



**ASSOCIATION OF OPEN UNIVERSITY
GRADUATES in YORKSHIRE**



NEWSLETTER 71

SUMMER – 2014

**The Regional Annual General Meeting
Saturday 14th June 2014.**

The meeting will be held in the Doncaster CVS Building, 5/6 Trafford Court, Doncaster, DN1 1PN. Our speaker for the day will be Billy Khokhar, Assistant Director, Student Services, The Open University. Meet 10.30am for 11.00am start. For those travelling by train leave the station by the exits to the taxi ranks, with your back to the station look approximately 45 degrees to your right, you will see two red brick buildings, our meeting is taking place in the right hand one of these two buildings. Enter the building by door no 6, which is the one at the end of the building facing towards the station, turn right and through the door and into the room on the right.

Derrick Franks.

**Visit to Sheffield Manor Lodge.
Saturday 19th July**

A mile from the City Centre and once the Great Deer Park dating back to Saxon Times. The Turret House (1574) is the only surviving building of a Tudor Manor Lodge where Mary Queen of Scots was imprisoned. Meet 11.15am at the **Discovery Centre**, gateway to the site.

Directions

Arriving by train in Sheffield, catch the 56 bus from the Interchange (every 12 mins). Alight at the Windsor Pub, Southend Rd, Wybourn, walk up Southend Rd opposite the pub to Manor Lane. Turn left at top of street onto Manor Lane. Manor Lodge is a few minutes walk on the left. The **Discovery Centre entrance** is on the left past the ruins.

By Car from M1

From the M1 take Junction 33 towards Sheffield on the A630 (A57) Sheffield Parkway. Towards city centre take the slip road exit signed 'ATTERCLIFFE & MANOR PARK'. At end of slip road, note brown sign opposite marked 'Manor Lodge'. Turn left up Manor Lane and after 400 yds at the brow of the hill on the sharp bend turn right remaining on Manor Lane. Carry on up the hill **Manor Oaks** is 200yds on left. **The Discovery Centre** is half a mile further up the hill next to the pub, turn right into car park at brow of hill.

SatNav – Post Code for Discovery Centre is S2 1UJ

Cost for members: £5 (includes guided tour and tea/coffee on arrival) Contact: Peter Turvey 01246 410835 for further information and site map.

Chairman's Letter:

On 22nd February members met for what was a new venture in that it was the first time we had a get together where the main feature of the day was to be a luncheon engagement. This was held at the Dean Court Hotel which is situated in very close proximity to York Minster and also within easy walking distance of many of the other attractions York has to offer. After a leisurely and very convivial meal all members present were of the opinion that it had been an enjoyable experience which should be repeated.

At our Saturday meeting on 22nd March the speaker was Neil Wyatt, a fellow graduate and member of AOUG in Yorkshire. Neil's presentation was on the subject of 'Climate Change' which is currently a topic much in the news. This was a very informative talk and power

point presentation in which Neil used charts and quoted from various reports to support his argument that manmade pollution is minimal.

12th April started off as a bright clear day but by the time arranged for members to meet at the RHS Gardens, Harlow Carr, Harrogate the weather was very heavily overcast with biting winds. These conditions were not conducive to hanging around admiring the magnificent displays in the gardens. Nevertheless, as always at this type of venue, it was worth visiting to see the varied arrangements and layouts in all their colourful glory. One had to use a bit of imagination to visualise how much better it would have been had it been a sunny day. One surprise was that, if you were prepared to let them take advantage of gift aid, the entrance fee was £1.00 higher than otherwise.

Socially we are also looking for suggestions for activities that will enable us to get more members involved. If you are not an active member what could we do that would encourage you to join our social events? We would welcome any suggestions, particularly if they are family orientated as we are always pleased to welcome family or friends to any of our social activities.

Derrick Franks

DATE	EVENT
Wednesday 21 st May – 7.00 pm	Bowling Evening 7pm for 7.30pm – Doncaster Superbowl, Leisure Park, Bawtry Road, Doncaster. DN4 7PD
Sunday 1st June 11.00am	As a Handshake event with Region 05, meet at the restaurant of Belvoir Castle, Grantham, Leicestershire, NG32 1PE. This is the home of the Duke & Duchess of Rutland and is situated on land given to a Standard Bearer to William the Conqueror. The castle contains many treasures and there are extensive gardens to explore. Meet for coffee at 11am – guided tour 1.15pm after lunch Entrance charges apply.
Saturday 14 th June	Saturday meeting and AGM. Details on page 1. BYO lunch. AGM in the afternoon.
Saturday 19 th July	Sheffield Manor Lodge, 115 Manor Lane. S2 1UH.
August/September	Nostell Priory outdoor performance, bring your own picnic.
Saturday 13 th Sept 11.00 am	Ripon – Meet in the March Hare Café, Ripon Small Shops. Duck Hill, HG4 1BL to visit City Centre and Cathedral.

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
17 th - 24 th May	Weardale - Staying for a week at cottages in Frosterley where we stayed last June. Accommodation already booked.
19 th - 20 th July	North Yorkshire - The last two legs of the Six Dales Trail, from Pateley Bridge to Middleham. Approximately eleven miles a day, staying in Masham.
10 th August	The Wakefield Way.
19 th – 21 st September	Whitby - The Esk Valley Way. Using the train to walk this route, up to twelve miles a day for three days.
25 th October	Stanza Stones - Local T-shop walk on Ilkey Moor

Contact Details

Exec. Rep. & Yorkshire Chairman	Derrick Franks	74, West Park, Great North Road, Darrington, Pontefract. WF8 3HY	01977 620192 derrick@franks1356.freemove.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

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 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 through the other areas, but as has previously been pointed out we do not have the same opportunity to meet new graduates as we had in the past. Do you know of anyone having already graduated, or due to graduate in the near future, who may be interested in joining us?

Only recently when I was putting a poster on the notice board at a meeting of another group to which I belong, unknown to me the lady standing beside me at that time, was an OU graduate, and when I had displayed the poster turned to me and said 'I did not know there was an AOUG either at Association level or in Yorkshire'.

Do you have any thoughts on how we can get the message across to others who may also be in ignorance of our existence?
Derrick Franks

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

‘Members Only’ AOUG Forum on the AOUG Website

The AOUG website is continuing to develop and last year we introduced a new-style Home Page, an on-line Membership facility and an on-line Trading section. Now we have taken it one step further with a Members Only AOUG Forum. AOUG does not endorse the use of Facebook or Twitter or other similar social media sites, in the name of AOUG, as they are impossible for a volunteer organisation to monitor and thus too great a risk to the reputation of AOUG. Obviously what individuals, who also are AOUG members, decide to do, is their own responsibility. However a Members Only Forum is within the Association’s control and this can more easily be monitored and improper items can be removed or prevented. Since we want all members to have the confidence to take part, we are now including a step by step guide to registering and being authorised. We apologise to all of you who are very familiar with these things already. Once authorised the site will give you guidance on using the various features and if you have any problems at all you are very welcome to ask the Officers for help.

Step one: Ensure you have internet access on your computer, or equivalent, and log on in the usual way.

Step two: Type www.aoug.org.uk into the address line at the top of the page. The AOUG website should now appear with our logo clearly at the top left hand side.

Step three: Click on the word Forum along the bottom of your screen. This will open a new window which you will need to enlarge to fill your screen.

Step four: You will now be asked for your **Username** and a **Password**. Your user name can be your own name or a shortened version or nickname. Your password can be anything you like but we advise a mixture of numbers and letters about 12- 15 characters in length. Now click on the word **Register**.

Step five: The screen will now show you the **Terms and Conditions**. Take as long as you like to read these but in order to progress you need to click on **Accept** at the bottom of the screen.

Step six: You will now be asked to complete a form with Username, e-mail address, password, (these must be the same as you used on the first page) first name and surname (These must be your names as used as a member of AOUG) PI Number (the number you used at the top of all those OU assignments!) your preferred Region or Nation, your gender and your birthday (day, month and year). Finally click on the word **Save**.

Step seven: You will need to confirm your **password** yet again and copy a **Registration code** (to prove you are human!!!).

Step eight: Then you will need to come out of the website and go to your **own e-mail account** where you will see an **e-mail acknowledging** your application for the Forum.

Step nine: Wait until you receive a **second e-mail** which will acknowledge you as authorised – (this may be within a few minutes or a few days, depending on if an Officer is currently on line to see your request) and then go back onto the **AOUG website** – click on **Forum** at the bottom of the **Home Page** and the forum will open and allow you to sign in with your **User name** and **Password** and then you can start exploring the instant communications possibilities.

Step ten: If you need more help just ask! **Have Fun !!!!**

Jean Hertzog – Association Treasurer

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 sent 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?