



ASSOCIATION OF OPEN UNIVERSITY GRADUATES in THE SOUTH WEST

EDITION 1

SUMMER 2010

South West Region News 16 June 2010

Now that the AGM is over, this will be my first newsletter which I intend to send out between OMEGA publication dates, so that South West members can be kept informed on a more regular basis of events around the region. I would welcome contributions from members, either with news or ideas for future inclusion, and ideas to help the AOUG to recruit and retain membership.

You will read a lot about the AGM in the August edition of OMEGA. However, for my part, all the hard work involved in the organisation of such an event, was worth while, and with the help of excellent weather, and from members, I feel that, apart from a few minor hitches, it was a success.

I would like to mention in particular, Sue Melvin, who is the contact for Wiltshire. She very generously gave as a raffle prize a two night B&B walking holiday. This was won by the retiring EC member for Wales, who, with his wife, is a keen walker. Details of Sue's website can be found at www.whitehorsewalking.co.uk Other members who generously contributed were Sue Field, Brian Galway, Pat Moore and Margaret D'Anger. A total of £156 was raised, £90 of which was used to pay the expenses for the AOUG Foundation for Education Award winner, Andrew Pope who attended the Gala dinner with his wife Debbie. The balance is now in the local AOUG account.

FUTURE PLANS FOR REGION 03.

My term of office as representative for this region ends at the 2011 AGM which is to be held in Guildford, Friday May 6th-Sunday May 8th. If you feel that you would like to become the next representative, nominations have to be in before the end of the year. Details of procedure will be published in the OMEGA. Who knows, for the first time for some time, we may have an election in the Region!

Aware that there had not been a representative for some time, I have tried to cover most of the region in an effort to set up local groups, and am very grateful to Pam Pearce, contact for Bristol, Roger Galea in Bath for continuing their efforts to provide events in their area. Thanks go to Sue Melvin in Wiltshire and Frances Chapman in Cornwall who organise events in their area. My efforts in Dorset, Plymouth, Gloucester, Sedgemoor and Taunton areas have not borne fruit, but members from those areas are welcome to attend any events organised by the other local contacts, if they are in the area on holiday or visiting.

I have developed a useful relationship with the OU Director, Linda Brightman, who spoke at last year's 21st birthday celebration lunch at Dartington Hall, has welcomed processors and stand

helpers at the graduation ceremonies in Torquay and Cheltenham, and provided names for the Speaker at this year's AGM and an award winner for the Foundation for Education Award. However, she retires this year, and has promised to introduce me to her successor.

I have met the OUSA representatives for the Region and have been invited to their next meeting and picnic in the park to be held in Exeter on the 26th June. I am confident that we can work together for our mutual benefit.

I hope to re-visit newly formed groups, and Bristol and Bath before I finish.

FUTURE DIARY DATES

EXETER GROUP

Friday, 30th July: Lunch at the Countess Wear restaurant, Exeter, meet at noon for 12.30

Friday, 27th August: Meeting at home of John Eaton-Terry: Speaker Jennifer Bell on Napoleon in the Holy Land. Further details from mount.devon@talktalk.net

BATH

Saturday, 26th June: Lunch at The Pavilion, Victoria Gardens, Bath , meet at noon

Saturday, 31st July: Lunch at The Pavilion, Victoria Gardens, Bath , meet at noon

Contact me for further details.

CORNWALL

Please contact Frances for details on frances@fachapman.plus.com

BRISTOL

Friday, 25th June: Croquet evening: details from pjandmspearce@blueyonder.co.uk

WILTSHIRE

Please contact Sue Melvin for details on sue.melvin@tiscali.co.uk

If any member, in any part of the region would like to organise a get together in their locality, I am willing to make contact with other members for you, with your permission and theirs. Who knows, you could form a group of like minded people to share lunches and outings. From little acorns.....! During that past three years, I have met new and stimulating people and have enjoyed their company and conversations. I know that for various reasons, many members are unable to join in events, but do like to hear about what is going in the world of the AOUG.

PLEASE, PLEASE, if this comes to you by post and you have an email address, I would like to send out newsletters to as many as possible via email. If you change your email address please let me know.

As postage is about to be raised yet again, if you would like to continue to receive the newsletter by post, perhaps you could send a stamped addressed envelope for the purpose.

Do send in ideas or reports for inclusion in a future newsletter, which I anticipate I will be sending out in September.

In the meantime, enjoy the Summer,

All best wishes,

Elizabeth Mount.