



Association of Open University Graduates South East - Region 13

Edition 8

Winter 2014

Developing AOUG in the South East

Areas often go through cycles of active or passive periods and there is really good news to know that the South East is rapidly approaching a much more active period. There are two Local Contacts for groups in Eastbourne and Hastings, poised waiting for local members to call so that monthly meetings can be planned for the New Year. In addition to this, an event was arranged last September by the Publicity Officer to start a new West Sussex Group. They met at Highdown Vineyard Restaurant, Ferring, West Sussex and several other members, who were unable to attend on that day, contacted her to give support and now plans are in hand to get this group off the ground in the New Year too. Are you in easy travelling distance to join one of these groups, or would you like to attend activities all over the Region. Whatever your circumstances, please get in touch and give these volunteers your full support.

Although the South East is still without an Executive Representative, members have a desire to be involved and to attend events but many do not want to travel far so many other local groups could be formed. In some cases we just need a local willing volunteer to coordinate the ideas and to communicate arrangements for activities to other interested members. Could you be that willing volunteer? Could you fix a date to visit a place of local interest or who could find a local coffee shop, restaurant or pub for a chat and e-mail other local members and in addition, let the AOUG Office know so we can advertise it for you. **Would you like to be a Local Contact?** Why not e-mail the AOUG Office to find out more? In the meantime members of Region 13 are always welcome to join events held by Region 02 or Region 03, if travelling there is easier. Please make your New Year's resolution one to get actively involved.

Preparations for the Annual General Meeting

As the festive season approaches, members naturally turn their focus to shopping and preparing for their Winter plans but before you get entangled in all the wrapping paper and trimmings, please think ahead to next year's Annual General Meeting. Of course we want you all to complete your Booking Form to attend the weekend but even if you cannot manage that, we would like you to think about the future of your Association. Would you, or another member you know, make a suitable candidate for one of the vacant Executive Committee positions – Executive Representative for the South East, or maybe an Officer's post. If you know a suitable candidate, then offer your PI number, and your support, and ensure the nomination form is completed in time. Maybe there is something in the regulations that you feel should be changed? Or do you have a wonderful new idea for recruitment? If you want to change something or suggest something new, then draft a Resolution or Motion and send it to the AOUG Office to arrive by post by 4pm on Tuesday 15th January 2015. This is your Association and your involvement and opinions are important!

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 Identifiers 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 dignities from the OU all enjoyed the Ceremony, which concluded with lunch and the opportunity to socialise. We were especially grateful for the fine October weather which allowed attendees chance to enjoy their lunch on the patio.

During the lunch period there was an informal presentation of flowers to Karen Bradbury, by the Chairman as a personal thank you from the Officers for her support of AOUG for many years. She is a senior member of staff who works for OU Estates and who has also acted as the Returning Officer for the AOUG election count but who is due to retire at the end of December.

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.

OUSA Conference

Several of the AOUG Officers attended the OUSA conference which was held in Milton Keynes during the Summer. Our stand was situated in the Jenny Lee Building, This gave the opportunity to meet and talk to many students, some already graduates but continuing their studies, and others who will hopefully be future graduates in a few years’ time. All of these are our potential future members so specially designed information packs had been prepared and these were handed out along with copies of our OMEGAs to any that showed an interest.



AOUG stand at the OUSA Conference in the Jenny Lee Building

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 in plenty of time 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 whilst Executive Representatives in the respective areas are busy organising their presentation, the AOUG Publicity Officer is currently arranging the one for Region 13. 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 years' 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.

Closure of East Grinstead

Many of you will have over the years, had reason to contact or visit the OU Office in East Grinstead, and therefore I am sure that you will be extremely saddened to hear that this Office has now been closed. This was a result of The Open University's restructuring programme to change all local OU Centres from locality based to subject based establishments. Having done this it was decided that the East Grinstead Centre was no longer required and thus all communications have now been diverted through to the London Centre in Camden Town.

AOUG have had a really good working relationship with the Region 13 OU staff and so we are very sorry to have had to say 'Goodbye' to them.

Local Newsletters

I would be willing to write Newsletter articles about

My e-mail address is

Home phone: Mobile:

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

AGM 2015 in Caernarfon

Have you ever been to an AOUG AGM and Social Weekend? It's an opportunity to meet up with other OU graduates and is in a different Region or Nation each year. We're pleased to be visiting North Wales on the 8th – 10th May 2015, staying in the Celtic Royal Hotel in the middle of Caernarfon, within easy reach of the Castle. The Hotel has a fully equipped gym and a pool, as well as the usual facilities of a bar, lounge and restaurant www.celtic-royal.co.uk.

As usual there will be some interesting trips over the weekend. On the Friday there is to be an optional trip to the top of Snowdon by train. The scenery is magnificent, when viewed from the peak on a clear day. Saturday offers a visit to the Llanberis Slate Mine Museum. This is on the site of the Dinorwig Quarry where slate was mined until 1969. The Victorian workshops built in the shadow of Elidir Mountain allow you an insight into the work and daily lives of the men who once worked there. The third optional excursion, which will be on the Sunday morning, is a trip to the Electric Mountain, which is the Hydro Electric power.

It would be good to see some more people from Region 13 there. A booking form is in the Winter copy of OMEGA and will also be available from www.aoug.org.uk.

Diary Dates

South East- Region 13

Eastbourne Group

Monthly lunches are held on Wednesdays at 12.30pm in different venues in the Eastbourne area - an opportunity for you to meet and socialise with old friends, and make new ones.

Hastings Group

This is a new group just established which hopes to attract AOUG members in that area. Please get in touch with the Local Contact.

Local Contacts

Executive Representative Vacant

AOUG Development Officer - Violet Rook 07962276091 Viola.rook@btinternet.com

Eastbourne Group - Marie Linwood 01323 722144

Hastings Group- Paul Emerson 07789564102 paul@emerson84.freeserve.co.uk

I am interesting in attending a group in West Sussex / Hastings / Eastbourne

I would like to attend events around thearea.

I am able to organise a single event in thearea

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

I am interested in learning about the role of Executive Representative

Please complete the response slip and return to AOUG Office, Walton Hall Milton Keynes MK7 6AA or aoug@open.ac.uk 01908 653316