



ASSOCIATION OF OPEN UNIVERSITY GRADUATES in WALES

Edition 5

Summer 2013

Special Revival Meeting in Cardiff

Wales is without an Executive Representative in post at the moment but the Officers are going to do their very best to ensure that you have opportunities to meet up, or to communicate via e-mail. In the meantime the Development Officer will continue to support Welsh members as much as possible. Wales has many geographical problems, making working as a single unit very difficult to achieve, and so we aim to try to create several small local groups that will make travelling easier and in areas where even that is difficult, we could try to set up e-mail correspondence groups. With this in mind Margaret Stobirski, your new Chairman, has arranged a revival meeting at the OU centre in Cardiff as a starting point for those within travelling distance to meet and discuss the most suitable arrangements. As the centre requires names in advance it is important to complete the response slip to book, however Margaret requests that those of you who are unable to attend send her your ideas for alternative meeting places to try to create local groups.

Handshake event

Members of the AOUG from Region 03, the Publicity Officer and I joined members from Wales, to visit Monmouth in June. We all walked around this lovely town in the Wye Valley, visiting the castle and the museum next to it, and the Shire Hall. The Kings Head Hotel which was once a coaching inn was the venue for tea. I have a book which is a version of the history written by Geoffrey of Monmouth, who provided the source material for many of the legends of King Arthur and the Knights of the Round Table and other stories of ancient Britain, including the ones such as Cymbeline the play of Shakespeare. I had travelled to Conwy in the North of Wales and then down to Monmouth in the South through the lovely countryside of Snowdonia, where the mountains covered with forests and deep valleys provide a delight for the eye and refresh the senses.

Violet Rook – Development Officer

News of Our Association

The highlight of this year was the AGM and Social Weekend in the West Midlands. Members registered during the afternoon on Friday and then when on an excursion to the Birmingham Assay Office. At night there was a buffet evening meal and then entertainment followed where teams of members made up a story regarding random items. It was great fun and the team mainly from Yorkshire won small silver cups. The next day was the AGM and the announcement by the retiring Chairman Ramsey Hertzog of the AOUG Honorary Life Membership Awards. He was then surprised when Malcolm White, the retiring Vice-Chairman, announced Ramsey's own Honorary Life Membership and Malcolm later presented it at the Gala Dinner. Lucian Hudson, Director of Communications from The Open University, was a guest of honour and made a fine speech and brought a message of good wishes from Martin Bean, the Vice-Chancellor of The

Open University. It was Lucian Hudson who cut the marvellous cake which was made by the daughter of our new Chairman, Margaret Storbirski. The Mayor and Lady Mayoress of Walsall were also present at the Gala Evening as were guests too from OUSA. Members came from far and wide including a member from Iceland. The evening concluded with Scottish country dancing. On the Sunday there was another excursion when most people journeyed to travel on a canal boat through the Dudley limestone tunnels before returning for lunch. At the AGM a new Chairman and Vice-Chairman were co-opted. Margaret Storbirski became Chairman having been with the AOUG for many years, recently acting as the Editor of OMEGA and previously having held the roles of Publicity Officer and also the Executive Representative for Region 08 North West. Lesley Sleigh was co-opted to the position of Vice-Chairman, having previously served as the Executive Representative of Region 07 Yorkshire. Derrick Franks was confirmed as the new Executive Representative for Region 07 Yorkshire and Rosemary Hammick as Executive Representative for Region 01 London. Jean Grout, Peter Williams and Jean McKenna were re-elected to continue as Executive Representatives for East of England, North West and the North respectively.

Violet Rook – Development Officer

Association Silver Celebration - 4th and 5th October 2013

You will all see the other write ups on our 25th Anniversary AGM and Social Weekend in the Summer OMEGA and, even if you were not able to attend, you will be able to tell what a wonderful celebration it was but the celebrations continue as over the first weekend in October AOUG Officers have organised another special event. As well as the extra special Award Ceremony on Friday 4th October with AOUG Honorary Life Membership presentations, along with the Olga Camm Bursary, and all the traditional Faculty Awards to research students and the Foundation Lecture, the event is extended over to the Saturday with various campus tours and a visit to Bletchley Park Museum on their special “**Are you listening?**” day. Bletchley Park is a now a Museum but, in World War II, was the base for the now famous secret code breakers. This special exhibition recognises communication through Bletchley Park's history, from the pigeon carriers to radio waves, the first televisions, right up to the age of computers and the internet, but there are the usual displays relating to the first computers and the code breaking too.

Campus tours will include the OU library, the sculpture trail and a puzzle trail along with the opportunity to see the variety of buildings both old and new and the amazing garden planting in the extensive grounds. Then keeping the best until last, we offer our Silver Celebration Anniversary evening meal. For this silver themed dinner in the OU campus VIP restaurant, we ask you all to dress smartly and to wear something in silver – a necklace, a pair of cufflinks or a whole silver outfit - the choice is yours but do come. All members and their friends and family are welcome but there is only room for fifty so confirm your places quickly. Twenty five years for a voluntary Association is certainly an achievement, so make sure you are part of it! A booking form is included with this Local Newsletter.

Jean Hertzog – AOUG Treasurer

AOUG's 25th Anniversary Trading

Then even if you cannot manage to get across to Milton Keynes, in this our 25th Anniversary year, AOUG have had special celebration merchandise produced in silver nickel. You may have seen these items pictured in OMEGA but the photographs are unable to do them justice and they really need to be seen to be appreciated. These special items of a badge, a tie pin, a stick pin and

a pair of cuff links can be ordered via the order form in OMEGA, (or those of you who are receiving this Local Newsletter by e-mail have an extra copy will be sent to you) or by phoning the AOUG Office but if you attend the Silver Celebration Weekend in October you will be able to see for yourself just how good they really are. Be sure not to miss out on these elegant souvenirs. When they are gone – they`re gone! So order now and wear your AOUG logo with pride.

Jean Hertzog – AOUG Treasurer

AOUG Foundation for Education Awards for the Regions and Nations

AOUG`s own charity is offering one Award in each of the thirteen Regions and Nations plus an extra one for Europe and another for the Rest of the World. These Awards are given to a new graduate who has gained their first OU degree during the last twelve months whilst overcoming adversity of some kind, over and above that of the average student. They cannot apply themselves but nominations can be accepted from students, other graduates or any OU staff, so maybe you know someone worthy. Information, and an application form, are available on our AOUG website if you would like to nominate someone yourself. Just go to our AOUG website page entitled <http://www.aoug.org.uk/awards/application.html> to read all the details. The application date is now extended until 13th September.

Jean Hertzog – AOUG Treasurer

Contact Details

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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 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.

I am interested in information on being an Executive Representative

DIARY DATES.

Thursday 12th Sept 2pm	Revival Meeting – OU Regional Office, 18, Custom House Street, Business Quarter, Cardiff. CF10 1AP This is an opportunity to meet your new Chairman and have a short discussion on the Association and the way forward for Wales, and a chance for socialising with other local members over tea and cakes! Please ensure you book in advance.
Saturday 28th Sept 7pm	Bring friends and family to a Cardiff Castle Banquet to celebrate twenty five years of the AOUG. Dating from the 15th Century, the Undercroft is one of the oldest parts of the Castle and here you can enjoy the very best of Welsh food. This is a great value night at just £39 per person, including a four course meal, half a bottle of wine and all entertainment. Contact the AOUG Development Officer for details
Saturday 23rd Nov 2.30pm	Meet at the Kings Head at Monmouth for a Christmas tea. Then if weather and time permit a leisurely walk to the Shire Hall and the nearby church famed for its connection with Geoffrey of Monmouth for carols.
Monday 3rd March 2.30pm	A visit to Llangollen, to see the preserved steam Railway and the Canal alongside, which was pioneered by Thomas Telford with refreshments at one of the many hotels nearby with views of the castle, Dinas Bran high on the hill above the town. The railway runs to Corag and was once part of the Great Western Railway. Friends and family are very welcome and please contact the Development Officer, if planning to attend to arrange a meeting place.

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 revival get together in Cardiff on 12th September

I am / am not interested in other activities around the Cardiff area

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