



## ASSOCIATION OF OPEN UNIVERSITY GRADUATES IN THE SOUTH EAST – REGION 13

**Edition 10**

**September 2015**

**Greetings to all AOUG members in the South East Region. I hope that you have had an enjoyable Summer, without too much rain and at least some sunshine!!**

As you will see in the rest of the Newsletter, a lot is happening within the Association at the moment. The Officers and the Executive Committee are constantly trying new ways to engage with our existing members and to encourage new and existing graduates to join the Association. As part of the challenge to engage with members, it is my responsibility to coordinate activities in the South East. So this is my response to the challenge.

On Thursday September 24<sup>th</sup>, I will be leaving my home in Yorkshire to drive to London. Fortunately, one of my granddaughters lives in North London, so I will be staying with her on Thursday night – if I can sort out where I can park my car!! Katy is a Social Worker in Brent, so I do not see her often and am really looking forward to seeing her.

On Friday September 25<sup>th</sup>, I will be setting off early to try to negotiate my way around London to be at the Fine Grind Coffee House in Tunbridge Wells before 11.30am. This is the date of the MacMillan Coffee Morning, so what better day to meet for coffee and cake. We have forty four members with a TN postcode and it would be lovely to meet some of you in your home area.

At 1.30pm, I will leave Tunbridge Wells to drive to Eynsford and Lullingstone Roman Villa, hoping to arrive before 3pm. We have twelve members with a DA postcode and it would be great to meet any of them or other members (with friends and family) who can get to this amazing site. When I was growing up in South East London, my brother and I would regularly cycle to this area of Kent. This was when only one mosaic floor had been found. I still have a postcard of it bought at the time. I am so looking forward to seeing what has since been uncovered. At the end of that visit, I will be driving to Woodingdean, near Brighton, where I will be staying with my cousin and her husband.

On Saturday September 26<sup>th</sup>, my cousin and I will be travelling to Laporte's in Lewes for coffee at 11am. We have fifty seven members with a BN postcode and it would be wonderful to meet some of them in Lewes.

If these dates and places do not suit you, please look at the other Diary Dates in this Newsletter to see if others are more convenient.

Lesley Sleight – Vice Chairman

## Association News

### Social Media:

AOUG have resisted the use of social media for a long time, due to concerns over the possible content and the time involved for monitoring. However now there are more opportunities for pre-setting controls and especially with 'Corporate' sites rather than personal sites, the safeguards are much greater. Thus since Social Media are the favoured method of communication for the majority of people in today's world, AOUG must move with the times.

So recently our Treasurer set up a Corporate Facebook page and our Chairman launched a Corporate Twitter account. Both of these are open to members and non-members and are monitored by the Officers. The intention is to raise the profile of AOUG amongst people who might otherwise not have heard of us. Then it is hoped that after a period of interaction through these mediums, that any OU graduates that we have reached may decide to view our website. The ultimate goal is to encourage them to join our organisation. In order for this to happen, the social media interactions must firstly be pitched appropriately but even more important is that our own website must be completely up to date at all times and be interesting enough to inspire them to join up. Then once these people have joined us, we need to ensure that all communications inspire them to keep involved with AOUG for the future.

Thus you now have several electronic opportunities to engage directly with AOUG:

- the AOUG website [aoug.org.uk](http://aoug.org.uk) managed by our Publicity Officer.
- the special 'Members Only' Forum (with an additional Executive Committee section) which can be found by clicking on the word 'Forum' at the bottom of the AOUG website Home Page and creating your own password for future access.
- Corporate Facebook – You can find this through your own Facebook account if you have one and typing in [Association of Open University Graduates](http://www.facebook.com/pages/Association-of-Open-University-Graduates) or if you do not as yet have a Facebook account, your direct link is using <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Association-of-Open-University-Graduates/710287149081499>
- Corporate Twitter - Once you have your own Twitter account you can find us on [@TheAOUG](https://twitter.com/TheAOUG)

We would like as many as possible to get involved with these electronic communications but you can of course continue to write to us by 'snail mail' or phone the AOUG Office [01908 653316](tel:01908653316)

### Local symbol or motif

Now that all Regions and Nations are producing three Local Newsletters a year, we are looking for ways to develop a more local feel for each of the AOUG areas. Some Executive Representatives are considering more local content and some are experimenting with different layouts or fonts. However what would really make each area's Local Newsletter distinctive would be to have a unique symbol or motif that was representative of the area for that particular Newsletter, in addition to the AOUG logo. Yorkshire has always had a Yorkshire Rose in addition to the AOUG logo and that was an easy choice for those members as there is only Yorkshire within Region 07. However what about Regions or Nations with many counties, what would represent the whole area?

I am therefore asking you to put on your thinking caps and send in suggestions or images to me of any simple design that you think would be suitable to represent the whole of our area

which covers Kent, Sussex (East and West) and some of Surrey. I will then consider all suggestions and choose the one that I feel is most suitable and this will appear as our motif on the Winter Newsletter and it might also be used in OMEGA too.

### **May Executive Committee Meeting**

The Executive Committee met in Caernarfon, after the AGM meetings, for what was the one hundredth meeting and the Vice-Chairman treated us all to celebration cake at our coffee break. The meeting welcomed Margaret Stobirski, Pam Pearce, Ramsey Hertzog and Jean McKenna back to the Committee and received the Resolutions passed at the AGM before progressing to other business. Marian Corns was co-opted as the new Executive Representative for the North West (08) but unfortunately there were no other nominations for co-options to any of the other vacant positions.

### **July Executive Committee Meeting**

At the July meeting after all the official reports, one of the main items of information was relating to the AOUG Foundation for Education Awards. It was reported that five of the nine Research Awards had been approved for this year and that there had been twenty two nominations for the Awards for the Regions and Nations. These latter Awards are given to new graduates who have managed to gain their OU degree whilst overcoming adversity, over and above that of the average student and seventeen of these nominations were accepted as having passed the criteria and worthy of recognition.

Information was also given relating to an important very positive meeting that the Officers had held with Lucian Hudson, Director of Communication and Becca Mills, also from the OU Communications Department. The Officers are to meet with Vice-Chancellor, Peter Horrocks, in September.

**Executive Representative** – Vacant

### **Contacts**

**General enquiries** – AOUG Office 01908 653316 [aoug@open.ac.uk](mailto:aoug@open.ac.uk)

**Eastbourne Group** - Marie Linwood 01323 722144

**Hastings Group** - Paul Emerson 07789564102 [paul@emerson84.freeserve.co.uk](mailto:paul@emerson84.freeserve.co.uk)

**September events** – Lesley Sleigh

**Broadstairs Event** – Margaret Stobirski 01925 263161 [margaretstobirski@gmail.com](mailto:margaretstobirski@gmail.com)

**Brighton Lunch** – Jean Hertzog 01246 414746 [jrhertzog@hotmail.com](mailto:jrhertzog@hotmail.com)

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Name : ..... PI number .....

Tel: .....E-mail address: .....

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

I enclose an article on a local issue for the next Newsletter .....

## Diary Dates

### Friday 25<sup>th</sup> September. 11.30am

Meet the Vice-Chairman at the Fine Grind Coffee House, 90-92, High Street, Tunbridge Wells, TN1 1YF. If you live in the area but are unable to attend on this day, please contact me with all your ideas.

### Friday 25<sup>th</sup> September. 3pm

Meet the Vice-Chairman in the café of Lullingstone Roman Villa, Eynsford, Kent DA4 0JA before visiting the Villa site. She used to cycle here with her brother from their home in London in the 1950s and has not been here since. So since she thinks it will changed a bit since then, she would love as many as possible to come to share her nostalgic trip.

### Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> September.11am

Join the Vice-Chairman for coffee and a chat at Laporte's, 4, Lansdown Place, Lewes, BN7 2JT (near the Railway Station). If you live local to this area, please contact the Vice-Chairman in advance, whether you can attend or not.

### Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> December 12noon

Meet the Treasurer for an informal festive lunch at The Cricketers and The Greene Room, The Lanes, 15, Black Lion Street , Brighton BN1 1ND. This is the oldest pub in Brighton established in the 15<sup>th</sup> Century so as well as good food there will be the opportunity to learn more about its history. It is hoped that both Local Contacts from Eastbourne and Hastings will be attending so this is a perfect opportunity for all members within a reasonable travelling distance to come and meet up, celebrate the festive season and talk about ideas for future activities. A table is booked in a private room, but you are requested to advise the Treasurer by 14<sup>th</sup> November of your intention to attend. Menus will then be supplied for you to select your choice of two, three or four courses ranging in price from £20 to £28 according to your selection. £10 deposit required at the time of booking.

### Eastbourne Group

Members around the Eastbourne area meet regularly for lunches at The Ship, 33-35 Meads Street, Eastbourne, East Sussex BN20 7RH usually on a Wednesday. Anyone interested in joining them should contact the Local Contact for dates and times for future events.

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I /we will be attending the Coffee morning in Tunbridge .....

I /we will be attending the visit to the Roman Villa .....

I /we will be attending the Coffee morning in Lewes.....

I/we wish to attend the Christmas meal in Brighton .....

I should like to know more about being a Local Contact .....

I should like to know more about being the Executive Representative .....