



## Association of Open University Graduates Region 04 – West Midlands

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### Welcome

I am very pleased to come back as an Executive Representative of the AOUG for the West Midlands after successful election results from the last AGM. Therefore, I take this opportunity to thank all our members who voted for me. I hope that you will enjoy your membership benefits. There will be many interesting events in our Region taking place throughout the year. I hope that you will be able to join us. Events are best places to meet our members and share our

memories of OU studies. However, sometimes we cannot attend events because of our commitments, so we have social media to engage with our membership. You can search for our events on the AOUG website [www.aoug.org.uk](http://www.aoug.org.uk), Facebook, Twitter and the Forum as well as read about them in our OMEGA magazine. I shall try to update you regularly. Social media engagement is a new experience for us. It is a recent introduction. It is getting popular in our

Region. These social media are developed to bring cohesion in our membership. They are updated to generate interest of our members. All members in all Regions and Nations as well as the Rest of the World can come to join our events. In this Newsletter, I shall concentrate on AOUG AGM 2017.

**MOHAMMAD MOTAWALLA,  
EXECUTIVE REPRESENTATIVE  
OF AOUG FOR THE WEST  
MIDLANDS.**

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### AOUG AGM 2017

We had the AGM 2017 at Blackwell Grange Hotel in Darlington which was hosted by Region 09. I was going to this AGM for just one day to discover the election results for my Executive Representative's post. To my surprise,

these results came out a bit earlier than I thought. Hence, I had the opportunity to stay at Darlington a few days more than I had expected.

The AGM weekend is open to all members and their families. Therefore, we

have plenty of social activities. In general, members who register for the whole weekend programme, usually arrive on Friday by midday. Our members who arrived by midday registered at the Reception. This was followed by the excursion event to 'Walworth Castle Birds of Prey and Falconry Centre'. On Saturday morning, there was a 'Tour of Darlington'. The afternoon event was a visit to 'Shildon Railway Museum'. On Sunday, we had 'Durham River Cruise'. In conclusion, our AGMs are very busy and many things for many people.

Most of our members are familiar with the general structure of AOUG AGMs. We start on Saturday morning after collecting our folders from the Reception Desk. The folder contains Part 1 and Part 2 papers with a voting card which members must have to cast votes. There is a short break between Part 1 and Part 2 of the AGM. The Part 1 contains Resolutions for Memorandums & Articles. The Part 2

contains Motions for Standing Orders. A lot of thinking is required in casting votes and often decisions are very hard to make. Members who cannot attend the AGM have a chance to vote by postal proxy vote on both Part 1 and Part 2.



River Cruise in Durham.

Photograph by Mohammad Motawalla.

A summary of our AGM is published in OMEGA magazine.

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## Ideas for Fund Raising

We need funds for our Charity. Hence, we are looking for new ideas and methods to increase funds. Members had suggested that we hold Coffee & Cake Days which may bring in some funds. Other suggestions were to hold Car Boot Sales, Sponsored Walks, selling unwanted items on eBays and collecting loose change in

Smartie Boxes. These few suggestions had brought in some funds to our Charity in the past. If you have any ideas which may be good for our Region to collect some funds, then I shall be glad to hear from you by emails. Otherwise, if you have any donations to make, please send them directly to the AOUG Office.

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## AOUG AGM 2018

Our next AGM will be held at the Norton Grange Hotel and Spa, Castleton, Rochdale from 18<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> May, 2018. This AGM will be our 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Therefore, it is going to be a special AGM. Excursions to Robinson's Brewery, the Hat Works and a

walk around Media City/The Lowry will be planned for this AGM. The AGM and Social Weekend are open to all AOUG members, their family and friends as well as any interested OU Graduates, OU students and OU staff. Booking Forms will be in the Winter edition of OMEGA magazine. Also, you can download this form from our AOUG website [www.aoug.org.uk](http://www.aoug.org.uk).

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## DIARY DATES

### TEA & COFFEE MORNINGS IN WOLVERHAMPTON

Our Tea & Coffee Mornings are popular. Our members enjoy taking part in this event. We usually meet in the morning during weekdays when St.Peter's House is open. We look at our past events and share our ideas. There is plenty of discussion to engage in as well as look at pictures of our events. Often, we browse our Facebook page, search our AOUG website [www.aoug.org.uk](http://www.aoug.org.uk), read our OMEGA magazines and leaflets on events in our Region.

#### **Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> January - 12 noon**

Meet at Reception of The Bluebrick Restaurant, 191 Broad Gauge Way, Wolverhampton WV1 0BA [www.tabletable.co.uk](http://www.tabletable.co.uk) for New Year's Dinner. It is situated next to Railway & National Coach Stations and very close to Metro Station in the City Centre of Wolverhampton. It is a new Restaurant. Choose your own meal. Charges according to Menu price. Facility for car parking available. Please contact Mohammad Motawalla as soon as possible for reservations.

#### **Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> February. 12 noon**

Meet at the Cafe Reception Area of Half Penny Green Airport, Crab Lane, Bobbington, Stourbridge, DY7 5DY. It is a flourishing airport with superb location for businesses and aircraft flying schools. We will have lunch at this Cafe and observe aircraft from the Watch Tower. Please register your interests with Mohammad Motawalla.

#### **Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> March. 2 pm**

Meet at the main Reception of Walsall New Art Gallery, Gallery Square, Walsall, WS2 8LG. This Art Gallery was opened in 2000 by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. It is a five storey building in the town centre of Walsall. Please register your interests with Mohammad Motawalla.

## CONTACTS

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