

WM Quicknews *Issue No 1* **February 2010**

Welcome to the first issue of WM Quicknews, we hope you will find it both fun and informative. As this is our first edition it is very early days so your suggestions and contributions will be very welcome

The OU West Midlands Committee (OUWMC)

The OUWMC Committee is attended by students, Associate Lecturers (ALs) and staff from the Regional Centre. It meets around four times a year and discusses various topics which are important to the University as a whole and those issues which affect the Region.

A branch can elect a student representative from each catchment area to the OUWMC. These representatives can take forward branch concerns for debate at regional level.

The next West Midlands meeting will be held from 1130 on Saturday 13 March at The Open University in the West Midlands, 66 High Street, Harborne, Birmingham B17 9NB, please let Harvey Skinner know if you wish to attend.

Next Regional Forum (RF) meeting date

The next online meeting of the RF will be held between 5 and 19 March 2010 with a meeting held at the Open University Regional Centre in Harborne on 13 March at 1400 (following on from the Regional Consultative Committee), please contact Michaela Hart if you wish to attend the face to face meeting. Students from dormant branches are welcome to attend either of the above meetings, we only ask that you give us advance warning. All students are welcome to participate in the online element of the meeting.

Are you a student in Wolverhampton?

Our social meetings alternate between coffee mornings and pub gatherings, for more details please see the following link:

<http://ousa.wordpress.com/2010/02/15/wednesday-february-17th-combermere-social/>

Please check the branch forum for more details or contact the Branch Secretary John Mathys.

Are you a student in the Stoke on Trent area?

The current point of contact for Stoke on Trent is Dave Moss

Are you a student in the Dudley Area?

We are holding a social gathering at The Edward Rutland (Wetherspoons), High Street, Stourbridge on Tuesday 23 February from 1930. All are welcome to come along and meet fellow students in the area and discuss all things OU and otherwise. Please contact Michaela Hart (Dudley Branch Point of Contact) if you would like more details.

Are you a Student in the Telford area?

Telford Branch meets on the second Thursday of each month at the Cock Hotel in Wellington. Contact Mandy Bailey for more details.

Branch Points of Contact

Worcester and North East Worcester branches: Emma Dickinson

Sutton Coldfield: Jan Ross

Could all other branches and point of contacts please contact either Dave Moss or Harvey Skinner with details for inclusion in the next newsletter.

Facebook

We have an OUSA West Midlands Group on Facebook, the link is below. Please come in and join us.

<http://www.facebook.com/?ref=home#!/group.php?gid=8981034379>

What's on in your area?

Exploring Science - Saturday 13 March 2010, 1000 - 1400

Think Tank, Birmingham Science Museum, Millennium Point, Curzon Street, Birmingham, B4 7XG

Interested in studying science? Drop into the OU's Science Day at the Think Tank at Millennium Point, we are planning lots of fun science based activities, so why not come along and try your hand.

You can also talk to Educational Advisers and Science Faculty Staff about choosing your next science course or planning your studies. There will be course materials for the most popular courses available for you to look at.

Contact on 0121 426 1661 ext 64157 or email west-midlands@open.ac.uk for further details.

<http://www.britishtscienceassociation.org/web/nsew/>

Turner to Samuel Palmer: British Watercolours 1800-1850: 23 January 2010 to 2 May 2010

Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery, Chamberlain Square, Birmingham B3 3DH

<http://www.bmag.org.uk/events?id=507>

West Midlands Open - 6 March 2010 to 2 May 2010

Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery, Chamberlain Square, Birmingham B3 3DH

<http://www.bmag.org.uk/events?id=558&start=3>

Birmingham Traditional Music Session: 2000 Sunday 21 February 2010

Prince of Wales, Alcester Road, Birmingham West Midlands B13 8EE

www.tradartsteam.co.uk/music/musicsession.htm

New Year Talks and Screenings - Death, War, Conquest and Trees: 1230 4 March 2010

The National Memorial Arboretum, Croxall Road, Alrewas Staffordshire DE13 7AR

<http://www.thenma.org.uk/events/death-war-conquest-and-trees-the-musings-of-the-curator>

"Who Wars": 1000 to 1600, Sunday 21 February 2010

The Heritage Motor Centre, Banbury Road, Gaydon, Warwickshire CV35 0BJ

http://www.heritage-motor-centre.co.uk/pages/events/events_2010_who_wars.html

And Finally ...

If you've got this far, thank you for signing up and reading our first attempt at the WM Quicknews; we are aware it is probably far from perfect, the only way we are likely to achieve that perfection is with your help. Please let us know what we've got right, wrong and what else you would like to see at OUSAWestMidlands@googlemail.com.

Many thanks

Harvey Skinner

On behalf of the West Midlands Regional Forum

Quote of the Month

"And how is education supposed to make me feel smarter? Besides, every time I learn something new, it pushes some old stuff out of my brain. Remember when I took that home winemaking course, and I forgot how to drive?"

Homer Simpson