



Association of Open University Graduates Region 04 West Midlands

Edition 8

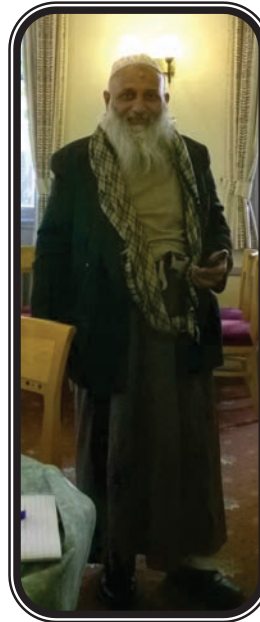
Summer 2014

Welcome to our Summer Local Newsletter. I begin by saying a big thank you to my predecessor, Mohammad Motawalla for his work during his Term of Office and his continued support as a Local Contact for Wolverhampton. Those of us present at the AGM in St. Albans showed our gratitude by presenting a “Thank you” card to him at the Gala Dinner.

This is my first edition of our Local Newsletter as your Executive Representative, I hope you find it interesting. If you have ideas for future editions please do send them to me. As I’ve said on page 2, these Local Newsletters can include general interest items as well as AOUG news.

After being elected as your Executive Representative at the AGM in May, I have had a busy few months getting used to my new role. My first task, which came very soon after the AGM, was to get items ready before the deadline of OMEGA. Hopefully you will all have received your Summer OMEGA in the last couple of weeks.

The Association hasn’t stood still since then though! Included below is my summary of the July Executive Committee meeting. Also in this Newsletter are notices about the forthcoming Foundation Lecture, please see



*Above: Retired
Executive Representative,
Mohammad Motawalla*

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page 2, and the Awards for any recent graduate who had to overcome any major life problem during their period of study, please see page 3. There’s lots of other news and inserts connected with them too.

**Philip Evans
Executive Representative**

Digest of the July Executive Committee meeting

The Executive Committee met on Saturday 26th July. The Officers had travelled to Milton Keynes during the week for their Officers’ meetings. The Executive Representatives arrived on Friday 25th and met on Friday afternoon for a workshop to discuss the support systems available to us and any new ideas we had. This proved to be a useful session for us to find out what other Regions do and think about new ways of doing things. We put our ideas to the Executive Committee during the meeting on Saturday and the Officers will discuss and explore the ideas in more depth in due course.

The Agenda for the Saturday Executive Committee meeting included receiving various reports and considering various proposals and issues. Some of the reports we received included the Officers’ Reports; Executive Representatives’ Reports; the feedback report from the 2014 AGM; a report on the forthcoming Awards and a report on the Foundation Lecture (*please see page 2 in this Newsletter for more information about the Foundation Lecture*). There were various subjects for us to consider including the support systems workshop; the Association’s finances; membership and our methods of communication with members. After the meeting we were joined by Chris Goscomb, Graduate Representative on Senate, for a workshop (*to find out more about what Chris’s role involves, please see his report in the Summer 2014 edition of OMEGA*).

**Philip Evans
Executive Representative – Region 04**

*If you have any issues or ideas that you would like me to raise at a future Executive Committee meeting, please let me know. This is **your** Association and my role is to represent **you**.*

Would you like to attend the AGM in 2015 and would like door-to-door transport or to travel with others?



A group of members travelled by taxi to this year's AGM in St. Albans. They found it to be a good experience travelling alongside friends and very convenient because they were picked up from their front doors and delivered direct to the main door of the hotel.

The AGM in 2015 is to be held in Caernarfon in North Wales. The nearest railway station is in Bangor, which is about a 30 minute bus journey from Caernarfon. I have had a very quick look into the possibility of hiring a small coach and so far have found that travelling by coach will most likely be both quicker and cheaper than travelling by train. It will also have the added advantage of delivering us to the hotel door.

So that I can gauge interest and the size of vehicle that would be needed, please would you let me know if you might be interested in travelling with other members by coach?

My contact details are **AOUG.Philip@gmail.com** or **01905 428667**

Philip Evans
Executive Representative

Friday 3rd October 2014
AOUG Foundation for
Education Research Awards

from midday in the Michael Young Building on campus,
followed by a buffet lunch
with time to socialise and to view the many displays.
Then at 2pm we present our annual



Foundation Lecture
“ Personalisation in Early Years - Processes and Outcomes”

By Natalia Kucirkova,
Winner of the 2013 Olga Camm Bursary

£10 (for full or part day) - Admission by ticket or invite only
Contact the AOUG Office aoug@open.ac.uk or 01908 653316

Your newsletter

Our Local Newsletters are for us in this Region. I would therefore like to include some general interest articles. I invite you to send in items for future Newsletters. Things you might like to send in are:

- Recipes
- Book or TV programme Reviews
- Puzzles or competitions
- Poems

Philip Evans
Executive Representative

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. A nomination form is enclosed.

Please complete both sides and return to: **Philip Evans, 70 Bromyard Road, St. Johns, Worcester. WR2 5DA**

Please tick all that apply

- I would like more events focussed on socialising
- I would like more events focussed on learning
- I am not able to attend AOUG events
- I prefer to attend events that are free-of-charge
- I am happy to attend events with an entry charge - up to about £ _____ per person

Other ideas:

.....
.....
.....



Getting to know you

As your new Executive Representative, I would like to know what kind of events you would like and also if you have any other ideas. Please complete the reply slip above and return it to me.

Have we got your correct contact details?

With the increase in postage to 53p for second class delivery, it is even more important we don't waste money by posting to out-of-date addresses. Therefore if you are due to move please let me or AOUG Office know. It will also help to save the Association money if you let us know an email address that we could send this Local Newsletter to. Would a friend or relative be willing to download it for you and print it off?

If you have received this through the post it means we don't have an email address for you!

To make sure we have your correct details, please complete the reply slip and return it to me.

Philip Evans
Executive Representative

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.

Joke

Teacher: "Little Johnny, give me a sentence using the word, 'geometry.'"
Little Johnny: "A little acorn grew and grew until it finally awoke one day and said, 'Gee, I'm a tree.'"

Got a better joke?
Please send them in!

Do you know someone who has graduated in the last 12 months?



**Did they have to overcome any major life problem during their period of study?
If so they might qualify for an AOUG Award.**

**AOUG offers fifteen Awards:
One new graduate residing in each of
the thirteen Regions and Nations,
plus Europe and the Rest of the World**

- The recipient must be nominated for the Award.
- The recipient must have gained their Open University Degree at either ordinary level or honours level.
- The recipient's Open University degree must be the first degree they have gained.
- The recipient must have overcome some adversity over and above that of the average student.

Why not nominate someone you know this year!

Contact AOUG Office for information:
e-mail AOUG@open.ac.uk tel 01908 653316
or go to website link www.aoug.org.uk/awards/application.html
to download a form.

Please complete both sides and return to: **Philip Evans, 70 Bromyard Road, St. Johns, Worcester. WR2 5DA**

Name: **PI Number:**.....

Address:.....

..... **Postcode:**.....

Email address:.....

Telephone:..... **Mobile:**



Region 04 Directory

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Local Contact for Wolverhampton	Mohammad Motawalla	12, Tong Court, Boscobel Crescent, Wolverhampton. WV1 1QQ	01902 771328 mamoyawalla@yahoo.co.uk
Local Contact for Stoke-on-Trent	Keith Ward		01782 316429 kjward@talktalk.net
Local Contact for Birmingham	Pat Etheridge		0121 422 4441

Diary Dates

Sunday 9th November: Start 11am; finish 2pm

A visit to **Haden Hill House**, Halesowen Road, Cradley Heath, B64 7JU. **Haden Hill House** is a Victorian house built by George Alfred Haden Haden-Best in 1878. Sunday 9th November is Remembrance Sunday and there will be activities all day at Haden Hill House and we are welcomed to join in. Please contact the Local Contact for Wolverhampton, Mohammad Motawalla, for more information and to book a place.

Wednesday 26th November: Meet from 11am

Meet near New Street Station behind Waterstones bookstore on Stephenson Road (just off New Street), B2 4DB to visit **Birmingham's Frankfurt Christmas Market and Christmas Craft Market**. We will have lunch together in a local restaurant or café. Free entry to the market. Please contact Executive Representative, Philip Evans, for more information.

2015

Saturday 10th January 2015: 12.30pm to 2.30pm

The 2015 New Year's Dinner will take place at **Johnny Spice Indian Restaurant**, 46 Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 3BJ. This Indian Restaurant is situated in the City Centre and is close to the railway station, Metro and bus station. It is behind the Britannia Hotel. A three course all-you-can-eat Buffet meal will cost about £5.00 with anything extra charged at menu prices. Please contact the Local Contact for Wolverhampton, Mohammad Motawalla, for more information and to book a place.

Your ideas for places to visit or other events are always welcome. Please drop me an email, give me a ring or post any leaflets to me.

Philip Evans
Executive Representative—Region 04