



# *Newsletter*

*Autumn 2017*

*Yorkshire Ladies' Council of Education*



## **Christmas Fayre and Sandwich Lunch**

Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> November 2017  
at St. Chad's Parish Centre  
Headingley

### **'My True Love Sent to Me ....'**

A seasonal entertainment  
by 'Ad Hoc Baroque'  
Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2017  
St. Edmund's Church. Roundhay

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

*Monday 27 November – Annual Meeting*

*Monday 29 January 2018*

*Monday 26 March 2018*

*Monday 25 June 2018*

#### ***Awards Committee Meetings*** (3 per annum)

*Friday, 10 days prior to Executive meetings in*

*March, June and September*

#### ***Projects Committee Meetings*** (2-3 per annum)

*The next: Monday, 20 November 2017*

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

#### ***Forest Hill House Committee Meetings*** (11 per annum)

*First Wednesday monthly, excluding August*

## *Letter from our Chairman*

To all our members

It does seem to be all change at the moment! Phillida, our Administrative Secretary, has recently been offered the full-time post she has been seeking so we send our congratulations and thank her heartily for offering to continue working for us at the moment. Then, after years of sterling service, our Hon Secretary, Margaret Bradbury, will stand down at our next AGM as will our Events Organisers, Rosemary and Joanne. Our newest member of the Executive Committee, Carole Tabbron, has produced this edition of the Newsletter, for which many thanks but she will now take on the role of Events Organiser, all of which means ..... we are currently seeking an Hon Secretary and a Newsletter Editor from amongst our memers. Keen editors will find details of what is involved elsewhere in this Newsletter and eager secretaries are cordially invited to contact me for further details.

I'm prefacing what comes next by saying that I do understand that, for good reasons, not all members are able to attend meetings regularly. However, I am very much hoping for a good turnout at those events we have organised before Christmas (more details elsewhere). The concert in St Edmunds Church with Ad Hoc Baroque will showcase most beautiful music (in a lighthearted framework) in an impressive church – it is a lovely preparation for Christmas – and the Sandwich Lunch will be warm and chatty, with fine refreshments, things to buy, a talk to hear. These are enjoyable occasions with good company and a sense of purpose. They support the aims of the YLCE; they are a way to attract new members; they keep us in touch with each other; they are fundraisers and for all these reasons we realise there is every incentive to continue with them and we will – as I write, more are in the pipeline. Reports elsewhere in the Newsletter underline just how much our events have been enjoyable and worthwhile. All organisers and committees are more than willing but numbers attending have been low. We really do need more support, so please come and please bring your friends. If you need help with transport, please let me know and I will do my best to arrange something.

By the time I write again, we will have put our clocks back and met several times, including at the AGM in February. The year is moving on and I claim to be the first to wish you all good health and Happy Christmas.

And last, but by no means least, I continue to appreciate very much the support of the Executive Committee, all of whom are willing to offer help, advice and extra time over and above the call of duty.

My best regards to you all.

**Gill**

Gill Lydon  
Chairman Executive Committee

tel. 0113 278 5596  
mob. 07940 539 360  
email. [gillian\\_lydon@hotmail.com](mailto:gillian_lydon@hotmail.com)

Don't forget: You can visit these pages on the new website

**HOME    AWARDS    ABOUT US    NEWS & EVENTS**

**OUR TEAM    MEMBERSHIP    CONTACT    DONATE**

*If any member has comments or ideas for the new website,  
please get in touch with Phillida Richardson*

email: [prichardson@ylce.org](mailto:prichardson@ylce.org)    or tel: 0113 269 1471

*Ground Floor Office,  
Forest Hill, 11 Park Crescent, Leeds LS8 1DH*

## *Social Committee*

Several members of the Committee helped on the Cake Stall and served coffee at the Projects Committee Coffee Morning in May, and also served tea at the Forest Hill Garden Party in June.

Christmas will soon be upon us, and the Social Committee will be busy making an abundance of goodies for our Annual Sandwich Lunch which is to be held on Thursday 9th November from 11.30am-2pm, at St. Chad's Church Parish Centre, Headingley. In addition to the Food Stall, there will be Handbags and Scarves, Jewellery, Phoenix Cards, Fancy Goods, Books, CDs and a raffle.

The Charity we are supporting this year is St. George's Crypt. This is a charity in the City of Leeds, working with the homeless, the vulnerable, and those suffering from addiction. The Charity believes that by demonstrating the love of Christ in a caring and practical way, lives can be transformed, regardless of people's circumstances. They aim to meet the basic needs of everyone in a safe, non-judgmental and caring environment. They support people who are living on the streets, helping them to find accommodation, and to gain the skills and confidence to enable them to take an active role in their futures.

There are over 50 bed spaces, 365 days of the year. The centre offers immediate practical support in terms of food, clothing and washing facilities. There is an in-house therapeutic treatment recovery programme for men and women with drug and alcohol addiction and a variety of opportunities to engage in voluntary work on projects such as catering, gardening, woodwork, art and drama, all providing a structured approach to learning.

A representative from St. George's Crypt will give a presentation on the many aspects of the work of this very worthwhile charity at the Sandwich Lunch on 9<sup>th</sup> November. Please support this popular event, bring your friends and help us to enjoy a successful event.

*Gill Milner*

## *Projects Committee*

Our annual fundraising Coffee Morning was held in March, as you'll know, at St Chad's Parish Centre, Otley Road, Headingley. As well as the shopping and social activities, guests enjoyed presentations from our chosen charities.

Carole O'Connor of The Inside Outside Club at St Gregory's, Seacroft, spoke about the needs and challenges of providing educational and practical support for school-age children in one of the most deprived areas of Leeds. She kindly brought a number of thank you cards made by the children which showed how much they, as well as the staff, appreciate the help given by the YLCE to their organisation. The money raised by the Projects' Committee at the Coffee Morning will be used to support the extra needs teacher at the Club.

We also had a presentation by Carolyn Browne, the manager of the Riding for the Disabled Association in Wakefield, a joint venture with the Camphill Project. Wakefield RDA provides horse riding to improve the health and well-being of people with disabilities in the Wakefield District. This year, the money raised by the Projects' Committee enabled us to give the Wakefield RDA a cheque for £300 which allowed them to send three riders to the RDA National Championships at Hartpury College in June.



Competing at the National Championships gives the young riders a real boost to their self-esteem and confidence, while the Association itself provides therapy, achievement and enjoyment to disabled people all over the UK. Thank you to all who supported us at the Coffee Morning, your generosity helped to give three young people a day they will always remember.

We were very pleased afterwards to receive handmade cards of thanks and photographs from the young riders and their families.

Eve and Sam (Eve's mum) also sent a photograph of Eve with the message:



Eve & Joe at the RDA National Championships

*"Thank you for the donation to support the trip to Hartpury for the RDA National Championship. It was my first time at a big competition as well as Joe's (the pony I ride). I had an absolutely amazing time, and made lots of memories. In my class I ranked 4<sup>th</sup> out of 18 in Dressage and also took part in the "Horse Care and Knowledge" test where I scored 83/100".*

It is always heartening to know that the hard work of all those who helped at the Coffee Morning and the money raised by our guests are greatly appreciated by the recipients and make a positive contribution towards the lives of children and young people struggling with grave disadvantages.

We are always ready to welcome new committee members. If you can help and would like to join a small, friendly group, please contact me. Our next committee meeting will be held at Forest Hill on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> November.

We look forward to seeing you at our next fund-raising Coffee Morning to be held again at St Chad's Parish Centre on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2018. A date for your 2018 diary.

***Margaret Pullan***

## *Forest Hill House Committee*



Mrs Liz Thring will be resigning from the Board of Directors at the AGM as she has moved to Dorset. At the June Board meeting she was thanked for her excellent work during her many years of service and was presented with a card and flowers. Her

loyalty and expertise will be sadly missed.

There are currently four empty flats, but one should be occupied at the end of September.

The porch outside flat 15 was showing signs of subsidence and has now been rebuilt. Consideration is being given to installing stair lifts in the annex and to the stairs from the lift level to the top floor in the house.

The Annual Garden Party took place in June and raised £371 for the amenity fund. This was less than in previous years probably due to fewer residents and their families attending. The weather was unkind, so we had to retreat indoors, but those who did brave the rain enjoyed a convivial afternoon.

On Yorkshire Day, 1<sup>st</sup> August, the House Committee held a Strawberry Tea which was enjoyed by both residents and staff.

*Tricia Hollis*

## *Awards*

Your indefatigable Awards Committee has been working hard this last half-year, coming to terms with the joys - and technical niceties - of our new online application procedure. You will have read all about the innovations in the last Newsletter.

Our June meeting was the first without any paper forms for us to scrutinise: all applications were on the screen to read. We sat round the table with laptops and tablets at the ready to double check on the website if necessary and confirm the notes we'd already made at home in the preceding weeks. Our Deputy Chairman Carol Gleisner and I had managed to eliminate beforehand the ineligible applications and those from women with hopeless, unrealizable dreams. We followed the same successful pattern for the September round of awards and have emerged unscathed. You can believe that we congratulated ourselves on being wonderfully efficient when I tell you that on the day both in June and September we reviewed 97 applications within four or five hours. All told in the two meetings we disbursed £19,600 to 63 deserving women. And the flood of thanks which they send us is quite disarming. These thanks I now pass on to you, generous members of YLCE. Do keep up your support.

We've been noting a recurring theme: we get applications from mothers of children with special needs; the mothers' experience of managing those needs leads them to wish to attain a qualification to help others overcome similar problems.

Single mother Nicola, 49, a qualified social worker and childcare professional, works now as a nursery assistant and is sole carer for her disabled daughter with complex needs. Nicola wants to pursue a part-time course leading to a Diploma in Counselling and Psychotherapy. Working as a Psychotherapist will give her much greater flexibility to cope with her daughter's needs.

40 year-old single mother Katherine has a son born with multiple allergies and has spent the last five years researching and learning how to manage them. With a qualification as a Nutritional Therapist she can put her experience to good use and earn a realistic income to support herself and her son.

Experienced 'Early Learning' teacher Katie, who's 37, has a four-year-old daughter with unilateral hearing loss. She wants to take a Diploma in 'Special Education for Teachers of Children with Hearing Loss'. She has already given up her full-time teaching job and is working as a Higher Level Teaching Assistant. "Without the current additional pressure of teachers' commitments (such as written detailed planning and assessment) I now have time to study and fulfill my ambition to become a Teacher of the Deaf."

Margaret, who is 50, has a long career in community nursing. She has herself been through domestic violence and helped her children cope. She has been a volunteer with the charity Independent Domestic Abuse Services for a number of years. She knows exactly what research is needed and will follow an MA course in Social Research, concentrating on Gender and Women's Studies. And we're sure she will put that research to good use.

All four of these determined women will let us know how they get on and whether their expectations are fulfilled. They might well be like Charlie, whose photograph as a proud veterinary graduate you'll remember from the Newsletter of Autumn 2012. She is one of the many recipients who enjoy keeping up their relationship with us way beyond the end of their course.

Charlie still works in the practice where she began her veterinary career and recently sent us a picture of one of her newest patients. She also sent us a donation: "Thanks once again for everything you did for me." Enough said.



*Gillie Andrews*

## *The William Merritt Disabled Living Centre*

Prof Anne Chamberlain welcomed us to the new home of the William Merritt Disabled Living and Mobility Centre in Rodley, where it recently opened, having moved from the old St Mary's Hospital in Armley.

This very impressive facility offers practical training for occupational therapists, provides information and experience for the medical profession and gives active help and advice for disabled children, adults, parents, carers and other professionals.

The range of facilities and equipment we saw ranged from assistive technology (much used by teenagers and young men) to driving adaptations with 8 different types of adapted vehicles to try out

There were walking aids, stairlifts, bathroom and bedroom adaptations, all singing and all dancing beds, chairs of all kinds showing how they can be chosen to help all heights and degrees of disability. The range of kitchen adaptations were very interesting, showing how what was innovative for disabled people 25 years ago is now very much part of a modern, state of the art, kitchen such as pull out drawers instead of cupboards beneath work surfaces, and pull down shelves in wall cupboards to mention but two.

This Centre is the brainchild of Prof Chamberlain who, in her role as a consultant rheumatologist, not only saw people of all age groups disabled by arthritis and rheumatism, but also as a result of strokes and accidents to the spine.

The Centre is her response to observed needs. It is excellent.

Those members of YLCE who were able to come had a memorable day.

*Joanne de Pennington*

*Rosemary Ward*

## *The York Gate Garden, Adel*

On Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> July a party of Yorkshire Ladies visited the York Gate Garden in Adel for a talk by Fleure Gethin, a local landscape architect and designer, entitled 'How York Gate Garden was Made'



The afternoon started with a glass of 'bubbly' on arrival followed by a most interesting talk on the Arts and Crafts Movement and how the values and philosophy of the movement influenced the design and building of York Gate Garden.



York Gate Garden was the creation of the Spencer family, Fred and Sybil, who purchased the house and six acres of land in 1951, initially running a farm where they also kept horses and pigs. The farm was sold in 1958 and from then on their focus was the remaining one acre of garden. This became the main interest of Sybil Spencer and her son Robin, who had developed a love of gardening during his holidays from boarding school, and who was responsible for much of the later design of the garden.



*Robin, Sybil and Fred at Sybil's parents' Golden Wedding in 1947*

The intention was to create a cottage garden in the arts and crafts manner in the small one-acre site. The garden has evolved over a long period of time and has many distinctive features, for example the 'Pyramid' Yew Hedge, the Bonsai Court, the Summer House, the White Garden, the Sundial, the Japanese Lanterns, and the Dolphin Fountain in the raised Canal (the 'Moonpool').



Sadly Robin died in 1982, but following his death his mother decided to continue with his vision for the garden.

For those interested in hearing her speak on this there is a clip on YouTube called “Sybil Spencer at York Gate” and this offers some insight into her views.



With Sybil's death in 1994, at the age of 86, the garden was bequeathed to the 'Gardener's Royal Benevolent Society' (now known as 'Perennial') with the proviso that the garden should remain open for the public to visit for their enjoyment and education.

This was a most interesting and enjoyable afternoon and fully fulfilled Sybil Spencer's wish that the garden should remain a public facility to be enjoyed by generations to come.

Following the talk we had an opportunity to explore the amazing garden, looked after by two full-time career gardeners, Adam Bowley and Charlotte Reynolds, carefully preserving the Spencer horticultural heritage.





We wandered at leisure in the tranquility of the garden before returning at 4:00 to the 'The Field Room' where we'd earlier learned so much from Fleure about the history of York Gate. There waiting for us, as if produced by magic, were delicious cakes and strawberries and cream and yes, more bubbly!

Some of us already knew the garden well and often brought visiting friends to this 'secret place'. For others of us it was an inspiring new experience, which we will want to repeat and repeat again. I heard plans being made to bring spouses along, in the hope that they might get the gardening bug – or at least wait quietly munching in the café while their other halves enjoyed the beauty of this horticultural gem.

*Carole Tabbron*

## *YLCE Special Bursaries*

It was decided only too fitting that we should create newly named *YLCE Special Bursaries* from the monies you, our members, give at the series of events inaugurated last year by Joanne de Pennington and Rosemary Ward. That first event was the talk by Louise Cantley on 'Women, the Criminal Justice System and Afterwards'.

We thought Hannah, who's now doing an MA in Social Work, was the most appropriate recipient of the money raised at Louise's talk. Hannah's first degree was in Criminology and Psychology. She was now aiming to become a mental health social worker, having understood society's need. And I'm sure Louise would approve.

Ella is named as the recipient of the bursary awarded from the money raised at the 'Pepys at Christmas' concert. She's doing a Masters in Performance in Piano Accompaniment at the Royal College of Music. An undervalued field of achievement, we thought. And one appreciated by Ad Hoc Baroque.

From the money raised at the 'William Merritt Disabled Living Centre Visit' we awarded a bursary to Kirstin so that she could finish her Graduate Entry Medicine degree. She actually already has a PhD in Neuroscience and was researching pain mechanisms, but was feeling increasingly more detached from the people she was trying to help. She decided she could get closer by doing a further degree in medicine. Society needs doctors whose wish is to understand the needs of all their patients, not least the disabled.

We had no applicant wanting to pursue a course in any aspect of horticulture, so for the York Gate Gardens bursary we chose an aspiring weather girl. Lauren is just starting an MSc in Atmosphere, Ocean and Climate with a view to putting her Maths degree to good use in forecasting models. All gardeners I'm assured are grateful for all the forecast detail they can get.

## *The Awards Team*

## *The Awards Committee – Vacancies*

There are two vacancies on the Awards Committee at the moment following the resignation of the Council's Chairman Gill Lydon and our former Chairman Nancy Donner.

The Trustees of YLCE invite members of the Council to apply to fill these vacancies. If there are more than 2 candidates the final choice will lie with the Awards Committee.

Are you interested yourself?

Do you know a YLCE member who you think might be interested?

The Committee consists of 9 members and meets 3 times a year, in mid March, mid June and mid September. Members make themselves available for all 3 meetings if possible. Meetings usually take place in the Chairman's home. They begin at 10am and are usually over by 3 or 3:30pm.

Potential new members need to be used to reading material on screen. Applications for awards are now made online. At least 10 days before the meeting members receive a list of suitable applications which they then access via the website so that they can consider the merits of each application at leisure before the meeting. There are now between 80 and 100 applications to be considered at each meeting. The meetings are enjoyable, satisfying and rewarding.

Current members of the Awards Committee have career experience in many fields, for example, education, business, administration and music. It would be helpful for a new member to have some knowledge of the British education and qualification structure – but by no means essential; such knowledge can be acquired. All members have an interest in supporting women to qualify for a worthwhile career and fulfill their personal goals.

### ***Interested?***

If you have any questions or indeed would like complete details of what's involved, contact Gillie Andrews at [gandrews@ylce.org](mailto:gandrews@ylce.org).

We ask you to complete the enclosed pro forma, providing the names of two Yorkshire Ladies who are willing to support your application. Please tell us in a short personal statement how you can contribute to the work of the Committee. The pro forma is available as an email attachment on request.

Your completed pro forma should be sent to the YLCE office by  
Friday 19 January 2018.

It will then be forwarded to YLCE Executive Chairman, Gill Lydon for review before being passed to the Awards Committee Chairman.

## ***Newsletter Editor Sought!***

Are you a journalist manquée?

Are you good at persuading people?

Do you have computer skills, or a friend who has and can help?

If the answer to any of these questions is 'yes', however hesitant, then YLCE needs you as its next Newsletter Editor.

The last three Newsletters have been edited by volunteers only temporarily in the job. They have acquired a considerable amount of experience, not to say expertise in their trial and error attempts at producing an interesting, informative read. They are most willing to pass on what they have learned.

If you have the smallest spark of interest, do ask Gill Lydon to put you in touch with the previous editors who will do their best to persuade you to take on this rewarding job.

### ***What does it actually involve?***

It involves getting together in printable form news, views and reports of the activities of the Council in the previous six months, together with news of what's to come. There are two issues per year: Spring and Autumn. The Spring issue is sent out in April, the Autumn one in October. There are no fixed dates. All depends on how soon copy comes in and how long it might take to put the issue together. The Editor is responsible for getting the finalised version to the printers. (Help provided.)

You will see from this edition and previous ones the sort of contributions which are welcomed. (Look at the website if you've lost your copies.) Some will arrive without your needing to ask: reports from the chairmen of the various committees; others need to be 'arranged'. It's a good idea, for example, to approach a member or two who'll be attending an event and who might be willing to write an interesting piece about it. It's useful, too, to ask someone to be the 'official' photographer, someone who is looking at the event from the point of view of covering it in representative pictures for the Newsletter.

The job of editor is stimulating and rewarding. The recent temporary editors would continue if they didn't have other demanding commitments.

If you, yourself, feel disinclined, is there not someone you know who might well revel in producing a suitable Newsletter for YLCE, one even a little more ambitious in this digital age?

**THE YORKSHIRE LADIES' COUNCIL OF EDUCATION  
SOCIAL COMMITTEE**

invite you and your friends to a



**CHRISTMAS FAYRE  
and  
SANDWICH LUNCH**

at St Chad's Parish Centre  
Otley Road, Far Headingley, Leeds. LS16 5JT

**on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> November 2017  
from 11:30 am to 2:00 pm**

*Home-made Christmas Fayre*  
*Phoenix Cards Handbags & Scarves Jewellery*  
*Stepping Stones Pottery Books CDs & Puzzles Raffle*

**Entrance £5.00**

Proceeds in support of  
**ST GEORGE'S CRYPT**

**A short talk will be given at about 12:45 pm**  
by a representative from St George's Crypt



## ***My true love sent to me...***

***A seasonal entertainment with music by  
Ad Hoc Baroque  
and guest narrator  
with festive refreshments***

***on Sunday, 3 December at 2:30 pm  
in St Edmund's Church  
Lidgett Park Rd, LS8 1JN***

***Doors open and tickets available from 2:15 pm***

*Many people will be familiar with the Christmas ditty:  
The Twelve Days of Christmas*

*Recent research into the domestic life of an eighteenth century household has revealed correspondence apparently from the recipient of this generosity. The period instrument ensemble **Ad Hoc Baroque** bring the story to life with readings from this correspondence and musical interludes by composers of the period, providing an entertaining and perhaps salutary lesson for the over-indulgent gift giver.*

***Tickets £10***

***To reserve your tickets to be collected at the door  
contact Phillida Richardson  
(for catering purposes)  
tel: 0113 269 1471 / email: [info@ylce.org](mailto:info@ylce.org)***

***The concert is in aid of the  
Yorkshire Ladies' Council of Education Awards  
supporting the education of women***

## ***Events Diary***

**Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> November 2017 11.30 – 2.00pm**

***Christmas Fayre and Sandwich Lunch***

at St. Chad's Parish Centre, Otley Road, Headingley.

With a representative of St, George's Crypt

**Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2017 2:30**

***"My True Love Sent to Me"***

**A seasonal entertainment by Ad Hoc Baroque**

at St. Edmund's Church, Lidgett Park Road, LS8 1JN

**Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February 2018**

***AGM and Lunch***

at St. Chad's Parish Centre, Otley Road, Headingley

Details to follow

**Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2018**

***Projects Committee Coffee Morning***

at St. Chad's Parish Centre, Otley Road, Headingley

Details to follow

Details of all these events as they are finalised  
and any others that may be added will appear  
on the website: [www.ylce.org](http://www.ylce.org)  
(or just google YLCE)  
So keep checking.

We were sad to hear of the death on 18 June of Mrs Dorothy Menzies. Many YLCE members were able to attend her funeral on 7 July.

Dorothy had been a senior clerk in administration at the University of Leeds for many years. She had latterly worked with Jillian Rennie within the Registry in the office for Public Lectures and Hospitality. They were already firm friends. When Jill took early retirement in 1992, Dorothy went with her to work part-time at the Lord Lieutenant of North Yorkshire's office.

Dorothy believed it was important to play an active part in the local community. She was involved in the Meanwood Village Association and in her local church, Holy Trinity in Meanwood. I'm told her flower-arranging skills were much admired and that she could be relied upon as a responsible and successful fund-raiser.

Unhappily, as her dementia progressed her involvement in all her social associations including YLCE and the University of Leeds Ladies' Club, gradually decreased.

**We have recruited not a single new member  
since the last Newsletter.  
We really must try harder!!**

**Bring your friends and neighbours to the Sandwich Lunch  
and the St Edmund's Church Concert.  
Persuade them to join.**

## *The Yorkshire Ladies' Council of Education*

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*Executive Committee  
Chairman*

*Mrs Gill Lydon*

*Awards Committee*

*Mrs Gillie Andrews*

*Projects Committee*

*Mrs Margaret Pullan*

*Social Committee*

*Mrs Gill Milner*

*Forest Hill House  
Committee*

*Mrs Patricia Hollis*

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