



## Association of Open University Graduates Region 04 West Midlands

Edition 12

Winter 2015

Welcome to our Winter Local Newsletter.

In our last Newsletter we had the competition to find a symbol or motif for our Region. I'm pleased to reveal our logo in this Edition. It contains the motifs of each county within our Region laid out on the digit four. As each county logo is quite small within the logo, it is too small to be printed in OMEGA. Therefore only one of the county logos will be printed in OMEGA and each will be used in rotation. The Winter edition of OMEGA started the cycle with the county logo of the West Midlands County.



Above: Winner of an Award in the Regions and Nations, Abdirisak Hussein, is presented with his award by Philip Evans whilst members look on at the Summer Meal in August

***Philip Evans***  
***Executive Representative***



### **Your chance to have your say!**

Your Winter OMEGA had three double sided inserts – the usual AGM Booking form (with the excursion booking on the reverse this time), a volunteering form to either process at a Degree Ceremony in 2016 or to be part of the AOUG 'Meet and Greet' team helping at the AOUG stand to welcome new graduates and their families, and then the Nomination form to stand for election to the Executive Committee. On the back of this latter form, there is a survey to express your opinions about the Association itself and an opportunity to add additional information about your ideas for the future direction of the Association. However if you wish to propose a more immediate change, you can also put forward a Resolution to change our regulations or a Procedural Motion as to how things should progress for consideration by the rest of the membership.

**Please help your Committee by completing and returning this survey form.**

## Joke Corner

As it is the time of year when we groan at cracker jokes, here's an extended Joke Corner!

Why was the maths book sad?  
Because it had so many problems.

Teacher: Why can't freshwater fish live in salt water?

Student: The salt would give them high blood pressure.

After a talking sheepdog gets all the sheep in the pen, he reports back to the farmer: "All 40 accounted for."  
"But I only have 36 sheep," says the farmer.  
"I know," says the sheepdog. "But I rounded them up."

The Association has recently moved into the Social Media world including Twitter and Facebook so here's a related joke!

"I've given up social media for the New Year and am trying to make friends outside Facebook while applying the same principles. Every day, I walk down the street and tell passers-by what I've eaten, how I feel, what I did the night before, and what I will do tomorrow. Then I give them pictures of my family, my dog, and me gardening. I also listen to their conversations and tell them I love them. And it works. I already have three people following me—two police officers and a psychiatrist."

**Right:** Looking across to the Shropshire Hills Discovery Centre in the town of Craven Arms, Shropshire.

## AOUG's Foundation for Education

On the Friday of the Executive Committee Weekend in October, the Association traditionally hosts a special Award Ceremony for research students who have been nominated by their Faculties or Research Centres as worthy of recognition. This year five of the nine available Awards were presented and each of these students was introduced by their Supervisors or Head of Departments with glowing praise for their dedication in their particular field of study. Each student receives a framed certificate and a cheque from AOUG Foundation for Education. None of this would be possible without the kind donations of AOUG members. AOUG Foundation for Education is a registered charity and needs a total of £4,200 a year in order to be able to fund the maximum number of Awards we offer to both these research students and for the new graduates adversity Awards. The Association would therefore like you to consider making a small donation to 'AOUG Foundation for Education'. You can give as much or as little as you wish as just £1 from each member would be a tremendous support. If you are a tax payer, remember to offer to Gift Aid your donation to increase the benefit even further.



# Visit To The National Brewery Centre, Burton On Trent

## Saturday 23rd April 2016 at 10.40am

Burton on Trent is recognised as the birthplace of the brewing industry. A visit has been arranged to the above centre which is housed mainly in grade II listed buildings, and is the home of the former Bass and Allsop breweries. The admission fee includes a conducted tour and vouchers for free drinks of your choice.

The tour guide will explain how beer was brewed in the past and the many artefacts and ingredients used in the trade, including recollections of those who worked at the brewery in the past. On display will be a Rodley steam engine which powered the machinery used in days gone by, (this is sometimes in operation) as well as various vintage vehicles including drays and carriages along with shire horses. On some days, for a small extra charge and by advance booking it is possible to take a horse drawn ride. A heritage gallery houses many items of interest and is situated over three floors and is accessible by a lift. The site is wheelchair friendly.

The tour ends at the brewery tap bar and restaurant where the drink vouchers can be exchanged. Purchases can be made in the shop including bottles of beer.

It is proposed that members (family/friends welcome) assemble in the coffee bar at the entrance to the centre at 10.40am in time to join the 11am tour. The current cost of admission is £8.95 and concessions £7.95. Dependent on numbers there could be a group discount.

*Please see Diary Dates on the back page for booking details.*

### Regional Bank Account - annual report

I informed you about the new Regional Bank Account in last year's Winter Newsletter. It is therefore time to give a brief report. All the money in the account belongs to members in Region 04 collectively. It does not belong to the Association and is not the same as the Regional budget that is available to each Executive Representative from the Executive Committee.

**Bank:** Lloyds Bank

**Balance at 01/12/2014:** £140.00

**Paid in:** £343.55

**Paid out:** £343.35

**Balance at 30/11/2015:** £140.20

**Summary of the account:** The account was used to collect members' payments for events where pre-payment was required.

### Wolverhampton Art Gallery

#### Saturday 7th November

Thank you to Mohammad Motawalla for organising this visit. Here is a report he has written. The full report is available on the AOUG Forum.

*Our members met at main Reception Area of the Art Gallery. After my welcome and introduction to the Art Gallery, we commenced our visit.*

*This Art Gallery was funded and constructed by Philip Horsman [1825 - 1890]. It was built on land provided by local Council and finally opened in May, 1884. This building is Grade II listed.*

*From 2006 to 2007, the Art Gallery was extended and refurbished by Purcell. It took new image and created extension which provided extra exhibition space. Permanent exhibition included Georgian and Victorian Rooms as well as Sensory Art Display area. After refurbishment and extension to the Art Gallery, additional permanent display areas of Pop Arts and Northern Ireland spaces were created.*

*There was a special exhibition on 53 Stations of Tokaido Road by UTAGAWA HIROSHIGE [1797 - 1858]. A very fascinating display of paintings of the Japan's famous road. Master Hiroshige was Japan's famous landscape print artist.*

### Don't forget!

The deadline for booking to attend the AGM and Social Weekend is 12<sup>th</sup> January.

The 2016 AGM and Social Weekend will be held in Buxton, in Region 05, East Midlands.

## Region 04 Directory

AOUG Office		AOUG Office, Walton Hall, Milton Keynes, MK7 6AA	01908 653316 <a href="mailto:aoug@open.ac.uk">aoug@open.ac.uk</a>
Executive Representative	Philip Evans	70 Bromyard Road, St. Johns, Worcester, WR2 5DA	01905 428667 <a href="mailto:AOUG.Philip@gmail.com">AOUG.Philip@gmail.com</a>

### Events' Contacts:

New Year's Dinner	Mohammad Mottawalla	12, Tong Court, Boscobel Crescent, Wolverhampton. WV1 1QQ	01902 771328 or 07825 645997 <a href="mailto:mamoyawalla@yahoo.co.uk">mamoyawalla@yahoo.co.uk</a>
National Brewery Centre	Keith Ward	87, Drubbery Lane, Blurton, Stoke on Trent ST3 4BL	01782 316429 <a href="mailto:kjward@talktalk.net">kjward@talktalk.net</a>

## Diary Dates

### 2016

#### **Saturday 9th January. 12.00noon**

##### **New Year's Dinner**

Meet at the entrance to the Novotel Hotel, Union Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 3JN for our annual New Year's Dinner. We will be served a three-course dinner at a fixed cost of £12. Any extras will be charged at the menu price. To reserve a place please contact Mohammad Motawalla or your Executive Representative.

#### **Saturday 23rd April. 10.40am**

##### **National Brewery Centre**

Meet in the Coffee Bar at the entrance to the National Brewery Centre, Burton on Trent, DE14 1NG for the 11am guided tour. We will learn about how beer was brewed in the past, see a Rodley steam engine and have the opportunity to taste the beer (if desired). The site is wheelchair friendly and set within Grade II listed buildings. Please note, this is not the only brewery museum in Burton on Trent. This museum is situated on the edge of the town, is well signposted from the A511 and clearly indicated on approaching the building. There is a large free car park at the rear of the Museum. Alternatively there is a railway station nearby. Tickets are priced at £8.95 (£7.95 concessions), although a Group Discount might be applicable dependent on numbers. To reserve a place please contact Keith Ward before 1st April 2016.

This is a Handshake event with Region 05 East Midlands.

*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**