



## ASSOCIATION OF OPEN UNIVERSITY GRADUATES in YORKSHIRE



EDITION 66

Winter 2012

### “The Gardens and History of York Cemetery”.

The next event on our calendar is Saturday Meeting and we are making our annual visit to The Friends Meeting House, off Clifford Street, York on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> October. The meeting is open to members and their friends with morning session being devoted to the speaker. All will be welcomed from 10am with tea or coffee before the morning talk which will commence at 10.30am. The Speaker is Mr Clive Dawson who is a prominent member of the “After Dinner Speakers” in the York area and is also a volunteer member of the “Friends of York Cemetery”. The subject of his talk will be “The Gardens and History of York Cemetery”.

A cemetery might not sound the most inspiring topic for a lecture but cemeteries provide a wealth of information and insight into social history and this is no ordinary cemetery. When AOUG in Yorkshire members had an excursion to this cemetery many, many years ago, they were amazed by the size of the site, the layout depicting the various stages in its history, the styles of memorials, the carved trees and the work of those responsible for the maintenance and so it will be fascinating to not only be reminded of the history but to hear of the developments that have taken place over the recent years in both the cemetery and the gardens. There will be a voluntary collection for the York Cemetery charity.

Attendees have a “Bring your own” lunch but this does not mean you have to get up early to prepare something as there are many small food outlets around to purchase food should you wish to get something when you arrive. During the lunchtime, there is the chance to socialise, to participate in the raffle and to purchase any books that catch your eye. Members are requested to donate two or three books for sale and donate the proceeds to the funds of AOUG in Yorkshire to help in the funding of our activities, but would ask you to take any that are not sold back home with you.

Then the Saturday General Meeting will be taking place after lunch. This is an opportunity for attendees to gain up to date information on AOUG at both Association and local level, and to take part in a discussion on topics affecting AOUG’s future. Since AOUG is a democratic organisation being run on guidelines established by the general membership, it is really important that members have this opportunity to express their ideas in order to allow both AOUG in Yorkshire Committee and the Association’s Executive Committee to ensure they fully represent opinions in their future planning. Whether you have been a member for years, or are very new to AOUG, please come and join in and if you are a little bit reluctant to come alone, give our Executive Representative a ring and you can be sure of a friendly face, to look out to greet you.

#### **Summer AGM and Saturday Meeting**

Despite problems with our Summer Newsletter, the Summer Saturday Meeting was well received with a talk by our Chairman at the time on his work in Saudi Arabia. The AGM in Yorkshire was held in the afternoon with election results as follows:

**Chairman:** Derrick Franks, **Vice-Chairman:** Malcolm White, **Secretary:** Lesley Sleigh, **Treasurer:** Joyce Johnson, **Newsletter Editor:** Jean Hertzog, **Newsletter e-mail circulation:** Neil Wyatt, and **General Committee:** Carol-Ann Churm, Peter Turvey and Ramsey Hertzog

## **Chairman`s Letter**

Recent activities by members of AOUG in Yorkshire have included, on 7<sup>th</sup> July, a visit to Nostell Priory, Nr Wakefield, to watch an enjoyable evening performance of “HMS Pinafore”. Though the weather was unsettled and turned rather cool we were fortunate that the rain was prominent by its absence, and brollies were not the order of the day.

On 25<sup>th</sup> August a party of us boarded a train for a trip on the Settle-Carlisle Railway. The majority of the party alighted at Appleby Station whilst other members made the full round trip. Alas, on this occasion the weather was not so kind, as for practically the whole of the time we spent in Appleby waterproofs and brollies were the order of the day. Nevertheless the whole of the party expressed the view that the outing had been a worthwhile experience.

Our latest venture was a visit to Beaumont Park, Huddersfield on the 22<sup>nd</sup> September. The purpose of this visit to this very interesting park was to take part in a treasure hunt. On this occasion the weather could not have been more kind, we found ourselves basking in glorious sunshine and between searching for the clues made time to rest occasionally and make the most of the unexpected weather.

Once the hunt was over we made our way to the home of Carol-Ann Churm and her husband John, where we were provided with a sumptuous meal. Our thanks go to Carol Ann and John for all the time and effort they must have put into researching points of interest in the park and finding convenient places to leave the clues, also the fact that they had managed to prepare and cook a meal for us all.

**Derrick Franks.**

*Large golfing brollies in blue and yellow with the AOUG Logo are now available for the AOUG Office, priced at £18 each – AOUG Office, Walton Hall, Milton Keynes MK7 6AA*

## **Executive Representative`s Report**

So Autumn is upon us after what has been for many a horrendous summer. Again I would like to apologise for the late arrival of a half-size Newsletter that went out last time. This was entirely my decision. I also attempted to update our email address list which proved to be a bit of a disaster which I am still trying to correct. If you did not receive the Summer Newsletter by e-mail when this is the usual way that it arrives, it would be very helpful if you could e-mail me at the address shown on the back page of the Newsletter or in OMEGA.

At Association level, the Executive Committee are continuing to explore new ways of recruiting new members to our Association. As newly qualified degree students now remain members of OUSA (Open University Students` Association) for two years after achieving their degree, we are trying to cultivate closer links with the organisation. Some of our own members are also OUSA members, so there are already links between us and we are trying to extend this.

We are also making plans to celebrate our 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary next year. We hope that there will be a Association celebration and, locally, we are hoping to organise a special event on the canal at Skipton - more information to follow. We hope members will be able to join us on this joyful occasion.

Please feel free to contact me by email, phone or even letter. I would love to hear from you.

**Lesley Sleigh**

## **AOUG - Nearly Twenty Five Years On!!**

Our Association officially began in June 1988 when Olga Camm was presented with a scroll by the then Vice-Chancellor of The Open University, John Horlock. This presentation took place on the steps of Walton Hall, on the OU campus as part of the OU Open Day celebrations and shortly afterwards Olga (a true northern lass, even if she was from the wrong side of the Pennines!) and the Vice-Chancellor jointly planted a beech tree on the Mulberry Lawn to mark the occasion.

Several years of work by the Steering Committee, had planned for the launch of our Association, with Yorkshire having representation, the "Reverend Ronnie", as he was affectionately known, and Yorkshire has always held a strong role in the work of our Association. The Yorkshire Committee was formed right from the start and our own Constitution and Standing Orders were written soon after with official local AGMs and regular Saturday General meeting for all local members to be able to express their views. Yorkshire has never been without an Executive Representative and so has been able to take these ideas back to the Executive Committee for us. Over the years our other Executive Representatives have been: Bernadette Wade, Matt Hunter, Jean Wing, Elizabeth McMillan, Dave Etchell, Ramsey Hertzog, Maureen Bowman and now of course Lesley Sleigh. But Yorkshire has also made its mark at Officer level too, Brian Fox, Elizabeth McMillan, Jean Hertzog (Previously Jean Wing), and Ramsey Hertzog have all held the role of Association Chairman, with Brian, Elizabeth and Jean serving in other Officer roles too. Dave Etchell, and now Malcolm White, have both served as Vice-Chairman - we have certainly played a prominent part.

The Yorkshire Committee has also held together through the years, with the hard work and the dedication of so many volunteers, it has continued to present a varied programme of events. The Saturday Meetings three times a year, with a speaker and then a general discussion meeting, continue with topics covering every imaginable interest. All of the activities, are open to all members and their friends and family and if you have never ventured to join in, then you are certainly missing great opportunities to experience places and activities you might never have otherwise considered and of course there is the friendship of likeminded people - comradeship that spans the generations.

AOUG in Yorkshire also has two extra strings to its bow. The first our very own charity Yorkshire Open University Graduates Educational Trust (YOUGET) that was formed by members of the early Committee - Jim Burton, Brian Fox, Malcolm Anderson and Bernadette Wade, to give awards to new OU graduates who despite adversity, had gained their degrees and were going on to further OU study. After all these years, despite dwindling donations, this charity still exists and still continues to offer these awards. Secondly, the AOUG Walking Group, again formed in the early days of AOUG in Yorkshire, this group is also still going strong. Organised by Ginny Feeney, and now incorporating as many non AOUG folk as AOUG members, the Walking Group is very active with an annual programme of walks of varying length and challenges, planned each January for the year ahead.

So now AOUG's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year is rapidly approaching and with it a set of new challenges. Our beloved Olga, died earlier this year, to join the many other deeply missed members and time does not stand still for any of us. The changes within The Open University have created the need for change for our Association and we need to focus on different methods of communication to raise awareness of AOUG but Yorkshire is still here however your support is needed. Lesley finishes her Term of Office as Executive Representative next May, so who is ready to pick up the reins? YOUGET needs more donations to continue its work and the Walking group are always ready to welcome new members. Then there are the Anniversary celebrations to look forward to. Yorkshire loves the opportunity to celebrate and we celebrated the 21<sup>st</sup> Anniversary in style, so what will 2013 bring, what will you do, how will you get involved? Here's to AOUG in Yorkshire's next 25 years!

**Jean Hertzog**

## Diary Dates

DATE	EVENT
Frid 5 <sup>th</sup> Oct	AOUG Foundation for Education Research Awards Ceremony and Annual Foundation Lecture on OU campus at Milton Keynes - Tickets in advance £8 to include a buffet lunch from AOUG Office 01908 653316 <a href="mailto:aoug@open.ac.uk">aoug@open.ac.uk</a>
Sat. 20 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Meet for coffee at 10am for Saturday meeting at the Friends Meeting House, York with an academic speaker at 10.30 am Bring your own lunch. Discussion meeting in the afternoon.
Wed. 24 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Meet in the bar area of the Doncaster Dome Bowling Alley at 7pm for our annual tenpin bowling challenge against OUSA. No skill required, just a willingness to have a good time. Contact Derrick Franks
Early November To be confirmed Due to delay in tour company information.	Join other members for a min-cruise to Amsterdam. Sailing overnight from Hull, with a full day in Amsterdam before the return overnight crossing.  Contact Jean Hertzog <a href="mailto:jrhertzog@hotmail.com">jrhertzog@hotmail.com</a> for all the details.
Sat. 17 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Meet in Café Rouge at 11am next to Sheffield Town Hall before touring Sheffield Millennium Galleries. Contact Jean Hertzog. NB. Special event: "Christmas Crackers" a feast of original craft and design, will be running which offers affordable alternative to High Street gifts, all handmade in the UK.
Sat. 1 <sup>st</sup> Dec	Meet 12 noon for Lunch in the West Yorkshire Playhouse restaurant prior to the matinee of 'Wind in the Willows'. Please purchase your own theatre ticket direct from the box office. Contact Joyce Johnson
Sat 16 <sup>th</sup> Feb – To be confirmed	Saturday Meeting - Harrogate Methodist Chapel - "Bring a Thing" – Bring one object that has some significance to yourself and then all members who wish give individual talks of 5-10 mins each on their object. Meet 10 for Coffee - Speakers 10.30am - ? BYO lunch followed by General Saturday Meeting at around 2pm
Sat 16 <sup>th</sup> March.	Meet 11am at Carol-Anne's home for Brunch - then afternoon visit to Golcar Museum. Contact Carol-Ann Churm for details
Sat 20 <sup>th</sup> April To be confirmed	Details to be arranged Prov: 11am for coffee - 11.30am - Tour of York Cemetery
Wed 9 <sup>th</sup> May	Meet 7pm in bar at Doncaster Dome Complex Bowling Alley - 7.30pm Challenge against OUSA Contact Jean Hertzog

## Contact Details

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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>
Walking Group	Ginny Feeney	8 Sandy Gate Hebden Bridge, HX 7 8HZ	01422 847008 <a href="mailto:ginnyf@talktalk.net">ginnyf@talktalk.net</a>

**Did you receive this Newsletter by post? If so, do you have an e-mail address we may use? Or maybe you would be prepared to donate some stamps to assist with postage costs? Please contact the Secretary, Lesley Sleigh. Thank you for your co-operation with this.**