



Association of Open University Graduates Region 08 North West

Edition 5

December 2014

Our members in the North West were very surprised by the wonderful little gem of Sudley House in Liverpool. Sudley House was built in 1821 by the corn merchant Nicholas Robinson. The house was then acquired by the Holt family in 1884. The family composition being George Holt; his wife Elizabeth and the daughter Emma. Daughter Emma did not have any children so the family donated the house to Liverpool County Council. The family made alterations to the house in that the main entrance was moved from the south side to the north side, thus allowing a veranda and garden to be built on the south side; catching the sun, whenever it shined.

During the time period of George Holt, Liverpool was expanding and the port was the largest port outside London. The family fortune was made through the shipping company “Lamport and Holt”. The company carried British exports out and returned with raw materials. Having the ships fully laden in both directions allowed the Holts to make a good return on their investments. This allowed them to firstly obtain such a house and then vastly improve it and later on undertake a fair amount of charity work at no mean cost to themselves. After her father’s death Emma continued her father’s work which certainly benefited Liverpool, including the University.

One of George Holt’s passions was to purchase paintings, which takes us in to the Library. The library shelves were made by “O’Neills” of Liverpool, a fine cabinet making company. As well as it was, a fine library of its day, it also contains a selection of paintings including portraits of the family. The first Turner he ever bought is the painting of Margate Harbour. Also hanging there is “The Gypsy Sisters of Seville” by John Phillip. The collection includes a model of a steam ship of the day as well as a painting of a sailing ship from when the company was formed, some forty-five years earlier.

The room which George Holt most favoured was the dining room where he entertained his guests and spent time talking with guests on how they should put the world to rights and develop Liverpool. George Holt was involved in the commencement of Liverpool University. At the time Liverpool had a college, which was attached to Manchester University. As well as discussing politics, they admired the paintings he kept in the dining room. Here he kept two Turners, one the “Rosenau Castle” which is in Germany, the other on the facing wall, “The Wreck Buoy”, which shows large and small ships having a turbulent time on a rough sea, avoiding a wreck buoy. The house is certainly worth a visit and at different points in the house there are short videos which can be viewed. There is no charge, its location is in Mossley Hill Rd, Aigburth, Liverpool, L18 8BX

Please Note

May I draw your attention to an error in the Diary Dates in OMEGA, see page 4. This was a mistake made by myself and I apologise.

Peter Williams

Association News

AOUG Research Awards and Foundation Lecture

The AOUG Research Award Ceremony was held on 3rd October at Milton Keynes when our



charity the AOUG Foundation for Education presented four of the nine Research Awards. The recipients were research students who had been nominated by their Faculties and who were accompanied by their families and friends to see them receive their Awards. Research covered the varied topics of ‘Crete and the Cretans of Euripedes’, ‘LOW Frequency ARay (LOFAR) studies of the Galactic Plane’, Attitudes towards teaching in the national language in Zimbabwe, and Structural analysis of Java Identifier names. Displays of their research

work had been prepared by our Publicity Officer and their supervisors gave glowing reports on why these students had been nominated. Members from AOUG and dignitaries from the OU all enjoyed the Ceremony, which concluded with lunch and the opportunity to socialise. We were especially lucky to have the fine October weather which allowed attendees the chance to enjoy their lunch on the patio.

Following the Research Award Ceremony, AOUG members and their guests, including some Award winners and their supervisors, stayed to hear the Foundation Lecture entitled ‘Personalisation in Early Years – Processes and Outcomes’, which was given by Natalia Kucirkova, the winner of our 2013 Olga Camm Bursary. She described the research that had led to her Doctorate. The research had been inspired by the relationship that she had had with her grandfather when she was a child and looked at how the interactive creative process of producing their own books using photos, pictures and their own words could positively affect children’s motivation to engage with the stories and to gain pleasure from communicating and reading together with adults.

Summary of Executive Committee Meeting at Milton Keynes

At the meeting on Saturday 4th October, the Executive Committee co-opted a new Executive Representative for the East Midlands, Ramsey Hertzog, who although having affiliated to Yorkshire for many years, actually lives in Derbyshire. The responsibilities of the different Executive Committee roles were again discussed and ways of mentoring and creating smoother handovers are being tried. Many of the Executive Committee positions will be up for election for Office after May 2015 so please consider getting involved and complete the nomination form to reach AOUG Office by 13th January 2015 to ensure your application is accepted.

Nominations for six different Awards for the Regions and Nations were approved, these being for 01, 02, 03, 05, 13 and Europe so Executive Representatives in the respective areas have been busy organising their presentations. It is hoped that reports of all these celebrations will feature in the Spring OMEGA.

Degree Ceremonies were discussed, and especially the success of having an AOUG stand at four of this year’s venues which resulted in the raising of awareness in AOUG and the recruitment of some new members. A new system for selection of AOUG processors is being introduced for 2015. Gowns can be provided and if you haven’t processed before, it’s a very special experience. The Committee are also looking for volunteers to learn how to be part of our Meet and Greet team from our own stands, so why not consider that too. So if you would like to be part of the formal academic procession party representing the AOUG, or to work on our stand, please look for the application form in the 2014 Winter OMEGA

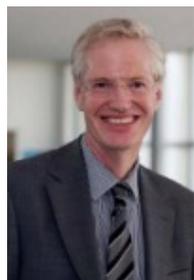
Being a Local Contact

Often members ask what being a Local Contact for a small area within a Region or Nation involves and so we have decided to give you an idea of the role. A Local Contact is an AOUG member who volunteers to be a link between other local members within a small area of any Region or Nation. They need to sign a Data Protection form to give them permission to receive contact details of other local members and then agree to have their own contact details printed in OMEGA and on the AOUG Website. Their one responsibility is to arrange at least one event within their small area, three times a year and to pass all the details to their Executive Representative before the OMEGA submission date so that it can be advertised in OMEGA and on the Website. They then need to ensure that they attend their event in time to welcome other members. During the event it would be helpful to take some photos and then after the event to send brief feedback and photo to the Executive Representative. Local Contacts do not have to stand for election or attend any formal meetings, nor do they need to write any formal reports or take on any additional responsibilities unless they wish to do so. A Local Contact's role is simply to try to maintain links between other members who live close to them.

Looking ahead to AGM 2015 in Caernarfon

The AGM and Social Weekend, to be held in May 2015, will be at Caernarfon in North Wales. The Hotel is The Celtic Royal in the middle of Caernarfon, within easy reach of the Castle built by King Edward 1st in 1283. Note that the Castle is not a ruin and is in a very reasonable condition. The Hotel has a fully equipped gym and a pool, as well as the usual facilities of a bar, lounge and restaurant. The Website is: www.celtic-royal.co.uk . I sincerely hope you can join us.

New Vice –Chancellor



Martin Bean is standing down as Vice-Chancellor at the end of December and will be returning to his native Australia to take on the same role at RMIT University. The Open University has announced that it has appointed Peter Horrocks, currently Director of the BBC's World Service, to be its new Vice-Chancellor. Professor Tim Blackman, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research, Scholarship and Quality), will take up the role of Acting Vice-Chancellor to lead the University until May, when the new Vice-Chancellor starts.

Professor Tim Blackman

I would like to be involved in a group

I would be interested in a group in I am interested inactivities.

I am interested in organising a single event/ becoming a Local Contact for

Name: PI Number:

Please type or print your name clearly Please return to the AOUG Office aoug@open.ac.uk or AOUG Office, Walton Hall, Milton Keynes. MK7 6AA

Diary Dates

Please note that the Diary for February and March are wrong in OMEGA. The February date should read “Friday 20th February” as given below and for March, “Saturday 21st March” as given below.

Saturday 24th January. 11am

The Lowry Centre and Imperial War Museum North.

We meet at the Lowry Centre at 11am in the Tower café. Some may wish to go to the section displaying art and the story of Lowry. Others may wish to go shopping in the retail section of the complex. The Imperial War Museum is just across the water from the Lowry Centre. To transverse the waterway, one uses a walkway bridge. There one encounters what our forbears endured in the trenches of WW1 and the general population as well as the military in WW2.

Both locations have websites, which are as follows,

Lowry: www.thelowry.com

Imperial War Museum North: www.iwm.org.uk

Friday 20th February. 7pm

A pleasant pub meal with friends and family at “The Sir Winston Churchill” in Rochdale, 710 Bury Road, Greater Manchester OL11 5HW. Meet at 7pm for 7.30pm. This inn has been used before and the food has been found to be of a high standard.

Saturday 21st March. 11am

A visit to Speke Hall, which is a repeat visit. I have been asked to include this for those who were not available, when we went there during the weekend of the AGM, when it was held in Liverpool. This is a standard type of medieval house, with large grounds, which contains a well maintained garden. I have heard that the term “eaves dropping” meaning to listen in originated there, as it was a Catholic house during the reformation. The Catholic Church was outlawed and while a mass was being held, some one would climb into the eaves listening for the sound of horses, indicating that soldiers were coming looking for priest to execute.

The address is Speke Hall, The Walk, Speke, Liverpool, L24 1XD. The website is:

www.nationaltrust.org.uk/spekehall

Friday 17th April. 7pm

A pleasant pub meal with friends and family at “The Sir Winston Churchill” in Rochdale, 710 Bury Road, Greater Manchester OL11 5HW. Meet at 7pm for 7.30 pm. This inn has been used before and the food has been found to be of a high standard.

Local Newsletters

I would be willing to write Newsletter articles about

My e-mail address is

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

Name: PI Number:

Please type or print your name clearly Please return to the AOUG Office aoug@open.ac.uk or AOUG Office, Walton Hall, Milton Keynes. MK7 6AA