



ASSOCIATION OF OPEN UNIVERSITY GRADUATES LONDON 01 REGION

NEWSLETTER 4

OCTOBER 2014

Executive Representative's Report

First of all may I draw your attention to my amended email address which is now: hammick.ros36@talktalk.net; a small variation causing a large amount of agro! On the subject of email, thanks to those of you who have given AOUG your email addresses. In view of the increasing cost of postage this is a great help and thanks also to members who have sent stamps and stamped addressed envelopes; these last will of course receive hard copies.

Recent events

The lunches at Trattoria Verdi, organised as always by Margaret Brett, continue to be well attended and it has been particularly good to see some new faces.

The tour of war memorials in July started opposite the memorial to the Royal Fusiliers by Albert Toft and continued in the splendid former Prudential building designed by Sir Alfred Waterhouse (particularly well known for the Natural History Museum). Previous buildings on the site included an Elizabethan manor house and Furnival's Inn (marked by a plaque) where Charles Dickens lived between 1832 and 1837. A bust of Charles Dickens records his time there. Two war memorials, both sculpted by F V Blundstone FRBS, commemorate the lives of Prudential staff lost in both world wars.

Passing Prince Albert, politely raising his hat, and two former Lord Mayors of London (one of whom, Sir William Walworth, was stabbed to death during the Peasants' Revolt) we continued past the Pie Corner Cherub, marking where the Great Fire of 1666 stopped. The previous building on this site was The Fortunes of War Inn, not as one might expect a war memorial but a meeting place for resurrectionists who provided corpses for apprentice surgeons at St Bartholomew's Hospital. A memorial on the wall of the hospital records Sir William Wallace, hanged drawn and quartered nearby. Smithfield displayed a memorial to staff killed in the bombing and also recalled the deaths of seven Protestant martyrs burnt at the stake during the reign of Mary I.

One could not by-pass Postman's Park where a wall of decorative plaques commemorated everyday civilians who died committing acts of heroic self-sacrifice. Finally to St Paul's, where a low dome near the statue to John Wesley bears the inscription: 'Remember before God the people of London 1939-1945', while opposite the Cathedral is a twelve foot high composition entitled "Blitz" by John W Mills, commemorating in bronze the one thousand and two firefighters who died fighting

fires during the Second World War. (I am indebted to Margaret Baker, whose book “Discovering London Statues and Monuments,” provides some of the details included in this article.)

In September London Bridge afforded a wonderful view of The Great River Race as the three hundred and thirty-eight entrants swept up the stretch of the Thames from Tower Bridge to our vantage point. Conditions were almost perfect, warm but not too sunny, and craft ranged from Cornish gigs, Celtic long boats, a Dutch whale boat, Chinese dragon boats, Hawaiian canoes to pilot gigs from Poland. Vessels had to be propelled by a minimum of four oars or paddles and one was crewed by no less than eleven Father Christmases. The course started from Millwall riverside, in Docklands, and the winner crossed the line 21.6 miles and three hours later below Ham House, Richmond to a cannon broadside and presentation of the Challenge Trophy of The Company of Watermen and Lightermen.

For those who missed this stirring spectacle, the 2015 race takes place on Saturday, 12th September so mark the date in your new diaries.

A number of AOUG representatives from various regions attended an OU degree ceremony in Milton Keynes Theatre in September and the Association stand, displaying information and items for sale, attracted considerable attention. Graduates were given an information pack and a number of graduates expressed an interest in joining the Association. (Of particular interest were small yellow squeezey “stress” men!)

Natalia Kucirkova, winner of the AOUG Foundation for Education 2013 Olga Camm Bursary, gave the annual AOUG Foundation Lecture in October. The subject of her lecture was “Personalisation in Early Years – Processes and Outcomes” and as a research student with the Centre for Research in Education and Educational Technology at the Open University she is looking into innovative ways of promoting parent-child shared book reading and investigating the impact of self-made books. Her blogs can be viewed at www.booktrust.org.uk/news-and-blogs/blogs. The lecture followed the presentation of four AOUG Foundation for Education Research Awards.

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 an application form. If you haven’t processed before it is a very special experience; gowns are provided. You may choose a venue near you or a Ceremony in another part of the country, subject to availability. The full list of Ceremonies for next year will be in the Winter issue of OMEGA.

Being a Local Contact

A Local Contact is a member of AOUG who volunteers to be a link between other 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 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 area three times a year and to pass the details to their Executive Representative (or the Development Officer) 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 and welcome other members. During the event it would be helpful to take some photos and after the event send a brief feedback and photos 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.

Being a Local Contact offers a rewarding opportunity to meet others and provides a vital role in maintaining links with members who live near them.

Rosemary Hammick

Diary Dates

Friday, 31st October 2.00pm

Institute of Engineering and Technology (IET) lecture at Imperial College, Exhibition Road, South Kensington. The lecture topic will be “Historic aircraft preservation” and can be preceded by lunch (self-service) in the Senior Common Room at 12 noon. To register, please contact Jean Grout, Region 06 (xraytecl@hotmail.com 01727-846818).

Tuesday, 2nd December 13.15

Lunchtime carol concert at the church of St Mary-at-Hill, Lovat Lane (off Eastcheap) EC3R 8EE. Meet in Monument Underground Station 12.45 pm.

Tuesday 13th January 2015 12.00noon

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 £13 per head). Bookings to Margaret Brett on 020-7387 4975.

Tuesday, 10th February 11.00am

Tour of Imperial War Museum. Meet in the Museum foyer. Admission free. Nearest underground station Lambeth North.

March (date to be arranged)

London Wetlands Centre, Barnes (Wildlife & Wetland Trust). Entrance fee £13.85 (concessions £9.20). Groups of 12+ £10.35/£7.85. (Free to WWT members).

(For information: Easter holiday dates are Friday 3rd-Monday 6th April.)

Tuesday 14th or Thursday 16th April

“Pirates of Wapping” – Reprise (by popular demand)

“Canalway Cavalcade”

This unique and colourful waterways and community festival takes place annually at Little Venice in London over the May Bank Holiday, which in 2015 falls on 2nd-4th May. Admission is free and includes a pageant of boats, Morris Dancers and a wide variety of snacks and food. Further details nearer the time.

Association AGM

The 2015 AGM and Social Weekend will be held on 8th -10th May in Caernarfon, North Wales. We will be staying in the Celtic Royal Hotel in the middle of the town,

within easy reach of the castle. The hotel has a fully equipped gym and a pool, as well as the usual facilities of bar, lounge and restaurant (see www.celtic-royal.co.uk). Apart from the opportunity to meet up with other OU graduates there will be interesting outings, including an optional trip to the top of Snowdon by train. The scenery is magnificent when viewed from the peak on a clear day. Saturday offers a visit to the Llanberis Slate Mine Museum, on the site of the Dinorwig Quarry where slate was mined until 1969. The third optional excursion, on the Sunday morning, is to the Electric Mountain, a Hydro Electric power station. Full details will be available in the Winter OMEGA.

Suggestions for future events (requests welcome)

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

LOCAL CONTACTS

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Lunches

Margaret Brett - 020-7387 4975

GENERAL INFORMATION:

Visitors to central London may have encountered from time to time life-size models of animals (cows and elephants come to mind). Now a trail, consisting of fifty 'life size' Paddington Bear statues at various London landmarks, is about to launch. Venues have yet to be disclosed.

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

Does AOUG have your current details?

NAME PI NUMBER

ADDRESS

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EMAIL ADDRESS

TELEPHONE – Home Mobile

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