



Newsletter

Autumn 2012

Yorkshire Ladies' Council of Education

Sandwich Lunch and Christmas Fare

*Thursday 8th November, 11.30am - 2.00pm
At St Chad's Parish Centre*

Annual General Meeting

*Monday 4th February 2013, 11.45am
At St Chad's Parish Centre*

Executive Committee meetings (5 per annum)

*Monday 26 November 2012 - Annual Meeting
Monday 28 January 2013
Monday 25 March 2013
Monday 24 June 2013
Monday 30 September 2013*

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 18 March 2013, 10.15am

Social Committee meetings (2-3 per annum)

Thursday 17 January 2013, 10.15am

Coffee Morning *Thursday 23 May 2013, 10.30am*

Forest Hill Garden Party *Date to be decided*

Letter from our Chairman

Dear Yorkshire Ladies

On many fronts, such as fundraising, broadening membership and supporting new educational charities, the Yorkshire Ladies' Council of Education (YLCE) is moving forward and the pace is quickening now that most of us have returned from our summer breaks. I feel strongly that in our search for progress we must not lose sight of our past and the many contributions YLCE has made to Yorkshire and the wider community.

Jillian Rennie was actually working on a new history of the Yorkshire Ladies, or the YLs as she always called them, at the time of her death. As she wanted to bring our history up to date, she had already gathered much material and was preparing it for publication. The last history had been written in the 1990s by Doreen Marsden and Jill thought we should record our more recent activities, especially as there had been such a shift in emphasis from the Secretarial College to the Awards Fund. We need to carry on her good work and we need your help to do it.

Those of us who have had the good fortune to be aware of the foregoing work think it would be a good plan to have different chapters written by various people so that more of us could participate. Since the 1870s the Yorkshire Ladies have had a role in supporting education all over the county and taken the lead in establishing examinations open to girls, the girls' high schools in Wakefield, Leeds and Bradford, the College of Housecraft (Pud School), Leeds College of Science (to become the University of Leeds), Leeds Babies Welcome, the YLCE Secretarial College and support for music and medicine. YLCE has also spawned a host of other charities including our own Yorkshire Training Fund for Women and Forest Hill sheltered housing facility. We have also been proud to have among us many outstanding women, any one of whose lives would make an interesting story. So if you find an interest in any of

these topics or indeed in local history, do please get in touch with me through the office. Those with enthusiasm or time for sorting and arranging materials will be as welcome as those with skills in research and writing. I think this history could be a very exciting project for all of us!

Meanwhile I hope to see many of you at the Sandwich Lunch and Christmas Fare held this year at St Chad's Parish Centre on Thursday 8 November.

With best wishes to you all for an active and cheerful autumn.

Nancy Donner

Public Exhibition

Apart from continuing the good work started by Jill Rennie, as described above, YLCE are looking at the possibility of having a public exhibition in the near future to display their history and work. If anyone has anything that would be suitable for such an exhibition, please could they let Phillida Richardson know. Anything that is lent to YLCE will be returned. The type of things that we would like are photographs, documents, chattels from distant or recent past.

Awards Committee

Summer is a very happy time as it often brings good news from YLCE award holders who have successfully completed courses and obtained hard won qualifications.

Charlie received her veterinary degree this summer after four years of study in the University of Liverpool. She had originally obtained a degree in Natural Sciences in the University of Cambridge but realized after several years of work in management that her real ambition was to work in veterinary practice. Since she had already received government loans to finance her first degree, she used her savings, as well as other sources of funding,



to pay course fees of up to £17000 a year- in addition to living costs. Her letter of thanks to the YLCE for her grants is heartfelt. "...I passed with



distinction....I can't begin to thank the YLCE for all of the help...(you have given me)...I really hope to be able to give back to the YLCE some day...". She is now working in a specialist veterinary practice near her home.

Charlie's experience is similar to that of ten other women who over the last five years have applied for YLCE grants to help to pay fees for veterinary degrees. All have similar experiences in that they were unable to obtain places at veterinary school after A level but after obtaining good first degrees were accepted to study veterinary science. Bethany proved herself by undertaking valuable research during a university expedition and Danielle overcame thyroid cancer to enter the Army veterinary service and now has the rank of lieutenant.

YLCE grants remain in great demand even though they are relatively modest when compared with the level of course fees. Your Awards Committee received one hundred and seven applications in June and a further seventy four in September - a total of one hundred and eighty one. Of these one hundred and eighteen were refused and fifty three accepted.

Committee meetings are always very busy and our work would be impossible without the help of Anne Taylor who provides us with up to date and realistic information about the amount of money available each 'quarter' for grants. In addition Phillida Richardson is often faced with the heavy task of copying and dispatching large numbers of applications at fairly short notice (if committee members are to have time to consider them properly) a task she undertakes with good sense and efficiency.

Members of the committee are delighted to be able to welcome Gail Taylor to the awards team and we hope she will enjoy the work. I am sure we will all benefit from her wide experience and her expertise in the world of music.

Isobel Jenkins

Date for your diary... TENLEY MARTIN in Performance

The Sacred and Profane : an evening of Latin American Folk Music, Friday 7 December at 7.30 in the Clothworkers Centenary Concert Hall, University of Leeds. Tickets £10

Tenley will be joined by Ana Louisa Munoz de Valle, Barbara Kempfe and The Free Range Choir in performance of Mestisa - traditional and popular folk music of Latin America. They will use authentic instruments from the region.

YLCE members will remember Tenley Martin a YLCE scholarship holder in the University of Leeds, School of Music. She spoke so eloquently to the YLCE AGM in February 2012.

Social Committee

This year our Sandwich Lunch and Christmas Fare, on Thursday 8th November, will be held at a new venue St. Chad's Parish Centre, far Headingley. This venue will be familiar to you all as it is where we hold the AGM and buffet lunch each year. There will be plenty of room and ample parking. Members of the committee will provide homemade food for the food stall; the very popular Phoenix cards will be selling greeting cards and wrapping paper, both seasonal and for other occasions; there will be a stall selling handbags and scarves; Elizabeth Peacock has kindly offered to provide a stall of her very attractive jewellery; and we will also be holding a raffle this year. As there will be a hire charge for the hall I do ask you all to support this event and bring your friends so we can make a good profit and send the proceeds to the charity we are supporting, The Elizabeth Foundation.

This Foundation is a voluntary organization and registered Charity for very deaf young children and their parents. There is a specialist centre in West Yorkshire based in Bradford. Profound hearing loss affects one in 1000 new born infants every year in the UK, many more babies are born with mild to moderate hearing loss. If newborn hearing screening and early diagnosis is followed by a good intervention programme, babies who are deaf are given every opportunity to develop spoken language and good listening skills, and babies as young as six weeks old can be fitted with tiny hearing aids.

In Bradford, The Elizabeth Foundation provides a baby nursery, a pre-school programme, one to one room, specialist teachers of the deaf, games and activities to promote good listening, speech and language skills, a music programme, and parent support services. Parents need help and support to overcome their anxieties and sadness, so they can feel confident in their own ability to be their child's most important teacher and advocate.

A representative from The Elizabeth Foundation will give a short presentation of their work at the Sandwich Lunch.

Several members of the Social Committee again helped at the Projects Committee coffee morning, and served tea at The Forest Hill Garden Party.

The Social Committee is looking for new members, perhaps you would consider joining us, you'd be very welcome.

Gill Milner

Three invitations for the Sandwich Lunch and Christmas Fare have been included with this Newsletter, please use these to invite your friends to this fun and worthwhile event - the more the merrier! Editor

New Members

If you know of someone who would like to join Yorkshire Ladies' Council of Education, please contact Phillida Richardson on 0113 266 1471 or at ylce411@btinternet.com or by post with her details and an application form will be sent out.

Projects Committee

Our usual May sunshine deserted us this year but spirits were not dampened when our annual Coffee Morning took place at the home of Dr Gabrielle Ibberson. 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 their generosity of all our supporters, we raised over £690. Grateful thanks are due indeed to Dr Ibberson as well as to all the kind volunteers from outside our committee who helped to make the morning such a success.

Our guest speaker at the Coffee Morning was Mrs Spiwe Mandara, the founder and Project Coordinator of Settle, a new charity based in Leeds which is aimed specifically at educating and promoting community integration amongst the refugee women living in the area. This is the second year the Projects Committee has sponsored Settle and Mrs Mandara expressed her gratitude for the encouragement and boost for morale our funding has given the charity as well as the material benefits the money has provided.

The £300 offered to Settle by the Projects Committee this year will be used towards the purchase of more English Language textbooks and workbooks as well as a laptop computer and programmes to assist with translation and audio learning.

In addition to supporting Settle, the Projects Committee has continued its long association with St Gregory's and has sent £400 to support the extra needs teacher at the Inside Outside Club, together with a generous supply of breakfast cereals donated by guests at the Coffee Morning. St Gregory's will continue to be supported by The Projects Committee in 2013 and we also propose to raise funds to support the education programme at St George's Crypt in Leeds.

Margaret Pullen

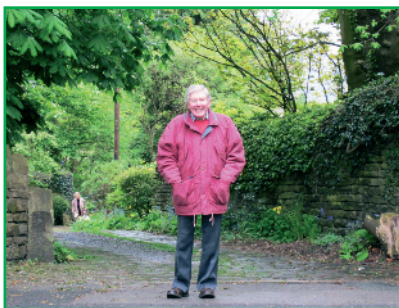
Invasion...

Invasion, or was it, by Yorkshire Ladies' Council of Education. Two days before the coffee morning my house was transformed; all the piles of paper hidden upstairs, knickknacks moved to safe places, furniture moved and agreement reached on what would be where. Sure I was ready when from about 9.30 in the morning cars arrived bearing cups and saucers, cakes, books, CDs, videos, jewellery, cards and plants. Each corner of the house was turned into an emporium of goodies. The earliest customer was with us by 10.15. Oh dear the urn was barely warm! But otherwise everyone was ready. So what is the weight of the cake? Have you bought your raffle tickets? Rapidly there were small groups of people chatting in each of the rooms and tea and coffee was being served.





All too soon it was over and with amazing speed the house was back to normal – well almost – as it was an opportunity to disband some of the piles of papers!



As I look back it was not an invasion but a joyful gathering and the house felt rather empty when all was back in order.

Gabrielle Ibberson

Forest Hill

All the flats are occupied with the exception of one bed-sit. The double-glazing in both Wings has been completed and the residents are delighted with it! We still have the Main House and the Annexe to double-glaze but the rules for these areas are different and we are currently investigating methods. Since our last meeting there has been a change of offices at Forest Hill, the Manager and Finance Officer have moved into the old storeroom on the first floor, whilst the YCLE is in the old Forest Hill office on the ground floor. This year has been a very expensive one for Forest Hill but it has resulted in greater comfort for our residents.

Since the arrival of our new Manager it has been "all systems go" at Forest Hill. In the short time that she has been with us she has accomplished so much. New deals have been made with Gas/Electricity companies (saving us money!) and much repair and renovation work has been carried out. At present the kitchen staff, each in turn, are attending a Red Cross First Aid course to bring them up to date with current ideas. Lorraine, one of our kitchen staff who has recently been designated Cook, will be attending Thomas Danby College to follow a short term course in catering. Recently, the residents were all sent a questionnaire regarding the food served in the dining room at Forest Hill and some very interesting replies were received. A sampling session is to be set up in October!

Very exciting - watch this space!

Gwynneth Owen

Our Garden Party...

The annual Forest Hill Garden Party was held on Tuesday 12 June.

Members of the Housing Committee and staff at Forest Hill all had their fingers crossed that it would not rain as it had been doing for the past week.

Although the weather was overcast, thankfully the rain stayed away.

This was my first of hopefully many experiences of attending the garden party. The Housing Committee and staff sprung into action, like a well rehearsed play, each knowing the part they had to play in setting the scene and preparing the various stalls and I managed to find myself a small part to play.

At 2.30pm prompt, the residents and their guests had taken their seats. Mrs Gwynneth Owen, Chairman of the House Committee introduced Mrs Mary Herbert who had been invited to open the garden party. Mrs



Herbert welcomed everybody and went on to give a very interesting opening speech in which she managed with great skill to give a condensed history of the work and achievements of The Yorkshire Ladies' Council of Education from its origin in 1866 to present day. Mrs Herbert further entertained the residents and guests by reciting a poem

by Jenny Joseph 'Warning: When I am an old woman I shall wear purple.'

The formalities over Mrs Herbert was presented with a Marks and Spencer voucher by one of our new residents Mrs Doreen Lolley. Mr Arkle also a fairly new resident gave a short speech expressing our thanks to Mrs Herbert.



The residents and their guests then dispersed and perused the various stalls before partaking in having tea and biscuits.



Although, attendance numbers were down on last years' garden party, Forest Hill still managed to raise £562.61 for the Amenity Fund.



As quickly and efficiently as the scene had been assembled it was dismantled and packed away until next year.

Kathryn Taylor
Forest Hill Manager



Forest Hill needs you!

These are exciting times and we need additional Yorkshire Ladies with an interest in running this outstanding sheltered housing scheme in collaboration with permanent staff. The House Committee meets 10 times a year and looks after the day to day management and various renovation projects, the annual Tea Party and the Garden Party; they support and consult with the residents. The Board of Directors meets quarterly and is responsible for the overall strategic management of Forest Hill. You may join House Committee, Board, or both. Gwynneth and I would be delighted to hear from you.

Liz Thring

Chairman of the Board of Directors

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Leeds International Piano Competition 2012

Many of the YLCE members will have watched on television or attended the Leeds International Piano Competition which was held from 29 August to 16 September.

In this newsletter, I wish to acknowledge the valuable contribution made by many of our members. You will have seen their friendly faces as soon as you entered the Great Hall, some selling programmes and others stewarding. Behind the scene, they were in the Jury Room looking after eminent musicians, in the Green Room welcoming the young pianists, settling them before they performed and afterwards cooling their brows!

When the 59 competitors arrived from all over the world at Devonshire Hall at the end of August, quite a few of you were there to register them, answer their queries and most importantly, organise their transport to practice pianos in homes around Leeds and sometimes receive them in your own home too. Moreover a Yorkshire Lady was Dame Fanny Waterman's chauffeur!

The Competitors will remember the friendly reception they received from the people of Leeds, even those who dropped out before the final stages.



This photo, courtesy of a mobile phone, shows the finalists from left to right in ascending order of final position...

Jayson Gilham, Andrew Tyson, Andrejs Osokins, Jiayan Sun, Louis Schwizgebel, Federico Colli and Dame Fanny Waterman. University of Leeds Great Hall, 16 September 2012.

As to the six finalists, I am sure you will come to hear them perform again at Leeds Town Hall and the University of Leeds in the near future. We all enjoyed their wonderful playing.

Françoise Logan MBE

Vice President LIPC

Our new member introduces herself...

I am a chartered accountant and have worked in a medium sized practice in Leeds for over 20 years but before that I trained in Leicester in part of what is now KPMG and then worked part time in Leeds in a couple of very small firms when my children were young.



I was born in the north east but spent my early childhood in Leeds and then my schooldays on the Manchester/Cheshire border. I was at university in Leicester and stayed there until my husband, Hugh, started work in Leeds just after Rachel was born, and our son Peter was born in Leeds.

I have for many years been a member of the British Federation of Women Graduates – and know a number of YLCE members through this – and I have also been involved in local Guiding and the Trefoil Guild, and St Edmund's Church in Roundhay where I have been treasurer for much too long. I am also on the management committee of Gipsil, an organisation supporting young people in the Gipton area and I am a Soroptimist.

I have been aware of YLCE for quite a long time and after a joint meeting last year when Jillian Rennie gave us a fascinating history of the organisation I could no longer resist Anne Taylor's invitation to join. I look forward to contributing to the work in whatever ways I can.

Margaret Middlemass

The Yorkshire Training Fund for Women

This charity, which will reach its 110th anniversary next year, was the idea of a committee of the Yorkshire Ladies Council of Education, namely the Gentlewomen's Employment Bureau. It currently gives small grants of £100 to £300 to women to help them train for qualifications which will enable them to be self-supporting. The Fund is overseen by at least 25 Governors, ten of whom comprise the Administrative Committee which assesses the applicants and awards the grants. Applicants now find out about us on-line, down-load the application form from the web-site, and their references are obtained by e-mail.

This is vastly different from the early days of personal recommendations of daughters of gentlemen. But the inspiration for the Fund has very strange origins. To quote the remarks of the first President, Mrs Scattergood:

"The Yorkshire Loan Training Fund (as it was then called) really had its origins in a set of false teeth. These were provided for a plain Governess by philanthropists in Manchester, and their attractive appearance so influenced the beholders that the plain lady got a good post and was happy ever after.

The philanthropists had thus impressed upon them the truth that 'an ounce of help is worth a pound of pity', and they eventually formed a fund for the benefit of ladies who were unable to get employment because they needed either teeth or training."

A certain Mrs Smithells had experience of the Manchester scheme and campaigned vigorously for the idea of a Yorkshire Loan Fund to enable ladies to train as teachers and repay the loans out of later earnings. In 1900 a resolution to that effect was submitted to the YLCE AGM. A Special Committee was formed, circulars were distributed and at a well-attended meeting it was agreed to hold a Grand Bazaar.

Drawing room meetings were held in forty places in Yorkshire and the enthused participants organised the Grand Bazaar which took place in Leeds Town Hall in November 1902. It was opened by HRH the Duchess of Teck and lasted four days. Various local committees either ran stalls or brought sums raised from local entertainments and other activities.

The Bazaar raised the handsome total of £9,300 (*equivalent today of approx. £500,000 Ed.*) . Of this sum, £8,000 went to establish the Yorkshire Loan Training Fund, £1,000 was given to the Gentlewomen's Employment Bureau in recognition of their help, and £300 went to the sponsor, the YLCE, out of which the Council paid for its incorporation the following year.

The Council, as was its practice when it had instituted some good work, left the Fund to be administered quite independently, and the Yorkshire Loan Training Fund went on to make its own history. To quote from the 1933 printed history:

'When we began to lend money we were too soft hearted. We wanted to be kind and were sometimes fortunate. We proved by sad experience that the inefficient nice old thing of 40 or 50 could not be made into a practical or energetic worker by a few months training. They sometimes seemed to dissolve into space. We lost them and our money. And we began to sympathise with absconding husbands, as we had no success with deserted wives.'

The continuity of the Fund has been remarkable. It went on functioning despite two World Wars. In 1941 it is recorded in the Minute Book that '14 Governors loyally turned out for the Annual Meeting despite the fact that Leeds had been blitzed the previous night'. Needless to say, our Annual Meetings of late haven't been held in such dramatic circumstances.

Since then education, particularly of women, has moved on considerably. The loans have become grants and women can, and do, study for the same range of careers as men, although we find that our applicants are often aiming for the caring professions. Some are wanting PhD or Masters qualifications and some 'access to higher education' courses. All are applying because they are in financial difficulty. Grants are given when there will be a good chance of helping the applicant to achieve their aim of being self-supporting.

If you have read this far, and have found this interesting, perhaps you would consider becoming a Governor of the YTFW. The AGM is held in Headingley, in June and the Administrative Committee also meets in December, in Wakefield, to award grants. Do speak to Nancy Donner or Anne Taylor if this appeals to you. It would be good to have new members.

Anne Taylor

based on a speech by Liliias Byrn

Leeds College of Music Graduation Ceremony

As representatives of the Yorkshire Ladies' Council of Education Awards Committee, Mrs Margaret Bradbury and I were invited to attend the Leeds College of Music Graduation Ceremony on Friday 27 July, 2012. We arrived at Leeds Town Hall at 12.15pm to find the foyer full of excited graduands, their proud parents, families and friends. However, we were not in the melee for long before being escorted with other VIPs (we thoroughly enjoyed being VIPs) to the Sullivan Room for a delicious lunch.

Seated at our table were several members of the College administrative staff including a librarian. They had heard of the YLCE Awards Committee and the grants that it made to music students and were interested to learn more about the organisation. Margaret and I were only too happy to answer their questions.

After coffee we made our way to our reserved seats on the balcony of Victoria Hall where, amidst much applause, we saw about two hundred young people in gowns and mortar boards receive their degrees from Shirley Congdon, Pro Vice Chancellor (Learning and Teaching), University of Bradford. The handshaking was interspersed with speeches and three musical items, jazz, classical and popular, which provided further interest and variety. The hour and a half passed quickly. By 3.30pm the graduands were all graduates, family members, friends and VIPs were 'clapped out' and everyone was ready for a cup of tea.

Margaret and I reflected on the occasion over our tea and cake. The awards granted by the Yorkshire Ladies' Council of Education had helped in a small way to further the careers of some students and we had participated in the joyful conclusion of their endeavours.

Audrey Sharp

YLCE has been providing scholarships to women students at LCM since 1995. Over the years 60 have been helped - quite a large number. In the past two year our scholarships have been used to provide funds for women studying music technology - an area in which women are underrepresented. Isobel Jenkins

We should like to know YOUR views ...

Yorkshire Ladies meet in February each year at the AGM, at the Projects Committee in May, the Forest Hill Garden Party in June and the Sandwich lunch in November. Other opportunities to gather to talk about YLCE are rare and few in number. You come happily to the events, spend money and socialise but do you ever really consider the aims and objectives of YLCE?

Think what YLCE has achieved in the 130 years of its existence. We were instrumental in founding Leeds Girls' High School, Bradford Girls' Grammar School, Wakefield Girls' High School, the Pud School (now Leeds Metropolitan University!), Babies Welcome Clinics, Job Centres, the Yorkshire Ladies' Secretarial College, Forest Hill... an endless list, in fact. We started things and handed them on as going concerns to others. Now, our prime responsibility is our Awards Fund which is and has been appreciated by more than a thousand women whose lives have been improved because the Fund helped them.

You may have been thinking "what else can we do?". There is another endless list of possibilities... mentoring teenagers, hearing young children read, helping in after-school clubs, sharing allotments with young folk, reading to blind people, volunteering in museums, charity shops, raising money for a multitude of charities. Should YLCE be trying to inform people about the problems of our time... obesity, diabetes, jobless young folk, lonely old people...?

Would you like to do something more practical or have you a strong urge to push YLCE in a totally new direction? Do you think we are wasting the talent there is in our membership?

How can we increase our membership, and lower its average age? If we take no action on these how will our current responsibilities for Forest Hill and the Awards Fund continue and new initiatives be undertaken?

Lots of questions and no answers. Have YOU any suggestions? The Executive Committee would love to hear your views. Thank you.

Mary Herbert

New Members

Mrs Margaret Middlemass

Congratulations

Tricia and Francis Hollis on their Golden Wedding Anniversary on 30 August 2012



Condolences

Margaret Williams on the death of her daughter Bryony in June
Sheila Gosden on the death of her husband Peter in September

Deaths

Mrs Barbara Dugdale, a past chairman of the Forest Hill House Committee and a member for over 40 years.

Change of Address

Mary Chettoe

As we are now using our Newsletter more freely for publicity purposes and making it accessible on the website address details will no longer be included, they can be obtained by contacting the office.

Many thanks to everyone who has contributed to this Newsletter, it has been a delight to receive so many and such a variety of articles. I hope everyone enjoys reading it as much as I have enjoyed producing it. Editor

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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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