



Spring 2012.

Association of Open University Graduates in the North - Region 09.

Hello, every one hopes you like the new design. Travelling around the area we see the signs of Spring and the weather is getting warmer and the Annual General Meeting is only just over two months away in May. Of course there are other things going on, the Olympics in the Summer and the Queen's Jubilee in June. It is going to be an interesting year, and we have also just recently had the Northern Lights in the sky and the planets Jupiter and Venus. If this were any century other than the 21st, many would say these are great signs of deeds and events to come.

ASSOCIATION NEWS

AGM AT LIVERPOOL

The Britannia Adelphi Hotel at Liverpool is rather famous and is the venue for the 2012 AOUG AGM in May. Many might wish to attend just on one of the days, if so please get in touch with the AOUG office via email aoug@open.ac.uk or telephone 01908 653316

The weekend will start on the Friday and continue on the Saturday, and Sunday, with excursions and a gala dinner and of course attending the Annual General Meeting to see the business of the Executive Committee and ask questions. There was an "EggHeads" type quiz in 2011, which was very good, and at the gala night there is a good meal and a bit of a dance.

OMEGA will be with you soon. There are a lot of new items to acquire in the magazine which bear the logo, a beanie hat, a torch, a pen, a note book - take a look.

MEMBERSHIP You can now renew with the AOUG online at aoug.org.uk

GENERAL OPEN UNIVERSITY NEWS.

The Degree Ceremony will be at the Sage, Gateshead on 16th June 2012

Alumni have an Ambassadors page on Facebook to encourage future students to ask questions of previous students from March-May.

Fees for undergraduates are now stated on the OU website, based on the new structure brought in by the Government. The postgraduate courses are not affected in the same way. See the website at StudentHOME or the general Open University website.

OPEN LEARN is now called **LEARNING SPACES**.

This is a website where former students, and new students, can get a taste of Open University courses. It is free and one even receives a certificate of activity on completion. I have tried some on literature, education, climate change and history. The beauty is one can pop in and out of the course at will, or do it all at once when one feels inclined. It is a great way to keep up to date.

RECENT AOUG EVENTS IN REGION 09.

A visit to the aircraft museum in Sunderland was exciting seeing all the aircraft and learning of their history and development. There were more than aircraft, old buses and cars, but the atmosphere of the past was very much present and it was great for many to touch planes. The museum was here in 1979 when the nearby Nissan car plant was not, so it is marvelous that it is still in existence. There is to be a 21 gun salute at the museum on the Queen`s Birthday in April to celebrate the Jubilee too.

We have been around the Civic Centre in Newcastle too. In the winter when one can see it with the Tower lit by a purple glow is just very magical. See the photograph on the AOUG website. There is the Wren Stone at the entrance which was part of St. Paul's Cathedral and the marvelous staircase near the Banqueting Hall. There the wildlife in the surrounding greenspace is an island of peace in a busy city.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY.

Please get in touch via telephone, email or post: Violet Rook 5, Wallington Court, Kingston Park, Newcastle Upon Tyne. NE3 2YZ Tel: 07862276091 email: lealand5vi@yahoo.co.uk

Monday 16th April. 1pm. - Meet in the Cafe entrance of Otterburn Mill.

Thursday 26th April. 5.15pm. - Meet in foyer café of Northern Stage. A talk by actor Sam West at the Northern Stage (free) Prior to production of "Close the Coalhouse Door".

Tuesday 1st May. 1pm. - Tour and Tea. - Laing Art Gallery. Newcastle.

Tuesday 8th May. 5.30pm. - Herchel Building - Newcastle University - Lord Chris Patton lecture (free).

Monday 28th May. 1.30pm. - Civic Centre Café. Newcastle Meet in the foyer. Talk and Tea

Just a note the event mentioned in OMEGA in regard to a visit to Tulle House in Carlisle on 19th March is now rearranged to the 2nd April. Hope some of you can get there. So much history to see, and talk, about.

SPECIAL DATE: AOUG is 25 in 2013! We must celebrate and perhaps we need to start to consider some special events to mark this special occasion.

DID YOU KNOW?

Everywhere you go you might find someone who is a member of the AOUG. Members are doing their bit for their local communities-being involved in their local Women Institutes, LiNKS, the ambulance services, some are school governors. Then there are those involved with local art clubs and writing clubs.

The Open University administration itself is being reorganised at Milton Keynes and locally. There are no longer Regional Directors, the new title is Assistant Director-Student Services and Dr. Hilary Bennison holds this post locally. Some organisations are now restructuring regarding what is termed the "Lean" process which is aimed at reducing waste in this time of cut backs. This process was developed in manufacturing in Japan and America during the passed few decades.

In May, I come to the end of my term of office, in regard to being the Executive Representative for the North. I have met many lovely people. The new Executive Representative will need to be co-opted on to the Executive Committee for one year and could then stand for election in 2013.

Violet Rook - Executive Representative – North - Region 09.



