



**ASSOCIATION OF OPEN UNIVERSITY GRADUATES  
LONDON 01 REGION**

**NEWSLETTER 6**

**SPRING 2015**

**Executive Representative's Report**

Once again I am indebted to members for their encouraging response to Newsletters and to those who have provided up to date contact details and/or postage stamps. This last subject is enlarged upon elsewhere on page 3 of this Newsletter.

Again I must thank Margaret Brett for organizing the excellent lunches at Trattoria Verdi. These are always popular and well attended, the next one being Tuesday, 21<sup>st</sup> April.

An enthusiastic group met in February for a tour of the recently refurbished Imperial War Museum in Lambeth. At present the highlight of the Museum is the (free) WWI exhibition, and some visitors required a second visit after suitable refreshments as there was too much to take in on the first tour. I personally found my education had been sadly neglected about WWI, as this "war to end all wars" had sadly been overtaken all too quickly by the Second World War, still in recent memory. A few members found time to explore other sections showing what family life was like during the war years, rationing, an exhibition of British First World War art by famous war artists such as John Nash and William Orpen, secret war time activities, peace and security from 1945 to the present time and an exhibition focusing on the withdrawal of British troops from Afghanistan in 2014 and the implications arising from this.

It was generally agreed that it would be necessary to return to the Museum to explore the items displayed on all five floors and take advantage of the recently opened "Fashion on the Ration: 1940s Street Style" exhibition (free to members of the Museum). It was a particular pleasure to welcome members from other Regions who could access London, and to meet friends and relatives of members.

**Local Contacts**

Sadly the member who had hoped to become a Local Contact had to withdraw due to pressure of work and we are still seeking volunteers who think they can fill this role, especially as 01 Region covers large areas as yet unexplored in our outings.

**Rosemary Hammick**

## **Association News**

### **AGM and Social weekend in Caernarfon, North Wales.**

There is still time to book for the Association's annual get together which this year will be held at the Celtic Royal Hotel, right in the heart of Caernarfon, just five minutes' walk from the famous castle. Full board package from after Friday lunch until after Sunday lunch is £270 and this includes all the evening entertainment on both Friday and Saturday evening. The Gala Dinner on Saturday is a real chance to dust off your finery and enjoy a relaxing evening with a pre-dinner drink, a three course dinner, an after dinner speaker and then musical entertainment. This year we have a 'twmpath' – the Welsh equivalent of a Scottish Ceilidh.

In addition there are the optional excursions starting on Friday afternoon with a train ride up Snowdon and, weather permitting, a chance to take in the views from the top. Then on Saturday afternoon, there is the chance to visit the National Slate Museum, based on the site of the Dinorwic Quarry, and on Sunday morning, a unique opportunity to take a bus ride to go deep inside the mountains to experience the Electric Mountain Power Station. All the excursions and other activities are open to all OU graduates, friends and family whether they are AOUG members or not. Everyone is very welcome, so come on your own or bring a group; the choice is yours but do come!

### **Voting**

If you are not able to attend this year's AGM, under Company Law, you are entitled to a proxy vote, the appropriate insert being in the forthcoming issue of OMEGA. Do please cast your vote both for the Executive Committee elections and for any Resolution or Motion to be considered at the AGM.

### **Summary of Executive Committee Meeting at Milton Keynes**

At the meeting on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> February the Executive Committee re-appointed Trevor Taylor as our OMEGA Editor for the next twelve months and it was also noted that the Spring edition of OMEGA would be produced in full colour. Lesley Sleigh was also re-appointed for the coming year as Company Secretary. Unfortunately due to family commitments Violet Rook has had to resign as Development Officer and so all her areas of responsibility are now being shared out amongst the remaining four Officers.

Cheryl Cowley, our Clerical Officer, has had a request for a reduction in her hours approved and so from the start of February office hours will be 10am until 4pm Monday to Friday. You are still able to leave messages on the answer phone when Cheryl is not available and she will respond to you as soon as is possible on her next working day. It has been approved that AOUG advertise through Reeds Employment Agency for a Clerical Assistant to work just one day a week alongside Cheryl to learn the Office procedures.

The AOUG Foundation for Education Awards for the Regions and Nations are once again to be widely advertised. Nominations for any new graduate who has gained their OU degree within the last twelve months despite overcoming adversity over and above that of the average student need to be received at the AOUG Office by 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2015.

Information will also go out in March to all OU research departments to encourage nominations for our AOUG Foundation for Education Research Awards. The presentations for these will take place as usual on the first Friday in October on the OU campus and will be followed by our Annual Foundation Lecture which this year is going to be by Paul Catley, the Head of the Law School. Tickets, for any or all of the day, including a buffet lunch, are priced at £10 each and can be obtained from the AOUG Office (01908 653316). If you have never been to the OU campus before, then this is your perfect opportunity to explore the beautiful grounds.

The Officers have had several meetings with the OU over the winter months and further meetings are in the process of being arranged. All of these seem to present positive support. The new OUSA President, Ruth Tudor, has also met the Officers and it has been agreed that links with AOUG will be included on the OUSA Website.

Research is in progress as to AOUG making more use of various electronic communications in order to promote our Association and to provide more fluid communications between members.

### **Postage**

The most important function of the Spring EC Meeting is to set the budget for the ensuing year. Money is always extremely tight and priorities for the year have to be agreed. Executive Representatives' budgets increased over the last two years to enable the production of the Local Newsletters but this has now been reduced down to just £100 for most areas for the year. You may recall that in the Winter 2014 OMEGA members' attention was drawn to the ever spiralling cost of sending three Newsletters annually by post. It has recently been announced in the press that postage will go up again this April (making the cost of sending out 100 Newsletters 2<sup>nd</sup> class, for example, £54.00). We cannot promise postal versions unless you can help by sending in postage stamps. Please do check that AOUG Office has your current email address so that you do not miss out.

### **Members' Feedback**

If you would like any questions or opinions raised at future Executive Committee Meetings on your behalf please let me know. I am here to represent you.

### **CONTACTS:**

**Executive Representative** - Rosemary Hammick  
T.020-8688 6629 / Mob.07908371529 [hammick.ros36@talktalk.net](mailto:hammick.ros36@talktalk.net)

### **Lunches**

Margaret Brett - 020-7387 4975

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Name : ..... PI number .....

Tel: .....E-mail address: .....

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

I enclose an article on a local issue for the next Newsletter .....

# Diary Dates

## Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> April. 11.30am

Meet on the main line station concourse by Marks and Spencer, London Bridge Station, Station Approach, London SE1 9SP (venue subject to alteration because of station re-building) for 'Pirates Of Wapping', a three to four mile stroll along the Thames Path re-visiting famous alehouses such as 'Town of Ramsgate', 'Captain Kidd', 'Prospect of Whitby', 'The Grapes'. We shall lunch at a convenient hostelry before returning to London Bridge by Clipper Boat or Jubilee Line from Canary Wharf. Comfortable shoes and waterproofs are recommended.

## Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> April. 12noon

Meet at the Trattoria Verdi Restaurant, 110 Southampton Row, Holborn, WC1B 4BL. (020-7405 8001) for another great Italian lunch (cost for two-course meal with wine remains at £13 per head). Book in advance with the lunch coordinator.

## 2<sup>nd</sup> - 4<sup>th</sup> May (May Bank Holiday) – General interest

"Canalway Cavalcade". This annual unique and colourful waterways and community festival is held at Little Venice. Admission is free and includes a pageant of boats, Morris Dancers and a wide variety of snacks and food.

## Tuesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> June – 11 am -Wellcome Collection/British Library

Meet inside main entrance to Wellcome Collection, 183 Euston Road, NW1 2BE (opposite Euston Square Station) to view their free exhibition "Forensics: The anatomy of crime". (Timed tickets will be in operation at busy times.) There is a café on site coffee and light lunches.

In the afternoon members may like to visit the British Library, which is almost opposite the Wellcome Collection. Tours take place at 15.00 hours for a small charge.

## Tuesday, 4<sup>th</sup> August – 12 noon

Meet at the Trattoria Verdi Restaurant (details as 21<sup>st</sup> April).

## Suggestions for future events

- \* William Morris Gallery, Walthamstow (closed Monday/Tuesday)
- \* Capel Manor Gardens, Enfield
- \* Valentines Mansions and Gardens, Ilford
- \* Bentley Priory, Stanmore

## GENERAL INFORMATION:

All those who participate in events are responsible for their own safety and join entirely at their own risk.

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I am interested in joining the following events:

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