



ASSOCIATION OF OPEN UNIVERSITY GRADUATES in NORTH

Edition 2

REGION 09 NEWSLETTER August 2013

Hello to all AOUG members in the North. It is incredible to believe that this year the AOUG will be celebrating 25 years in October since its inception. Great plans are being made for our Silver Celebration with many events arranged. I shall reveal more about this later in these pages. I hope that as many members as possible from the North will be able to attend and you are all cordially invited. On a personal note I am very pleased to announce my election as Executive Representative following the AGM in May this year which will be for a period of three years.

There are many changes to report in the structuring of the OMEGA magazine and in particular the appointment of Jean Hertzog as Acting Editor we wish her success in her role and also, to our new Chairman Margaret Stobirski and Lesley Sleight. Well done! Very best wishes to all.

Supporting AOUG members in Region 09

AOUG Newsletter for the North : This 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 the AOUG Office, Walton Hall, Milton Keynes. MK7 6AA. 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.

Association News:

North Region-09

There were several events arranged and cancelled due to unforeseen circumstances in our Region and also, I must offer my apologies to AOUG members for my absence as the diary events coincided with a visit to Australia in May. In future the intention is to try and adopt a more flexible approach to planned events depending on AOUG member's interests.

I am pleased to report on a more positive note the OU degree ceremony for the North, a very auspicious occasion occurred on Saturday the 15th June at the Sage in Gateshead. I was

delighted and indeed honoured to take part in the processional with Violet Rook. The atmosphere was exhilarating and the sense of pride was palpable as the dignitaries, guests and graduates took their seats and applauded those whom had achieved success in many different fields of education.

AOUG EVENTS 2013:

THE AOUG SILVER ANNIVERSARY – 2013

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. These Awards are being widely advertised via the OU but 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 13th September, so apply now.

AOUG Silver Celebration - 4th and 5th October 2013

You will all see the write ups on our 25th 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 as over the first weekend in October AOUG Officers have organised another special event. As well as the extra special Award Ceremony on Friday 4th 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. This recognises communication through Bletchley Park's history, from the Post Office and pigeon carriers to radio waves and the first televisions, right up to the age of computers and the internet. 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 Local Newsletter so check your diary and book now.

AOUG's 25th Anniversary Trading

In this our 25th Anniversary year, AOUG have 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 have an extra copy as an attachment now) 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.



Developing AOUG in the North Region 09

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.

I am interested in learning more about the role of Executive Representative

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**

Development of the Newsletter 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 can not 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 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 to the AOUG Office, which will then be forwarded onto your new Executive Representative, just as soon as they are co-opted.

Content of these Newsletters in the future will also rely a lot on your contributions so please send something into the AOUG Office as soon as possible. These Local Newsletters are not restricted to OU or AOUG related items and so if it interests you, it is sure to interest another member, so send it in for consideration in the next edition.



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 the AOUG Office aoug@open.ac.uk
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