



ASSOCIATION OF OPEN UNIVERSITY GRADUATES in EAST MIDLANDS

EDITION 7

October 2014

New Executive Representative

Let me introduce myself as your new Executive Representative, as on 3rd October I was co-opted for Region 05 which, as you will be aware, has been without a representative for too long. Residing in North Derbyshire I have over the past two years attended a number of the events in this Region. I have been involved in AOUG since its inception, twenty six years ago. Serving as a police officer in London, I was active in Region 01 as Social Secretary until 1993 when I retired from the police, and moved to Cambridgeshire. There I assisted in such events as the arrangements for the Annual Cambridge Strawberry Teas and Christmas Lunches, and worked with the Regional Representative (as they were known as then) for the 1998 AGM at Selwyn College, Cambridge. I later moved up North, to live just ½ mile from the Derbyshire/Yorkshire border. For ease of travel, I affiliated to Yorkshire and joined the Yorkshire Committee, becoming Chairman of AOUG in Yorkshire for some time and their Executive Representative for three years. Then in 2009 I was elected Association Chairman, a position I held for four years before stepping down from the Executive Committee. Now following a sabbatical year, I miss the involvement and, finding the Region I actually live in still without formal representation on the Executive, I have officially changed my affiliated area back to the East Midlands and have offered my services to give my support to AOUG locally. The Executive Committee accepted my offer and so I am now officially representing the East Midlands until the next AGM to be held in Caernarfon in May 2015.

Executive Committee Meeting

On 4th October I attended the 98th Executive Committee Meeting where, once co-opted, I could take a full part. Amongst the discussions raised were meetings planned for some Officers with the OU. The Chairman and Publicity Officer would shortly be meeting with the new President of OUSA, Ruth Tudor, who had just taken over this role at the OUSA Conference in June. The Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Treasurer had a meeting arranged for later this year with Lucian Hudson, Director of Communications, to discuss policies and strategies for mutual support in 2015 and all Officers were expected to attend a 'farewell' meeting with Martin Bean, the outgoing Vice-Chancellor who is demitting office in December. A new Vice-Chancellor has not as yet been appointed.

New OU Chancellor

AOUG had the opportunity to host stands at some Degree Ceremonies this year and volunteers had been sought to assist with meeting and greeting the new graduates. I had previously gone over to assist in Dublin and had also volunteered for Milton Keynes. However I felt very privileged to be invited to also process and take part in one of the Milton Keynes Degree Ceremonies. Here I processed, with our Chairman, on behalf of AOUG and the highlight was when Baroness Martha Lane-Fox of Soho CBE was installed as our new Chancellor. The procession consisted of so many OU dignitaries, staff and others that we were unable to all sit on the stage at the Milton Keynes Theatre but we occupied front rows of the stalls instead.

Every year AOUG send two processors to represent us, for each Ceremony, and if you have not taken part previously then I would fully recommend the experience and suggest that you complete the insert form with this Newsletter or in the Winter OMEGA to volunteer for 2015. Hopefully the OU will offer AOUG more opportunities for stands in 2015 and so there will be a chance for you to volunteer for that too. Both tasks are extremely interesting and rewarding.

AGM/Social Weekend 2015

In the Winter edition of OMEGA there will be a booking form for the 2015 AGM/Social Weekend to be held at the Celtic Royal Hotel within easy reach of Caernarfon Castle in North Wales. I accompanied the AOUG Treasurer when visiting the hotel and I can assure you that it is a fine venue. The optional excursions include a train ascent of the second highest mountain in Britain and a subsequent visit to a slate museum. Then on the Sunday there is a visit to 'Electric Mountain' - a hydro-electric power station built inside a mountain. The dates are 8th - 10th May 2015 so please do note this in your diary and return your form as soon as possible to be sure of a place for this interesting weekend.

AGM/Social Weekend 2016

The annual AGM/Social Weekends take place in a different Region or Nation around the country each year and in 2016 it is the turn of Region 05 to host the AGM/Social Weekend and so even though I am only just in post, I have already started researching a suitable venue. Later this year I have to submit my three preferences to the AOUG Officers and once a decision has been made I will make sure that the event is advertised and I will be making requests for help from Region 05 members who may be willing to assist in ensuring the smooth running of the event. Obviously we want as many local members as possible to attend to show the other Regions and Nations our hospitality but I shall also be calling for volunteers to assist on the Reception desk, to help me arrange some 'in house' entertainment for the Friday evening, to donate raffle prizes and then help by selling raffle tickets on the Saturday evening.

Award Ceremony

In early October the AOUG Foundation for Education gave Awards to four OU research students specially nominated by their Faculties or Research Centres, as having carried out outstanding research for their doctorates. On the same day of these Awards we were treated to an interesting AOUG Foundation for Education Lecture by Natalia Kucirkova, winner of the 2013 Olga Camm Bursary. She spoke about the research she had carried out into the effects of personalisation of books for children. (You will be able to read more about the Ceremony and Lecture in the Winter OMEGA.)

AOUG Foundation for Education Award for Region/Nation

IN addition to Research Awards our AOUG charity offers one Award in each Region or Nation to a new OU graduate who had gained their OU degree whilst overcoming adversity, over and above that of the average student. Six nominations have been approved by the AOUG Trustees and I am delighted to report that one of these is for our Region 05. The lady recipient has been informed and is thrilled to have been selected. I have discussed arrangements for a suitable presentation with her and the Award Ceremony will be at our OU Regional Centre, at Nottingham, later this year.

Newsletters

This is my first Local Newsletter to you but I hope you have all been enjoying receiving the three Local Newsletters that have been produced each year by the Officers. However for some time now concern has been expressed about the cost of sending out these Newsletters by post to those members who have not supplied a current e-mail address. I have phoned many of these members that have supplied their phone details to the Office, and by this means I have increased our e-mail address list, thus reducing the number of postal versions. If you do not have your own e-mail address, is there a family member who would be willing to receive these Newsletters by e-mail for you? Failing that, are you able to donate three second class stamps to allow me to continue to send you a postal version during 2015.

These Newsletters are intended to give a more local communication and so if you have any contributions that you think would interest other East Midlands members please send me them.

Members' Only Forum

In the last Newsletter and in recent OMEGAs reference has been made to the new AOUG Members' Only Forum facility on the AOUG Website. Do please have a look at it and join in, with others, using our own dedicated site to exchange ideas, and to catch up with updated information about the Association. There are chances to ask the Officers questions or to suggest ideas and many general sections but there is also a dedicated Region 05 Forum where we can chat about anything affecting members locally. I will be going on Forum regularly to give you updated information and to reply to your comments, so please do get involved. This is a safe secure place regulated by AOUG Officers.

Events in the Region

In the last Newsletter (Edition 6) two events were advertised. A group of us visited Doddington Hall and gardens, near Lincoln, and in mid-September we visited Gunby Hall, a National Trust property. You can read write ups of these visit on Region 05 news page on the AOUG Website. Do please feel free to suggest any further activities for future events which might interest our members and if any of you would like to consider being a Local Contact, an outline of what is expected was also in the last Newsletter. Do get in touch with me if you are interested.

Diary Dates

| DATE | EVENT |
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| Saturday 13th December | Meet your new Executive Representative at 3pm at the restaurant at Keddleston Hall, Nr.Quarndon, Derby DE22 5JH for a short walk followed by carols from 5pm-6pm in the floodlit gardens and round off with some hot mulled wine. |
| Tuesday 13th January | Meet at noon for a drink and meal at Ye Olde Trip to Jerusalem, Brewhouse Yard, Nottingham NG1 6AD – one of the oldest public houses in England. Those interested may visit the caves behind the premises. |
| Monday 2nd February | Meet at 1pm at the refectory of Bishop Grosseteste University, Longdales Road, Lincoln LN1 3DY, for lunch followed by a lecture, arranged by our Local Contact, entitled 'Experience, Memory and Writing the Great War; The Diary of Corporal Cockburn'. |
| Friday 8th – Sunday 10th May 2015 | AGM and Social Weekend at the Celtic Royal Hotel, Caernarfon, North Wales. Contact the AOUG Office for information. Full details and booking form in the Winter OMEGA |

Please complete both sides of this response form and return to Ramsey Hertzog, 43, Barnard Avenue, Coal Aston , Dronfield S18 3BP or by e-mail to ramseyhertzog@hotmail.co.uk

Name PI Number

My current e-mail address is

My home phone number is My mobile is

I am interested in being part of an AOUG members' e-mail group

I am willing to arrange one activity or excursion

I am interested in being a Local Contact for area.

MOOCs

Have any of you discovered MOOCs yet? I am currently enjoying the free on-line course on Shakespeare – ‘Shakespeare and his World’. Each week I receive an e-mail with the plan of work for the week which involves reading a particular play, watching and listening to an on-line video presented by Professor Jonathan Bate from the University of Warwick and then completing an on-line questionnaire. These courses are run by The Open University in conjunction with other Universities all over the country and offer an opportunity to dip into subject of interest.

A new list of available courses have been announced including subjects such as, ‘In the night sky’, ‘Managing people; engaging your workforce’, ‘Football more than a game’ and ‘Start writing fiction’ to name but a few. If you are interested in finding out more about these short courses, look on www.futurelearn.com to find out what appeals to you and to discover how to register.

Contact Details

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| Local Contact Lincoln | Peter Green | 3, Riseholme Road, Lincoln, LN1 3SN | 07779578544 peter@greenpeter8.orangehome.co.uk |
| Local Contact Burton on Trent | David Bellaby | 12, Carnarvon Court, Bretby Hall Park, Bretby, Burton on Trent.DE15 0UA | 01283 214017 dhbellaaby@gmail.com |
| Local Contact Northampton | Laurence Humphries | Flat 20, Crescent West, Kettering, NN16 8AB | 01536 481056 humphries346@gmail.com |

Please complete both sides of this response form and return to the AOUG Office, Walton Hall, Milton Keynes. MK7 6AA or by e-mail aoug@open.ac.uk

I can / cannot attend the visit to Keddleston Hall

I can / cannot attend the lunch at Ye Olde Trip to Jerusalem

I can / cannot attend the lunch and lecture in Lincoln.....

I would prefer to attend activities around

A suitable meeting place in my area would be

I would prefer weekends..... weekdays morningafternoon ,,,,,,,, evening