



**ASSOCIATION OF OPEN UNIVERSITY  
GRADUATES in YORKSHIRE**



**NEWSLETTER 73**

**SPRING – 2015**

**Chairman's Letter:**

On Saturday, 14<sup>th</sup> February, we again travel to the Friends Meeting House, Friargate, York YO1 9RL. Meet in the foyer from 10 am for tea/coffee before a 10.30 am start to the meeting. Neil Wyatt, a fellow graduate and member of AOUG in Yorkshire, will be talking on **Prince Edward, Prince of Wales, King Edward VIII, and Duke of Windsor. 1894 - 1972**. The talk starts by identifying two uncrowned Kings, both named Edward and two lesser known uncrowned Queens. Then it looks at how Porphyria left the Royal line but came back through the descendants of Queen Mary, who happened to be an actual Great Grandchild of George III. This brings us to King Edward VIII, and as well as his early life, it will include when he was Prince of Wales and King, covering the Abdication; finally, exile as the Duke of Windsor and a general look back on a life that might have been quite different. If any member has a particular topic they would like to propose for the afternoon discussion session, will you please let me know. This is a "bring your own lunch" event although there are many outlets in the vicinity where sandwiches/snacks are available.

The Annual General Meeting of the Association of Open University Graduates in Yorkshire will be held on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> May, 2015. All Committee positions are up for annual election and prior to this meeting nominations are requested for the positions of Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Newsletter Editor and General Committee Members. Nomination forms are available from the Secretary and should be returned, when completed, to the Secretary no later than 9<sup>th</sup> May, or they can be completed on the day of the meeting. On this occasion some of the current Committee members will be offering themselves for re-election. However, our current Treasurer has indicated that, due to the workload entailed as Association Treasurer, it is not her intention to seek re-election for the position of Regional Treasurer.

**Could you be the one to fill this important role?** We are also looking to expand the membership of the Regional Committee and would appreciate applications from any AOUG member who is domiciled in Region 07. At the same time we would like to see more participants at our social gatherings at which we welcome friends and families of members. If at present you are not an active participant at these events we would be pleased to receive suggestions as to what type of activity would interest you. Due to the Open University's changes in the restructuring of the methods of working within the Regions and Nations, we are no longer in a position, as we were in the past, to obtain information of new graduates within the Region who would be eligible to be considered for an award under the terms of our YOUGET awards scheme. Do you or any of your friends know of any recent graduate, or one who will graduate before our AGM on 16<sup>th</sup> May, who you think may qualify? If so, would you please send nominations for consideration to the Regional Secretary as soon as possible. The Criteria are that they must be domiciled in Region 07, have graduated in spite of adversity and be going on to further study.

**Derrick Franks**

DATE	EVENT
Saturday 14 <sup>th</sup> March 6.30 pm	We are looking forward to some evening entertainment when we visit the Old Time Music Hall, City Varieties, Swann Street, Leeds LS1 6LW. Meet in the foyer at 6.30 pm for 7.00 pm start. Purchase your own tickets prior to the event. Box Office 0113 243 0808.
Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> April 7.00 pm	Meet in the bar area of the Ten Pin Bowling Alley at the Doncaster Dome, The Leisure Park, Bawtry Road, Doncaster DN4 7PD, prior to a light-hearted fun challenge. An invitation has been sent to local OUSA members to join us. We usually play two games costing £7.50 per adult (£6.00 for juniors), including shoe hire, and adult or teenage family or friends are very welcome to come and join in. There are restaurant facilities in the complex for anyone wanting to eat before or after the bowling.
Saturday 16 <sup>th</sup> May 10.00 am	Meet in room 1 of the Doncaster CVS Building, 5/6 Trafford Court, Doncaster, DN1 1PN for drink prior to our Saturday Lecture which begins at 10.30 am. This is followed by a social chat over lunch before meeting again at 1 pm for the AOUG in Yorkshire AGM and then an informal open meeting, both allowing all members the chance to fully participate in all discussions.
Saturday 6 <sup>th</sup> June 11.00 am	Meet in the Lempicka Café, 13, Wednesday Market, Beverley HU17 0DH, a short walk from the station, for coffee and cakes before walking together another short distance to Beverley Minster. Beverley Minster is one of the largest parish churches in the UK, larger than one third of all English cathedrals and regarded as a gothic masterpiece by many. Admission is free but a permit is required for all photography at a small fee. Tours in the roof are also available at 2.15pm, for a minimum group of four people at a charge of £5 for adults (children 7-16 at £2.50). Lunch can be taken in the Minster Café and then those able to stay longer can go on the roof tour or visit the Beverley Art Gallery, (free entry) with the opportunity to view the work of local artist Frederick Elwell.
Saturday 11 <sup>th</sup> July 11.00 am	Meet at the entrance of Eyam Hall, Main Street, Eyam, Derbyshire S32 5QW to explore the Hall and Gardens. Admission is £7.40 for an adult (£3.70 for children or free for National Trust members with your card). There is also a Craft Centre and Buttery Café where homemade cakes and light lunches are available. Please note that the car park is on the opposite side of the road to the Craft Centre. This is a Handshake event into East Midlands and Region 05 members have been invited to join us to learn more about this famous plaque village. Contact: Peter Turvey 01246 410835.
Saturday 15 <sup>th</sup> August 11.30 am	Meet at the 'Meet and Eat' Café, 56 Church Street, Conisbrough Castle, DN12 3BU, off the A630, about four miles south-west of Doncaster for a handshake event organised by Region 05 members to visit Conisbrough Castle. Probably built prior to 1180, now owned by English Heritage there are interesting audio-visual presentations and exhibits on the various floors. Admission free for English Heritage members, normal admission price for adults £4.70 with concessions available. This is a handshake event organised by Region 05. Contact Executive Representative for Region 05, Ramsey Hertzog 01246 414746.

**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.**

<b>DATE</b>	<b>Walking Group</b>
<b>28<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> March</b>	Peak District, Buxton Area
<b>9<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> May</b>	Settle Area, wild flowers, woods and kilns.
<b>21<sup>st</sup> -22<sup>nd</sup> June with possible extension</b>	North Lakes.
<b>3<sup>rd</sup>,4<sup>th</sup>,5<sup>th</sup> July</b>	Cistercian Way in S.Lakes. Grange-over-Sands to Barrow-in-Furness
<b>21<sup>st</sup>22nd23rg August</b>	Eskdale Way, based in Whitby
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> October</b>	Spain, walking based north of Madrid

### **Contact Details**

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

### **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 .....

## **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 no one responded to my request in the Winter Newsletter, I stepped in to fill the gap, but I do not want it to become a permanent arrangement.

We wish to increase the membership within the Region and nationally, but as has been previously pointed out, we do not have the opportunity to meet new graduates as we had in the past. Unlike recent years, on the 14<sup>th</sup> November 2014 the AOUG were allowed to have a stall at the degree ceremony held in Harrogate. A group of us were able to attend and have a few words with new graduates, handing out welcome packs to members receiving their certificates on the day, and all thought it was very worthwhile. As a result of this, we were able to gain new members for the region.

**Derrick Franks**

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### **Dreaming of a White Christmas**

This Winter, our Yorkshire group December trip to the theatre took me back in time to when I was just seven years old. We had moved to Leeds over the Summer and I was yet to start my new school and so my early September birthday created a slight dilemma for my parents as I had no friends to ask for the traditional round of 'Pass the parcel' or 'Musical chairs' in our home. That's when my much loved Godmother came to the rescue with the idea of a special outing to the cinema, just her and me, to see whatever I chose. At that time I loved all the musicals with dance routines of Fred Astaire, Bing Crosby or Danny Kaye and so had no problem in selecting 'White Christmas' based on the earlier 'Holiday Inn'. I loved that film and every year through my junior years, I longed for snow at Christmas, building snowmen and the excitement of a world changed overnight. Bing Crosby even figured strongly in my life as soon after we got two kittens to be named Bing and Bob (Bob Hope of course).

So this Winter the musical performance of 'White Christmas' at the Leeds Playhouse brought the magic all flooding back. Irving Berlin's songs seemed just as fresh as ever and the cast at the Playhouse really brought them all to life. Clever use of the triple revolting stage sections aided a smooth transition from one scene set to another and the simple scenery and props were extremely effective. The audience was entranced throughout with hardly a sound of the expected sweet wrappers and we were carried along with the characters from the very start.

Our AOUG group met for a festive lunch before the performance and interval refreshments to share our thoughts on the production. This production set the scene perfectly for our own white Christmas as this year I saw the magic all over again as my two year old grandson experienced snow for the first time and shared his pleasure with me as we built his first snowman together.

**Jean Hertzog**

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**Please return this slip to: Lesley Sleight, 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 .....

I am willing to arrange a Yorkshire event .....

**A really big thank you to all of those who responded to our special request recently for your e-mail addresses or sent in stamps to assist with postage. However if you have still not replied, please send your e-mail address to as soon as possible to the AOUG Office or maybe you would be prepared to donate some stamps to assist with postage costs?**