



ASSOCIATION OF OPEN UNIVERSITY GRADUATES in the NORTH

Edition 2

REGION 09 NEWSLETTER

August 2012

Hello to all AOUG members in the North. My name is Jean and I am the new Executive Representative for Region 09. I was elected in May 2012. I shall be sending information to you, including these Newsletters. May we wish Violet Rook all the best in her role as AOUG Development Officer and thank her for her efforts as the outgoing Executive Representative for this Region. I gained my BA Hons (Open) in 2006 in Humanities with History. I am a great supporter of the OU and like to encourage you to use all of the many websites the university provides. OpenLearn for instance is very useful, supplying free courses, where one can get a taste of an OU course before officially applying for it. Then there is 'Platform, the OU Community website', which provides a forum for discussion on topics concerning the OU and many other general topics which are in the news nationally concerning education and social events. AOUG has a group on the Platform site. The Open University has many societies and I shall be looking to join one or two.

Development of Communications for the North Region 09

It is intended that these local Newsletters will, whenever possible, be sent out by e-mail as the postal charges would make such regular contact impossible. However many of you have not as yet submitted your e-mail address to the AOUG Office, or have changed your e-mail address without letting the AOUG Office know of this change. Thus we cannot contact you this way. We therefore would like to ask you once again that if you do have an e-mail address that you contact AOUG Office aoug@open.ac.uk and ensure that we have the correct version of the Data Base – just one dot or hyphen in the wrong place and it bounces back. However if you do not have an e-mail or would prefer to receive this Newsletter by post, we ask you to make a donation of second class stamps.

Content of these Newsletters in the future also needs input from you, so please send items of news events and idea for AOUG in the North. We would like stories of your studies, photographs and general news of how AOUG Members are progressing. Please send any contributions you would like to make to this North Newsletter to me, jean.mckenna@bopenworld.com. It is hoped to send out three local Newsletters per year.

The AOUG website: Members should take a look at our website www.aoug.org.uk, as there you will find a Welcome Page, a Newsletter Page, a page for Diary Dates and another for archiving photographs of local events designed especially for each Region and Nation with an additional facility for Booking forms. The website has a large selection of pages to view including Association and OU News and many archive sections. We now have the facility for online membership so you can renew your subscription. For general enquiries or queries on membership, telephone the AOUG Office on 01908 653316 or e-mail: aoug@open.ac.uk. Or you can also use the website to forward any changes in your e-mail, telephone or address details, by contacting the AOUG Office more quickly.

North Region-09 Local News

A small group of AOUG Members went on an excursion to the Dorman Museum in Middlesbrough in August. The weather was good and it was interesting to note the various exhibitions and artefacts that were on display in the museum. We were particularly interested in the replica historic naval costumes that were made by costume students of Cleveland College of Art and Design. The costumes were from the era of Captain James Cook (1728 – 1799) and were skilfully replicated by the students of the college. The costumes were part of a wider exhibition in the gallery which was entitled ‘Pacific Journeys of Discovery: Entering New Worlds’. This was part of the London 2012 Olympics Cultural Olympiad and was developed by the young people of Middlesbrough and the Tees Valley. We were also very impressed with the items that were created by the young people that had been inspired by historical Maori and Aboriginal artworks and Mosaics.

Also at the Museum, there are a number of interesting Automaton which have been created in collaboration, between Science Projects Ltd and the Cabaret Mechanical Theatre. These were particularly amusing and were a delight to the group who were inspired by the use of basic mechanical principles to create something that is amusing and lifelike.

This was a good day out and we all found the museum interesting and informative, and we will, no doubt, be looking to further local museum visits in the future.

DIARY DATES FOR AOUG in the NORTH

Wednesday 26th September 2pm

Meet at St. Hilda's Parish Church at the Historic Headland in Hartlepool. Tour this historic 12th century church which has many architectural features of differing styles from the results of renovations over the years. The tower and nave are the oldest features.

Wednesday 17th October 2pm

Meet at Hartlepool Historic Quay shop; enjoy a tour of Trincomalee – the oldest of the Royal Navy warships, built in early 19th century. Explore the museum and delve into maritime history. Then enjoy tea in the café afterwards.

Wednesday 14th November 2pm

Meet at the entrance of Laing Art Gallery, Newcastle, in John Dobson Street. The gallery exhibits are both fascinating and inspiring. Café and shop within.

Wednesday 12th December 2pm

Meet at Newcastle Civic Centre Café, downstairs in the Civic Centre Building for a Christmas meal and to see the Civic Trees in all their splendour.

For details of other forthcoming events in the North see OMEGA and the AOUG website.

THE AOUG SILVER ANNIVERSARY – 2013

Yes, AOUG will be 25 years old in 2013, so how would the members in the North like to celebrate this important event? Please get in touch with any ideas you have.

AOUG EVENTS 2012:

Friday 5th October 2012 – AOUG Faculty Awards and AOUG Foundation Lecture:

The Awards Ceremony begins at 12 noon with the presentation of AOUG Research Awards to up to eight PhD students from the different OU Faculties. Buffet lunch is included around 1pm and the annual AOUG Foundation Lecture begins at 2pm. This to be given by Dr James Bruce and is entitled 'A Little Light Chemistry' which will explain the importance of light. Tickets cost £8 for all or part of the day and are available from the AOUG Office, Walton Hall, Milton Keynes. KM7 6AA. Friends and family are welcome but book quickly as this is a ticket only event.

Friday 18th – Sunday 20th May 2013 – AOUG AGM and Social Weekend

Watch out for the Booking form for the next AGM weekend in your Winter edition of OMEGA and be sure to book early for our special 25th Anniversary event. Each year the AGM/Social Weekend is held in a different area of the country and this 2013 weekend is to be held in the West Midlands. We are booked to stay at the Holiday Inn, in Walsall, which is a newly refurbished hotel with special facilities for conference type groups and so we will have our own designated entrance with early registration facilities. Three excursions are being planned including a visit to the Black Country Museum, a really fascinating open air museum with reconstructions of many historical aspects of earlier life in the West Midlands.

.....

Developing AOUG in the North Region 09

I suggest for the Silver Anniversary Celebration in the North

I am interested in attending other events around the area.

I am interested in types of activities.

I am willing organising a single event

I am interested in becoming a Local Contact for area.

Name : PI Number:

Please type or print your name clearly

Please return to jean.mckenna@btopenworld.com or by post to 54, West View Road, Hartlepool PS24 0BH

Association News

As your Executive Representative it is my role to act as a communication link between you, the members in the North, and the other Executive Representatives and the AOUG Officers on the Executive Committee. Thus this section of the Newsletter will be to inform you of topics under discussion and to seek your opinions on these and any other aspects of the Association.

Currently one of the biggest concerns facing AOUG is our need to find new ways to connect with the many new OU graduates now that we are no longer able to have our own AOUG stand at degree ceremonies. AOUG's changing relationship with the OU has been reported by the AOUG Chairman in OMEGA and I do hope that you will have read the inserts in both the Spring and Summer editions and that you will let me have your views so that I can feed these back to the Executive Committee. Electronic communications are being offered via the OU and AOUG is making as much use of these as possible but we need other ideas to encourage OU graduates to join us and to experiment the fellowship that our organisation has to offer.

AOUG is also constantly looking for ways to improve communications and activities for members so that all members are able to feel involved both locally and at Association level. So once again all your ideas would be much appreciated.

.....

LOCAL NEWSLETTERS

My e-mail address is

I do not have an e-mail address and therefore am donating some stamps

I would like to see Newsletters items about

I would be willing to write Newsletter articles about

I enclose an item for consideration for the next Local Newsletter

Name : PI Number:
Please type or print your name clearly

Please return to jean.mckenna@btopenworld.com or by post to 54, West View Road, Hartlepool PS24 0BH

