



**Association of Open University Graduates  
Region 06 East of England**

**Edition 6**

**Spring 2015**

**Local News**

Hello Everyone,

We are well into 2015 now and how quickly the time disappears! I can hardly believe this is my last Newsletter to you all!

I would like to say how much I have enjoyed the company of those people who were able to attend some of our events. It has been a most interesting and happy experience for me, sharing them with you.

More events have been planned for the future, so don't forget to come along and share them with us. It is always very nice to meet other, like-minded members and share previous stories; it is amazing how people meet up with long forgotten friends from their past! Also, please don't forget that all your family and friends are very welcome to come to any of our events, the more the merrier!

Our recent visit to the Royal Air Force Museum in Hendon was very interesting. Not only were aeroplanes dating back to Bleriot's days displayed, suspended from the Museum's ceiling, but also displays ranging throughout the RAF's history of flying. Some very interesting World War II facts were featured such as the agreed pause of fighting by all the countries involved from 29 April to 8 May 1945 to allow food to be dropped into the Netherlands by the RAF to feed the starving and dying people living there, still under occupation. Lancaster and Mosquito sorties dropped 6,684 tons of food.

Our coffee mornings at The Peahen in St. Albans have continued and are a welcome way of meeting old friends again and discussing where they would like to go for future events. So if you'd like a coffee and a chat then please come along. The dates and times are listed in your latest OMEGA. Also, please don't forget that all your family and friends are welcome to come to any of our events, the more the merrier!

So, I wish you all every happiness and good health for your futures, and enjoy being an active member of the AOUG!

Goodbye to you all, and we may meet up again somewhere in the future! I hope so.

My very best wishes,

Jean Grout, Executive Representative.



RAF Museum, old and new! Photograph taken by Jean Grout.

## **Association News**

### **AGM and Social weekend in Caernarfon, North Wales.**

There is still time to book for the Association's annual get together which this year will be held at the Celtic Royal Hotel, right in the heart of Caernarfon, just five minutes' walk from the famous castle. Full board package from after Friday lunch until after Sunday lunch is £270 and this includes all the evening entertainment on both Friday and Saturday evening. The Gala Dinner on Saturday is a real chance to dust off your finery and enjoy a relaxing evening with a pre-dinner drink, a three course dinner, an after dinner speaker and then musical entertainment. This year we have a 'twmpath' – the Welsh equivalent of a Scottish Ceilidh. In addition there are optional excursions to Snowdon, The National Slate Museum and the Electric Mountain Power Station. All the excursions and other activities are open to all OU graduates, friends and family whether they are AOUG members or not. Everyone is very welcome. So come on your own or bring a group, the choice is yours but do come!

### **Voting**

If you are not able to attend this year's AGM, under Company Law, you are entitled to a proxy vote, the appropriate insert being in the forthcoming issue of OMEGA. Do please cast your vote both for the Executive Committee elections and for any Resolution or Motion to be considered at the AGM.

### **Summary of Executive Committee Meeting at Milton Keynes**

At the meeting on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> February the Executive Committee re-appointed Trevor Taylor as our OMEGA Editor for the next twelve months and it was also noted that the Spring edition of OMEGA would be produced in full colour. Lesley Sleigh was also re-appointed for the coming year as Company Secretary. Unfortunately due

to family commitments, Violet Rook has had to resign as Development Officer and so all her areas of responsibility are now being shared out amongst the remaining four Officers. Cheryl Cowley our Clerical Officer has had a request for a reduction in her hours approved and so from the start of February, Office hours will be 10am until 4pm Monday to Friday. You are still able to leave messages on the answer phone when Cheryl is not available, and she will respond to you as soon as is possible on her next working day. It has been approved that AOUG advertise through Reeds Employment Agency for a Clerical Assistant to work just one day a week alongside Cheryl to learn the Office procedures.

The AOUG Foundation for Education Awards for the Regions and Nations are once again to be widely advertised. Nominations for any new graduate who has gained their OU degree within the last twelve months despite overcoming adversity over and above that of the average student need to be received at the AOUG Office by 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2015. The presentations for our AOUG Foundation for Education Research Awards will take place as usual on the first Friday in October on the OU campus and will be followed by our Annual Foundation Lecture which this year is going to be by Paul Catley, the Head of the Law School. Tickets, for any or all of the day, including a buffet lunch, are priced at £10 each and can be obtained from the AOUG Office (01908 653316).

The most important function of the Spring EC Meeting is to set the budget for the ensuing year. Executive Representatives' budgets increased over the last two years to enable the production of the Local Newsletters but this has now been reduced back down to just £100 for most areas for the year. You may recall that in the Winter 2014 OMEGA members' attention was drawn to the ever spiralling cost of sending three Newsletters annually by post. We cannot promise postal versions unless you can help by sending in postage stamps. Please do check that AOUG Office has your current e-mail address so that you do not miss out.

### **Co-option to Executive Representative's Role**

It is with regret that we need to inform members that your current Executive Representative, Jean Grout, will be resigning her position this coming May at the end of the AGM meeting. Jean was originally co-opted and then elected to the role and will, by then, have served four years in post, and the Officers thank her for all her work. However since this current Term of Office does not officially finish until 2016, and the Officers were unaware of this pending resignation before the election nomination period, we were unable to advertise the post. Therefore a co-option is required and we are now seeking any East of England member who might like to be considered for the role for the remaining one year of the Term of Office. In the meantime the Officers will do all they can to ensure Newsletters and activities continue for East of England members. Please contact the AOUG Office [aoug@open.ac.uk](mailto:aoug@open.ac.uk) or 01908 653316 for more information.

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Name : ..... PI number .....

Tel: .....E-mail address: .....

I enclose a donation of stamps to receive my Newsletter by post .....

# Diary Dates

## Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> April. 12noon

Meet at the Peahen 14, London Road, St Albans AL1 1NQ for a farewell coffee and a bite to eat with your current Executive Representative.

## Friday 24<sup>th</sup> April.12noon

Meet your Executive Representative for the last Institution of Engineering and Technology lunch and lecture currently available to AOUG members. Lunch is at 12noon and the lecture follows at 2pm Please contact the Executive Representative for more details.

## Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> April. 12noon

Meet at The Nene Valley Railway at Wansford Station, Old Great North Road, Stibbington, Peterborough PE8 6LR, signposted off the A1 just South of Wittering for a Handshake event organised by Region 05. Here we can board a train, normally steam powered, for the seven mile trip on the preserved line through the picturesque Nene Valley with stops at various stations. The cost for concessions is £11.50. Contact the East Midlands Executive Representative for more details.

## Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> May. 12noon

Meet at the Peahen 14, London Road, St Albans AL1 1NQ for a coffee or a light lunch with AOUG Officers to discuss your ideas for the future of this local area.

## Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> July. 10.30am

Meet at the 'Cafe in the Park', Castle Park, High Street, Colchester, CO1 1DN for a morning coffee. You are able to use the Castle Car Park in the High Street. This will be followed by a small walk through the gardens to Colchester Castle. Colchester Castle is the largest Norman Keep in Europe and houses many artefacts from Roman times. This is an English Heritage gem. Adult Admission £7.50 (Concessions £4.75) The Castle is open from 11am until 5pm and you can spend as long as you wish enjoying the Castle museum. The Castle gardens are beautiful and have previously won awards. Lunch could be taken in the 'Cafe in the Park'.

**Executive Representative (until 9<sup>th</sup> May) - Jean Grout, 01727 846818, Mob. 0781471 18592 [xraytec1@hotmail.com](mailto:xraytec1@hotmail.com)**

## Local Contact

**General enquiries - AOUG Office – 01908 653316 [aoug@open.ac.uk](mailto:aoug@open.ac.uk)**

**Nene Valley visit - Executive Representative 05 – Ramsey Hertzog 01246 414746 [ramseyhertzog@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:ramseyhertzog@hotmail.co.uk)**

**May Peahen Get-together – Jean Hertzog 01246 414746 [jrhertzog@hotmail.com](mailto:jrhertzog@hotmail.com)**

**Colchester event – Margaret Stobirski 01925 263161 [margaretstobirski@gmail.com](mailto:margaretstobirski@gmail.com)**

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I /we will be attending the Nene Valley Railway visit .....

I /we will be attending the St Albans coffee morning in April..... May .....

I /we will be attending the Colchester Castle visit .....

I should like to know more about being a Local Contact .....

I should like to know more about the role of Executive Representative .....