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**Association of Open University Graduates
Europe**

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As the saying goes, 'time flies' and it is time for another Newsletter. Summer took some time to arrive here in Calvados, but now we are enjoying sunny days with just sufficient rain to keep the garden looking green and fresh.

And talking of time flying, it is eight years since I sent out my first letter to members in Europe. In that letter I was asking what we in Europe wanted from AOUG, taking into consideration the vast distances between each of us and the members in the UK. To recap, the following is a brief description of your responses.

The OU gave us new areas of knowledge which we have been able to take out, not only into the work world but also into our social life.

The postman still calls!

An informal forum would be useful for members to keep in touch and to create debates; the distance would be irrelevant.

**That has happened with the AOUG Forum so I do hope that you are using it.
Refer to the last Newsletter and/or OMEGA for details of how to join.**

To be informed of what is going on within the OU.

**More information of what is going on in the OU is now published in OMEGA.
On another front, if you are able to receive BBC television, please tune into University Challenge which goes out on Monday evenings at 21hrs.
The Open University team is in it although I do not know on which week they make their first appearance.**

Sometimes it would appear from photographs in OMEGA that this is an Association of retired people.

AOUG continues to work at raising its age profile by recruiting new members at Degree Ceremonies and at the OUSA Conference and through The Open University mailing to new graduates.

Release of e mail addresses would enable members to select who to keep in touch with and particularly within their own country.

AOUG is governed by the Data Protection Act but I can connect you to other members with your written permission to release your address.

We move on after our degree and OMEGA is sufficient to keep in touch.

Would like to see a Journal of research articles.

That has been addressed by more research articles in OMEGA. I wrote about the AOUG Journal in Newsletter 6.

Took an OU degree in order to give retirement a good start.

I would be most interested to hear from you again with any suggestions, all of which would help me, as your contact, but also the Executive Committee, who are always open to suggestions from members.

May I draw your attention to the back cover of the Summer edition of OMEGA? I bought an AOUG triangular back pack when it first came out, and have been using it constantly. The quality is excellent so if you enjoy outdoor activities do take the opportunity to benefit from the special price which is on offer until the end of September. The offer will help with the cost of postage. For us in Europe postage needs to be calculated for each individual package so email Cheryl Cowley at the AOUG Office on, AOUG@open.ac.uk for the total amount.

I also enclose in this Newsletter, the official AOUG forms for Degree Ceremonies in 2015 and the nomination of Open University graduates for an AOUG Foundation for Education Awards. Please remember, where ever we live, we can attend Open University degree ceremonies in Regions and Nations other than where we live.

When reading about the next AOUG AGM and Spring Weekend in Caernarfon, it reminded me of several holidays my husband Peter and I have enjoyed in North Wales and in particular, staying at the wonderful private village of Portmeirion. I hope that you enjoy my short article about the village.

Portmeirion, the Prisoner's Village

Situated at the estuary of the River Dwyryd, Portmeirion is the creation of Welsh architect, Sir Clough Williams-Ellis. At the time that he bought the site in the 1930s it consisted of Castell Deudraeth, a large house and one hundred and forty five acres of overgrown woodland and gardens.

It was not until after the Second World War that he was able to begin the creation of, what is now a beautiful village consisting of small shops, cottages and most importantly, rescued derelict buildings, Italianate piazza, colonnades and statues. His creations, whether buildings or statues, walk ways and paths through the woods, all lend themselves to a picturesque and almost romantic place.



The village rose to fame in the 1960s when Patrick McGoohan, used the village for the location of the television series, 'The Prisoner'. Many of the scenes were filmed using the buildings and the location of N° 6's living quarters now houses the Prisoner's shop. If you are familiar with the series but have not visited the village, I can promise you, it is fascinating to recognize Castell Deudraeth which was used for the hospital scenes, the piazza which was the huge chess board, the river estuary when the tide is out, used for scenes when the Prisoner was trying to escape and many more.

The village is open to the public, either as a day visitor, staying at the hotel or renting a self catering cottage. At the time when we stayed there, we had a Caterham 7, a replica of the car driven by the Prisoner. Normally cars are not allowed into the village but as residents we were allowed to take the 7 in and there was competition between the shop owners to have our car parked outside their shop! On one visit we arrived with a vehicle that very closely resembled the Lotus 7 of "The Prisoner" even bearing his famous registration KAR120C! We had an unbelievable moment whilst in N° 6's house, dedicated to selling merchandise products from the series. A lady was looking at a stand with postcards showing various famous images from the TV programmes. One pictured KAR120C parked outside N°6's house, in exactly the position we had just left it! The lady, pointing to a postcard, said to her husband "That car is parked outside now!" "Don't be ridiculous", he replied.



The Making of Films and Reality

In order to make an interesting, arresting film or television programme, producers often need to use locations which are renamed in order to fit in with the story. Watching *Foyle's War*, which is based in Hastings in the South of England, it is actually impossible to recognize any of the streets because the majority of the filming was shot elsewhere. The very popular series of *Downton Abbey* is filmed at Highclere Castle in Hampshire, but when it comes to filming those 'down stairs', the sets have to be built in the television studio owing to the fact that the kitchens and staff quarters of long ago at Highclere Castle, now house a tea room and offices. Fortunately for those of you who cannot tune into British television, these programmes can be seen on DVDs and with various language options. It can be quite a guessing game to see if you can recognize the locations.

The American epic film, *The Longest Day*, made in the 1960s, was of particular interest to Peter, who made a very interesting discovery of an important location for filming the French Commandos landing at Ouistreham. Owing to the need to film looking down on the canal, the producer needed considerable height to be able to cover sufficient scenery and the actors in action, so the location was moved to Port en Bessin Huppain, about thirty kilometers West along the coast. This small town has a harbour which was used to represent the Canal de Caen and at the time, there was a tall, flat roofed building which was used for the camera. On the DVD of the film this episode is scene thirty seven.



I took this photograph of Peter posing as 'Monty' in front of the Port en Bessin letters obscuring the name Ouistreham. Look closely and you can make out the letters S T R under the T space EN of Port en Bessin. For those of you who are interested in vehicles, the jeep is our Austin Champ, at the moment in disgrace, its Rolls Royce engine is on strike! Back to the title of this article, although we do not use a film in our cameras today, the taking

of photographs is very popular. We were recently given a book with the title, 'Normandy Then and Now'. In the book there are pictures of different parts of Normandy taken on and a few days after D Day. Each page has a picture from then, with a brief description and the opposite page is blank to enable the reader to take a photograph of the same location today. When I retire I shall be off with my camera, a detailed map and the book. I always find it fascinating to see how time changes some places but does not affect others. I would be interested to see any of your photographs of then and now, where ever you live.

Patricia Cowling
Local Contact Europe

Processing at Degree Ceremonies

We have adopted a new system for selection of AOUG processors next year. If you would like to be part of the formal academic procession party, representing the AOUG at one of the Degree Ceremonies in 2015, please complete and return the application form. Gowns are provided. If you haven't processed before, it's a very special experience. You may choose a venue near you, or a Degree Ceremony in another part of the country, subject to availability. The full list of Degree Ceremonies for next year will be in the Winter issue of OMEGA.

OU DEGREE CEREMONIES - 2015

Degree Ceremonies are a very important part of OU Calendar and it is an honour for AOUG to be invited to send representatives to take part in their academic processions. Each year AOUG Officers need to submit their nominated members to the OU in early February and we invite all members to apply to be considered for this prestigious role. If you would like to apply to process for AOUG, we ask you to supply the following details and then return this form by **31st December 2014** to:

Degree Ceremony Volunteer, AOUG Office, Walton Hall, Milton Keynes MK7 6AA

Once you have applied, please ensure you keep yourself available for the dates you have specified until you hear from AOUG. All successful applicants to be nominated to the OU, and the others who are to be placed on a reserve list, in the case of any last minute problems, will be notified in February 2015. If your availability changes after you have submitted your details, please notify the AOUG Office as soon as possible so that we can amend our records. All volunteers should be physically fit to be able to walk the full length of a venue hall and to mount steps up to the platform. Please note that no expenses are paid as attendance is in a volunteer capacity.

Please print all your details clearly.

Name PI Number

Address

..... Post Code

Telephone (Landline with UK Code) Mobile

E-mail address

Degree Ceremonies – See full list in the Winter OMEGA - Please note that the OU may change some of these arrangements at a later stage and volunteers will be notified if this affects their application.

	Date	Time	Venue
1st choice			

2 nd choice			
3 rd choice			

I am physically able to fulfill the duties required

I am able to bring my own OU Gown to wear for the procession

I shall require an OU gown to be ordered on my behalf My height isfeet inches

My highest OU degree qualification is Year of OU graduation
.....

Please note that all AOUG volunteers will be representing OU Graduates and therefore are asked to wear OU gowns, even if they have a higher qualification from another university.

Please note: All members are invited to apply for as many venues as they wish. However AOUG Officers reserve the right to make the final selection of AOUG procession nominations to represent the Association. We thank you for your interest and hope you will enjoy the experience.

AOUG Foundation for Education Awards in the Regions and Nations

The AOUG Foundation for Education sponsors an annual Award in each of the Regions and Nations, which was first introduced in 1997. All recipients receive a cheque and a framed certificate, presented at a ceremony in the Region where they live. Nominees must have overcome some adversity over and above that of the average student. For further details, see the next page. If you know someone who may qualify, we'd like you to put their name forward.

AOUG Foundation for Education Awards for the Regions and Nations – Application form
Return to AOUG Foundation Awards in the Regions and Nations, AOUG Office, Walton Hall, Milton Keynes MK7 6AA at any time prior to Monday 22nd September 2014

**Application form for the
AOUG Foundation for Education Awards in the Regions and Nations
*Please use block capitals, or type all responses, with the exception of your signature.***

Your name:

Your address:

.....

Your telephone number Your e-mail

Which of the following applies to you? OU student.... OU graduate OU Staff

Please note that you must have the candidate's permission prior to releasing their contact details.

I have the permission of the candidate named below to release their contact details and personal information to the Association of Open University Graduates for the purpose of these Awards.

..... Signed Dated

Name of the person you wish to nominate

Address of person you wish to nominate

Candidate's telephone number Candidate's e-mail

Region or Nation where they lived when they undertook the majority of their OU degree level study

Date of their OU degree qualification OU Degree obtained

Was this the first degree qualification they had ever obtained?

Please describe briefly the candidate's adversity during their study period:

You may attach up to two additional sides of A4 to explain the adversity in more detail.

Information released in this application form will be used solely for the selection of candidates for the AOUG Foundation for Education Awards and the related publicity of Award winners

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Please describe briefly the candidate's dedication to their OU degree study

You may attach up to two additional sides of A4 to explain the dedication in more detail.

Please describe briefly the candidate's plans for the future use of their OU degree

All necessary information should be included within the space of this box.

Has the candidate you are nominating received any other Awards for their study?

Please name the Award/s

Is the candidate employed in any capacity by the OU?

If Yes, please describe the nature of their employment

All necessary information should be included within the space of this box.

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