



Association of Open University Graduates
Region 02 – The South
Newsletter 4

In a previous Newsletter, I asked for any connection with the forthcoming Diamond Jubilee; in our area there has been one specific event organised so far – the concert in Basingstoke on Friday 6 July, with Lesley Garrett, Natalie Clein, Alison Balsom and Nicola Benedetti, with the RPO under Sian Edwards (although Lesley Garrett was ill and did not appear). .

This spring, many of us enjoyed a visit to the Royal; National Lifeboat Institution College in Poole, where we saw just what sort of training lifeboatmen have to undergo; especially fascinating was the bridge simulator – realistic enough to have ‘rain’ and ‘spray’ pouring down the windows, and for some of us to have to hold onto part of the room as the floor was not actually moving, but the graphics made it seem as though it was. Two members have been on TV – Helen Clarke was in one of the choirs in Songs of Praise broadcast from Portsmouth at Easter, and I was seen briefly despatching a train on the Mid-Hants Railway, on Countryfile on April 22!

For the summer and autumn, the usual coffee meetings will carry on in Portsmouth and Oxford. For various reasons, I’ve had to alter the day of the week in Portsmouth to a Thursday, so we will be gathering at the usual venue – the Toby Carvery, in Copnor Road – on 13 September, 15 November, and for lunch with a Christmas theme on December 20. In Oxford, join up with Colin on Saturday 13 October at the Mitre in Turl Street for the Autumn lunch – if you are attending, please let Colin know, as table reservations will be necessary - and on Thursdays 13 November and 15 December in the rooftop cafe at the Ashmolean Museum. At either venue, we’ll be open to any suggestions you may have for future meetings and events.

Our outside events for the summer include visits: on 6 September (2 pm) there will be a visit to Dorchester Abbey at Dorchester on Thames, Wallingford (OX10 7HH) and on 18 October (10.45am) to Uppark House and Garden for guided tours of both – this is rather remote and transport can be arranged from Petersfield railway station if required.

As before, I’d ask that you keep me advised of any changes in your addresses (e-mail or postal); obviously e-mail is the preferred method of contact due to rocketing postal costs. The website now has a secure facility to keep your subscriptions in date by means of an easy-to-use direct debit form, so I’d encourage as much use of this as possible. We have many members for whom e-mails have ‘bounced’; please forward your current address to AOUG and copied to the local representatives, all of whom are subject to the Data Protection Act.

Whilst I am the main point of contact (until 2014), you may also wish to contact Carol Lamb (carollamb@wordproc.co.uk) Pendarves, High Field Park, Marlow, SL7 2DE (for Berkshire and Buckinghamshire) or Colin Reed (colin@crv-reed@demon.co.uk) 211 Broadway, Didcot, OX11 8RU (for Oxfordshire and other northern parts of the Region)

Mike Bechley, Executive Representative for Region 02
2 Westcliff Close, Lee-on-the-Solent, Hampshire PO13 9JS. Home telephone: 023 92552087, mobile 07812915458 (not always on, as coverage is very poor at home)