



# *Newsletter*

*Spring 2013*

*Yorkshire Ladies' Council of Education*

## ***Coffee Morning***

*Thursday 23 May, 10.30am*

*At St Chad's Parish Centre*

## ***Garden Party***

*Tuesday 25 June, 2.30pm*

*At Forest Hill, 11 Park Crescent, Leeds LS8 1DH*

*To be opened by Gwynneth Owen*

### ***Executive Committee meetings*** (5 per annum)

*Monday 24 June 2013*

*Monday 30 September 2013*

*Monday 25 November 2013 - Annual Meeting*

*Monday 27 January 2014*

*Monday 31 March 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 June, 10.15am*

### ***Social Committee meetings*** (2-3 per annum)

*Thursday 26 September, 10.15am*

***Christmas Sandwich Lunch*** *Thursday 7 November 2013, 11.30am*

***Annual General Meeting*** *Monday 3 February 2014, 11.45am*

## *Editor!*

What a Newsletter, so much to tell you about!

Most importantly this Newsletter progresses The Jillian Rennie Appeal launched at the AGM in February. Much is said in the following pages of Jillian Rennie and her concern for the education of women and how this translated into her work developing the Awards Fund and being proactive on the Awards Committee. The continuing need for such a Fund and the desire for it's increase gives reason to the Appeal. Two social events to raise monies for the Appeal have already been organised and details of these are given in the centre pages and on the relevant enclosures. Please ensure you respond to these invitations swiftly, contacting the appropriate people to secure your tickets. And you are encouraged to participate in the Appeal - challenged to raise £100 each by whatever means excites you!

Then there's all the regular news and ongoing events of the YLCE, with the Projects' Committee coffee morning and Forest Hill Garden Party on the near horizon. Invitations for both these are enclosed.

Employing a slightly different format to normal I've scattered the photos from the AGM throughout the Newsletter - colour on every page - hope you enjoy them.

Many thanks to everyone who has contributed to this Newsletter. It's always a pleasure to receive your emails, whether it's the regular reports from the Chairmen of the committees or articles of general interest. Please continue with your offerings, they are a delight to us all.

And finally, my email address has changed to:

[gokknowles@gmail.com](mailto:gokknowles@gmail.com)

Please amend your computers accordingly, I would hate to miss a valuable email because it has been sent to my old email address.

*Kim Knowles*

*The Clock House, West Avenue, LS8 2JN      0113 232 9600 / 0778 742 6699*

## *Letter from our Chairman*

Dear Yorkshire Ladies

Those of you who attended the AGM in February will already be aware of the launch of The Jillian Rennie Appeal.

Jill served the Yorkshire Ladies for over 40 years alongside her career as a senior administrator at the University of Leeds, and later, in the Lord Lieutenant's Office. She was YLCE Chairman for 10 years from 1985-95 and it was during this time that she and the Hon. Treasurer, Mrs Doreen Marsden, negotiated the sale of the Yorkshire Ladies' Secretarial College. The proceeds of the sale were used to establish the Awards Fund with the specific purpose of supporting the education and training of women. That had been the declared aim of the Yorkshire Ladies' Council of Education since its inception in the 1870s, but until 1989 there had never been any actual capital set aside to meet these needs in a targeted way.

Jill followed Doreen as Chairman of the Awards Committee in 2002. Together they set up sound systems firstly for disbursing scholarships to local institutions most of which had a long connection with the YLCE but, above all, for the consideration and scrutiny of personal applications for grants from British women. The guidelines they established are still in use today. The Awards Committee continues to provide grants from the income of the Awards Fund.

Jill was particularly sympathetic towards the struggles many women face to gain the qualifications which are needed to allow them to support themselves and to contribute to the well-being of their families and of their communities. Of the 250 to 300 women who apply every year, only about 100 can be helped; nevertheless, we have been able to help over 1000 women so far and now we need to help more!

We want to do two things during this period of The Appeal: one is to commemorate Jill's lasting contribution to the Yorkshire Ladies and the other is to celebrate the twenty-fifth anniversary (2014) of the Awards Fund. To me, celebration is about having a good time together with

friends. We are going to have lots of opportunities to do just that in the coming months. Several members have already generously arranged events for us. Mrs Francoise Logan, MBE, has organised a recital and afternoon tea on 17 June at the Leeds College of Music, possibly featuring some of our scholarship students there. Mrs Mary Herbert has arranged a luncheon at Devonshire Hall on 12 August. Other occasions are in the planning stages, such as other luncheons and an exhibition at a Leeds venue displaying the long history of the YLCE (we need help with this).

We want every member to join in this celebration of the Yorkshire Ladies' Council of Education's past, present and future. So that all of us can participate in one way or another, it has been suggested that each of us try to raise at least £100 to contribute to The Jillian Rennie Appeal. You could do this by holding a plant sale or a coffee morning for friends or by going out for lunch with friends and asking each of them to contribute to this very worthy cause. Be creative and have fun!

I, with much help from volunteers, will be sending out letters of appeal to past recipients of awards, to people with personal or corporate connections to Jill Rennie, to those with connections to the Yorkshire Ladies and, of course, to all members. So you will all be hearing from me.

In the meantime I hope to see you at our usual spring/summer events, the Project Committee's Coffee Morning on 23 May and Forest Hill's Garden Party on 25 June.

With very best wishes for a bright and busy spring and summer,

*Nancy Donner*



## *Projects Committee*

This past year the Projects Committee continued to support the extra needs teacher at St Gregory's as well as offering a second year of support for Settle. Both undertake valuable work in struggling communities. The Inside Outside Club at St Gregory's is based in Seacroft, one of the most deprived areas of Leeds and offers valuable educational and practical support for children of school age as well as their parents, while Settle helps to integrate refugee women into the community at large.

Looking forward, we will be holding our annual Coffee Morning on Thursday 23 May at St Chad's Parish Centre, Otley Road, Headingley, well known to YLCE members as the venue for our Annual General Meetings. This year we will be raising funds for the educational programme at St George's Crypt in Leeds which gives vocational and remedial training to destitute and homeless people to help them regain a feeling of self-worth and to develop skills towards employability.

At the Coffee morning we will be selling cakes, home-made produce and plants. We will also be offering jewellery, handbags and accessories for sale, as well as cards and good quality second hand books and CDs. All our guests are encouraged to bring boxes of cereal and tinned food for the Inside Outside Club, which will be used to ensure the children who attend there will be sent to school after sitting down to a good breakfast. We welcome all your contributions, be they food for the children, or cakes, plants, books and CDs for sale on our own stalls.

We have enclosed an invitation giving details about the Coffee Morning with this newsletter. There is ample parking at the Parish Centre and we urge you to please try to join us on 23 May. If you really are not able to come, please consider donating cakes and/or plants for someone else to bring. Donations by cheque may be sent to Mrs Tricia Hollis, and would be gratefully received but we do hope you will be able to join us in person.

*Margaret Pullen*

## *Forest Hill*

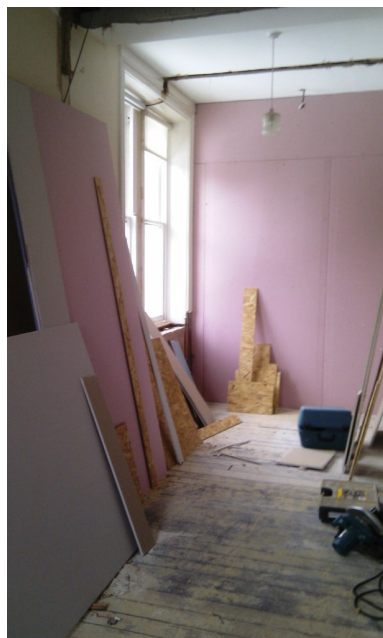
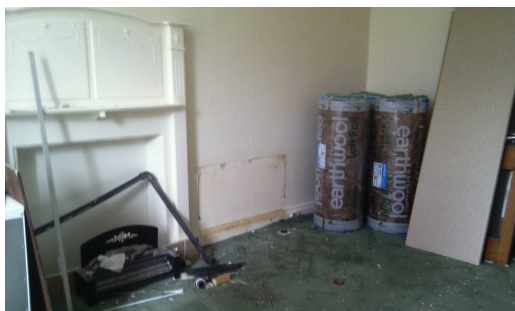
On Tuesday 12 March the House Committee held a Tea-party for the residents; homemade cakes of all description, including Tricia's very popular meringues! A good time was had by all.

We have two new members of staff, Julie Lewis a new Senior Housekeeper and a Saturday girl, Hayley Bowden.

The main entrance has been fitted with an automated door opener, which allows easy access. All the flats bar one are occupied. Work has started on the conversion of two 'bedsits' and the old YLCE office into two splendid one-bedroom flats, see the photos below.

The Garden Party this summer will be held on Tuesday 25 June at 2.30pm. Please note that the date differs from the one given out at the AGM. Please come and join us and bring some sunshine with you!

*Gwynneth Owen*



### ***Vacant Position***

Anyone reading this who is interested in joining a bunch of fun loving lively ladies who meet once a month to promote the well-being of Forest Hill please contact Gwynneth

## *Fundraising Committee*

Fundraising is not the easiest of responsibilities and it is extremely frustrating as so many charities and companies do not even reply to requests that they receive. However, we have made a little progress over the past year.

I was pleased to report that Keith Howard, who many of our members will know, and who is a member of my City of London Woolmen's Livery Company, sent a donation of £500, in response to my letter. Coutts Bank, in reply, sent a donation of £250.

Our biggest success so far was a cheque of £5000 from the Lord Kirkham, a good Yorkshireman, of which he said, and I quote, 'I trust you to spend it wisely and to the maximum benefit'. I am sure we will!

The search for more support continues and I hope that we shall be as successful into the future.

*Elizabeth Peacock*

---





## *Awards Committee*

A year has now passed since the death of Jill Rennie and the appeal to honour her memory and to mark the 25 years of the Awards Fund (in 2014) has just begun. YLCE Awards are greatly appreciated by the British women who receive them but at the moment only about one third of those women who apply can be given a grant. The sum of £200 is the usual amount awarded and your committee believes YLCE members would consider it appropriate to provide a few more grants of £300 or £400 to especially deserving individuals. We would be delighted if, as a result of The Jillian Rennie Appeal, the Awards Fund could be increased so that more money would be available to provide even more grants! At the recent quarterly Awards Committee meetings of January and March 2013 a total of ninety eight applications were considered; fifty eight were refused and thirty seven provided with awards.

YLCE Awards do make a difference. Shaneen, a Leeds woman in her late twenties, has worked hard in her job as an apprentice health worker. Now, fully qualified, she is caring for people with mental health problems. The confidence she has gained in her work has encouraged her to aspire to becoming a fully qualified midwife. An YLCE award has helped her to pay for an Access to Health course so that she can achieve the required academic qualifications. Shaneen writes to tell us that she has been achieving distinction grades in her present course and that she has been awarded a conditional place at The University of Bradford to study midwifery. She is keen to thank YLCE members for their support and is 'so grateful to everyone who saw potential in me'. She also hopes that the YLCE will be able to continue to support women like her to fulfil their ambitions.

Claire is a postgraduate student in the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama. She writes to tell us that she feels she is receiving outstanding tuition in vocal performance techniques and is enjoying a wide range of experience having sung recently in opera and oratorio. She concludes her letter, 'Please convey my thanks to the Council for their support. I feel humbled that you chose to help me in my studies in the current financial climate'.

*Isobel Jenkins*



## *The Jillian Rennie Appeal*

*Lots of fun things  
to be involved in  
and to do...*

*Monday 17 June*

*2.30pm*

*Leeds College of Music*



### *Song Recital*

*by YLCE Award Scholarship Holders*

*The Recital will be followed by*

*Afternoon Tea in the College Lounge*

*Please use the reply slip on the enclosed invitation  
to obtain tickets from Françoise Logan*

Vice-President Mary Herbert  
invites you and your friends to support  
The Jillian Rennie Appeal  
by attending a

**Summer Luncheon on Monday 12 August 2013**  
at Devonshire Hall, Headingley.

Mrs Eveleigh Bradford will talk about a very early  
Yorkshire Lady, Catherine Mary Buckton, who was a 19<sup>th</sup>  
century writer and a brave campaigner for Women's education.

**Bucks Fizz Reception at 11.45am**

Apply for tickets using the reply slip  
on the enclosed invitation.

Please do come!



**KEEP  
CALM  
AND  
ACCEPT  
THE CHALLENGE**

**The Challenge...**

...Can you raise

**£100**

towards The Jillian Rennie Appeal?

I'm sure each one of us can but  
who'll have the **most fun doing it!!**

Tell me your idea at the Projects Committee Coffee  
Morning on Thursday 23 May and I'll ensure the best  
are featured in future Newsletters - including photos!

## *Social Committee*

In November 2012 our Annual Christmas Sandwich Lunch was held for the first time at St. Chad's Parish Centre, Headingley. As we had more space we were able to have additional stalls and a raffle. The



attendance was increased, it was a very successful event enjoyed by all, and we raised £593 which is over £100 more than last year. We will be holding the event again this year at St. Chad's Parish Centre on the 7 November.

The committee again provided the popular buffet lunch at the AGM in February, which was enjoyed by all members, and we have received a very appreciative letter of thanks from Margaret Bradbury, the Hon Secretary of the Executive Committee.

The Charity we have supported 2012-2013, is the Elizabeth Foundation, a voluntary organization and registered Charity, who support profoundly deaf babies and children and their parents and carers. Sally, one of the parents, gave an excellent presentation about the work of the Foundation from a parents perspective, and how it had helped her and her family to support her son. We gave a donation of £500 to this Foundation based in Bradford, and we have received a letter of very grateful thanks for the very generous donation from their fundraiser, Margaret Southern.

*Gill Milner*

## *Christmas Sandwich Lunch 2012...*

On Thursday 8 November 2012, the annual gathering for our Christmas Sandwich Lunch was held at St Chad's Parish Centre, Far Headingley, from 11.30am to 2pm. It was a very successful event enjoyed by everyone. On arrival, the sun was streaming through the windows which added to the convivial atmosphere and all the stalls looked very attractive. We had time to browse and to make our purchases before lunch-time.

By the time we were sitting down to our delicious lunch, there was a pleasing number of ladies there and a few gentlemen!



At this point, I must thank the ladies of the social committee for the excellent variety and quality of the food. What a treat!



After the meal, we had a very interesting talk about "The Elizabeth Foundation" for the profoundly deaf. This was made even more

interesting as the speaker was the parent of a profoundly deaf boy. The Foundation supports families in the early years from pre-school to nursery, giving them various skills they need to develop fully. The guidance they gave the speaker's son has helped the whole family to cope over the years. Without that early intervention, their son would not now, at the age of 12, be fulfilling his full potential. Of course, there are many other children who have benefited over the years, but the charity will always need help from organizations such as ours, if it is to continue its vital work. I was surprised to hear that Bradford is the only town in Yorkshire to have this facility.

Thank you to all who helped to make this event a success.

*Celia Tempest*



## *Our new members introduce themselves...*

*Helen Owens*

The YLCE was first mentioned to me by Sheila Gosden, whom I have known since she and Peter married. The education and encouragement of women is an area which I support wholeheartedly; so, when Nancy Donner also encouraged me to join, finally I got on with it!



Though a southerner by birth, I regard Yorkshire as home, which indeed it has been for the last fifteen years. Studying for three years at Lawnswood and later returning for three years at Leeds University left a very favourable impression.

My career has been in the financial world, initially in Clearing Banking, later Merchant Banking, with the highlight being the financing of 'big ticket' items, such as ships, aircraft etc. Subsequently I established my own broking business which I sold in 2007, prior to retirement.

I am married, with no children. My interests are numerous and include classical music generally, choral singing, gardening, cycling and walking (though not enough of the last two). My husband, Anthony, shares these interests except notably the gardening and less notably the singing. I am also studying for an Open University degree in Humanities which seems to be enormously time consuming!

### *New Members*

If you know of someone who would like to join Yorkshire Ladies' Council of Education, please contact Phillida on 0113 266 1471 or at [admin@ylce.org](mailto:admin@ylce.org) or by post with her details and an application form will be sent out.

## *Carole Tabbron*

I was born and educated in Liverpool where I spent the first 12 years of my working life as an administrator for 2 major international manufacturing companies in the city.

In the mid 1970s I joined the staff of the University of Leeds. I was employed initially in what was then the Office of the Bursar, subsequently the Financial Accounting Division. I am an accountant and during my time at the University I worked not only in the financial accounting area but also in residential and conference administration. My final post at the University was that of Administration Manager of the University Careers Service where I remained for 9 years until taking early retirement in 2000.

I am married to Geoffrey who I met through his role on the governing body of Devonshire Hall at the University of Leeds. Geoff was a widower when we met and through our marriage I now have two lovely grown-up step-sons and am a very proud 'step-grandma'. Although we no longer live in Leeds, we have retained many friends and interests in the city.

I first became aware of the YLCE only last October, at a chance meeting with Françoise Logan and Liz Thring. Gillian Roche kindly arranged for me to receive information about YLCE which I read with great interest. I am looking forward to finding out much more about the Council in the future and hope that I may make a useful contribution in time to come.





## *Friends of University Art and Music Concert...*

...dedicated to the memory of Jillian Rennie

I am quite sure that all members of the YLCE are fully aware of the impact Jillian Rennie had on the life and work of the Council, notably the part she played in the establishment of the Educational Awards Fund. What members may not know about is Jillian's commitment to other aspects of cultural life in Leeds, particularly that of the University of Leeds where she spent much of her working life.

At an inspiring concert held on 1 February in the Clothworkers Centenary Concert Hall, University of Leeds and given by the Cassia String Quartet, Jillian's professional work in the university and, especially her voluntary work, were commemorated.



Jillian was one of the founder members of the Friends of University Art and Music. This organisation was set up in 1989 (a busy year for Jillian!) its purpose being, at a time of financial restraint, to raise funds to compliment and develop participation in art and music in the university. Jillian organised, supported and developed this new organisation and, over the years, art works have been purchased for the Art Gallery and free concerts supported. Jillian helped to set up a robust organisation which continues to thrive today.



A large audience, which included a member of Jillian's family and some of her close friends, enjoyed the Cassia String quartet's performances of Haydn's String quartet Op76 no.4 and Brahms string Quartet Op51 no.2 in A minor. The quartet are a group of very talented young musicians, one of whom is a Leeds graduate, who are now based in the Northern College of Music. They perform frequently in the north of England and are quartet in residence at *Arts@Trinity* in Leeds. Jillian would have enjoyed meeting them and would have delighted in their confident and sensitive performance of this challenging music.

*Isobel Jenkins*

---



## *John Battle introduces Temple and Beveridge*

The Leeds Association of Women Graduates had invited the former Leeds West MP, the Rt Hon John Battle to talk to them in February and had extended an invitation to YLCE members to join them. Several members took advantage of the invitation to hear Mr Battle's talk on *William Temple, Beveridge and the origins of the Welfare State* - a subject which was close to his heart and one on which he was thoroughly well-versed.

Many of us were surprised when he started off by referring to the monks of Kirkstall Abbey and their particular brand of charitable endeavour as one of the forerunners of our present system. Archbishop Temple and William Beveridge (*The Beveridge Report*) were highly influential in laying the foundations for what became the Welfare State. John Battle was concerned to stress that he felt that it was time to revert to what had been at the root of the post war developments, namely that welfare had to be earned - through national insurance contributions, providing a financial safety net, a social insurance, from cradle to grave that met interruptions to people's ability to care for themselves and their families in times of sickness, unemployment or retirement.

This was an especially timely topic given the considerable changes being made to the welfare system this year and gave us food for thought.

*Gillian Roche*

---



## *New Members*

Helen Owens  
Carole Tabbbron

## *Condolences*

Kirsten Greenwood, on the death of her husband Norman, in November

Marie Holland, on the death of her husband Emeritus Professor Roy Holland, in March.

---

## *New email address*

YLCE now has a new email address to work alongside the website.

[admin@ylce.org](mailto:admin@ylce.org)

The switch over will be phased and the old address will continue to be checked for emails for the foreseeable future.

You can start using the new email immediately. However, I shall be sending out test emails over the next few weeks so you can copy and paste the new address into your system when you receive these emails. Similarly, I will use these tests to transfer your details and the committees you belong to into the new system.

Hopefully the transition will be smooth! Let me know if you have any problems.

## *The Yorkshire Ladies' Council of Education*

*Registered Office*

*Ground Floor Office*

*Forest Hill*

*11 Park Crescent*

*Leeds*

*LS8 1DH*

*Office Hours*

*Monday & Wednesday*

*9.00 - 11.30am*

*Secretary*

*Mrs Phillida Richardson*

*Telephone*

*0113 269 1471*

*Email*

*admin@ylce.org*

*Website*

*www.ylce.org*

*Executive Committee*

*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*

*Yorkshire Ladies' Council of Education (Inc)*

*Registered in England No 82763*

*Charity Registration No 529714*