

*Unfortunately, Kim, our trusty Editor, has been unable to produce this Springs Newsletter. We have therefore put together more of a "Bulletin" to keep you all up to date with our activities and future events. Hopefully normal service will be resumed very soon but in the meantime please bear with us!*

## **Letter from our Chairman**

Dear Fellow Members

Hurrah! Spring has come and I am taller and walking farther each day after successful spinal surgery. I want to thank all of you who offered me good wishes through this difficult time. Just knowing you cared that much cheered me on.

In my absence, the Executive Committee has begun its review of good governance as required by the Charity Commission. Sadly, our membership is falling, mostly though old age and its consequences but sometimes through lack of interest. What could the Yorkshire Ladies offer to members that would be more attractive? This is not a rhetorical question--I would love to hear your thoughts on the matter. The Council's main aim is to support women through their education or training so that they can become more useful contributors to the world we all live in. Some of our members are very keen on this aspect of our work. Other members enjoy our events, the friendships they engender and the broader range of educational projects they support. Why did you join? What would make your friends want to join? Are there new roles we could offer them? Should we change our aims and objects (last defined in 1904) to make them more useful in 2014 and beyond? Would a different structure better secure such new objectives? These are the hard questions we must all consider and answer or the Yorkshire Ladies will quietly fade away! Please get in touch with me personally through my contact information in your address list or through the office.

Meanwhile, the Rennie Appeal continues. We have had some very generous contributions as well as many smaller donations raised at some very innovative events. All are valued as signs of the commitment Yorkshire Ladies show towards the students whose fees they help to pay. The current total funds collected since the start of the campaign in February 2013 stands at over £20,000. Well done, ladies! Please keep the fundraising going.

I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at our upcoming events, the Projects committee's Coffee Morning on May 20 and the Forest Hill Garden Party on 14 June. May the sun shine on us!

Happy springtide!

Nancy Donner

## Awards Committee

The YLCE AGM is always an interesting and enjoyable day. This year it was particularly so for me as, in addition to the informative business meeting and delicious lunch, I was very pleased to be able to welcome two former YLCE Awards holders with whom I had corresponded. It was a great pleasure to actually meet Maria Preston and Laura Davidson and learn more about their lives; their studies and their hopes for the future. I am sure, that like me, you felt that all of the hard work of the Council in helping women to develop sound careers is very worthwhile. The members of the Awards committee are also grateful to members for their donations to Awards and to their support for the Jillian Rennie Appeal.

The Appeal has encouraged many former awards recipients to get in touch to thank members of the Council for grants which have helped to pay, often crippling, course fees. Some are also in a position to make a donation to the Appeal.

It was good to hear from Joanne Wilson recently. She wrote to tell us that with help from the YLCE she is looking forward to becoming a fully qualified solicitor in May this year. Joanne received a YLCE award in June 2009 to help to finance her post graduate Legal Practice course in the University of Westminster. Before that she read for a degree in Law and considers herself fortunate that her undergraduate fees were 'only' £3000 a year. As a school girl she had always been interested in Law and resolved to become solicitor in spite of being visually impaired. She is now, after many years of study pleased to be completing her training. She hopes to be able to find a secure post; begin her career in earnest and start to pay off her loans! Joanne expresses her sincere gratitude to the members of the YLCE for their help.

At the January and March meetings of the Awards committee this year 94 applications for personal awards were considered and 44 granted.

2014 has brought some changes to the Awards committee. Mrs Gillian Andrews has agreed to become deputy chairman and will take responsibility for some of the meetings during the year. The committee will benefit from Mrs Andrews energy, organisation and good humour. In addition Mrs Margaret Bradbury, the Hon secretary of the YLCE, who has been an *ex officio* member of the committee for many years, felt it was time to make way for a new member. We will miss Mrs Bradbury's contribution to our discussions and her unfailing support for the work of the committee and interest in the students. We are pleased that Mrs Helen Owens accepted an invitation to join us and we look forward to working with her and benefitting from her sound judgement and experience of the world of business.

Isobel Jenkins

## FOREST HILL

At the Annual General Meeting held in December Mrs Mary Herbert retired from the Board of Directors and Mrs Gwynneth Owen relinquished her role as Chairman of the House Committee. Both Mary and Gwynneth had served in their respective roles for very many years and were presented with gifts to say thank you for all their work and support.

Mrs Kathy Hart and Ms Christine Naylor were welcomed to the Board.

After many months of planning and discussion it has been agreed to appoint Paragon Developments of Ilkley to carry out the work of replacing the windows in the annexe and the main house. The windows in the main house will be wood (like for like) but in the annexe upvc windows will be installed. It is hoped that the work will be undertaken in April or May.

At the beginning of January the alarm system failed and had to be replaced as the parts were unobtainable and the system was obsolete. The work was carried out in February and is now running well. Our thanks go to Tess Watach who stayed available 24 hours a day 7 days a week throughout the 7 weeks the system was down.

The 2 altered flats were let at the beginning of December and there were no vacancies until February. There are 2 flats available at present, one of which needs a great deal of refurbishment so will not be ready for occupancy until May.

The late Mrs Mary Brown, who was a resident at Forest Hill for many years, has bequeathed a sum of money to be spent for the benefit of the residents and it has been agreed to purchase a bench in her memory to be placed in the courtyard.

Various entertainments were arranged for the residents over the Christmas period: a pantomime, carols sung by the Badgers from St Edmund's Church, and a new year's eve party organised by the residents themselves. The House Committee gave a tea party in March which was well attended.

The annual Garden Party is to take place on a Saturday this year to enable residents' families to attend. The Rev David Paton-Williams, vicar of St Edmund's Church has kindly agreed to open the event which will take place on Saturday 14 June at 2 30 p m. We do hope that many YLCE members will be able to attend to support the staff and the members of the House Committee who work so hard for the enjoyment and comfort of the residents of Forest Hill.

PATRICIA HOLLIS

## **Social Committee**

In November 2013 we held our Annual Christmas Food Fare and Sandwich Lunch at St. Chad's Church Parish Centre, which has proved to be a popular venue. The Stalls all looked most attractive, the Food Stall had a large array of tasty Christmas treats, all made by members of the Social Committee, which sold very well.

After a successful and enjoyable Lunchtime we were able to donate £500 to Horticap the Charity we were supporting.

Horticap is a Charity based at Bluecoat Wood Nurseries Harrogate, established in the early 1980's. Qualified staff and a Team of Volunteers provide adults with learning difficulties training in Horticulture, allied crafts, rural and personal skills, numeracy, literacy and independence.

We have received a kind letter of thanks and appreciation for our Donation from Pauline Shorter Administration Manager at Horticap, and an Invitation for the Committee to have a visit and Tour of the Nurseries in the summer.

On the 3rd February 2014 the Social Committee provided the Buffet Lunch at the AGM, we were joined by the 2 speakers Laurie and Marie who were both recipients of an Award, and our President Lady Halifax joined them for lunch, they all said how much they had enjoyed the Lunch.

I have also received a very kind letter of thanks and appreciation to the Committee for the delicious Lunch, from Margaret Bradbury the Hon. Secretary of the Executive Committee

Gill Milner

## Welcome to our New Members.....



My name is Penny Woolhouse and I am an old girl of Wakefield Girls' High School, a Leicester University law graduate and a Solicitor by training. I was the first woman partner at Green Williamson & Way, Solicitors in Wakefield and specialised in Child Care and Family Law representing the interests of children. I am married to a solicitor and have three teenage children who I am currently helping with their University applications, work experience, option choices for GCSE and A Level and GCSE revision. I am the daughter and granddaughter of teachers and have always been encouraged to value education and the opportunities it brings for a happy and successful life.

I am enjoying an extended career break but am extremely busy with various organisations in our village and church where I organise events and help with fund raising. I play tennis and love walking in the Peak District, watching cricket and adventure holidays with the family.

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My name is Janet Mills and I was introduced to the Yorkshire Ladies Council of Education by Françoise Logan who invited me to the afternoon recital and strawberry tea at the College of Music last summer at which I saw firsthand the benefits that the Council were able to give to young women in further education. Françoise and I know each other through both our husbands being in the same Rotary Club.

After retiring as a teacher ten years ago I have worked as a volunteer for the National Trust and for a local charity running social activities for the elderly disabled. I am also a trustee and the treasurer for a rare disease charity Save Babies Through Screening Foundation UK which raises funds to support families who lose their young children to the rare Krabbes disease, to raise awareness of the importance of getting this disease on to the newborn screening programme in the UK and for research in to effective treatment for this disease.

My hobby for many years has been singing in a ladies' barbershop chorus called The White Rosettes, a very successful chorus nationally and internationally in the barbershop world. We have won fourteen gold medals two European gold medals, have sung several times in the Royal Albert Hall in the Sainsbury's Choir of the Year competition and also in the final of the International Eisteddfod. Singing keeps me very busy! And so does being a member of Inner Wheel and helping out my family of two daughters when needed to look after dogs (no grandchildren yet) and when I put my feet up at the end of the day I love to read!

## **New Members**

Ms Penny Hemming

Mrs Janet Mills

Mrs Penelope Woolhouse

## **New Honorary Members**

Mrs Freda Hullin

## **Resignations**

Mrs Marie Holland

Mrs Nancy Fitton

## **Deaths**

Dr Gabrielle Ibberson

Mrs Elizabeth Whitaker OBE

## **The Yorkshire Ladies' Council of Education**

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*Executive Committee:*

*Mrs N A Donner*

*Awards Committee:*

*Mrs I Jenkins*

*Forest Hill House Committee:*

*Mrs P C Hollis*

*Fundraising Committee:*

*Mrs E J Peacock*

*Projects Committee:*

*Mrs M J Pullan*

*Social Committee:*

*Mrs G P Milner*

## **Dates for the diary**

### **Projects Coffee Morning**

Tuesday 20 May 10.30, St Chad's Parish Centre

### **Forest Hill Garden Party**

Saturday 14 June

### **Executive Committee Meetings**

Monday 30 June 2014

Monday 29 September 2014

Monday 24 November 2014 – Annual Meeting

### **Awards Committee Meeting**

Friday 20 June 2014

### **Projects Committee Meeting**

Friday 20 June 2014

### **Social Committee Meetings**

Friday 20 June 2014