



Association of Open University Graduates Region 02 – The South

Newsletter 12

Winter 2014

Welcome

If you are a new member of the Association of Open University Graduates, welcome! If you would like anything in particular to be included in this Newsletter please let me know. Please enjoy reading about the social activities that have been organised in the Oxford and Portsmouth areas, courtesy of Colin Reid and Mike Bechley. If you would like to set up a local group please let me know. Hopefully we will see some new faces at one of our events over the coming months.

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.

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.

Nominations for six different Awards for the Regions and Nations were approved including Region 02. I am busy organising the presentation and there will be more information on the presentation in the next Newsletter.

Processing at Degree Ceremonies

We have adopted a new system for selection of AOUG processors next year. If you would like to be part of the formal academic procession party, representing the AOUG at one of the Degree Ceremonies in 2015, please complete and return the application form in the recently issued OMEGA. Gowns are provided. If you haven't processed before, it's a very special experience. You may choose a venue near you, or a Degree Ceremony in another part of the country, subject to availability. The full list of Degree Ceremonies for next year was in the Winter issue of OMEGA.

AGM 2015 in Caernarfon

Have you ever been to an AOUG AGM and Social Weekend? It's an opportunity to meet up with other OU graduates and is in a different Region or Nation each year. We're pleased to be visiting North Wales on the 8th – 10th May 2015, staying in the Celtic Royal Hotel in the middle of Caernarfon, within easy reach of the Castle. The Hotel has a fully equipped gym and a pool, as well as the usual facilities of a bar, lounge and restaurant www.celtic-royal.co.uk It would be good to see some more people from Region 02 there. A booking form was included in the Winter copy of OMEGA and will also be available from www.aoug.org.uk.

Vice-Chancellor leaving



Professor Tim Blackman

Martin Bean is standing down as Vice-Chancellor at the end of December and will be returning to his native Australia to take on the same role at RMIT University. Professor Tim Blackman, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research, Scholarship and Quality), will take up the role of Acting Vice-Chancellor to lead the University until a new Vice-Chancellor is appointed.

Recent events

Oxford and Area

The Autumn Lunch was held at The Mitre in Oxford with about ten people attending, both established and new members. It was an opportunity to catch up on everyone's news whilst enjoying a delicious lunch.

The coffee mornings continue to be supported by a small group of people. Please try and join us as this is where we establish the social programme for the coming months and we would welcome new faces.

Portsmouth & South Downs Area

Recent coffee mornings have been supported by a small group and we have established the social programme for early 2015. We have a visit to the Maritime Museum in Southampton before the end of 2014.

Future events

Portsmouth & South Downs Area

Tuesday 6th January. 11am

Meet for coffee and lunch, and the local AGM at the Toby Carvery, Copnor Road, Portsmouth Carvery, PO3 5HS.

Sunday 22nd February. 2pm

Meet in front of Warnford Church, Warnford Road (the A32, between Fareham and Alton), SO32 3LA for the annual Snowdrop walk. Be prepared for mud, as we walk through the Snowdrop woods surrounding the church, which dates back to 1190.

Tuesday 10th March. 11.15am

Meet for coffee at the Toby Carvery, Copnor Road, Portsmouth Carvery, PO3 5HS

Wednesday 15th April. 10.30am

Visit to Explosion, The Museum of Naval Firepower in Gosport. The Museum is at Priddy's Hard, PO12 4LE with no bus service as such. There is an hourly waterbus leaving Portsmouth Historic Dockyard at 10.15am (weather permitting). There is no need to pay for entry into the Dockyard.

Local Contact - Portsmouth & Area:

Mike Bechley 023 92552087, Mobile 0781 915458 m.bechley@ntlworld.com

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

Future events (ctd.)

Oxford and Area

Thursday 15th January. 11am

Meet for a coffee morning at the Ashmolean Museum, Beaumont Street, Oxford OX1 2PH, in their rooftop café. Afterwards, stroll round the Museum or, perhaps, attend one of the free lunchtime lectures (13.15 - 14.00).

Thursday 19th February. 11am

Meet for a coffee morning at the Café Nero, Gloucester Green Bus Station, 91, Gloucester Green, Oxford OX1 2BU. Then after coffee for those who are interested, there is a Farmers' Market in the adjacent square.

Thursday 19th March. 2pm

Meet at the gate to Christchurch Meadow, in St Aldates, Oxford OX1 1DP, for a leisurely walk for the now traditional Spring Equinox stroll and cream tea. The intention is to finish up at the Mitre at about 2.45pm, there to enjoy a cream tea. If the weather is too bad, please go directly to the Mitre, 18, High Street, Oxford OX1 4AQ, which is at the corner of Turl Street

Local Contact - Oxford and Area:

Colin Reed 01235 815548, Mobile 0775 2932 182 (Event days only)

colin@crv-reed.demon.co.uk

Reminder

If you change your postal or e-mail addresses, please inform the AOUG Office. Current Association finances may mean that future Local Newsletters can only be sent out via e-mail so please make sure you don't miss out. If you have not advised the AOUG Office of your latest e-mail address, please would you do so on the following form. If you do not use email, donations of stamps would help in reducing our postal costs and ensure you continue to receive your copy.

Jayne Littlejohn - Executive Representative

Home telephone: 01296 424152

Email: jayne.littlejohn@tesco.net

Does AOUG have your current details?

NAME PI NUMBER

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