



## Autumn Update 2014

Dear Fellow Members

I always think of autumn as a time of beginnings—probably because of all the years of back-to-school for the children and for me as a teacher. It is also a time when interest groups renew themselves and gear up for the active winter ahead.

At the Yorkshire Ladies we have some changes on the way. Your Executive Committee is looking at re-organising the structure of the Council so that more members can take part in the life of the Council. Also I have decided that it is time for me to retire from the office of Chairman. I have served for 20 years in this post and someone else with fresh ideas and the energy to carry them out should take my place. I will chair my last AGM in February 2016 so leaving plenty of time for finding a new chair.

The chairman is elected from the Executive Committee and we would like each Yorkshire Lady to consider whether she herself would like to serve on this Committee as a Trustee/Director of YLCE or whether she could nominate a friend or someone she deems competent to do this job.

The Executive Committee has always been a friendly group and will welcome new members. Please think about filling this position and let me or the Office know before 1 November by telephone, letter or email using the information on your address sheets.

Meanwhile, welcome back to an Autumn/Winter full of events and friendly gatherings. I look forward to seeing you on 6 November at the Social Committee's pre-Christmas lunch and fair at St Chad's.

Warmest (we may need them if the forecast is right) best wishes to you all.

Nancy Donner

## DOREEN IRIS MARSDEN



All members of the Yorkshire Ladies' Council will have been saddened by the news of the death of Doreen Marsden on 19 June this year.

Doreen was a quiet unostentatious lady always mindful of the needs of others. There can be few Yorkshire Ladies, past or present, who have not appreciated an act of kindness or sympathy from Doreen at a time of need. I personally did. I counted her a great friend and was glad to continue our friendship when Doreen moved to Edinburgh and I visited my family there.

Doreen suffered sadness in her life; the loss of one son in a road accident, the loss of her doctor daughter to cancer and the too early death of Philip her husband. But happily she took great pleasure in the travelling exploits of her three granddaughters and in their academic achievements. And she revelled in her gardens here in Leeds and then in Edinburgh. She loved music and was a great supporter of the Leeds International Piano Competition. In fact music played by Radu Lupu, an LIPC winner was played at her funeral.

Doreen believed strongly in women's education and all her life she worked to increase opportunities for women to broaden their education, obtain qualifications and develop their ability to contribute equally with men to society.

The YLCE provided the ideal vehicle through which she could further her beliefs, especially after the sale of the Secretarial College in 1988 which she as Honorary Treasurer negotiated. Then with Jillian Rennie, her great friend, the Awards Committee was set up. Doreen chaired this Committee for 12 years and the structures and systems she set up still hold.

Hundreds of women have reason to be grateful to Doreen and that venture. Doreen became a Vice-President in 2002.

Doreen was conscious too of the needs of older women, especially those alone. She was much involved in the establishment of Forest Hill. She was Company Secretary of the Yorkshire Ladies' Council (Hostels) Ltd until 1987. In the early years she and Philip provided 'hands on help' from their home nearby!

Doreen gave valiant service to YLCE in many roles. We are grateful for her generous and conscientious support and we are glad we knew her.

Mary Herbert

## Awards Committee

Life as a member of the Awards Committee is never dull. Would you be interested in joining us? There will be a vacancy on the committee in September 2015 and we would welcome applications from members of the Council. Information about the committee and the application procedure is available in this Newsletter.

The June and September meetings brought 154 applications for personal awards and 54 were granted. The committee also agreed to renew its yearly grants to The School of Music in the University of Leeds, to provide funding for the historic YLCE /Clarkson scholarships and to the Leeds College of Music to provide postgraduate Yorkshire Ladies' Council of Education Scholarships for women.

Your committee is privileged to receive many letters of thanks and appreciation from award holders. These continue to confirm (if confirmation were needed) the value of our work. An unusual and moving letter was recently received from a woman who the committee was unable to help. She expressed her gratitude for our consideration of her application and understood why, when there are so many applicants, her application had not been successful. She also supported our decision to provide an award to a woman who was less fortunate than herself.

Many YLCE award holders are high fliers and will undoubtedly be future leaders in their chosen fields. One young award holder is studying for an MA in Glass Conservation and Heritage Management in the University of York. She wrote to thank the Council for her award. She writes that she is enjoying the course and is pleased to report that she is doing well. She describes her enjoyment of the theoretical study of heritage conservation and management as well as practical

workshop experience. She has been involved in helping to restore ancient glass and is learning new glass production techniques appropriate to modern decorative glass designs. She has already had responsibility in helping to fit gallery skylights in a prestigious modern building in Glasgow.

The Awards holders, and members of your committee, are fully aware that it is due to YOU, the members of the Council, that funds are available to provide the much appreciated awards and scholarships. We all thank you for your continuing support.

Isobel Jenkins

## FOREST HILL

Those of you who have known of Forest Hill for many years will be sad to hear that Mrs Doreen Marsden died in June surrounded by her family at her home in Edinburgh. In a voluntary capacity, she was the Company Secretary/Administrator for many years in the 1970s and 1980s, she organised the building of the north and south wings in 1974 and the refurbishment of the house and annexe thus converting the rest of the building into self contained flats in 1986. She retired in 1987 when her position was taken by me as an employee. I shall always be grateful for all the help and kindness she gave me.

After serving for twenty years on the House Committee Miss Barbara Neale resigned but will remain on the Board of Directors. We thank her for all she has done for Forest Hill, we shall miss her charm and wisdom, but welcome her continued support on the Board.

After many months the work installing replacement windows is almost complete and seems to have been carried out with minimum disruption to the residents. The staff are to be thanked for their efforts in making the undertaking as smooth as possible. Everyone is pleased with the result and we look forward to a warm and draught free winter.

There have been several changes of residents over the past few months, some have moved into further care and sadly Miss Mary Hill died in August. She had been a resident at Forest Hill for over ten years and had been a strong member of the small group of representatives attending the House Committee meetings and also helped with the organisation of the Music Group. Three flats are vacant and are being prepared for re-letting in November.

The day of the Garden Party in June was bright, sunny and warm and was enjoyed by those who attended. The attendance was much less than in past years so it has been agreed to hold next year's event on a Thursday, not on a Saturday which was tried as an experiment this year. After the receipt of some generous donations the amount raised for the Amenities Fund at Forest Hill was £508.

The residents are now looking forward to the activities organised for them through the winter months by Kathryn Taylor - Manager and Tess Watach - Resident Supervisor.

The House Committee is looking for some new members, we welcome any member of the YLCE who is interested in helping to make the lives of those living at Forest Hill as happy and fulfilled as possible.

Patricia Hollis

## PROJECTS COMMITTEE

We returned to the familiar surroundings of St Chad's Parish Centre for our Coffee Morning in May this year. As ever, our guests enjoyed coffee, biscuits and the opportunity to purchase cakes and home-made produce, plants, knitting patterns and supplies, cards and good quality second hand books. Although there was a smaller attendance than usual, thanks to the generosity of our supporters and guests, we raised over £430. Grateful thanks are due to the caretaking staff of St Chad's Parish Centre as well as to all the kind volunteers from outside our committee who helped to make the morning such a success.

Carol O'Connor of the Inside Outside Club at St Gregory's Church, Seacroft, brought a photographic display and spoke about the work of the special needs' teacher funded by money raised by the Projects' Committee over the years. We also heard a moving account of the educational and support work provided for homeless women at St George's Crypt at Leeds where extra funding is needed for programmes promoting women's self-esteem and life skills which enable those facing desperate challenges to start to take more control over their lives.

Following the Coffee Morning the Projects' Committee sent £250 to St Gregory's and £100 to St George's Crypt.

As we are all aware, fundraising at every level has become increasingly difficult over the past few, challenging years. Next year the Projects Committee hopes, in

particular, to continue to support the Inside Outside Club at St Gregory's, which is situated in one of the most deprived areas of Leeds. Our 2015 Coffee Morning is already booked and will take place on Thursday 19th March, again at St Chad's Parish Centre. Please come and support us - we look forward to seeing you there!

Margaret Pullan

## SOCIAL COMMITTEE

Support was given by the Social Committee to the Projects Coffee morning in May, by helping on the Cake Stall and serving Coffee.

On Thursday the 6th November 2014 we will be holding our Annual Christmas Home-Made Food Fare and Sandwich Lunch at St. Chad's Parish Centre, Far Headingley Leeds LS16 5JT. From 11.30am-2.30 pm. The Stall in addition to the Food Stall will be: Phoenix Cards, Selling Festive Cards and Cards for all Occasions, Handbags, Purses, Scarves, Jewellery, Books, and a new Stall, Mouse Patch which sells delightful, small crochet Mice in little shoulder bags full of accessories, an ideal gift for a little girl. There will also be a Raffle.

Please support this event, bring your Friends, and help us to make this a successful occasion, the proceeds are for the Charity we are supporting Home Start. A Charity which offers support and Friendship to Families in local communities through home visiting, to help Parents build better lives for their Children.

Parent Volunteers are trained and supported by paid staff, the volunteers work with parents and children and visit a Family in their own home for 2-3 hours a week for as long as a Family needs them, or until the youngest child reaches 5 years. Support is given to Families who may be struggling to cope with a variety of challenging situations such as: Post Natal illness, Disability, Isolation, the demands of parenting young children, Bereavement, Multiple Births, helping to prevent these difficulties from escalating into a crisis that can cause Family breakdown. A Representative from the Charity will give a short presentation of their work at 12-45pm.

The Social Committee would welcome any Members of the YLCE who would like to join us on the Committee.

Gill Milner

## **WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBER.....**

My name is Chris Turney and I was first made aware of the work of the YLCE by Liz Thring when I was still working, but this year, now retired, I was contacted by Rosemary Ward inviting me to join with a few others to hear one of the Award recipients explaining the benefit she had gained from the award.

Maria Preston gave a thought provoking talk not only saying how the Council had helped her pursue her studies but how that growing expertise and knowledge was now shaping her future. I realised how easy my past had been acquiring a nursing qualification at The London Hospital that stood me in good stead, always having a job and a roof over my head as a result.

I emigrated from Kent to Leeds over 30 years ago with two young children who have also benefited from an easy path through their education, and I was able to continue working until last year.

As in work, I am busy in retirement but do hope I can make a useful contribution to the organisation.

**Christine Turney**

## **MEMBER NEWS**

### **New Members**

Mrs C Turney

### **Resignations**

Mrs Marie Innes

Mrs Gudrun Hopper

### **Deaths**

Mrs D Marsden

## DATES FOR THE DIARY

Social Committee Sandwich lunch                      Thursday 6 November 11.30 am

Annual General Meeting                              Monday 2 February

Executive Committee Meetings:                      Monday 24 November

    Monday 26 January

    Monday 30 March

    Monday 29 June

    Monday 28 September

Projects Committee Meetings:                      Monday 17 November

Social Committee Meetings:                         Thursday 15 January

## NEW MEMBERS EVENINGS

As part of the drive to recruit new members to YLCE, members of the Executive Committee have held a couple of social evenings to promote the work of YLCE and tell friends and acquaintances that may be interested in joining a little more about our work. The evenings are a small informal gathering with an Award holder giving a short talk on their studies and achievements. The evenings have also been an opportunity for new members to come along and meet a few more people.

If you are interested in arranging a similar evening or know of friends that may be interested in coming along to any future evenings arranged by others, please let Phillida know – [admin@ylce.org](mailto:admin@ylce.org) or 0113 269 1471.