



Newsletter of AOUG in the West Midlands

Edition 1

Spring 2012

WELCOME.

I should like to welcome our members in West Midlands Region and especially new AOUG members. I pray that they will enjoy reading this newsletter and learn about our events and activities which take place regularly. West Midlands Region has a great deal to offer. There are many things we can do in our Region and we want our members to enjoy their memberships.

We have excellent AOUG website www.aoug.org.uk where members can browse to see what is happening in our Region 04, as well as throughout all our Regions and Nations. We also have our OMEGA magazine which gives good coverage on AOUG with attractive photographs and articles.

I hope that our members will find many things to do. Also, to have the opportunity to meet new and old friends at events as well as learn about The OU studies.

AOUG AGM.

The AOUG AGM is an annual event. There are 13 different Regions and Nations as well as members Overseas. Each of these Regions and Nations has opportunity to host AGMs. The AOUG AGMs are open to all AOUG members who can take part in the voting system.

AOUG AGMs are divided into two parts. The first Part contains Resolutions for Memorandums and Articles of AOUG. The second Part contains Motions for Standing Orders. Members can either vote in person or by postal proxy vote on either Resolutions for Part 1, or on Motions for Part 2 of the AGM.

There are plenty of social activities and events taking place during the AGM weekends in which members can participate. These activities and events, like many of our Regional and National activities and events, give members the opportunity to socialise. It gives them a chance to meet friends and make friends.

THE AGM 2013 FOR WEST MIDLANDS & 25th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION FOR AOUG.

AOUG AGM takes place every year. They are held in different Regions and Nations, but the very special 2013 AOUG AGM will take place in our West Midlands Region [R04]. Also, the 2013 year will be celebrating 25th Anniversary of AOUG. All Regions and Nations will host some Anniversary programmes in their Regions and Nations. We too, will look for celebrating this unique Anniversary for our Region, here in West Midlands.

The AOUG Officers have decided to select the Holiday Inn Hotel, in Walsall to host our AGM. This is a brand new Hotel opened a few months ago and it is an excellent venue with good AGM facilities, good transport access and with new present century design. A great venue for the AGM, and to be able to explore the West Midlands, during our social weekend. We will hope to organise many social events and activities where members will be free to choose options.

We want our members to get engaged and involved with this 2013 AGM. We want to make this AGM a great success and a memorable one with plenty of things to do for celebrations of the 25th Anniversary. Your support for events in past has been wonderful. Your support for AGMs in different Regions and Nations has placed West Midlands in the best position to give support at present time, to have this AGM 2013 in West Midlands. Therefore, I want to encourage all members to support with zest of enthusiasm, this AGM 2013.

If you want to engage in the AGM as a volunteer in West Midlands Region, then please contact me as soon as possible.

AOUG AGM 2012 IN LIVERPOOL.

The AOUG AGM 2012 will take place in Liverpool from 18th May to 20th May. All members who wish to go to this AGM, please complete the booking form which you can download from AOUG's website www.aoug.org.uk

RECENT VISITS TO CENTRAL LIBRARIES.

Most students use libraries and I too, used our central library in Wolverhampton frequently. They provide excellent source of study support and searches for reference books. In the past, some central libraries used to provide video player facilities within the central library. This helped students to watch videos for their courses but many of these central libraries removed this vital service and thereby, students relied on the Regional Study Centres to watch these videos.

We had a guided tour of the Central library in Wolverhampton a few years ago. Our librarians were very good to show us around the central library with new image of the library from what I used to know. We did not have any online facilities and there were no computers. The borrowing was based on old traditions. This guided tour brought new insight into use of libraries. Our members had learnt about changes brought to central libraries with new introductions to online services.

My degree course with The Open University developed a good friendship with many libraries throughout West Midlands and in particular, with Wolverhampton and Birmingham. I was the first one in our central library and the last one to leave. Therefore, these visits brought sentimental feelings and memories of old studies with The Open University, especially when I look at my total failures in England & Wales. The Open University was the best University to help me achieve my degree in Baccalaureate Scientia.

Last year, we visited two more central libraries. On Saturday 8th October, 2011, we visited Dudley Central Library in Dudley and on Saturday 5th November, 2011, we visited Coventry Central Library in Coventry. Both of these central libraries were very interesting events. Our members learnt about today's central libraries. Their services are open and friendly. They are extending services with introduction to online services as well as bringing in self service system whereby machines can keep records on books and library items borrowed. These machines keep record of any payments due. If a member has not paid any due money, then it will stop issue of any books and any other library items until payment is made.

Enquiries for references can be made through either emails or by telephones. Library staff are there to help members with any problematic issues they have. Central library offer courses such as Learn Direct and help with jobs and careers.

Libraries are just one of the venues visited by West Midlands members. For details of the many events currently arranged, please check in OMEGA or on the AOUG website.

FUTURE NEWSLETTERS

It is intended to send out three local newsletters a year but in order to do this, I need your support. Would you be willing to assist by providing articles for inclusion, or maybe volunteering to donate the duplicating of copies. Also if you have received this edition by post, but have an e-mail address, then please let AOUG have your details as soon as possible. Alternatively if you prefer to receive mailings by post, please consider donating some postage stamps to help keep expenses down.

CHANGES IN CONTACT DETAILS.

Please, if you have changed address, telephone number or email address, then please notify either me or the AOUG Office. aoug@open.ac.uk 01908 653316

MEMBERSHIPS.

Members who have not paid their membership fees, please do it as soon as possible. There is now an online application form on the AOUG website www.aoug.org.uk along with information on the Direct Debit system.

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EXECUTIVE REPRESENTATIVE for AOUG in the WEST MIDLANDS.**

MARCH, 2012.