



## **ASSOCIATION OF OPEN UNIVERSITY GRADUATES in the EAST OF ENGLAND**

**EDITION 3**

**Summer 2013**

### **Local News**

Various events have taken place throughout the summer, including a very cold walk around Letchworth Garden City in April! Coffee mornings at the Peahen have continued, and also a joint event with Region 01 with lunch at the Trattoria Verdi Restaurant in London, which was followed by a tour of the Dickens' Museum as a special event for an AOUG Foundation Day. This took place on the 25<sup>th</sup> June, exactly twenty five years to the day after the official launch of AOUG at the OU Open Day in 1988.

In May, June and July Regions 01 and 06 held our popular Lunch/Lecture dates at the Institute of Engineering and Technology (IET) in Savoy Place. The lunches were just as delicious and as reasonably priced as ever, and the lectures were, as usual, most interesting and varied. This venue is now closed for two to three years for a multi million pound refurbishment. After the Summer break, lectures will resume in another building which I will be notifying you about once I have received confirmation.

To celebrate twenty five years of the AOUG formation, we will be 'sharing' our 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with Classical FM's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations with a visit to the Royal Albert Hall on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> November for 'The Very Best of Classical Spectacular!' This will be a truly spectacular performance with music, lasers, lights and fireworks, all liaising and synchronising; a total fusion of sight and sound!

The AGM at Walsall in May proved to be a very happy and entertaining event and the presence of the new OU Director of Communications, Lucian Hudson, was a bonus, especially as he passed on the good wishes and thanks to the AOUG from the Vice-Chancellor Martin Bean.

### **News from the Association's Executive Committee**

The Executive Committee met both during the AGM weekend in May and then again in Milton Keynes in July and many current projects were progressed. Plans are well developed for all Anniversary celebrations and plans for the 2014 AGM weekend to be held in St Albans are being finalised. 2014 is the East of England's turn to host the AGM and we really need to show all the visiting members the hospitality we have to offer, I hope that you all will mark the dates of 16<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> May 2014 in your diaries as I shall soon be asking for your support to make this event a real success.

Communications, such as our OMEGA magazine, Local Newsletters and the AOUG website figure large too, as do ideas for both the recruitment and the retention of members. Then as a result of many previous Executive Committee discussions, and detailed research by the Officers, several Corporate Governance policies have been drafted, along with any necessary complaints procedures. A standardised review process has also been drafted. It should

however be noted that AOUG has always had policies and procedures for all aspects of its governance but that these have not been in a standardised quick reference format previously and it is hoped that these will make implementation easier and Executive Committee's responsibilities clearer.

The consideration regarding the relationship with The Open University remains ongoing and this gained a significant boost at the AGM Gala Evening with Lucian Hudson, Director of OU Communications, attendance and his very supportive speech along with a message of goodwill from Martin Bean, the OU Vice-Chancellor. Since then the new AOUG Chairman, Margaret Stobirski, new Vice-Chairman, Lesley Sleight and the Treasurer, Jean Hertzog have held very open and frank discussions with Lucian regarding ideas for the way forward. These ideas are to be further developed with Amanda Faulkner, the new OU Head of Alumni Relations and the relationship seems to be much more positive than in recent years, so future progress is promising. One of the ways that AOUG support the OU is through our own charity, AOUG Foundation for Education that not only gives Awards each October to OU research students but also offers them to new graduates and you can get involved in nominating someone you know.

### **AOUG Foundation for Education Awards for the Regions and Nations**

AOUG's own charity is offering one Award in each of the thirteen Regions and Nations plus an extra one for Europe and another for the Rest of the World. These Awards are given to a new graduate who has gained their first OU degree during the last twelve months whilst overcoming adversity of some kind, over and above that of the average student. They cannot apply themselves but nominations can be accepted from students, other graduates or any OU staff, so maybe you know someone worthy. Information, and an application form, is available on our AOUG website if you would like to nominate someone yourself. Just go to our AOUG website page entitled <http://www.aoug.org.uk/awards/application.html> to read all the details. The application date is now extended until 13<sup>th</sup> September.

### **Association Silver Celebration - 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> October 2013**

You will all see the other write ups on our 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary AGM and Social Weekend in the Summer OMEGA and, even if you were not able to attend, you will be able to tell what a wonderful celebration it was but the celebrations continue over the first weekend in October when AOUG Officers have organised another special event. As well as the extra special Award Ceremony on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> October with AOUG Honorary Life Membership presentations, along with the Olga Camm Bursary, and all the traditional Faculty Awards to research students and the Foundation Lecture, the event is extended over to the Saturday with various campus tours and a visit to Bletchley Park Museum on their special "**Are you listening?**" day. Bletchley Park is now a Museum but, in World War II, was the base for the now famous secret code breakers. This special exhibition recognises communication through Bletchley Park's history, from the pigeon carriers to radio waves, the first televisions, right up to the age of computers and the internet, but there are the usual displays relating to the first computers and the code breaking too.

Campus tours include the OU library, the sculpture trail and a puzzle trail along with the opportunity to see the variety of buildings both old and new and the amazing garden planting in the extensive grounds. Then keeping the best until last, we offer our Silver Celebration Anniversary evening meal. For this silver themed dinner in the OU campus VIP restaurant, we ask you all to dress smartly and to wear something in silver – a necklace, a pair of

cufflinks or a whole silver outfit - the choice is yours but do come. All members and their friends and family are welcome but there is only room for fifty so confirm your places quickly. Twenty five years for a voluntary Association is certainly an achievement, so make sure you are part of it! A booking form is included with this Newsletter.

### **AOUG's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Trading**

Then even if you cannot manage to get across to Milton Keynes, in this our 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year, the AOUG has had special celebration merchandise produced in silver nickel. You may have seen these items pictured in OMEGA but the photographs are unable to do them justice and they really need to be seen to be appreciated. These special items of a badge, a tie pin, a stick pin and a pair of cuff links can be ordered via the order form in OMEGA, (or those of you who are receiving this Local Newsletter by e-mail an extra copy will be sent to you) or by phoning the AOUG Office but if you attend the Silver Celebration Weekend in October you will be able to see for yourself just how good they really are. Be sure not to miss out on these elegant souvenirs. When they are gone – they're gone! So order now and wear your AOUG logo with pride.

### **And Finally**

Another matter, could all of you who receive this Newsletter by post and have an email address please send your email address to Cheryl Cowley at [AOUG@open.ac.uk](mailto:AOUG@open.ac.uk) Alternatively if you prefer the postal copy, please could you consider donating a few stamps. This will help reduce our very high postage costs. Please send these to me at the address below. Thank you so much in advance.

Enjoy the rest of your summer and I look forward to meeting up with you again in the future.

**Jean Grout** - Executive Representative.  
My new Mobile phone number: **078 1471 8592**  
**01727 846818** [xraytec@hotmail.com](mailto:xraytec@hotmail.com)

With very much appreciated thanks for assistance from Jean Hertzog, Treasurer AOUG.

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**Please complete both sides of this response form and return to the Jean Grout, AOUG Executive Representative, 6, Dalton Street, St Albans. AL3 5QQ**

Name ..... PI Number .....

My current e-mail address is .....

My home phone number is ..... My mobile is .....

I am interested in helping at the St Albans AGM/Social Weekend .....

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.

## Diary Dates

Day, Date and Time	Event
<b>Tuesday 10th September 12 noon</b>	Join members of Region 01 for an Italian Lunch at the Trattoria Verdi, Southampton Row, Holburn, London. This is to be followed by a short walk at 2pm to the British Museum to visit the Pompeii and Herculaneum Exhibition. Please book in advance with the Executive Representative.
<b>Friday 4<sup>th</sup> – Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> October</b>	Silver Celebration Weekend – Please see the attached booking form
<b>Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> October 10.30am</b>	Meet for a Coffee morning and general get together and chat about future events in The Peahen at 10:30.
<b>Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> November 7pm</b>	To celebrate the 25 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary, the Executive Representative is booking tickets for “The Very Best Spectacular!” at the Albert Hall, which is also celebrating 25 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary! This will be a fantastic event with music, lights, lasers and fireworks, not to mention cannons!
<b>Friday 16<sup>th</sup> – Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2014</b>	AGM and Social weekend at the Noke Thistle Hotel, St Albans – Please see the booking form which will be in the Winter OMEGA.

**Please look at your OMEGA and the AOUG website [www.aoug.org.uk](http://www.aoug.org.uk) for notifications of your future events and activities and remember that your friends and families are always very welcome.**

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I/we are interested in information about the Royal Albert Hall evening .....

I/we are interested in attending the London lunches .....

I/we are interested in details of the London IET Lectures .....

I would prefer to attend activities around .....

A suitable meeting place in my area would be .....

I would like to attend ..... type activities.

I would prefer weekends..... weekdays ..... morning .....afternoon.....evening .....