



Newsletter

Spring 2011

Coffee Morning

Thursday 19 May, 10.30am

At the home of Mrs Françoise Logan

Skyreholme Layton Avenue Rawdon Leeds LS19 6QQ

Garden Party

Tuesday 7 June, 2.30pm

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

To be opened by Councillor Matthew Lobley

Executive Committee meetings (5 per annum)

Monday 27 June 2011

Monday 26 September 2011

Monday 28 November 2011 - Annual Meeting

Monday 30 January 2012

Monday 26 March 2012

Awards Committee meetings (4 per annum)

Friday, 10 days prior to each Executive Committee meeting

Projects Committee meetings (2-3 per annum)

Monday 13 June, 10.15am

Social Committee meetings (2-3 per annum)

Monday 3 October, 10.15am

Forest Hill House Committee meetings (11 per annum)

1st Wednesday monthly, excluding August

Christmas Sandwich Lunch *Thursday 3 November 2011, 11.30am*

Annual General Meeting *Monday 6 February 2012, 11.45am*

Editorial

As space is at a premium I'm simply going to take this brief opportunity to say many thanks to all who have contributed the excellent articles that follow - thank you.

Enjoy your Newsletter,

Kim Knowles

*Dr. K. Knowles, The Clock House, Woodlands, West Avenue, Leeds. LS8 2JN
0113 232 9600 / 0778 742 6699 kimknowles@btinternet.com*

Don't forget...

Jillian Rennie will be talking to the Leeds branch of The British Federation of Women Graduates...

"... some use in the educational world"
a Brief History of the Yorkshire Ladies' Council of Education

When: Wednesday 27 April at 7.15pm

Where: The Sugden Room, Headingley Parish Centre,
St Michael's Road, Leeds LS6 3AW

Cost: £1 (includes tea/coffee biscuits)

Please could you let Gillian Roche, gmroche@btinternet.com, or Mary O'Regan, 0113 262 4131, know if you are attending.

Gillian Roche, LAWG President

Letter from our Chairman

Dear Yorkshire Ladies

I am using the hunt and peck system on my computer keyboard today because I have broken my arm - an inglorious end to a mediocre career on the slopes - but I've no regrets as we have had nearly 40 years of pleasure from skiing.

My injury has given me time to think about these tragedies that beset our world, the Christchurch and Japanese earthquakes and tsunami and the uprisings in the Middle East. Perhaps a medic, to whom the Yorkshire Ladies gave a grant, is part of a rescue team or is covering for a colleague who is out in the field. Perhaps one of the team in the Foreign Office shaping policy on Libya or Egypt finished her higher degree in international relations because we supported her. This is speculation of course, but we fervently hope that the women we help will make a positive contribution to the human community. Our awards are intended to enable these women to turn possibility into reality. Thanks to the many of you who made generous donations to the Awards Fund at the AGM, other women will now benefit.

Thinking of reality, in order to give more grants, we are trying hard to reduce our administrative costs in these stringent times. Stationery and postage are major expenses and are being cut back by the use of email. If possible, please help us contact you electronically either by emailing us your permission to do so (ylce411@btinternet.com) or by posting us a letter or the form from your AGM notices. Your illustrated Newsletter will of course continue to be sent to you by post.

I'm looking forward to seeing many of you soon at the Projects Committee Coffee Morning on Thursday 19 May and the Forest Hill Garden Party on Tuesday 7 June. I'll have my arm out of a sling by then!

Nancy Donner

Forest Hill

All is well at Forest Hill and we are delighted to have recently let four of our vacant flats, leaving one flat and one bed-sit still available. Two of our residents, since Christmas, have moved into residential care. Tommy Hartley sadly died in February, he was a very popular member of our Forest Hill family and will be sadly missed.

During March we had CCTV installed, 8 cameras are distributed around the complex.

The Double Glazing Project is "on hold". The LCC Senior Planning Officer met us on site a week ago. She has indicated that the application for UPVC double-glazing in the wings might be accepted provided that the section of UPVC is more in keeping with the existing profiles - the sample we had was not, the UPVC frame was too heavy. The House and the Annexe must be replaced by double-glazed wooden windows of the same style. No planning permission is required for this like for like change. So we are now looking for more suitable UPVC frames and costs of double-glazed wooden windows. It has taken us 14 months to get this far!

Last, but not least! The ANNUAL GARDEN PARTY will be held this summer on Tuesday 7 June. Cllr. Lobley, Conservative Member for Roundhay, will be our Guest of Honour. I hope to see you all there, please come in droves and bring the sunshine with you!

Gwynneth Owen

Social Committee

The Annual Christmas Lunch was held at the home of Mrs. Auriol Moore, we give our grateful thanks again to Auriol for offering her home for this event. The food stall had an array of festive food all homemade and supplied by the Committee, the very popular Phoenix Cards was also present, and Andrea gave us a generous profit which helped us to raise £425 from this event.

At the AGM held in February 2011 the Committee provided the Buffet Lunch. We have received a very kind letter of appreciation and thanks from Margaret Bradbury the Hon. Secretary of the Executive Committee YLCE, in which she said how much everyone had enjoyed the Lunch. A profit of £222 was made by the Committee.

The Charity we are supporting this year is The Safe Anchor Trust. This is a voluntary Charity that gives disadvantaged and disabled people, young and old, mobile or in wheelchairs, a pleasant time for a few hours on our local Canals and Rivers. The major focus is to support organisations that require social and recreational activities to maintain or improve the health of users. No charge is made to people using the service, the Trust relies solely on voluntary contributions and donations, and there are over 50 dedicated volunteers. Groups are taken from the Sheply Bridge Marina in Mirfield for trips for half or a whole day, on one of the 3 canal boats one of which can take 4 wheelchairs.

Paul Taylor a Trustee of Safe Anchor and the husband of Lindsay, one of our committee members, gave a very comprehensive talk about the work of the Safe Anchor Trust.

With the proceeds of the Sandwich Lunch and the profit from the AGM we were able to donate £700. We have received a very kind letter of grateful thanks and appreciation from Paul in which he also said one of the boats is currently undergoing a major refit, the cost of which is very substantial and that our generous donation will be a great help towards that cost.

Paul very kindly invited members of the Social Committee to take a trip on the canal in one of their boats, and we hope to do this in early June.

Gill Milner

Christmas 2010 began on November 11th...

Our 2010 Christmas Sandwich Lunch was held on 11 November and as usual proved to be a successful and very enjoyable occasion.

The early organisation went well. Trestle tables and crockery were collected from Forest Hill and furniture was moved around the house. When Andrea arrived, half the stock she had intended to bring was locked in a car along with the car keys and no second keys could be found. However, the stock she did bring was fine and she made a fantastic display of cards for all occasions, wrapping paper and beautiful decorations for Christmas.

The Social Committee members brought a wonderful array of Christmas food, cakes, mince pies, scones and jams and preserves for the food stall and when the tables were set everything looked most inviting.

At 11am we all stood for a minute in silence and in our thoughts remembered Brenda Loy who hosted so many Sandwich Lunches. Soon the house was full of Yorkshire Ladies and their friends buying all the tempting things we had for sale and enjoying tasty sandwiches followed by Christmas cake and cheese.

Paul Taylor gave a very interesting talk about the charity chosen for this year, The Safe Anchor Trust, which provides opportunities for special needs children and young adults to spend time on canal boats.

Our thanks to everyone who helped to make this lunch so successful.

Auriol Moore

My apologies regarding the lack of photographs from this event, I was unable to

A visitor's view of our AGM...

How interesting, informative and calm. These were my thoughts as I was seated in St Chad's Parish Centre, as a guest, at the AGM, which was efficiently chaired by Mrs Nancy Donner. The agenda progressed like clockwork: the improving financial health was appraised; resolutions were proposed and accepted; the work and achievements of the committees were endorsed. Mrs Mary Herbert gave a warm and personal appreciation of the late Mrs Brenda Loy, whose work and qualities contributed so positively over many years to the Yorkshire Ladies' Council of Education, as well as to the lives of those who knew her. I was so impressed by everything – the details, the work, the atmosphere and warmth, and reflected how much I should like to become a member.

Lunch was a remarkable spread, provided by the Social Committee. It looked tasteful, tasty and tempting! I was scarcely seated, about to relish the food, charming service and conviviality, when I found myself agreeing to write this account! I do not know how this happened. Of course I had no notes, so I do hope that my memory does justice to the meeting.

The afternoon proved equally arresting. Janet Douglas, local historian amongst many other things, gave a stimulating and fascinating talk about Isabella Ford (1855-1924). A remarkable single lady, from a large Quaker family at Adel Grange, she devoted her energies, both locally and nationally, to Trade Union organisations for women, socialist activities especially the Independent Labour Party, the suffragist movement and peace campaigns in the First World War. As a result she also travelled and spoke in Europe. She was also a local councillor, active in Leeds Girl Guides, and somehow found the time to write 3 novels! Janet was unable to find any links with Isabella working directly for education for girls and women, though her sister was more involved. The vote of thanks was given by Isobel Jenkins, who concluded with reference to her own grandmother, another ardent campaigner for



A delightful AGM

Monday 7 February





improvements in women's lives as well as leading a full personal and professional life. How important it is to continue such vital work, and so I look forward to becoming a member of the YLCE.

Carol Gleisner

We asked Carol to say a little something about herself by way of introduction...

"Four years ago I ended my full-time teaching career as an historian and member of the leadership team of a successful Leeds comprehensive. I still work part-time for Leeds Trinity as a link tutor for trainee teachers. With six grandchildren, education is rarely out of family conversations. In YLCE I know Françoise Logan, Gillian Roche, Isobel Jenkins and Jilly Andrews."

Another new member, Gina Marks, also introduces herself...

"I came to Yorkshire from Connecticut in Southern New England 15 years ago when I took an early retirement from the Stamford Police department to marry my husband, Ray. Last year, when I was talking to my friend, Liz Thring, about how I now had time to get more involved in the community, she told me how much she enjoyed being part of the Yorkshire Ladies.

She told me about the purpose of this organization and some of what its members do. I discovered that much of this followed my own interests in women's studies that I pursued while working towards my PhD in sociology. I was delighted when Liz invited me along to the Christmas Sandwich lunch where I met some Yorkshire Ladies.

I am looking forward to being part of this important and exciting group of women."

Awards Committee

"I hope to make you proud....."

These are the words of Rachel, who, after completing a degree in professional acting, wrote to the YLCE to express her thanks.

She goes on to say "I benefitted greatly from my time at drama school. I now have an agent ...and am receiving (offers) of professional acting jobs ...and recognition for my work. None of this would have happened if your Trust had not been there, ready and willing, to help when I needed it most. I cannot put into words - my gratitude..."



Jacqui, who studied part time for the degree of MSc in Information Studies at Leeds Metropolitan University, wrote of the boost to her confidence which arose from receiving her YLCE award. "Prior to starting the course I was unhappy, in a very dead end job. Securing some financial help provided an incentive for me to do the course and move on with my life". Jacqui began her course in 2008 and she completed it successfully in 2010. She is now a fully qualified librarian.

She was pleased to take the time to tell us something of her experience "The course is an interesting mixture of theory and practical modules. We had practical sessions on library skills such as cataloguing and information searching. We also looked at theory surrounding ideas of information and information society. There were also every useful transferable skills modules on management and research. I spent the final three months doing a research dissertation which involved carrying out interviews and other practical research - on the history and impact of reading groups in public libraries. I am planning to write an article for an academic journal based on some of my findings... ..and also doing some freelance writing."

It is quite clear that YLCE awards are making a difference and I am sure we are all proud of our award holders.

Personal applications continue to be received, many of them from very talented and deserving women. In January 2011 there were 27 applications from which 10 awards were made and 17 refused. In March, 31 personal applications were considered 15 being granted and 16 refused.

Your awards committee remains busy often grappling with difficult decisions in this time of financial difficulty. We are very grateful to YLCE members and friends whose donations support the awards fund. I would like to mention in particular the sum of £473.10 which was donated at the recent AGM and the donations in memory of Brenda Loy, from some of her friends.

Isobel Jenkins

For your diary...

Leeds Lieder + Festival - "Filling the City with Song"

Friday 7 October - Sunday 9 October 2011.

Programme and information from Leeds Lieder + Festival Office,
Leeds College of Music, 3 Quarry Hill, LS2 7PD

Henry Moore (1896-1986)

Leeds Art Gallery, The Headrow, Leeds LS1 3AA . A major exhibition direct from Tate Britain until June 2011. Sculptures, maquettes, sketches, letters and pictures, examples of the skill of a local-born famous artist.

The Leeds Tapestry is still on display in the Gallery at the Leeds Central Library and has been better lit and annotated. Do visit it again!

York Art Gallery, Exhibition Square, York. 01904 687 687

David Hockney's famous picture "Bigger Trees nearer Warter". The biggest picture the artist has ever produced (equivalent to fifty canvases) is on show until 12 June 2010 as part of the Art in Yorkshire - Supported by Tate celebration.

Projects Committee

This past year the Projects Committee gave money to the Elisabeth Svensen Trust for Children and Donkeys (EST). EST has a donkey sanctuary and school based at Eccup which caters specifically for children with special needs. As the children ride and interact with the donkeys they develop their gross motor skills and also undertake a variety of activities, all learning-based.

The Projects Committee has also continued to support the extra needs teacher at St Gregory's this year and the funding will continue next year.

In addition to St Gregory's The Projects Committee will also be raising funds to support a new charity, Settle, which is based in Leeds and is aimed specifically at refugee women to enable them to integrate into and contribute to the community at large. Some of these women are highly qualified professionals in their own countries, but through a lack of English, or an inability to access relevant support, end up working in low-paid, unskilled jobs. Others are untrained and lacking in confidence, but are anxious to gain skills and qualifications to enhance their chances of employment and integration.

Settle offers practical support to these women, running classes in English as well as a counselling service, and intends in the future to offer parenting classes and workshops to encourage entrepreneurial skills. Still in its very early stages it is attracting interest primarily from the African immigrant community but its ultimate ambition is to offer educational and vocational support to women of all backgrounds, hoping at the same time to break down cultural and ethnic/racial barriers and encourage communication and cohesion within the community at large.

The Projects Committee recently visited Settle and met some of the women who attend the various classes run by the charity as well as a few of the volunteers who give their time and skills as teachers. The charity has confirmed that money raised by the Projects Committee will be used to purchase desperately-needed teaching equipment including

English Language texts and workbooks, a Dictionary, a writing board, a projector and equipment for audio-learning.

This is a small charity which owes its existence to the enthusiasm and vision of its volunteers. At this stage a relatively small injection of funds can make an enormous difference as well as giving hope and encouragement to women who would otherwise face a lifetime of isolation.

This year our coffee morning is on Thursday 19 May at the home of Mrs Françoise Logan. We will be selling cakes and home-made produce, plants, hand-made jewellery, cards and good quality second hand books, and we welcome contributions in all those areas.

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 Mrs Françoise Logan, and would be gratefully received but we do hope you will be able to join us in person.

Margaret Pullen

Thank You...

I feel honoured to have become a Vice President of YLCE since my retirement from the position of Deputy Chairman of the Executive Committee. I appreciate that honour greatly. I have much enjoyed my many years as a member of Yorkshire Ladies' Council of Education, and I thank you all for your support and friendship especially during my recent illness.

Mary Herbert

Brenda Loy 1929 - 2010

Our friend and fellow Yorkshire Lady died on 2 November 2010 whilst still serving as the Honorary Treasurer of the Yorkshire Ladies' Council of Education. Her memorial Service in Leeds Parish Church on 12 November was well attended by members of the Council.

Brenda Loy was an Oxford graduate and taught mathematics after graduation. She married David Loy and together they raised three daughters.

She joined YLCE in 1976 and was actively involved after her retirement from teaching. She became a wise and respected member of the Executive Committee and was made Honorary Treasurer in 1998 acting alone in the office until mid 2010. She was thorough, realistic and wise in her advice to the Council. I have heard that Brenda read the Telegraph every morning with her cup of tea – no wonder she was always “on the ball” and such an efficient manager of our funds!

Brenda served on the Social Committee and was a Director of Forest Hill and she was a generous hostess, welcoming us to her home from 1995 to 2008 for the Annual Sandwich Lunch. We shall remember Brenda with affection, and admiration too, for her straightforward approach to life and for her integrity and loyalty to the aims and objects of our organization. We regret her passing and give thanks for her life and service.

Mary Herbert

Lilias Byrn 1928 - 2011

Lilias Brebner was born in Edinburgh and educated in Aberdeen where she took a first at the University. She was a German specialist, a gifted scholar and teacher. She became a lecturer at the University of Aberdeen and moved to take up a similar post at the University of Leeds in 1956. Here she also served as Warden of Lupton Hall. She married her colleague in the German Department, Richard Byrn, and they have two sons.

Lilias was always active in the community, especially in the United Reformed Church which benefitted greatly from her spiritual and practical contributions. She was a member of the Little Owl and the University Ladies as well as of the Yorkshire Ladies' Council of Education for more than thirty years. For ten years she served as Hon. Secretary of the Yorkshire Training Fund for Women, sister organisation to the YLCE. Her knowledge of the educational world, wisdom and good sense as well as her good humour were much valued over the years.

Lilias was fragile in appearance but inwardly a woman of courage and conviction. In every sphere of life, she was a giver and a doer. She was always there to offer her energy and her talents wherever needed and her warmth and friendship without reservation.

Nancy Donner

New Members

Mrs Gina Marks
Mrs Christine Hopkins (welcome back)
Mrs Carol Gleisner

Resignations

Mrs Pat Dixon Lewis
Mrs Mary Way
Mrs Mary Donovan

Deaths

We regret the passing of several Yorkshire Ladies since Spring 2010 and give thanks for their contribution to the work and achievements of YLCE.

Joy Smithells	February 2010
Ella Taylor	April 2010
Hilary Worthy	April 2010
Leila Roberts	(formerly Principal of the Yorkshire Ladies' Secretarial College) May 2010
Barbara Booth	May 2010
Elizabeth Johnson	September 2010
Brenda Loy	November 2010
Lilias Byrn	January 2011

"You can shed tears that they have gone, or you can smile because they have loved".

The Yorkshire Ladies' Council of Education

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Office Hours

*Monday & Wednesday
9.00 - 11.30am*

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Executive Committee

Mrs N A Donner

Awards Committee

Mrs I Jenkins

Projects Committee

Mrs M J Pullen

Social Committee

Mrs G P Milner

Forest Hill House Committee

Mrs G Owen

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