



ASSOCIATION OF OPEN UNIVERSITY



GRADUATES IN YORKSHIRE

NEWSLETTER 77

SUMMER 2016

Our venue for the Annual General Meeting of the Association of Open University Graduates in Yorkshire is the Leeds Office of The Open University, Boar Lane, Leeds LS1 6ED – on Saturday 4th June 2016, 10.00 am for 10.30 am start.

Our speaker for our meeting on this occasion will be Gill Kitchen who has been an Associate Lecturer with The Open University for the past ten years and tutors in Business Studies. The subject of her talk will be about her work as a Prison Tutor.

Family and Friends welcome.

Derrick Franks

Chairman's Letter:

In view of the impending closure of the vast majority of Regional Offices, the Leeds Office being one of those designated for closure, this may be the last opportunity for many of us to visit the building which played an important role in our lives during our studies. If you are not a regular attendee at our Saturday meetings but would like to join us on this occasion please let me know as soon as possible. At the AGM the usual elections will be taking place, for both Officer and Committee member roles. Unfortunately we are still without a Treasurer and need a member to fill this important role.

Could you be the one?

Derrick Franks

Executive Representative's Report:

This is my first contribution to the Region 07 – Yorkshire – Newsletter since my election as your Executive Representative and I would like to thank those members who supported me in that election. As some of you will have realised, I have previously served as the Executive Representative for the Region and have just served a three year term as Vice Chairman of the Association. I would like to express my thanks to Derrick Franks who has just completed his term of office as Yorkshire's Executive Representative and has very kindly offered to produce this Newsletter. Thanks are also due to Neil Wyatt, who continues to distribute the email version of the Newsletter.

We are very fortunate, in the Yorkshire Region, to have a gallant band of members who serve on the Committee, volunteer for high and low profile responsibilities, organise walking events and attend visits. We are the envy of most of the other Regions and Nations. It is always stimulating to have new volunteers, however, and if any member is interested, new faces on the Committee are always welcome. We meet three or four times a year at the West Yorkshire Playhouse in Leeds, usually on a Saturday morning. At present, we are a group of six, but we do not bite and we enjoy meeting members. We also have no Treasurer at present, which is a pity. If you are interested in becoming more involved do please ring or email me to get further information. I look forward to serving you for the next three years, and, hopefully, meeting some more of you.

Lesley Sleight – Executive Representative

Postgraduate loans – copied from OU Website

Loans for postgraduate study through Student Finance England were recently announced by the Government. These loans will be available for postgraduate students as a contribution towards the cost of studying Open University masters degrees starting from autumn 2016/17. The earliest date for applications to Student Finance England is likely to be June 2016.

Key facts:

Non means-tested loans of up to £10,000 will be available to masters degree students aged under 60. Loans will not be available to students intending to study postgraduate certificates or diplomas.

Loans will not be available if you already hold a masters degree qualification.

Loans will only be available to students resident in England and EU students coming to study in England.

You must be studying a qualification which can be completed in no more than 3 years, although study breaks may be allowed.

As a part-time student you will receive the loan payments over years 1 and 2 of your study in 6 instalments;

Full Details including cost of individual courses –
open.ac.uk/postgraduate/fees&funding

DATE	EVENT
Saturday 4 th June	Regional Annual General Meeting – Full details above Contact Derrick Franks 01977 620192 derrick7633@outlook.com
Saturday 23 rd July 11.00 am	Meet in canteen of Eden Camp, Malton, North Yorkshire, YO17 6RT Free on-site parking Adults £7.00 (Concessions £6.00) Located on the outskirts of the market town of Malton in North Yorkshire, Eden Camp is a multi-award winning Modern History Theme Museum housed within the grounds of an original World War II prisoner of war camp. Contact Derrick Franks 01977 620192 derrick7633@outlook.com
Saturday 13 th August 11.15 am	Visit to Cold War Bunker in York. (English Heritage) The Bunker is located in Monument Close, YO24 4HT - off Acomb Road, near the Carlton Tavern, approx 2 miles from York city centre. Adults £6.80 (Concessions £6.20) Free for English Heritage members. Inside a stark concrete exterior is a chilling Cold War time capsule where for thirty years volunteers from the Royal Observer Corps kept watch for nuclear Armageddon. At times of crisis sixty men and women were entombed there ready to plot nuclear explosions and radioactive fallout across Yorkshire. There will be a guided tour together with a short and striking film telling the story of the Cold War. Contact Peter Turvey 01246 410835
Saturday 17 th September 11.00am	Ilkley – meet at Ilkley Cake Boutique, 15 Wells Road, LS 29 9JB Contact Jean Hertzog - 01246 414746 jrhertzog@hotmail.com
Saturday 22 nd October	Meet in the Rosebowl Leeds for our usual Saturday Meeting – Details to be confirmed. Contact Derrick Franks. 01977 620192 derrick7633@outlook.com

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
June 3 rd / 5 th	Whitby for N York Moors
July 23 rd / 24 th	Llangollen
September 10 th / 11 th	Derbyshire (Buxton)
Saturday 1 st October	Gargrave
Saturday 12 th November	T shop walk
Saturday 10 th December	Avril's Christmas

Contact Details

Yorkshire Chairman	Derrick Franks	74, West Park, Great North Road, Darrington, Pontefract WF8 3HY	01977 620192 derrick7633@outlook.com
Executive Rep & Yorkshire Secretary	Lesley Sleigh	6, Rockcliffe Mount, Luddenden Foot, West Yorkshire HX2 6AJ	01422 883337 lesleigh@live.co.uk
Walking Group	Ginny Feeny	8 Sandy Gate Hebden Bridge HX7 8HZ	01422 847008 ginnyf@talktalk.net

On February 20th a group of ten of us met at the Tolson Museum Huddersfield. First the positive points. The Huddersfield weather was kind to us, and the Tolson Museum staff had been kind to us, especially Grant Scanlon, Senior Curator, (providing an initial tour for me, on a previous visit), and leaflets for us on our visit. We enjoyed reading about the Tolson brothers, and had our Damien Hurst moments, when viewing the half horse and half pig exhibits. It kind of reminded me of the now mothballed OU course Biological Bases of Behaviour. Everybody joined in my quiz, we had lunch opposite the Canal Basin, in a private dining space, and everybody went home with an Easter Egg. So what about the negative points you might ask? Kirklees is considering closing the Tolson Museum? How very sad.

Carol-Ann Churm

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. 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

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I would like to learn about becoming a YOUGET Trustee

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

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Visit to Lotherton Hall

I have made two visits to Lotherton Hall – one in the 1960s when I lived in Leeds – and one recently with AOUG. To say that they were very different would be an understatement. On my first visit, the house was closed up and, I believe, it was still in private hands but unused. The gardens were overgrown. My friend and I crept quietly through the undergrowth, just to be nosy. The house seemed modest, boring and lifeless.

The house is now in the hands of Leeds City Council. It is welcoming, alive and definitely not boring. A group of us met up in the cafeteria, had coffee and then proceeded past the chapel to the house. I would describe it as a typical, slightly claustrophobic Edwardian house, built on a more manageable scale than country houses of previous centuries. Like older houses, however, rooms were only accessible through other rooms! We saw some very interesting furniture and my great granddaughter had a wonderful time in the various dressing-up rooms.

We were very lucky with the weather and were able to enjoy strolling in the garden and admiring the birds in the Bird Garden, as well as watching Lola-Rose on the zip wire!! As our visit was on St. George's Day, little dragons were hidden in the house and garden, and we all became involved in the successful hunt for them. As we were preparing to leave, a jazz band started to play in the space between the main entrance to the house and the chapel. A very enjoyable end to a very interesting visit, and I would recommend that other members visit.

Lesley Sleigh

AOUG website updated

As you will have seen, the website has recently undergone some subtle changes. The navigation has been redesigned, the home page has seen some updates to layout, including a new dynamic upcoming events section, the News and OMEGA pages have been redesigned and we have a new Google Custom Search. However the most significant changes have occurred 'under the bonnet' with the whole site being re-coded to behave responsively, making it more user-friendly for visitors on mobile devices of all shapes and sizes. At the same time we've also done a lot of housekeeping, removing outdated material and tidying up links. Why not take a look at www.aoug.org.uk – we'd appreciate your feedback.

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

Name PI number

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