



ASSOCIATION OF OPEN UNIVERSITY GRADUATES in YORKSHIRE



EDITION 63

Spring 2012

Saturday Lecture, “The other side of Policing.” **SATURDAY 24th MARCH 2012 – COAL ASTON METHODIST CHAPEL**

Meet at Coal Aston Methodist Chapel, Eckington Road, Coal Aston S18 3AW in the downstairs room (Enter by the side door) at 10.30am for coffee, to hear a light-hearted talk at 11am by Ramsey Hertzog on his 32 years in the Metropolitan Police from the times of truncheons and whistles.

“From the early days of listening to 999 calls on a transistor radio and responding on a pedal cycle to being in charge of Policing at Kensington Palace – so many variations, so many stories to tell!”

Then afterwards share a gossip over a “Bring your own lunch” before the Saturday Meeting at 1.30pm when you will have the opportunity to discuss any current issues concerning AOUG either at Association or local level.

Please note that the Chapel is on a main bus route from both Chesterfield and Sheffield stopping right outside the door. If you are travelling by car then it is suggested that those coming due South leave the M1 at junction 30 and follow the signs to Eckington and then to Coal Aston. Car parking is on your right, 100 yards before the Chapel, in front of the Coal Aston Village Hall, just next to the Royal Oak public House. (Known locally as “The Pond”) Those coming via Sheffield should follow signs to the A61 towards Chesterfield and then look out for Coal Aston signs. The Chapel will be on your left hand side and you will need to go past to reach the Village Hall car park.

ASSOCIATION AGM IN LIVERPOOL

There is still time to book for the Annual General Meeting and Social Weekend to be held this year at the Britannia Adelphi Hotel in Liverpool. Even if you can not manage the whole weekend, since it is just over the Pennines, you could easily attend for just part of it.

How about going for the Saturday to the meetings? There is so much change going on within the Open University that is affecting AOUG, that you can be assured of plenty to talk about. Maybe you might consider joining the optional excursion to Speke Hall, a National Trust property. National Trust members can book for just £7.50 (non members £14.50) for transport to and fro, a guided tour of the grounds and time to explore the hall at your leisure with guides in each room to answer any questions.

Then why not extend your day and brush off your “glad rags” to meet up with friends old and new at the Gala evening. The evening begins with a drinks reception at 7pm and is followed by a three course meal with a guest speaker, music and dancing. Being in Liverpool the theme for the speaker and the music is The Beatles and the Association has booked our very own Yorkshire member, Peter Piper to be both the speaker and the musical entertainment along with his partner Christine. We can therefore be guaranteed a really good lively evening.

Contact AOUG Office on 01908 653316 or aoug@open.ac.uk to book quickly.

Report from the Yorkshire Executive Representative

Greetings for 2012! I hope that you are enjoying the unseasonal warm weather! We enjoyed an excellent talk by Carol-Ann, one of our Committee members, at last October's Saturday meeting in York. We all came away with a much greater understanding of how our ears work and what it means to be deaf in a hearing world. Thanks, Carol-Ann!

We went bowling in Doncaster in October, and in November we embarked on our 'Big Adventure'. After a visit to the Ferens Art Gallery in Hull, we drove to the docks and caught the overnight ferry to Belgium. Our day in Brugge was so enjoyable we all wanted to go back for a longer visit. We are already planning a similar trip to Amsterdam later this year. We had a theatre visit in December, went to the Royal Armouries in January and the Hepworth Wakefield in February. These visits are very enjoyable and we would love to meet more of you on these occasions. I would love to hear suggestions from members for other places to visit.

The relationship between AOUG and the Open University nationally is slowly resolving itself, and, although things are never going to be quite the same since the University is being forced to change itself, we still have to stay positive and confident. We are and always will be ambassadors for our University.

Thanks to all our members for your support of AOUG. We can only ever be as strong as our membership. As our Association AGM is in Liverpool this year, I do hope that we will see some of you for some part of the weekend. There is still time to book if you are very quick!

Lesley Sleigh

Chairman's Letter

The visit to the Leeds Armouries was enjoyed by the seven members and guest who attended it. Fortunately the weather was favourable with a cold day but with a clear blue sky. The Armouries has an extensive collection of weapons and includes dioramas depicting conflict events and has a number of live demonstrations. It is considered well worth several visits.

The next event was the visit to the Hepworth Museum in Wakefield on the 18th February 2012. This was attended by 7 members and guest. The museum is not confined to just the works of art by Barbara Hepworth but has sculptures by other artists and a large number of paintings and drawings including a drawing by Picasso. Although the museum is a somewhat stark concrete building it has some stunning views from the many windows.

With regard to the future events, we have a very full programme of events planned which are listed elsewhere in the newsletter.

Although the AOUG in Yorkshire will not have a stand at the Harrogate Degree ceremony, (following the requirements of the OU Alumni Department) we shall have two members of AOUG in Yorkshire processing at the ceremony.

The Open University is in a period of substantial change brought about by the economic downturn and the consequences of the funding changes with regard to Higher Education. The effects on AOUG activities are being actively assessed by the AOUG officers who will pass on information with regard to any effect on the activities of the AOUG in Yorkshire once the situation has been clarified.

Malcolm White

Handshake Events

Every year the Yorkshire Committee organise a Handshake event: that is an activity outside our own Region, to which we invite AOUG members, friends and families from the area concerned. 2012 is no exception as this year we are going over to Lancaster for a full day out and have invited the North West and the North to join us. Lancaster has had royal status since Henry IV and was granted city status as part of the celebrations for George VI's coronation.

We meet in the café of the Tourism Centre on Meeting House Lane, just five minutes walk from the Railway Station and from the long stay car park. Then after being suitably introduced and refreshed, we walk up to Lancaster Castle. This fascinating building was a Norman fort, built overlooking the River Lune, on the site of a previous Roman fort, and which contained the local jail and until recently the Crown Court. The castle, situated next to the parish church sits on a hilltop with views over both Lancaster itself and the surrounding countryside. The plan is then to walk down to the river estuary for lunch in the Maritime Museum before exploring its displays of both its river and seafaring past. In Victorian times there was a flourishing port with easy access to the sea and many of the old buildings on the waterfront have been restored.

Last November we had a very successful Handshake event over to Europe for a mini cruise to Brugge and so enjoyed by the members that took part, that this is to be repeated this coming November with another European trip, this time to Amsterdam. We sleep on board the well equipped ferry and then have a full day exploring before our return overnight ferry back to Hull. Eight members ventured over in 2011 but all members, family and friends are welcome so it would be wonderful if we could double the numbers this year.

Then as well as the events that are organised by Yorkshire, we are invited to Handshake events organised by other Regions or Nations and so far two such events are planned – firstly to Llangollen in Wales, on the side of the River Dee, famous for its annual Eisteddfod, the Welsh festival of music and the arts. Here we are planning to ride silently along the Llangollen Canal built by Thomas Telford, on a horse drawn boat ride with a 20mins stop at Horseshoe Falls to enjoy the spectacular sight. This is to be Sunday 27th May, the day after the Lancaster excursion so maybe you might like to make a weekend of it and stay out for the night. If so we could arrange an evening meal on the Saturday somewhere together. Contact Ramsey Hertzog (01246 414746) if you fancy this idea.

Later in the year on Saturday 21st July, West Midlands are inviting Yorkshire to join them at Hardwick House, a National Trust property, built around 1590 for Bess of Hardwick, as a place of escapism from her husband, the Earl of Shrewsbury, who lived at Chatsworth. Look for AOUG backpacks and meet at 11am at the entrance to join up with the others. Again contact Ramsey Hertzog if you are interested in attending as then he can let the West Midlands know to expect you.

Yorkshire Walking Group

For many years now, Ginny Feeney and friends have been organising the AOUG walking group which also includes many others of their friends and families. Although a very established group of regular walkers, Ginny and the others are keen to welcome new faces to join them. Walks are arranged annually during a planning weekend each January which combines walks with a meeting for future ideas and a celebration meal to which non walkers are also invited.

The walks are designed to suit all abilities and so they range from the Teashop walks which are around 5 miles maximum with a convenient teashop break on route, to more challenging day walks of up to 10 to 12 miles but which usually have an alternative for the less able as well. Although many of the walks are based in Yorkshire, the group do venture into many other areas too. Then in addition the more adventurous can join in weekend events or even week excursions tackling the more strenuous walks or longer challenges such as the Cumbrian Way, If you are a walker already, or just fancy a bit of fresh air, then get in touch with Ginny Feeney for the full list of dates.

Diary Dates

DATE	EVENT
Sat. 24 th March	Saturday Meeting - Meet at Coal Aston Methodist Chapel at 10.30am. Talk by Ramsey Hertzog "The other side of policing" See front page for full details.
Sat. 21 st April	Eden Camp, near Malton. Meet at 11am at the entrance. Recreates life in World War II through the sights, sounds, smells and smoke. Look for the AOUG backpacks. Contact Ramsey Hertzog 01246 414746
Fri. 18 th – Sun 20 th May	Association AGM at the Britannia Adelphi Hotel, Liverpool. Last chance to book Contact AOUG Office 01908 653316 quickly!!
Sat. 26 th May	Handshake event with North West (08) over to Lancaster. Meet 11am in Tourism Centre café near railway station and long stay car park. Visit to Castle and then Maritime Museum. Contact Jean Hertzog 01246 414746
Sun 27 th May	Welsh Handshake event inviting Yorkshire members to join them on Llangollen Canal for a Horse Drawn boat ride with a 20mins stop at Horse shoe falls to enjoy the sights. Contact Ramsey Hertzog 01246 414746
Sat. 9 th June	Saturday Meeting and AOUG in Yorkshire AGM – It is intended to be hold this in OU Regional Centre, Leeds – confirmation awaited. Academic speaker, followed by BYO lunch and then the Yorkshire AGM. 1.30pm. Contact Malcolm White.
Sat. 7 th July	Visit to Brodsworth Hall. Meet 11.45am at the ticket Office next to the car park at the top of the drive. (203 bus from Doncaster) Adults £9. Concessions £8.10 English Heritage members free. Contact Peter Turvey 01246 410835
Sat. 21 st July	West Midlands Handshake event inviting Yorkshire to join them at Hardwick House (NT). Look for AOUG backpacks and meet at 11am at the entrance. Contact Ramsey Hertzog 01246 414746
Sat 28 th July or Sat 11 th August	Shakespeare "Henry V" gates open at 7.30pm Adult £15 plus booking fee. G&S is "HMS Pinafore" gates open at 7.30pm Adult £17 plus booking fee. We plan to attend the Shakespeare but please note that the NT reversed these at last minute last year. Book own ticket on Tel: 0844 249 1895. Bring rugs or small chairs and picnic.
? August 22 nd Sept. 20 th Oct 24 th Oct 4 th – 6 th Nov 17 th Nov 1 st Dec	Settle- Carlisle Steam Railway Trip – Contact Lesley Sleigh Treasure Hunt in Beaumont Park, and lunch at Carol-Ann`s – Contact Carol-Ann Saturday Meeting – York Friends Meeting House – Contact Malcolm White Ten pin bowling at Doncaster Dome Bowling Alley – Contact Derrick Franks Mini cruise to Amsterdam – Leaving from Hull - Contact Jean Hertzog Visit to Millennium Galleries, Sheffield – Contact Jean Hertzog "Wind in the Willows" matinee at Leeds Playhouse – Contact Joyce Johnson

Contact Details

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Did you receive this Newsletter by post? If so, do you have an e-mail address we may use? Please contact the Secretary, Lesley Sleigh, with your details. Thank you for your co-operation with this.