



## ASSOCIATION OF OPEN UNIVERSITY GRADUATES

### Region 04 – West Midlands

Edition 16

Spring 2017

Welcome to our Spring Local Newsletter.

You will have recently received your Spring edition of OMEGA in the post. If you have not received it by now, please contact the AOUG Office so that your contact details can be checked and another copy sent out if necessary.

This is my final time producing a Newsletter as my term of office comes to an end after the AGM this coming Saturday. I will have been on the Executive Committee for three years; two as your Executive Representative and one as the Association's Development Officer. We will find out the results of the election for our next Executive Representative who, if elected, will be producing our next Newsletter in due course.

**Friday 6th October 2017**

### **AOUG Foundation for Education Research Awards**

*At 12 noon*

*on the OU campus at Walton Hall, Milton Keynes*

*Followed at 2pm by*

### **The AOUG Foundation Lecture**

**"The Socio-cultural Impact of Globalisation & English in Saudi Arabia: A Narrative Enquiry"**

**to be given by Tamsin Waterkeyn,  
AOUG 2016 Ted Castle Bursary winner**

**£10 for full or part day including a buffet lunch -  
Admission by ticket or invitation only**

**Tickets available from AOUG Office  
[aoug@open.ac.uk](mailto:aoug@open.ac.uk) or 01908 653316 before Friday  
8th September**

I look forward to seeing some of you at next month's Social Weekend & AGM being held in Darlington or at other events in the future.

**Philip Evans  
Development Officer**

### **Don't forget...**

There are many ways in which to interact with your Association:

- Face-to-face events
- OMEGA magazine
- Local e-Newsletters
- Facebook: [Click here](#)
- Twitter: [Click here](#)
- AOUG private forum: [Click here](#)

## Exciting times for the Association!

Following the Resolutions that were passed at last year's AGM, we now have a new class of membership of the Association: "Associate Members". This new class of membership launched on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> March and is already attracting new members to the Association.

There are three groups of people who are eligible to become Associate Members. The first two groups are related to degree-level study with The Open University. These two groups include people who:

- a) have completed an amount of study with the OU to be eligible to claim a degree but have yet to formally accept it (such as if they are still studying in order to achieve their degree with Honours) or
- b) are current OU students who are signed up to study a degree with the OU.

The third group is for the friends or spouse of a deceased Full Member who are now ineligible to come to events. They can be nominated as an Associate Member by any current Full Member who knows them.

Associate Members will pay the same subscription as any other member and will receive the same communications and be eligible to attend all events. However, Associate Members will not be eligible to stand for election to serve on the Executive Committee nor will they be able to vote in any Association elections.

You may have seen in the Forms of Proxy which you received with the Spring OMEGA that a Resolution and a Motion will be put to this year's AGM:

- "That the spouse, partner or friend of a full graduate member will be eligible to be an 'Associate Member' following a nomination made only by a current Full Member."
- "That for administration purposes only, the members who join as Associate Members are classified as either 'Associate student members' or 'Associate social members'."

So we wait to see the result of the vote.

**Philip Evans**

**Development Officer**

## Regional Bank Account update

Following my notice in the last Local Newsletter, I thank those of you who sent in comments about the proposal to close the Regional Bank Account. All the comments received were in favour of the proposal and for the funds to be donated to the AOUG Foundation for Education. Furthermore, no volunteers came forward to become new signatories of the Regional Bank Account. Therefore we have donated the balance of the account to the Foundation and are currently in the process of requesting the bank close the now empty account.

## Diary Dates:

### Saturday 8th July. 2pm

Meet at St. Mary's Church, Hamstead Road, Handsworth, Birmingham, B20 2RW for a guided tour, which will last about an hour. This church is Grade II listed and is also known as Handsworth Old Church. It is described as "The Cathedral of the Industrial Revolution". For more information see [www.handsworthstmary.org](http://www.handsworthstmary.org)

## Contact Details

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| <b>AOUG Office</b>  | Office Administrator | 01908 653316<br><a href="mailto:aoug@open.ac.uk">aoug@open.ac.uk</a>                                 |
| <b>Tea &amp; Coffee Mornings, July Event and Event Co-ordinator</b> | Mohammad Motawalla   | 01902 771328 or 07825 645997<br><a href="mailto:mamotawalla@yahoo.co.uk">mamotawalla@yahoo.co.uk</a> |