

A suitable meeting place in my area would be

I would like to attend type activities.

I would prefer weekends..... weekdays morningafternoon ,, ,, ,, evening