



ASSOCIATION OF OPEN UNIVERSITY



GRADUATES IN YORKSHIRE

NEWSLETTER 76

JANUARY 2016

The speaker for our meeting on 29th February is Mike Usherwood who hails from the City of York, and his topic is "The sinking of the Submarine Thetis".

Shortly before 10 am on June 1st 1939, Her Majesty's Submarine Thetis left Birkenhead under the command of Lieutenant Commander G H Bolus (RN). The principal purpose of the day was to make a diving trial. This was to be Thetis's first venture as a submarine proper. She had on board one hundred and three, fifty more than her normal crew. Of the extra fifty on board, eight were Naval Officers, some commanding their own submarines anxious to see the performance of this new class of submarine. The others were electricians, engine fitters, and ship fitters, employees of Cammell Laird and Vickers Armstrong. There were two employees of a catering firm on board for the reception that normally follows the sea trials, and finally the Mersey Pilot.

Five hours later she was lying, sunk, one hundred and sixty feet down, with her bows stuck in the mud. Although only thirty-eight miles from land, ninety-nine lost their lives and only four survived.

Family and Friends welcome.

Derrick Franks

Chairman's Letter:

Shortage of space restricts me from saying much more than - Our programme of Meetings/outings has started with a very enjoyable meal at Middleton's Hotel, York and we look forward to meeting more new members at future events.

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:

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. The final date for nomination for the role of Executive Representative has now passed.

Would you be interested in taking on the role of Editor?

Derrick Franks

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.

DATE	EVENT
Saturday 20 th February	Our Saturday meeting on this occasion will again be at the Friends Meeting House, Friargate, York, YO1 9RL. 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 prior to the meeting. Please contact Executive Representative.
Saturday 12 th March – Meet at 11.00 am	The Tolson Museum is a museum in Huddersfield, The museum is housed in Ravensknowle, a Victorian mansion in Knowle Park on Wakefield Road, HD5 8DJ, that was given to the town in memory of two brothers killed in World War I. Contact Carol-Ann Churm – 01484 842094 welshcat@aol.com
Saturday 23 rd April – Meet at 11.00 am	Lotherton Hall is a country house near Aberford, West Yorkshire, LS25 3EB. It lies a short distance from the A1(M) motorway, 200 miles equidistant between London and Edinburgh. The building has been home to a number of prominent families, including the Nevilles, the de Hothams, and finally the Gascoignes in 1825. Contact Lesley Sleigh – 01422 883337 lesleigh@live.co.uk
Saturday 21 st May	Ashford in the Water – Meet Aisseford Tea Rooms, Church Street, DE45 1QB – 11.00 am. There is on street parking. Six wells, top pump, Children’s sheepwash. This is a handshake event with Region 5. Contact Jean Hertzog - 01246 414746 jrhertzog@hotmail.com
Saturday 4 th June	Regional Annual General Meeting – Full details to be Notified Contact Derrick Franks. 01977 620192 derrick7633@outlook.com

For full details of any of the activities of the Walking Group, please contact Ginny Feeny. 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
Saturday 19 th March	Wakefield Way
Saturday 9 th April	Hope – Derbyshire

April 26 th / May 2 nd	Ride to Stride Festival Walks
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

Exec. Rep. & Yorkshire Chairman	Derrick Franks	74, West Park, Great North Road, Darrington, Pontefract WF8 3HY	01977 620192 derrick7633@outlook.com
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

October Saturday meeting

A group of us gathered for coffee in the cafeteria of the Rosebowl in Leeds, before proceeding up to the room booked for us. Our speaker was Dr Robb N. Robinson, a British maritime historian, based at Hull University. He told us the fascinating history of the 'Viola', the only surviving Hull steam trawler. She had been involved in fishing in the North Sea, hunting U-boats, whales and seals, before being abandoned in the South Atlantic. There, in 1982, she became a target for an Argentinian scrap metal dealer who attempted to claim her. This incident sparked the Falklands war. It is still hoped that she can be returned to the UK in the future. This was an enthralling story, very well told by a knowledgeable enthusiast and much appreciated by those of us lucky enough to hear it.

Lesley Sleigh

It was my suggestion that we visit the Police Museum in Keighley, on 14th November, after I had seen it advertised in a Keighley and Worth Valley Railway timetable. If I can, I prefer to travel to our events by bus or train, so I caught the bus in Hebden Bridge for the rural ride to Keighley. I still find it odd to be a passenger on a service that I used to drive, but at least I could enjoy the scenery.

I arrived in Keighley at 10am, as the next bus would have been too late, and found the Museum. As I walked round the building, in the rain, it quickly became apparent that the Museum was no longer functioning. I went into the Library nearby to make enquiries. The helpful lady seemed as bemused as I was, but could give me no further information. So I returned to the rain to await other members and prepare my apologies.

Rather than give up on the day, we eventually decided to visit Cliffe Castle Museum which is just up the road. One member very kindly ran a shuttle service to take us there. The Museum, formerly the summer residence of a Keighley mill owner, houses its Victorian furniture as well as an eclectic mix of collector's items, including information on geological landscape, Egyptian artefacts, natural history, toys and stained glass. This is a fascinating collection, with something for everyone.

We returned to the centre of Keighley in order to enjoy lunch together. For a day that began badly, it continued and finished very well.

Lesley Sleigh

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