



Newsletter

Autumn 2011

Yorkshire Ladies' Council of Education

Sandwich Lunch and Christmas Fare

Thursday 3rd November, 11.30am - 2.00pm

At the home of Mrs Auriol Moore

2 Wedgewood Drive, Leeds. LS8 1EF

Annual General Meeting

Monday 6th February 2012, 11.45am

At St Chad's Parish Centre

Executive Committee meetings (5 per annum)

Monday 28 November 2011 - Annual Meeting

Monday 30 January 2012

Monday 26 March 2012

Monday 26 June 2012

Monday 24 September 2012

Awards Committee meetings (4 per annum)

Friday, 10 days prior to each Executive Committee meeting

Projects Committee meetings (2-3 per annum)

Monday 16 January, 10.15am

Social Committee meetings (2-3 per annum)

Monday 9 January, 10.15am

Forest Hill House Committee meetings (11 per annum)

1st Wednesday monthly, excluding August

Coffee Morning Thursday 17 May, 10.30am 2012

Forest Hill Garden Party Date to be decided

Letter from our Chairman

Dear Yorkshire Ladies,

Now that autumn is upon us, the blackberry jam and crab-apple jelly are stored on the pantry shelves and the children/grandchildren have settled into the new term, it's time to think of making more of our time and energy. The Yorkshire Ladies' Council of Education needs your help! We need volunteers and new members to help the Council help others. We need ladies on the Forest Hill House Committee, the Social Committee, and the Projects Committee. We would also like to establish a Fundraising Committee so that we can continue to support education and training through our Awards Fund and through our chosen charity partners in the wider community. Perhaps a group of friends would like to get together and cooperate on a project - just a thought - it could be fun.

New members of the YLCE are very welcome too. Nowadays, to introduce a friend, you need only propose her by contacting the office where Phillida Richardson will organise the appropriate forms. Back in the (bad) old times, new members had to face an interview over tea with the whole of the Executive Committee before being formally invited to join!

Now, women who bring extra skills such as fundraising, public relations, event organising, food preparation or visiting the elderly will be especially appreciated, but everyone who wishes to participate in the work of the Council will be warmly welcomed. Consider how much more interesting winter and spring could be if you and your friends helped the Yorkshire Ladies by giving a bit of your time!

Also do come and bring your friends to the Sandwich Lunch and Christmas Fare on Thursday 3 November. I look forward to seeing you there.

Nancy Donner

Awards Committee

In spite of our concern that the substantial rise in tuition charges being planned for September 2012 might cause a flood of applications for YLCE personal awards this year, there was only a small increase in numbers in June and September as compared to the same period in 2010. The total numbers of applications in June and September 2010 were one hundred and twenty six and those of June and September this year one hundred and forty three. This number of applications still involves a great deal of work on the part of the committee and after due deliberation twenty two grants were awarded in June with thirty nine refused. In September thirty six grants were made with forty six refused.

Your committee continues to receive requests for funding from women from a wide range of backgrounds and financial need. Many of the women who apply are undoubtedly high fliers with considerable talent in, for example, music and the arts, and in intellectual ability - several have first class degrees. Other women, who may have been unable to achieve their potential in school, or who may have suffered from domestic violence, impress the committee in a different way. They are often working with admirable dedication to gain qualifications and to establish a worthwhile career.

Rosalind is working as a higher level teaching assistant in a special school and hopes eventually to become a qualified teacher. When she first applied to the YLCE for help to pay her fees she had already worked hard to gain higher level teaching assistant qualifications and was two thirds of the way through a part-time Foundation Degree course. She gained this degree with distinction in the summer of 2011 and is now studying for an Honours Degree.

Teresa is studying for a Historic Carving Diploma at City and Guilds and London Art School. She is very grateful for YLCE support for her studies and has written to the committee at length about her interesting and varied course. In particular she has described the problems



encountered in carving a copy of a 14th century crocket in hard limestone and the difficulty of 'hairstyling' putti! Teresa was presented with a Queen Elizabeth Trust scholarship by the Royal Warrant Holders at the Hilton Hotel in June of this year and has been invited to the Royal Garter Day at Windsor Castle.

There have been some changes to the awards committee recently. At our June meeting we were very sorry to say goodbye to Miss Barbara Neale, a long standing and greatly respected member of the committee. Miss Neale has recently become more involved in many other aspects of the work of the YLCE and of Forest Hill. We will miss her sense of humour and sound judgment. We were very happy to welcome Mrs Gillian Andrews to the September meeting where she made a valuable contribution to our discussion. Mrs Andrews has a wealth of experience in the education world and we hope she will enjoy being part of the team.

Isobel Jenkins

Legacies

Please consider leaving a legacy to the Yorkshire Ladies' Council of Education. You know it will be used to help fund the education of women and to support education and training in the wider community.

Social Committee

Safe Anchor Trust, the Charity we have supported this year, invited the Committee to a boat trip on the canal, from the Marina at Shepley Bridge, in one of the boats used when taking their disabled clients on the canal. On 2 June six



members of the Committee enjoyed an hour on the beautiful canal on a hot sunny afternoon. Afterwards we were shown around a boat which was undergoing major refurbishment, to enable the trust to increase the number of people they would be able to support. It was an excellent visit and we all agreed that Safe Anchor Trust which supports approximately 2,000 people a year was a very worthy charity to have supported.

The Social Committees' popular Sandwich Lunch and Christmas Fare will be held on Thursday 3 November, 11.30am to 2pm. We are very grateful to Mrs. Auriol Moore who again has offered her home for this event. There will be homemade festive food all prepared by the members of the Committee, 2 further stalls, Phoenix cards, providing greeting cards and wrapping paper both seasonal and for other occasions, and a selection of Christmas decorations, and a stall with a selection of hand bags and scarves. This event will be in aid of Martin House Childrens' Hospice, which is the Charity we are supporting this year. Martin House provides care and support, free of charge, to families in which there is a child or children with a short life expectancy. Its aim is to provide a home from home, with a lively friendly atmosphere where children and their families can enjoy the best quality of life. One of their Fundraising Team will give a short presentation about the work of the Hospice.

During this year the Social Committee has also supported the Projects Committee at their coffee morning, helping on the cake stall, and guess the weight of the cake, and at the Forest Hill Garden Party, serving teas.

At our meeting held 3 October we were very pleased to welcome Mrs. Elisabeth Stephens who has joined the Committee.

Gill Milner

Projects Committee

Our annual Coffee Morning was held on a sunny day in May this year at the home of Mrs Françoise Logan. 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, a total of £670 was raised. Our grateful thanks once again must go to Françoise and St Clair as well as to all the other kind volunteers who joined with our committee to make the morning such a success.

Our guest speaker at the Coffee Morning was Mrs Spiwe Mandara, the founder and Project Co-ordinator of Settle, a new charity based in Leeds which is aimed specifically at promoting, through education, community integration and cohesion amongst the refugee women living in the area. She spoke movingly of her own struggles and isolation when she first arrived in the UK from Zimbabwe and of her determination to use the lessons she had learned from her experiences to improve the life chances of other refugee women.

At Settle basic language and educational skills are offered in small classes by teachers freely volunteering their time. The organisation also offers a counselling service and intends, in the future, to expand to run parenting classes, IT classes, and workshops to encourage entrepreneurial skills.

This is an organisation founded and run by a group of dynamic, highly focused women, who have identified a real need in their community and are determined to address it. The £300 offered to Settle by the Projects Committee this year was granted to enable the purchase of desperately-needed teaching equipment including English Language texts and workbooks, a Dictionary, a writing board, a projector and equipment for 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 St Gregory's this year together with a generous supply of breakfast cereals donated by guests at the Coffee Morning. Both Settle and St Gregory's will continue to be supported by The Projects Committee in 2012.

Margaret Pullen

An inspiring morning...

In the words of a famous retailer's advertisement, this was not just a coffee morning, this was a YLCE coffee morning! From the moment we arrived at St. Clair and Françoise Logan's home, we were made to feel welcome. Visitors were greeted with a delicious cup of coffee and biscuit served by the trusty kitchen team.

Preparations were well in hand, and the stallholders had been busy laying out their wares to attract customers. The cake stall did well as usual, with many home-made goodies brought and bought. Elizabeth Peacock's jewellery stall was a new venture, and



a real talking point. Cards and wrappings were most attractive, and gave everyone the opportunity to stock up for quite some time. Plants

were on sale in the garage, and the lovely weather must have been an incentive for people to think of the summer to come, and to take the opportunity to buy something different. The large array of books and CD's were well perused, and a medal for salesman of the morning must go to Dr. Brian Welch for his persuasive talent in making sure that any ditherers left with more books under their arms than they had planned. We were delighted that our President, Lady Halifax was able to join us on this occasion.



However, the real highlight of the morning was the presentation by Mrs Spiwe Mandara from the organisation Settle. What an inspirational talk she gave on the work being done to help women who come to this country and who are keen to improve their qualifications.



The help which the YLCE gives to these women is extremely valuable. We were all impressed with the leadership which Mrs Mandara has shown, and she is to be encouraged to continue her work in this particular community. We take education and opportunity too much for granted.

Elisabeth Stephens

Forest Hill

We have now received written confirmation that we can proceed with the double glazing of the two wings and the corridors that join them. Leeds Glass will inform us when they are to start the installation.

Forest Hill is now full! All flats and the bedsits are occupied, we are very happy !

Gwynneth Owen

A day in the life of Matthew Loble...

One of the most pleasurable aspects of being a Ward Councillor is being invited to meet people at galas and open days, so I was most pleased to be invited to Forest Hill for their annual Garden Party by the Yorkshire Ladies' Council of Education

I prepared a speech, something which people who know me well know I always enjoy giving. It was easy to decide what to talk about because Roundhay is an unusual place - a village within a city. There are community groups, campaign groups, residents groups, 'Friends of' groups covering the parks and wooded areas, it is all so well organised and looked after. I talked about how rewarding my job is, standing side by side with residents to protect Roundhay's Conservation Areas from over-zealous developers, campaigning for road safety improvements, and fighting for investment in our local green spaces. I feel together we've achieved a lot.



Mrs. Hill then gave a vote of thanks, which was most touching. I've since been in contact with Mrs. Hill who is a wonderful lady with a pin sharp mind and I thank her for all her kind words.

It was a pleasure to meet the residents of Forest Hill who are a lively group: astute; kind mannered and plain speaking. What more



purchased a lovely home-made cake to take home to my long suffering wife, Amy, I bid everyone farewell.

could one hope for? After a tour around your wonderful facilities, a proper cup of tea and having



This year many events I attend are tinged with a little sadness for me as I have had to announce I will be stepping down from Leeds City Council next May after what will have been an enjoyable nine years. I hope my successor will take time to visit Forest Hill so that they too can enjoy the hospitality and friendly atmosphere. I wish everyone at Forest Hill and your excellent team at Yorkshire Ladies' Council of Education all the best for the future.



Thank you.

Matthew Lobley

Roundhay Ward Councillor

...some use in the educational world...

With over 40 years' membership and as a long-standing Chairman of the Awards Committee, Jillian Rennie was the natural choice to be invited to speak to the Leeds Association of the British Federation of Women Graduates (BFWG) in April about the history of



the Yorkshire Ladies' Council of Education. Jillian had in any case recently been involved in some research into the Council and so we chimed in with these interests. And not forgetting the fact that she had,



at one stage, also been a BFWG member! We were naturally able to extend the talk to members of the YLCE and many took advantage of it, including Chairman Nancy Donner.

Knowing of our mutual interest in the education and advancement of women, (and reflected in the title of her talk), Jillian guided us through the fascinating and at times somewhat turbulent history of the Council, from its beginnings in the 1860s in drawing-room discussions amongst the well-to-do ladies of Leeds. What became clear however was that the ladies were not just well-meaning but actually 'put their money where their mouths were' - in modern parlance. We have them to thank for many of the institutions, or their forerunners, in Leeds which we take for granted, whether it be the Girls' High School, the 'Pud' School

or the Secretarial College - and two of its former students, Tricia Hollis and Lindsay Taylor, were at the talk! The College in Blenheim Terrace only closed in 1988, 70 years after it was founded, clearly fulfilling a need.

Forest Hill, the Awards and Projects Committees' work continue and I was interested to learn that the Council had also played a pioneering role in the identification of the need for the preservation of rural England. Perhaps most edifying was to recognise that, over the past 140 years, the Council has involved itself with life in Leeds from the cradle (early education for young women in child health) to the care of the elderly at Forest Hill. Truly a formidable achievement and one which should still concern the Council today and encourage YLCE members to invite others to join in this worthwhile cause.



A plate collection at the end of the talk raised money which was shared between the Federation and the YLCE for their respective scholarship funds.

Gillian Roche BFWG (Leeds Association) President

Public Relations

The Yorkshire Ladies' needs someone who can ensure that the work we do is reported in local and neighbourhood newspapers and magazines. If you or someone you know would like to publicise our charity efforts in this way, please get in touch with Nancy Donner or anyone on the Executive committee.

New Members

Mrs Molly Brocklesby

Mrs Cynthia Edwards

Mrs Gail Taylor

Resignations

Mrs Barbara Dugdale

Mrs Margaret Dilke

Miss Sheila Verity

Deaths

Mrs. Muriel Whittaker Hope on 4 July 2011

Change of Address

Mrs E L Arnold

01937 572315

liz@holly26.plus.com

Springbank

26 Hollybush Green

Collingham

LS22 5BG

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 ylce411@btinternet.com or by post with her details and an application form will be sent out.

The Yorkshire Ladies' Council of Education

<i>Registered Office</i>	<i>Forest Hill 11 Park Crescent Leeds LS8 1DH</i>
<i>Office Hours</i>	<i>Monday & Wednesday 9.00 - 11.30am</i>
<i>Secretary Telephone</i>	<i>Mrs Phillida Richardson 0113 269 1471</i>
<i>Email</i>	<i>ylce411@btinternet.com</i>
<i>Website</i>	<i>www.ylce.org</i>
<i>Executive Committee</i>	<i>Mrs N A Donner</i>
<i>Awards Committee</i>	<i>Mrs I Jenkins</i>
<i>Projects Committee</i>	<i>Mrs M J Pullen</i>
<i>Social Committee</i>	<i>Mrs G P Milner</i>
<i>Forest Hill House Committee</i>	<i>Mrs G Owen</i>

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