



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

**NEWSLETTER 1**

**SUMMER 2013**

As this is my first Newsletter as Executive Representative for 01, so I feel I should introduce myself in case you have not received, or had time to read, the latest edition of OMEGA. My name is Rosemary Hammick and my contact details will be found at the end of this letter.

I was appointed at the AGM held at the Holiday Inn at Walsall, over the weekend of 17<sup>th</sup>- 19<sup>th</sup> May 2013, a special occasion as it celebrated the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the foundation of the Association of Open University Graduates. This is covered at length in OMEGA but was a joyous and memorable event superbly organised by the Officers of the Association and members of the West Midlands Region (04) and included a Gala Reception and Dinner and visits to a number of local places of interest.

After lunch on the Saturday I attended my first Executive Committee, chaired by the Treasurer, Jean Hertzog, and this succeeded in covering twenty one Agenda headings at record speed and left me reeling and drowning in a sea of paper!

More recently I have attended a further meeting of the Executive Committee and it was a great pleasure to get to know the other Executive Representatives better and compare ideas. One major concern was the fall in membership but it is hoped that the letters going out to local members and activities enabling more social intercourse may result in increased interest in the AOUG. A number of Regions do not have Executive Representatives but with growing membership within the Regions, it is hoped that volunteers will come forward.

At the AGM a number of members were awarded Honorary Life Membership of the AOUG and among them was Margaret Brett, who has been involved with the London Group for many years and organises regular lunches at a central venue, popular meetings which give members a chance to catch up with friends and exchange news. On 25<sup>th</sup> June, the actual 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Foundation of the AOUG, Margaret arranged lunch and this was attended by Ramsey and Jean Hertzog and a number of members from other Regions. Ramsey presented Margaret with a scroll recording her award of Honorary Life Membership and after lunch Margaret had organised a visit to the Dickens Museum. This was a great success and provided a further opportunity for tea and chat in the small café attached to the Museum.

Enclosed you will find details of the Silver Celebrations to be held on The Open University Campus during the weekend of 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> October, which will be a wonderful opportunity for those who have not yet visited the site to acquaint themselves with “your” University and for others to renew their knowledge of the buildings and the grounds at their leisure. A booking form is attached and it would be advisable to complete and return this as soon as possible as

this is bound to be a popular event. A range of beautiful souvenirs will be available to purchase to suit all requirements and pockets!

Future events for the London 01 Region are summarised at the end of this letter, together with my contact details, and I hope you will get in touch with ideas for more visits or activities. The Region covers a very large area and no doubt there are many interesting venues near you which would interest members.

Before finishing this letter I would particularly like to thank several people who have been particularly helpful in these first confusing weeks as your Executive Representative. Ramsey Hertzog was very supportive when my name was first put forward and Jean Hertzog is constantly available with advice and guidance, and is most tolerant of my lack of computer skills! Eric McKinnon, the previous Executive Representative for 01, was kind enough to make a special visit to deliver a mass of paperwork to my home as I do not have my own transport. The other Executive Representatives have been most welcoming and last, but by no means least, I am indebted to Margaret Brett for her continuing help and long experience of the 01 Region.

**Rosemary Hammick**

### **AOUG Silver Celebration - 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> October 2013**

You will all see the write ups on our 25<sup>th</sup> 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 4<sup>th</sup> 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. This recognises communication through Bletchley Park's history, from the Post Office and pigeon carriers to radio waves and the first televisions, right up to the age of computers and the internet. 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 so check your diary and book now.

### **AOUG's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Trading**

In this our 25<sup>th</sup> 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 as an attachment now) 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.

## **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, is 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 13<sup>th</sup> September, so apply now

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### **DIARY DATES 2013**

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#### **Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> September – 11.30 for 12noon.**

Lunch at our usual venue, Trattoria Verdi Restaurant, 110 Southampton Row, Holborn followed by a prompt departure for a 2pm timed visit to the British Museum for the acclaimed exhibition "Life and Death - Pompeii and Herculaneum". Margaret Brett has booked a limited number of tickets for this exhibition, and the combined price for the two course meal (with wine) plus exhibition will be £26. (Meal only - £13.50).

In this instance please contact Margaret on 020-7387 4975 (evenings only) or Patricia Randle on 020-8689 4129.

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#### **Friday/Saturday, 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> October**

Silver Celebrations - OU Campus, Milton Keynes – Please contact the AOUG Office, Walton Hall, Milton Keynes. MK7 6AA - 01908 653316 [aoug@open.ac.uk](mailto:aoug@open.ac.uk) for more details.

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#### **Tuesday, 22<sup>nd</sup> October - 11.15 for 11.30**

Meet East Croydon Station by Smith's book stall for tour of Medieval Croydon.

**Itinerary:** Fairfield Halls for coffee/snack: Elizabethan Almshouses, founded 1596 (regret no access): Surrey Street Market (granted charter 1276): Croydon Minster (original 15<sup>th</sup> Century church destroyed by fire, rebuilt 1870 by Sir George Gilbert Scott): 1.30 for 1.45pm - tour of Croydon Palace, dating back over 1000 years. Tour will last approximately two hours and will include 15<sup>th</sup> Century Great Hall, Guard Room, Chapel, Tudor Long Gallery. Admission £7 (seniors £6) including tea and cakes. **No Disabled Access.** Some stairs.

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## DIARY DATES 2014

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### **Tuesday ?? January - 11.30 for 12 noon.**

New Year lunch will be arranged at Trattoria Verdi. Please contact Margaret Brett nearer the time for details.

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### **Friday 16<sup>th</sup> – Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> May**

Association`s AGM/SOCIAL WEEKEND 2014 – Noke Thistle Hotel, St Albans.  
Full details and the booking form will be available in your Winter edition of OMEGA.

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### **July/August –**

Imperial War Museum, Lambeth Road. Exhibition to mark centenary of start of WW1 (28<sup>th</sup> July 1914). Full details in a future Newsletter.

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### **Further Suggestions:**

- William Morris Gallery, Walthamstow (Closed Mon/Tues)
  - Capel Manor Gardens, Enfield (Summer)
  - London Wetlands Centre, Barnes (Wildlife & Wetlands Trust)
  - Valentines Mansion and Gardens, Ilford
  - “Handshake” visit to Oxford in Region 02
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### **CONTACT DETAILS:**

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