



**ASSOCIATION OF OPEN UNIVERSITY
GRADUATES in YORKSHIRE**



NEWSLETTER 75

WINTER - 2015

The venue for our meeting on 24th October will be The Rosebowl, Leeds Beckett University LS1 3HB 10.00am for a 10.30 am start. The number of the room we are to occupy will be displayed in the entrance area. We look forward to meeting members old and new to hear from international speaker, Dr Robb N Robinson, a maritime and British historian who is also a much published author of and has made contributions to a number of television programmes. His talk will be:

Ghost Ship of Grytviken: the remarkable life and times of the Yorkshire steam trawler *Viola*, its crews and involvement in the Great War and Falklands War

Deep in southern latitudes, in a desolate corner of Cumberland Bay on the east coast of the sub-Antarctic island of South Georgia, hard by the rotting quays of the abandoned whaling station of Grytviken and almost within a stone's throw of the grave of Sir Ernest Shackleton, lie three forsaken steam ships: rusting remnants of our industrial past, unique survivals from a vanished age of steam at sea.

One of these ships is *Viola*, the sole surviving Hull steam trawler from the huge fleet which put 'fish & chips' on Britain's plates more than a hundred years ago. This talk by maritime historian Dr Robb Robinson will describe her ancestry and origins in the Victorian and Edwardian North Sea fishery - vividly depicting life for her crew in the most dangerous industry of its time; it records the vessel's Great War service as a U-boat hunter—one of the many merchant vessels largely unsung for their contribution, and often sacrifice, in wartime; and recounts her subsequent career hunting whales off West Africa, then later sealing and exploration work in the South Atlantic, before her final abandonment in South Georgia. Here she became quarry for the infamous Argentine scrap metal expedition of 1982, in the initiating action of the Falklands War. This improbable yet true story of a humble working vessel and those involved with her is a remarkable account of social, as well as maritime, history. **Family and Friends welcome.**

Derrick Franks

Chairman's Letter:

As the saying goes, 'Time Flies'. It does not seem such a long period since the last Newsletter was issued when I was asking for nominations for membership of the Regional Committee at the AGM. Alas there were no new nominations and the position now is that at the AGM Derrick Franks was re-elected as Chairman and Lesley Sleight was re-elected as Secretary. Unfortunately we are still without a Treasurer and need a member to fill this important role. **Could you be the one?** If so please get in touch as soon as possible.

Derrick Franks

Executive Representative's Report:

Once again I am asking if there is any member who is prepared to take on the role of collating and editing the Regional Newsletter. As stated in my previous requests, when I stepped in to fill the gap I did/do not want it to become a permanent arrangement. We are still seeking to enlarge the number of active members both within the Association and the Region, do you have any suggestions as to how we may accomplish this? My term of Office as Executive Representative comes to an end at the 2016 AGM. **Would you be interested in taking on either role?** If so would you please let me know.

Derrick Franks

DATE	EVENT
Saturday 24 th October	Meet at Rosebowl 10.00 am for 10.30 am start – full details on page 1
Saturday 14 th November	Meet at the entrance to Keighley Police Museum, Keighley Civic Centre, North Street Keighley BD21 3RZ at 11.00 am. Adults £4.00 (Concessions £2.50 children £2.00)
Saturday 12 th December	Meet for lunch in the cafeteria of the West Yorkshire Playhouse, Quarry Hill, Leeds LS2 7UP at 12.00 noon prior to the matinee at 1.30 pm of 'Chitty Chitty Bang Bang' Prebook your own ticket via the Playhouse Box Office 0113 213 7800
Saturday 23 rd January 2016	The first of our social events for 2016 is a return to Middletons Hotel, Skeldergate, York YO1 6DS where in spite of the travelling conditions playing havoc with members arriving on time we received first class service and enjoyed a first class meal. Meet at 12 noon in the bar for 12.30pm start. We will need to pre-order, any interested member should contact me well before the date and let me know in order for me to contact them with menu choices when they are available. Wherever possible I would like that contact to be by email but postal/telephone contact will also be welcome. A £10.00 per head deposit is also required. Please contact Executive Representative.
Saturday 20 th February	Our Saturday meeting on this occasion will again be at the Friends Meeting House, Friargate, York. YO1 9RL. Speaker to be advised. Meet in the Fell Room 10.00 for 10.30 am start. Tea/Coffee will be available. If any member has a particular topic they wish to have discussed at the afternoon session would they please let me know by the end of January. Please contact Executive Representative.

For full details of any of the activities of the Walking Group, please contact Ginny Feeney. Members and their friends and families are always welcome to join any or all of these walks. Some are long distance but others, like the T-shop walk, are ideal for those who are not so physically able.

DATE	Walking Group
7 th November	Our last meeting this year is a leisurely walk with a tea shop stop, in the Hebden Bridge area. We will meet in January to plan next year's activities.

Contact Details

Exec. Rep. & Yorkshire Chairman	Derrick Franks	74, West Park, Great North Road, Darrington, Pontefract WF8 3HY	01977 620192 derrick@franks1356.freeserve.co.uk
Secretary	Lesley Sleigh	6, Rockcliffe Mount, Luddenden Foot, West Yorkshire HX2 6AJ	01422 883337 lesleigh@live.co.uk
Walking Group	Ginny Feeney	8 Sandy Gate Hebden Bridge HX7 8HZ	01422 847008 ginnyf@talktalk.net

Yorkshire Open University Graduates Educational Trust (YOUGET)

AOUG in Yorkshire has its own charity that gives an annual Award to a new graduate. YOUGET is a separate charity to that run by our Association, and is organised and run by Trustees made up of AOUG in Yorkshire members and this local charity has the added criteria that these graduates must also be going on to do further study with the OU. This might be at honours level, another degree in a different subject area or a diploma or even an OU Masters.

YOUGET is always pleased to receive donations towards this local charity and no amount is too small, as every single penny helps to benefit the good work YOUGET does. If you can make a small one off donation, or would like to set up an annual covenant for £5 or £10, please contact the Executive Representative, who will arrange for the relevant details to be forwarded to you.

YOUGET Trustees

Please return to the Secretary, Lesley Sleigh 6, Rockcliffe Mount, Luddenden Foot HX2 6AJ

I / We would like to make a one off donation to YOUGET of
(Cheque enclosed)

I/We would like to set up an annual covenant for the YOUGET charity of

I would like to learn about becoming a YOUGET Trustee

I would like to learn more about nominating a new graduate for an Award

AGM and Social Weekend in Buxton

The 2016 AGM will be held from 13th -15th May in Buxton, Derbyshire and so this will be only a short travelling distance for Yorkshire members. This is made even better by the proximity of the railway station to the hotel as it is literally just across the road. No need for taxis or bus rides. The Buxton venue of the Palace Hotel also sits within easy walking distance of the Opera House, Buxton Pavilion and the surrounding gardens and the town. It is ideally placed for the arranged optional excursions to Poole Cavern, Chatsworth House and Gardens and the plague village of Eyam but there are so many beautiful areas to see and places to visit that it is well worth booking a few extra nights to really explore. This venue should be of special interest to our Yorkshire Walking Group as the opportunities of walks for all abilities are endless.

Your chance to have your say!

The Winter OMEGA will have three double sided inserts this time – 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. However on the back of this latter form, there will also be 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.

AOUG Foundation for Education

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 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 and if you are a tax payer, remember to offer to Gift Aid your donation to increase the benefit even further. (Please note this is separate to AOUG in Yorkshire's own charity YOUGET.)

Please return this slip to: Lesley Sleigh, 6, Rockcliffe Mount, Luddenden Foot. HX2 6AJ

My current e-mail address is

My home phone is My mobile is

I am interested in events near or talks on

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I am willing to arrange a Yorkshire event