



## ASSOCIATION OF OPEN UNIVERSITY GRADUATES in YORKSHIRE



NEWSLETTER 74

SUMMER – 2015

Our speaker on the 16<sup>th</sup> May will once again be one of our own members, Lesley Sleigh, who is currently Vice Chairman of the AOUG Executive Committee and Secretary of the Regional Committee (AOUG in Yorkshire). Her talk is called ‘**My Life in Theatre Programmes**’. Her connection to and interest in the theatre goes back to her childhood in London and she would like to share her memories and experiences with members through her collection of theatre programmes. We hope to see many of our members in attendance for what should be a very interesting talk.

### **Chairman’s Letter:**

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?**

**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. Due to lack of space Ramsey Hertzog’s Report is an abridged version which hopefully does not detract from the content. 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?

**Derrick Franks**

### **Music hall at the Leeds City Varieties Theatre**

I have lived in Yorkshire for forty-nine years, including five years in Leeds, but had never been to the Leeds City Varieties. I set off from home hoping that the trains were having a good day. I found a parking space right outside Halifax Station and the trains were running perfectly. At Leeds City Station the City Bus was still operating and, when we reached the Headrow, the driver could not have been more helpful or clearer in his instructions for finding the theatre.

The group met in the bar and proceeded to the auditorium. It is a relatively small theatre and, following its recent renovation, was looking very good. We had come to see an old fashioned Music Hall, which anyone who used to watch ‘The Good Old Days’ would have recognised. The Chairman opened the proceedings and we were treated to four acts, each appearing in both halves. Father and son comedians, a juggler/magician, a lady singer and, the headline act, Billy Pearce – best known for his annual appearances in the pantomime at the Bradford Alhambra. The Chairman, who had been trained by Andrew Sachs, used his flowery

language to introduce each of the acts and is very much part of the atmosphere. The comedians were funny, the juggler/magician was clever and the singer was slightly cheeky, in the tradition of the Music Hall and, also in the tradition of the Music Hall, they involved the audience in different ways. A trouble-free journey home completed a really enjoyable evening and I would recommend the experience to everyone.

**Lesley Sleigh**

| DATE   | EVENT  |
|--|--|
| Saturday 16 <sup>th</sup> May<br>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<br>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<br>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><br>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.   |
| September                                    | Nostel Priory – Details to be confirmed.   |
| October 24 <sup>th</sup>                     | Rosebowl, Leeds. – Details to be confirmed   |

**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.**

The walking group are heading to Settle on 9th May to walk in limestone country and ancient woodland full of wild flowers. Why not join us for the day? On the Sunday we'll visit the Hoffman kilns, well kept secrets of the vast lime smelting industry that was there in the 1800s. We'll also be walking some of the Cistercian Way in the South Lakes from 21st July, a fairly level route with a variety of lovely scenery to enjoy. Contact Ginny for more details.

| DATE  | Walking Group   |
|---|---|
| 9 <sup>th</sup> – 10 <sup>th</sup> May                              | Settle Area, wild flowers, woods and kilns.                       |
| 21 <sup>st</sup> - 22 <sup>nd</sup> June<br>with possible extension | North Lakes.  |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> , 4 <sup>th</sup> , 5 <sup>th</sup> July            | Cistercian Way in S.Lakes. Grange-over-Sands to Barrow-in-Furness |
| 21 <sup>st</sup> , 22 <sup>nd</sup> , 23 <sup>rd</sup><br>August    | Eskdale Way, based in Whitby                                      |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> – 11 <sup>th</sup> October                          | 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<br><a href="mailto:derrick@franks1356.freemove.co.uk">derrick@franks1356.freemove.co.uk</a> |
| Secretary                       | Lesley Sleigh  | 6, Rockcliffe Mount, Luddenden Foot, West Yorkshire HX2 6AJ     | 01422 883337<br><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<br><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**

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**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 .....

## Edward VIII

One of our members, Neil Wyatt (who kindly sends the Yorkshire Newsletter electronically) recently gave a very interesting talk on Edward VIII. I suppose you could sum it up by the question 'Why?' Why did Edward only reign as King for three hundred and twenty-six days? Why did he have to resign as King? Why was he not allowed to return to this country after his abdication? Neil outlined Edward's early days. He was born in 1894, the son of George V and Mary of Teck but neither of his parents apparently showed him, or his younger brother, Bertie, much affection. Edward attended the Royal Naval College where he was bullied. At Magdalene College, Oxford, he was a popular undergraduate although it is believed he was not 'bookish'. Following graduation he was commissioned to the Grenadier Guards although great care was taken that he was neither injured nor exposed enough to be taken prisoner.

In 1930 the Prince purchased Fort Belvedere, near Windsor, and it was around this time that he first met Wallis Simpson. She greatly amused the Prince as she treated him with no deference to his position at all. The speaker told us that apparently Edward approached Ernest, the current husband of Wallis, asking his permission to take his wife out. On 20th January 1936 George V died at Sandringham and Edward, as the eldest son, became King pending his coronation. This was much to the consternation of the Prime Minister, Stanley Baldwin and Archbishop Laing who were of the opinion that the marriage of a twice divorced woman, with two husbands still alive, could not be reconciled with his being, as King, Head of the Church of England. At Fort Belvedere, in 1936, the Belvedere Agreement was signed whereby Edward, intent on marrying Wallis, agreed that his brother, The Duke of York, would be crowned as the next King. Edward could remain at Fort Belvedere in return for relinquishing ownership of both Sandringham and Balmoral. In return Edward was to receive an annual pension of £25,000 for life. The news of the King's abdication was officially announced one week before Edward left this country on route to France. Edward died in 1977 at his house in Bois de Boulogne, a house given to him by the French Government. Wallis lived alone for another fourteen years before her death aged seventy-nine.

Neil told our members that Edward's body was returned to Frogmore but there is some mystery as to whether the body was laid to rest beside his brother's grave. Some historians have questioned whether Edward ever wanted to be King. It is a fact that all official papers relating to the abdication have been embargoed from viewing for fifty years. Neil also pointed to the fact that there are questions of Edward's parentage as he had no trace of the hereditary disease of porphyria which was certainly present in George III's body - an alleged direct descendant. The talk finished with many questions left in the air regarding a most interesting period of history. Do we really have to wait for so many years before intriguing questions can be solved?

**Ramsey Hertzog, Region 05**

**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 as soon as possible to the AOUG Office or maybe you would be prepared to donate some stamps to assist with postage costs?**