

Spring 2012

Yorkshire Ladies' Council of Education

### Coffee Morning

Thursday 17 May, 10.30am

At the home of Dr Gabrielle Ibberson

Mount Farm House Town Street Rawdon Leeds LS19 6QI

### Garden Party

Tuesday 12 June, 2.30pm At Forest Hill, 11 Park Crescent, Leeds LS8 1DH To be opened by Mary Herbert

### Executive Committee meetings (5 per annum)

Monday 25 June 2012 Monday 24 September 2012 Monday 26 November 2012 - Annual Meeting Monday 28 January 2013 Monday 25 March 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 June, 10.15am

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

Thursday 4 October, 10.15am

Christmas Sandwich Lunch Thursday 8 November 2012, 11.30am Annual General Meeting Monday 4 February 2013, 11.45am

# Letter from our Chairman

#### Dear Yorkshire Ladies

The daffodils are everywhere in my garden and the sun is shining. Spring has definitely arrived and makes me feel cheerful.

Our AGM/EGM took place while it was still winter but that too was very cheering. It was lovely to have Lady Halifax to preside over our business meetings once again and she, like the rest of us, greatly enjoyed the delicious lunch prepared and presented by the Social Committee. The two young women who spoke to us in the afternoon had received donations form the Awards Fund towards the costs of their unusual studies. One was a serious musician doing a doctoral degree who is interested in tango and the other was a sculptor who had already done historic carving for the chapel at Windsor Castle. The collection for the Awards Fund raised about £725.

One very sad event has occurred, that is the death of Miss Jillian Rennie on March 17. She had been a member for over 40 years and had been at the heart of the Yorkshire Ladies' activities for most of that time. She was instrumental in transforming the proceeds from the sale of the Yorkshire Ladies Secretarial College into the educational Awards Fund in 1989. Through all her time as Chairman of the YLCE and then as Chairman of the Awards Committee, she kept the Council focused on the educational needs of women and the support we could give them. We shall miss her hugely.

The Projects Committee's Coffee Morning will give us an occasion to look forward to in the near future. This event will provide an opportunity to learn more about the charity, Settle, to shop at the various stalls and to have a good chat with one another. Please note that the date is the 17 May and the venue is a new one. I look forward to seeing many of you there.

I hope you have a spring and summer bright with useful and interesting activities.

Nancy Donner

### Forest Hill

Things have been very exciting at Forest Hill recently! The double-glazing is being installed, one wing and the bridging corridors have been completed and the residents are delighted - they are loud in their praise! Leeds Glass will be doing the second wing shortly and then we will only have the house and the 'stable wing' to bring up to standard. It all looks very good.

As you'll remember Mrs Beverley Hollis resigned from her post at the end of December. The position was advertised at the end of February and on the 9 March we appointer Kathryn Taylor as our new manager. She was able to start work immediately and has been in position since Monday 12 march. We hope she will be happy and enjoy working with us all at Forest Hill.

Gwynneth Owen

# **Fundraising Committee**

The newly formed Fund Raising Committee has met for the first time and we have decided on a strategy to follow.

I had an opportunity to attend, as an observer, the recent Awards Committee to help me understand the policy that the committee follows.

I now have a greater understanding of the needs of the Awards Committee and can answer some of the questions that will undoubtedly arise as I start to make contact with potential donors.

The hard work now begins!

Elizabeth Peacock

### Social Committee

Our annual Christmas Food Fayre and Sandwich Lunch was held in November at the home of Mrs Auriol Moore, we give many thanks to Auriol, who again very kindly opened her home for this event. Along with the homemade food stall and Phoenix cards, we had a new stall this year selling handbags and scarves provided by Mrs Nancy Norton, which proved very popular. The event raised £452.

Please note that this year we will be holding the Christmas Food Fayre and Sandwich Lunch at St. Chad's Church Hall, Headingly (where we hold the AGM) on 8 November.

I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of the YLCE and the Social Committee to thank Auriol very much for so generously opening her home for this event over the past few years.

The Committee provided the buffet lunch at the AGM in February, and fortunately the recent snow had cleared sufficiently for over 50 members to attend. We have received a very kind letter of appreciation from Mrs Margaret Bradbury, the Honorary Secretary of the Executive Committee, saying how much everybody enjoyed the Lunch.

The Charity we have been supporting is Martin House Childrens' Hospice at Boston Spa, which cares for and supports children with a life threatening illness, and their families. With the money raised at the Christmas event, and the profit from the AGM buffet we were able to donate £700 to the Hospice, and we have received a very kind letter from Sarah Tarpey, their Fundraiser.

Gill Milner

# Preparations for Christmas 2011...

On Thursday 3 November 2011 Mrs Auriol Moore once again kindly offered her home to host the Christmas Sandwich Lunch. The dry and bright day encouraged numerous Yorkshire Ladies and their friends to support this annual fund raising event.





The festive fayre on offer included Christmas puddings and cakes, mince pies, stuffing, pates, lasagne, various jams and marmalades, scones, biscuits and a variety of non-seasonal cakes.

Nancy Norton tempted members to buy gifts from her delightful selection of scarves and handbags.

As usual our friend Andrea from Phoenix Cards brought an extensive selection of Christmas cards, wrapping paper, advent calendars and decorations as well as cards to suit every occasion.





Our traditional sandwich lunch, prepared by the Social Committee, was followed by a presentation by Sarah Tarpey, the Yorkshire Regional Fundraiser for Martin House Hospice. We learned that Martin House aims to provide family led care for children and young people with life-threatening and life-limiting illnesses. Whilst being a peaceful place it also has a lively and friendly atmosphere where children and their families can enjoy the best quality of life as well as expert medical care.





As a result of this event and other fundraising efforts we were delighted to be able to present Sarah with a cheque for £700 from the Social Committee.

We would like to thank members and friends for attending this most enjoyable day and look forward to their continuing support.

Judith Parkin



# That was the AGM that was...and what followed

It was the first time that I had been asked to formally second a resolution at the AGM - hardly an onerous task, you'll have to admit, especially with the words you are required to read out printed on the card in your hand, but a task nonetheless. There are some of us who foolishly enjoy tasks. I had given myself another: that of providing the projector, laptop and screen for Teresa Dybisz, the young student sculptor who was to be one of our afternoon speakers. Now ... when would she be arriving, would her PowerPoint presentation glide effortlessly from her memory stick on to my laptop, would the laptop behave itself and talk to the projector and would I manage to erect the screen without getting my fingers trapped? (It's a bit like putting up a deck chair with all the attendant opportunities for spectator amusement). These are not real worries, you understand, just the fleeting questions of a moment, quickly suppressed, but lying dormant beneath the calm, unconcerned surface.

Of course, all went smoothly. Teresa's presentation was safely imported in minutes. I returned to the meeting and looked through my very sketchy jottings: Lady Halifax had arrived a whole hour early with her journey through last year's snow in mind; women still have a long way to go in the equality stakes - at the Davos World Economic Forum 2012 only 17% of the delegates were women; women can easily usurp men's place in the traditional masculine trades - witness the local answer to bathroom leaks, Wakefield's 'Pink Plumbing'. Financially we were doing encouragingly well. We had bought into Morrisons in the last year, I made the mental note to swap supermarkets. It was clear that our portfolio was still generating a good income despite the present climate, thanks to those clever people who had made such prudent investments many years ago. And, of course, everyone who should have been thanked, was thanked.

Lunch was delightful and delicious as usual. Congratulations in abundance are due to the Social Committee.

Then we were privileged to hear from the two students who had been recipients of YLCE awards and brave enough to thank us in person. Teresa dazzled us with the illustrations of her work. She is studying for a Historic Carving Diploma at City and Guilds of London Art School, and showed us in detail on screen the projects involved in her course. Though she claimed to be

































nervous at first, she gave a relaxed and most informative performance, responding readily to our questions as the presentation progressed. We admired her half life-size figure from life (male nude); we learned about Egg and Dart moulding, saw the work on replacement carvings at St. George's Chapel; learned what a Crocket is and saw the piece of work for which she had received the Worshipful Company of Mason's Tool Prize. Then there was portrait modelling and capital carving, lettering work on Welsh slate, all leading to her prestigious award at the end of her second year of a grant from the Queen Elizabeth Scholarship Trust. She showed us details of her final year project, a copy of the piece in the V&A by Rysback of Cupids as Caryatids. Her self-inflicted task was to achieve this in marble. If we go along to the final year show in June we will be able to see (and marvel at) the finished work.

Tenley was introduced as a scholarship recipient from the University School of Music (see article on YLCE/Clarkson scholarships). Tenley hails from Maryland and stunned us with the diversity of her achievements to date. She began her piano studies at the age of seven and became hooked on music of all kinds, even performing in marching bands in her teens. Her first degree, however, was in Political Science and Archaeology with Music as a minor option; after an Ontario internship with the Canadian Parliament, her project management skills then led her into naval defence and eventually a desk at the Pentagon (and the necessary 15 tailored suits to go with it). As a pacifist she found all this rather contradictory, gave it all up, came to England, to Leeds and with her passion for world percussion music is now reading for a PhD in Ethnomusicology and Percussion Performance. She has been tutored amongst others by Evelyn Glennie, a personal hero of hers, and now, as well as playing the full range of percussion instruments in orchestral works, she plays in a Cuban salsa band, a Latin American folk ensemble and indulges her passion in flamenco, though she was perhaps too dismissive of her own accomplishments on the dance floor.

We came away from the afternoon a little breathless but perhaps also self-congratulatory, in that the Council is able to support the life-enhancing work of young people such as these.

#### Gillian Andrews

### Awards Committee

The members of the Awards Committee are deeply saddened to hear of the death of Jillian Rennie. Jill was one of the members of the Yorkshire Ladies' Council who, when in 1989 the closure and sale of the secretarial school became inevitable, was instrumental in setting up a permanent fund to be used to provide scholarships and grants for the education of women. She was a member of the Awards Committee from the start and became chairman in 2002. She only relinquished this responsibility in 2010 because of ill health. The current committee owes a considerable debt to Jill, and to those other founding members who established the guidelines which are followed today.

We will all miss Jill's presence. Her contributions to discussion were always well informed and realistic. She was sympathetic to and admiring of the achievements and struggles of the women who apply to the YLCE for support. Jill was a kind, wise and generous friend. She will always be associated in our minds with the hospitality she delighted in providing in her home in Batcliffe Drive.

Since the setting up of the YLCE Awards Committee in 1989/90 about one thousand women have been provided with educational awards. That fact provides something of a fitting tribute to Jill and to the success of the Awards Fund.

Many of our award holders are very talented. Ana is studying for an MA

in the Royal College of Art, London. Fashion Design Women's Wear is a prestigious course which admits only 12 students each year. Ana has already proved herself an accomplished dress designer and has enjoyed placements with Vivienne Westwood in London as well as Lanvin and Givenchy Couture in Paris. She still needs formal qualifications to secure her career and the course is providing her with advanced skills and knowledge; as well as confidence and a sense of achievement.



Ana is very grateful to the YLCE for the time taken to consider her application and the contribution to her course fees. As with other award holders, she feels she gains not just from our financial support but the granting of the award has itself has provided Ana with a boost to her confidence because of the committee's recognition of her ability.

Sadly the Awards Committee cannot help all applicants especially in this time of continued financial stringency. During our meetings in January and March 2012 committee members considered eighty nine applications. Fifty one of those requests were refused and thirty eight granted. We are immensely grateful to YLCE members who support the Awards Fund in many ways and especially by their generous (often Gift Aided) donations at the recent AGM.

I am personally very appreciative of all of the hard work undertaken by members of the committee in reading and considering numerous applications in advance of our meetings. Their dedication allows difficult decisions to be made as speedily and consistently as possible.

Isobel Jenkins

# For your diary, part 1...

The <u>Leeds International Piano Competition</u> will be held in 2012. This event is held every three years. Competitors come from all parts of the world. The heats and early rounds take place in the University of Leeds and the finals take place in Leeds Town Hall.

If you would like to help in August and September this year do contact the Administrator, Elizabeth Blanckenberg, o113 2446586. Many Yorkshire ladies help in diverse ways from driving competitors to practice pianos all over Leeds, to offering pianos for practice; from stewarding in the Great Hall to clerical work at Devonshire Hall where the competitors live.

Competitors will start arriving on August 26 and the finals will be 14 and 15 September.

Mary Herbert

# Louisa and Christabel Clarkson and the YLCE/ Clarkson Scholarships

The talk given by Tenley Martin at the recent AGM is a timely reminder of the many able women whose education and career aspirations have been supported by the YLCE over many years. Tenley was, in 2010, the recipient of a YLCE/Clarkson scholarship in the School of Music, University of Leeds. The history of the YLCE Awards Fund is probably fully appreciated by members but less well known is the origin of the Clarkson funding.

A Clarkson Loan Training Fund was established by the YLCE in 1922 as a result of bequests from two sisters who were members of the Council. They were Louisa and Christabel Clarkson of Alverthorpe Hall, Wakefield. Louisa, the elder sister died in 1916 leaving £500 for the



'training of young women of gentle birth and necessitous circumstances'. The training was to take place either in institutions set up by the YLCE or approved by them. A further sum of £100 was donated by Christabel in 1922 and her express wish was that preference might be given to Yorkshire women wishing to study music.

At that time it was decided by the Council that the fund should help mainly, but not exclusively, those students studying at the YLCE secretarial college. Initially, half course fees were loaned, although occasional grants were made. Repayment was required over 5 years. In later years larger sums were loaned and repayment reduced to three years. The first loan was made to a student studying music in London and the last, in 1987, to a student at the secretarial college.

In 1989, after the closure of the secretarial college, the YLCE Executive Committee decided to set up the present YLCE /Clarkson scholarships for women. These were to be awarded annually at the discretion of the head of the School of Music in the University of Leeds. The first award, in 1991, was to a bassoon player. The scholarships continue today and it is very pleasing to realize that they have helped seventy two women musicians over the past twenty years.

Professor Scott, the present head of the School of Music, in a recent letter of thanks to the YLCE, commented that there are many talented young women musicians and that the scholarships continue to be greatly appreciated. He also reminded us that the University of Leeds, originally part of the Victoria University (which also included the Universities of Manchester and Liverpool) was, in 1894, the first in Britain to award a music degree to a woman.

I feel sure that Louisa and Christabel Clarkson would have been pleased that their gifts, made over 90 years ago, continue to be appreciated and to be of benefit to talented women.

Isobel Jenkins

I am grateful to Mrs C. Marsden, Miss JMM Rennie and Mr D Watson of Alverthorpe for information about the Misses Clarkson.

Alverthorpe Hall was demolished 1947 and is now the site of Flanshaw First School. The photograph is courtesy of Wakefield Libraries, from the WC Machan collection.

 $(Anyone\ with\ information\ about\ WC\ Machan\ please\ contact\ Wakefield\ Libraries.)$ 

# **Projects Committee**

This past year the Projects Committee raised money for two charities, both of whom undertake valuable work amongst some of the most disadvantaged members of our community. We continued to support the extra needs teacher at St Gregory's as we have for a number of years. Based in one of the most deprived areas of Leeds, The Inside Outside Club at St Gregory's receives little funding from the City of Leeds but offers valuable support for children of school age as well as their parents. In addition to St Gregory's the Projects Committee continued offer a second year of support for Settle, a new charity based in Leeds and founded specifically to teach refugee women language and life skills to help them integrate into and contribute to the community at large. Last year the money raised by the Projects Committee for Settle was used to fund the purchase of desperately-needed teaching equipment including writing materials, English Language texts and workbooks.

Settle is a self-help group which meets for classes which are run by volunteers, some of whom trained as English teachers in their own countries. Teaching a second language is always a challenge, especially when, as in this case, the pupils present with a myriad of different languages between them. The charity is hoping to raise funds for the purchase of audio-learning equipment and a lap-top computer with translation facilities to aid with setting homework and which will help to surmount language and communication barriers.

Many of the women who attend the classes struggle, not only with limited English, but with the memories of their experiences prior to escaping to the UK. Much of the work Settle does is aimed at improving the language, confidence and life skills of their pupils to enable them to overcome isolation as well as cope with the everyday challenges of life in a new country.

This year our coffee morning is on Thursday 17 May at the home of Dr Gabrielle Ibberson, and we have enclosed an invitation giving details

about the morning with this newsletter. Roadside parking is available nearby on Town Street, Rawdon. There is very limited disabled parking at Dr Ibberson's house.

At the Coffee morning, we will be selling cakes and home-made produce and plants. We will also be offering hand-made jewellery 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, to 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 to offer for sale on our own stalls.

Please do try to come and if you really are not able to, please consider donating cakes and/or plants for someone else to bring. Donations by cheque may be sent to Dr Gabrielle Ibberson, and would be gratefully received but we do hope you will be able to join us in person.

Margaret Pullen

# For your diary, part 2 ...

At the <u>Leeds City Museum</u>, Millennium Square there are two especially interesting exhibitions.

The "Silver Seventies" on the top floor of the museum will remind you of fashions, films, music and furniture of the 1970s. You will be astonished at the dates of inventions and events and startled too to see things so very fashionable in the 70s still in use in your home today!

"Pharaoh King of Egypt" is an exhibition touring from the British Museum including artefacts found in Egypt as well as descriptions of rituals, religion and daily life in days of the Pharaohs.

Admission to both exhibitions is free. The "Silver Seventies" runs to 22 April and "Pharaoh in Egypt" runs to 17 June.

The next exhibition will be the "Diamond Jubilee".

Mary Herbert

### Our new members introduce themselves...

### Gail Taylor

I became aware of the YLCE several years ago initially through Mrs Françoise Logan and then when a small History of LGHS was published to coincide with the merger with the Grammar School. Married with two daughters in their twenties, we have lived in Hong Kong, San Francisco and near Kew Gardens, moving to Yorkshire some 18 years ago. My background is in classical music, working for music festivals in London and California, mainly involved with the choral side. Voluntary work over the years includes: PTA Officer, supervising Junior section of our local tennis club, Leeds Parish Church Choir Parents, involvement with the Leeds International Piano Competition. Interests include world travel, tennis, relative newcomer to golf, NADFAS member, gardens and gardening.

### Molly Brocklesby

Your new Chairman of the Forest Hill Board invited me to join the YLCE last year.

Over many years I have known a number of friends who attended the Yorkshire Ladies Secretarial College and I also know at least 20 people who serve on committees or support the cause.

I have served on the West Yorkshire Committee of DGAA, now Elizabeth Finn Trust, for over 30 years and still serve on the House Committee of the Friends of Hampden House, our Residential Home in North Yorkshire, Duchy Road Harrogate.

For over 50 years my husband and I have entertained and raised funds for many charities both national and local.

### Layinka Swinburne

We were educated by Mills and Boon. My mother, Margaret Lees (Halifax), was a romantic novelist and the going rate for the children was 6d for a good idea and 1s for a title. It got us all to University but watching her at work made me resolve never to be a fiction writer, although after graduating from Leeds Medical School I eventually became a pathologist and sometimes provided her with more exciting ideas. She had a strong social sense and we joined her in working for disadvantaged girls in the area through various local organisations.

After working in Birmingham, the Wirral, and Cambridge, where I met my husband, we returned to Leeds to St James's Hospital where we worked until retirement. My special interests included the Haemophilia Unit, of which I was Director for a time, and ME (Myalgic Encephalomyelitis). As one of the first clinical managers in the NHS I saw some of the early effects of introducing the management culture.

Food has always been important and the Leeds Symposia on Food history (to which I have contributed) introduced me to the fine collections of manuscript cookery books in the Brotherton Library, YAS, Leeds Archives and many country houses. I am specially interested in the remedies included in these manuscripts and always on the look-out for new ones.

I am now much involved with the Thackray Museum, fund-raising for the Collections and continuing research into domestic medicine of the 17 and 18 centuries.

Dilys Welch told me about the Ladies Council and I was very impressed by their practical approach, which was very much in line with the values with which I was brought up.

### Mary Hughes

We came to Leeds in 1958 when my husband was appointed Head of Modern Languages at Central High School, and lived in Chapel Allerton. A friend introduced me to the West Riding Oxford and Cambridge Club in 1960, where I met Jill Rennie and several other 'Yorkshire Ladies' . I was an active member of that club until it closed.

I returned to teaching French in the late sixties, eventually teaching at Abbey Grange.

I joined the British Federation of Women Graduates and am an active member of the Leeds Association.

My husband died unexpectedly last December and I have two sons: one in Staleybridge and one in France.

### Cynthia Edwards

I am a self-employed Human Resources/ Health and Safety Consultant with extensive experience in both the public and private sector. I have a 19 year old daughter Sophie, who is studying English Literature at St Andrews University in Scotland. My son, Andrew, lives in the southwest of France with his partner and my 4 gorgeous granddaughters - triplets Flora, Mimosa and Esme (aged 4) and Agnes aged 6.

I was introduced to YLCE by Liz Thring as we are both active members of the Ackworth Rotary Club. In addition, I am a magistrate in the Pontefract and Wakefield courts, sitting on both the criminal and family benches and I have recently qualified as chair in both courts. Other than these activities, I like nothing better than chilling out with a cup of tea and a good book.

# Jillian M M Rennie

Jillian was a member of the Yorkshire Ladies' Council of Education for over 40 years. Soon after joining the Council in 1970 she accepted an invitation to join the Executive Committee and from then on she served in an official capacity until her death, giving time and energy willingly and with enthusiasm. In 1988 when the decision was taken to close and sell the Secretarial College and invest the proceeds in an awards fund for women, she was Chairman of the Executive Committee and therefore deeply involved with the often protracted negotiations. It was decided that the investments be managed professionally and annual income only be disbursed. From the beginning the funding was never sufficient to satisfy demand and Jill was always looking for ways to improve the income in order to help more women. She was a member of the Awards Committee from the start and Chairman from 2002 until 2010 when she retired. The administration of the Fund is an onerous one requiring many hours of dedicated work throughout the year from committee members. Jill gave that service and even after retiring planned to write a recent history of the Council.

In addition to her enthusiasm for the advancement of education for women, Jill was a person with many interests, not least those of Music and the Arts. She was a founding member of the Friends of University Art & Music (Leeds) and was Hon. Secretary for 5 yrs. Her hope was that this would, as indeed it did, promote a wider interest in these events on the campus. Like William Morris, Jillian believed that one should surround oneself with things of beauty wherever possible and she much enjoyed completing several tapestry works with great success and these now adorn her dining room chairs and hall.

Her reading interests were mainly biographical and she could put less well read people to shame with the breadth of her knowledge - her excellent brain and phenomenal memory standing her in good stead. As something of a technophobe she believed strongly that nothing could improve on the spoken word or a good handwritten letter. Jillian

was a sensitive, loyal, supportive and courteous friend to all including her 'quartet' enjoying regular visits to concerts, theatre and opera, not to mention excursions and holidays.

In the last 10 years of her life she had several periods of serious illness and these, including her brother's death which affected her greatly, gradually forced her with great reluctance to reduce her activities, although she still spent many very happy hours in her garden creating her 'splashes of colour'. She was particularly successful with and proud of her hellebores and roses. These interests, including her 33 years at the University arranging hospitality and public lectures, brought her many lifelong friends all of whose company she much enjoyed and by whom she will be greatly missed.

Well done, Jill - we, your fellow members and friends, salute you.

Doreen Marsden and Elisabeth Loach

### **New Members**

Dr Layinka Swinburne Mrs Mary Hughes

### **Deaths**

Mrs J Forrest (past member) Miss J M M Rennie 24 December 2011 17 March 2012

"Many thanks to all who have contributed to making this Newsletter an interesting and informative read." Editor

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