



Autumn 2013

Yorkshire Ladies' Council of Education

Sandwich Lunch and Christmas Fare

*Thursday 7th November, 11.30am - 2.00pm
At St Chad's Parish Centre*

Annual General Meeting

*Monday 3rd February 2014, 11.45am
At St Chad's Parish Centre*

Executive Committee meetings (5 per annum)

Monday 25 November 2013 - Annual Meeting

Monday 27 January 2014

Monday 31 March 2014

Monday 30 June 2014

Monday 29 September 2014

Awards Committee meetings (4 per annum)

Friday, 10 days prior to each Executive Committee meeting

Forest Hill House Committee meetings (11 per annum)

1st Wednesday monthly, excluding August

Projects Committee meetings (2-3 per annum)

Monday 10 March 2014, 10.15am

Social Committee meetings (2-3 per annum)

Thursday 16 January 2014, 10.15am

Coffee Morning *Tuesday 20 May 2014, 10.30am*

Forest Hill Garden Party *Date to be decided*

Editor!

Were this publication the first contact a person had with the Yorkshire Ladies' they could be forgiven for believing that we are consumed with eating - *forgive the pun!* - a coffee morning, garden party, summer luncheon, two afternoon teas and the promise of a sandwich lunch with Christmas food for sale!

Yes, it really has been a busy six months since the last Newsletter and in that time much food has been consumed, though only as part of the important activities that have taken place.

Many thanks to all who have contributed to this Newsletter, reflecting on the various activities, the fun that has been had and the good that has been achieved.

You are getting so much better at responding to my requests for articles with much less resistance, and even offering articles spontaneously, which is great for me, thank you.

I hope you enjoy reading this Newsletter, and participating in the 'spot yourself in a photograph' activity that I hear has become a regular amongst Yorkshire Ladies!

Kim Knowles

Letter from our Chairman

Dear Fellow Members

Blackberries, plums and crab-apples have been gathered in and stored in jams and freezer to be brought out and enjoyed in the dark days to come. So too does the Jillian Rennie Appeal store funds as capital so the income may be used by women students struggling to gain the qualifications they need to earn their own way to brighter days ahead.

Since the launch of the JR Appeal in February about £12,000 has been added to the Awards Fund of which £6175 came from Jill Rennie's own bequest and £2000 from an annual grant from the Baker Tilly Trust. The rest of the funds have come from generous donations to the Appeal or from monies raised by the wonderful events organised by our YLCE members.

I think that my favourite thing about fundraising efforts is that we all get to see more of one another. There was a great buzz when we got together at the recital and afternoon tea at the College of Music and at the open garage and display of veteran and vintage cars with a delicious homemade tea in Pontefract and again at the Devonshire Hall luncheon. We do thank most warmly Francoise Logan, Liz Thring and Mary Herbert respectively who arranged these events over the summer and their husbands and friends who helped. Other occasions have happened or will be taking place over the coming months and we all appreciate the efforts of those who organise them and those who attend and bring their friends.

In the near future I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the Sandwich Lunch on 7 November at St Chad's Parish Centre. Meanwhile, enjoy the colours of autumn whether they be found in falling leaves or jewel-like jams.

With all best wishes

Nancy Donner

Social Committee

Several Members of the Social Committee helped at the Projects Committee Coffee Morning held in May, and served tea at the Forest Hill Garden Party in June.

After the lovely summer we have had it doesn't seem possible that Christmas is not all that far away. We will be holding our Sandwich Lunch and Christmas Food Fare on Thursday 7 November at St. Chad's Parish Centre, far Headingley, which proved to be an excellent venue last year, as there is plenty of room and ample parking. All the Christmas food for the stall will be provided by members of the committee, Phoenix cards will be present selling greeting cards and wrapping paper, both seasonal and for other occasions. There will again be a stall selling handbags, purses and scarves, and a secondhand bookstall and CDs. Elizabeth Peacock has kindly offered to provide a stall of her very attractive Jewellery. There will also be a raffle. Please support this event, bring your friends, so we can make a profit and send the proceeds to the charity we are supporting this year, which is Horticap.

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 disabilities training in Horticulture, allied crafts and rural skills, personal skills, numeracy, literacy and independence. There is a range of greenhouses, poly-tunnels, joinery workshops, and classrooms. There is a retail outlet selling gardening accessories, perennials, bedding plants and shrubs, cultivated by students and staff. In early spring garden maintenance contracts commence with students, under staff supervision, working at private houses and business premises. This provides students with valuable experience of work in the community. A representative from Horticap will give a short presentation of their work at the Sandwich Lunch.

This year we also hope to give a donation to the Awards Committee from our existing Funds.

Gill Milner

Awards Committee

The spring and summer months have been particularly busy for the Awards Committee this year. The June and September quarterly meetings of the committee brought in over 200 applications to the YLCE office in Forest Hill, of which 180 were eligible to be considered. These were scrutinized carefully by the committee and, after sometimes intense discussion, grants were awarded to fifty five women and one hundred and twenty five refused.

In addition, during April, a working party of volunteers met over three afternoons to send letters to past award holders and members telling them of The Jillian Rennie Appeal and asking for donations. A total of 500 letters were dispatched. This activity resulted in some welcome donations to The Appeal and also some interesting letters and emails from former award holders. One young woman who is working successfully as a veterinarian explained that she was extremely grateful to the YLCE but is unable to provide a donation at the moment as the monthly repayments of her academic debts are so large.

A happier response was from Lucy Williams, who members will remember gave a recital of songs at the YLCE AGM in 2010. Since she visited Leeds she has been working with Scottish Opera and BBC singers. She is now living in Austria where she is learning German and obtaining a good deal of experience in the chorus at the Stadtheater, Klagenfurt. She is making the most of the opportunity to widen her experience. She is singing Lieder as well as taking part in some Wagner and Richard Strauss operas in several of the many German and Austrian city opera houses. She expresses her thanks to the Yorkshire Ladies for providing support for her at a difficult time.



Your Awards Committee continues to provide small scholarships to women postgraduates in The University of Leeds School of Music and Leeds College of Music. Each institution has an extensive programme of concerts, recitals and master classes this autumn and winter and YLCE members would be most welcome to attend.

Isobel Jenkins

Music for You...

The YLCE has long-standing connections with the The University of Leeds School of Music and Leeds College of Music. Both have a full and varied programme of recitals, concerts and master classes throughout the autumn and winter.

Full information about all events is available from:

'WHAT'S ON'

Leeds College of Music, 3 Quarry Hill, Leeds, LS2 7PD

www.lcm.ac.uk/what-s-on

Box office 0113 222 3434

INTERNATIONAL CONCERT SERIES

The Concert Administrator, School of Music,

University of Leeds, Leeds, LS2 9JT

www.concerts.leeds.ac.uk

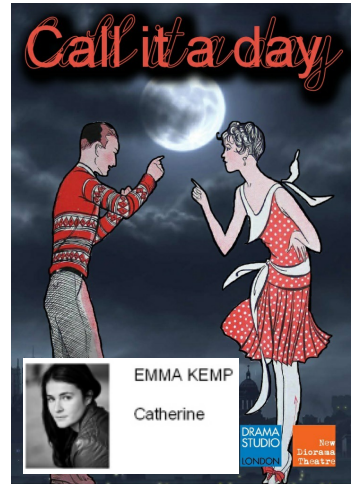
0113 343 2584

concerts@leeds.ac.uk

An unexpected invitation...

It isn't every day you are offered complimentary tickets to a theatre production in London by a leading lady!

Emma Kemp, the recipient of a Yorkshire Ladies' Council of Education grant for 2011/12, was coming to the end of her two-year postgraduate course in acting at the Drama Studio, London. She emailed the YLCE office saying how grateful she was for the Yorkshire Ladies' Council of Education donation and offering complimentary tickets for her graduation performance of Dodie Smith's 'Call it a day'. Phillida sent the email to Isobel Jenkins who forwarded it to the Awards Committee. It just so happened that my husband and I were planning a little holiday in London at the beginning of July which coincided with Emma's play. We immediately sent off an email accepting her kind offer of tickets.



We duly took our seats in the New Diorama Theatre, off the Euston Road, at 7.30 pm on Wednesday 3 July along with other invited guests of the cast. The play, a romantic comedy, depicted a day in the life of the middle class Hilton family and my goodness what a day! Four out of the five members of the family became entangled in love affairs in act two which had to be disentangled by the end of act three. Emma Kemp took the part of 18-year-old Catherine Hilton hopelessly in love with a married artist several years her senior.

The play was very light-hearted with several amusing lines so we relaxed after our very busy day of sightseeing and enjoyed ourselves.

I am sure we will hear more of Yorkshire born Emma. She is going to keep us informed of future professional work particularly if she is touring in the north of England. Perhaps we will be seeing her at The Grand or The Playhouse. Olivia de Havilland took the part of Catherine Hilton in the 1937 film version of 'Call it a day'. It certainly helped her career. Let's hope it helps Emma's.

Audrey Sharp

Projects Committee

We had a change of venue in 2013 when our Coffee Morning took place at St Chad's Parish Centre. The surroundings are familiar, of course, to many of our members as it is where the Annual General Meetings of the YLCE are held. As ever, our guests enjoyed coffee and biscuits and the opportunity to



browse and purchase cakes and home-made produce, plants, hand-made jewellery, cards and good quality second hand books. Thanks to the generosity of all our supporters, we raised over £485. Grateful thanks are due to the care-taking 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.



We had two guest speakers at the Coffee Morning this year: Carol O'Connor of the Inside Outside Club at St Gregory's Church, Seacroft, thanked the Projects' Committee for its long-standing support. Money raised by the Coffee Morning helps to fund their extra needs teacher. We also heard a moving account of the educational and support work provided for homeless women at St George's Crypt, Leeds, where even our

small contribution will help with programmes designed to promote self-esteem and life skills enabling those in despair and 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 £150 to St George's Crypt. Fundraising does not get any easier in hard economic times but we are assured even these comparatively modest sums will make a big difference.

Next year the Projects Committee hopes to continue to support both organisations with their valuable work. The 2014 Coffee Morning is already booked and will take place on Tuesday 20 May, again at St Chad's Parish Centre. We look forward to seeing you there!

Margaret Pullen



Thank goodness it wasn't held outside in a garden!

When I picked rhubarb at 8.00am to take to the garden stall the wind was from the north and it was bitterly cold. When I met Tricia's husband, Francis, at St Chad's Parish Centre he told me the temperature had been down to 4 degrees during the previous night. It didn't seem much warmer at 11am!

The geraniums which Dylis had potted up had grown a small amount only during the cold weather. The aquilegia and the streptocarpus hadn't done much better. Olaf, since moving house, has no greenhouse but he had done a great job carrying plants in and out each day. One plant, oxalis, was especially interesting. Rhubarb did very well this 'spring' and the good supply was quickly sold.

At the end of the morning everything on the garden stall was sold and the takings were about £72.

Brian Welch



Forest Hill

A great deal has happened in the last few months!

The two new flats have duly been completed and are ready for letting, the new website is up and running and two new cameras have been put up to cover the Entrance doors. The saga of the Double Glazing continues - 3 estimates have been received and are under consideration. There are 4 empty flats at present, the 2 new ones and numbers 9 and 10 . We have placed adverts at various points and now await results.



The Garden Party day dawned fine and sunny (for a change) and the residents and guests were able to sit in the sun in the quad. Because I was having a significant birthday this year I was invited to open the event! I shared some of my memories of the early days, circa 1952, and the very formidable ladies who set up Forest Hill. The sum of £537.35 was raised on the day.



On 1 August, Yorkshire Day, the members of the House Committee entertained all the residents to a Strawberry Tea Party. It was a very enjoyable occasion.

On 14 August we had a Special Visitor, Joey the Donkey, from the Donkey Sanctuary. Joey charmed the residents who raised £100 in aid of the Sanctuary.

Mr. Brown, our annual visitor from Canada, spent 14 weeks in one of our guest rooms playing bowls every day. He has now returned home.

A Computer and wifi has been installed in a corner of the lounge for the use of the residents. Mr. Michael Hassell has offered to teach anyone interested and already two members have taken up the offer.

A fashion show was given by Jeremy, from a local firm, who showed some good clothes at good prices. He will shortly return to show his Autumn/Winter Collection.

From 1 September we have increased the cost of the meals served at Forest Hill to keep up with the ever increasing market costs. We also now buy food in bulk and this has cut our costs so that the meals are still a bargain.

And a date for your diary - on **4 December**, at 5pm, there will be a Panto at Forest Hill, followed by carols and a finger buffet supper, and you are invited to come along and enjoy the fun!

Gwynneth Owen

The JR Appeal Song Recital & Afternoon Tea

The Jillian Rennie Appeal was truly 'launched' at an afternoon recital on 17 June at Leeds College of Music featuring our two most recent scholarship holders. The recital was efficiently promoted and organised by Francoise Logan resulting in a substantial and enthusiastic audience. We were entertained by Martha Howard and Heather Coulton, two very different performances from two very talented young women.



Martha is studying for a Masters in Performance having studied Music at the University of Aberdeen. She and her accompanist, Nico de Villiers, began with a song cycle by Paul Mealor, Professor of Composition at Aberdeen and, some would say, one of our best living composers. Martha then demonstrated her true Mozartian forte with Despina's aria from *Così fan Tutte* and 'Ruhe Sanft' from Mozart's

unfinished opera *Die Zaide*. Two Dvorak pieces followed, showing off Martha's resonant tones, with the second, 'Songs My Mother Taught Me', being particularly poignant. Next came Yum-Yum's song 'The Sun Whose Rays' from *The Mikado* where we saw a glimpse of Martha's acting ability. Her programme was well rounded off with 'Summertime' from Gershwin's *Porgy and Bess*. There was something for everyone in this half of the recital, a very well put-together programme from a versatile soprano with a varied repertoire.

There was a short break while Heather's sound system was set up. She then introduced herself and her accompanist, Matt Asti, on piano. Heather writes songs about her own life experiences and feels it is important to tell a story to which others may relate. Heather then explained that she would be performing two songs from her first

portfolio, 'Hollow and I Learnt From You', followed by a selection from her most recent portfolio entitled 'Conversations with my Conscience'. It became obvious from the first song that Heather has a way with word-painting, with a natural 'easy' vocal technique, both of which encourage her audience to listen. She did say that she would normally be joined by drums and guitar but this set-up actually gave a more intimate feel to the performance. The songs from her second portfolio displayed more confidence and maturity in her ability to say exactly as she feels, although not without some humour as in 'Run Before You Walk' with the repetition of 'blisters'. There was a more upbeat tempo in 'I Don't Like Cake Anyway' with audience participation encouraged, we were invited to join in with the whistling – a challenge for some! Two more songs followed with a thought-provoking 'In Nomine Patris' being the final word.



After a brief vote of thanks from Isobel Jenkins we all adjourned to the foyer for tea, scones and cake and a chance to talk to Martha and Heather. Both singers have promising futures and we are pleased to have been able to help them on their way. Hopefully with additional funds generated by The Jillian Rennie Appeal we shall continue to support such talented women.

Gail Taylor



Lunch on the glorious twelfth...

Mrs Mary Herbert of the Yorkshire Ladies Council of Education hosted a lunch on the Glorious Twelfth at Devonshire Hall to raise money towards The Jillian Rennie Appeal. About 40 of us gathered and duly sipped our Bucks Fizz whilst enjoying a good natter.



We then transferred to the Fenton Room for lunch which, after an introduction by Mary Herbert, comprised smoked salmon, roast duck and scrumptious apple tart for dessert, all accompanied by a couple of glasses of wine.



Whilst we sat back and enjoyed the feeling of being sated, Mrs Eveleigh Bradford, a local historian, spoke about Catherine Mary Buckton.

Mrs Buckton (1826-1904) was a campaigner for education for all. Although born in the South (Stoke Newington) she married a Yorkshireman and lived in Leeds. At the time, women could not

hold any public office so she occupied herself by joining a local wives group that had the same desire to help women learn about hygiene, health and childcare. These wives gave free talks in the evenings, after work hours, about how to improve families' conditions in the slums. When the Boards of Education were instituted (from 1870), Mrs Buckton became the first woman to be appointed to the Leeds Board. She was also a founder member of the Leeds Ladies Educational Association and of the Yorkshire School of Cookery which two institutions later amalgamated to become the Yorkshire Ladies Council of Education. As you might be able to tell, I found this all very interesting and I intend to find out more about Catherine Mary Buckton.

As we drew to a close, everyone there seemed to have enjoyed it. The raffle was drawn and 10 prizes given out. There were many happy faces as we left.

Rhiannon Owen

...and reflections from Charlotte Whitehead...

Andrew and I grew up in west London, in Holland Park. Our parents



would take us up to Yorkshire two or three times a year to visit our paternal grandparents and our father's sister, Jillian. Our Aunt seemed to live an incredibly full and interesting life. She would frequently talk about all her close friends and the interesting people

she encountered through her work and 'extracurricular' activities. Most of the names and acronyms (FUMA, YLCE etc) meant little to us as we did not meet the people first hand but when Jillian died last year, those same names and activities began to have greater significance. All sorts of people rang and sent notes of condolence whilst explaining how they

had known our aunt. We started to understand first hand how central Jillian was to people's lives and the activities of the various groups she was involved in.

It was an honour therefore to receive in the post one day an invitation from Mary Herbert to a YLCE lunch in August. We both wanted to show our support for the appeal that had been set up in our aunt's name. Andrew travelled up from London for the event and I caught the train from Cardiff. It was lovely to meet (again, in some cases) the YLCE ladies and to get a feel for the sort of work undertaken by the charity.

Eveleigh Buckleigh's talk about Catherine Mary Buckton was fascinating as well as thought-provoking. I could not help but notice a number of interesting parallels between her life and ours. Catherine had roots in Bridgend near Cardiff and on her death a scholarship was set up for female students at Aberdare Hall in Cardiff University (where I now work as an administrator - following in Jillian's footsteps). Catherine spent much of her life in Yorkshire and worked to serve the educational development of women, as did our aunt. And she spent the last years of her life in one of the beautiful houses in Ladbroke Square, very close to where Andrew and I grew up in Holland Park. It seemed very fitting therefore to hear a talk about this impressive lady, as well as humbling, not only in terms of what she achieved, but also because the event was being held in recognition of what Jillian had achieved.

Andrew and I hope that the appeal is successful in raising funds to support the ongoing work of the YLCE. We send our heartfelt thanks to the YLCE for inviting us.

Charlotte Whitehead

Jillian Rennie's niece

Afternoon Tea and Veteran Cars

My husband's Veteran Car Club gave me the ideal opportunity to dip into other pockets besides ours. Their committee decided to try offering a Garage Visit as a low cost event for members in these straightened times, with donations for the host's charity, and yours truly volunteered as the guinea-pig. We held Open House for members of the Veteran Car Club and their cars – and some Yorkshire Ladies - on Saturday 12 August and around 40 people turned up. There were 15 proper cars including ours; those later than 1970 were sent to park down the road. The weather was kind and the cars shone. There was much



poking around under other people's bonnets, fettling, some backfiring and clouds of smoke by the garages; there was lively conversation and a good tea was enjoyed on the lawn. The efforts to sort out the ignition problems of a 1902 Swift which had driven all the way from York were particularly entertaining, but it did eventually drive home again.

Forewarned that some veteran gents were not comfortable with supporting an awards fund which gives grants solely to women, I put out a smaller basket for them to contribute to my Rotary Club's local good causes. A total of £214 was raised, of which £161 was for The Jillian Rennie Appeal, and a good afternoon was had by all.

Liz Thring

Our new members introduce themselves...



I was brought up in North Leeds, just round the corner from Forest Hill, and have worked in Yorkshire most of my life. I have been aware of YLCE since the early days of Forest Hill and later saw that contribution at first hand when my mother moved to live there in 2002.

My career has been almost entirely in Human Resources, apart from some time as a tutor and counsellor with the Open University when my family was very young. For the last 23 years I have worked in HR in large professional services firms recruiting and developing high achieving and talented individuals. Through this I have become very aware of the challenges women often face to achieve their career goals and I fully support YLCE's goals in furthering women's education.

I have also worked, in the 1980s, in the Social Housing Sector, establishing an HR function in a northern based housing association.

I am married to Jon and we have lived in Oakwood for 30 plus years. We met at the Yorkshire Gliding Club at Sutton Bank and although he still glides I am very much a lapsed pilot! We both enjoy going to Opera North, travelling (often to Hong Kong to visit our son) and walking in North Yorkshire.

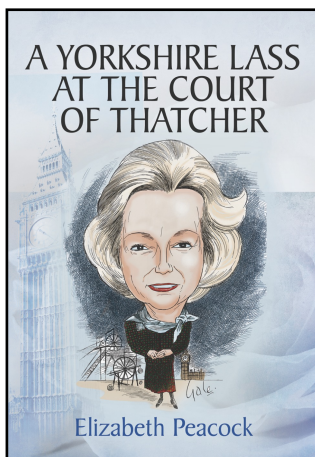
Kathy Hart

I am a Cambridge history graduate who spent her teaching career in Further Education teaching everything except history; many of my students were young women seeking to work in rather traditional female spheres, such as office work and nursery nursing, but who were taking advantage of the fact that proper training was being offered for these occupations. Before retirement I worked in Education Welfare in Barnsley. Many of my clients there had opted out of conventional

education but we endeavoured to help them on their way with creative extended work experience schemes to help them realise their potential. I was, for 10 years, a trustee of the Northern Racing College at Doncaster. There, young people, a majority of which are female, are trained to work in the horse racing industry. A fair proportion of the students are NEETS but our star pupil, who was Champion Apprentice a few years ago and has had a distinguished career as a fully-fledged jockey, started with the advantage of being the daughter of a riding instructor. As a member of the Federation of Women Graduates I am interested in the furthering of education of women and girls at every level. Apart from my educational interests I have been Regional and County Chair for the British Horse Society, Regional Chair for Riding for the Disabled Association (I started the Ackworth Group in 1974 and it is still going strong), and a governor of my local village school .

Alison Harris

A book to look out for...



...or to include on your Christmas list!

New Members

Mrs Christine Naylor

Mrs Alison Harris

Mrs Kathy Hart

New Honorary Members

We are delighted that the following, after long-standing relationships with YLCE, have accepted the invitation to become honorary members.

F.D.L. Loy Esq.

R. Bryn Esq.

Mrs Jennifer Worsley JP

Mrs Elizabeth Bennett

Resignations

Mrs Barbara Tempest

Condolences

Dr Shirley Lee, on the death of her husband in September.

Ian Adams, on the death of his wife June Adams on 12 October.

The Yorkshire Ladies' Council of Education

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*Monday & Wednesday
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Mrs N A Donner

Awards Committee

Mrs I Jenkins

Forest Hill House Committee

Mrs G Owen

Fundraising Committee

Mrs E J Peacock

Projects Committee

Mrs M J Pullen

Social Committee

Mrs G P Milner

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