



Newsletter

Spring 2019

Yorkshire Ladies' Council of Education

Committee Meetings

Executive Committee Meetings (5 per annum) Next one:
Monday 25th March

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) Next one: 8th April

Social Committee Meetings (2-3 per annum) Next one: 3rd October

Forest Hill House Committee Meetings (11 per annum)
First Wednesday monthly, excluding August

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

HOME AWARDS ABOUT US NEWS AND EVENTS

OUR TEAM MEMBERSHIP CONTACT DONATE

If any member has comments or ideas for the new website, please get in touch with Nicola Lewis

Email: nicolalewis@ylce.org

Tel.: 0113 2691471

Letter from our Chairman

To all our members:

Greetings! There's plenty to read in this Spring edition. It's detailed, informative and it showcases our core activities and how much these achieve and are appreciated. It offers you a programme of events and we hope that these will be well attended, so please do turn up and remember that bringing a guest helps with publicity and recruitment, twin issues permanently on the Executive committee's agenda. We slowly recruit new members, but of course we need more. We're seeking to pay a local historian to bring our written history up to date (we have some contacts, would welcome suggestions) and we've gone a long way to developing a short talk about the YLCE which we can offer to interested groups. This should help in publicising what we do, who we are and, hopefully, lead to fresh contacts. The discussion session after the AGM made clear that we have members, not always on committees, who are willing to advise and engage with planning and this was most encouraging - I may well be in touch! I do look forward to meeting members at the Coffee Morning on 21 March.

The history of the YLCE is formidable and good women come and go. We miss them of course but respect their legacy and will continue their work. I heartily thank all officers, organisers, editors, committee members and chairmen and I record my thanks to the Executive Committee with whom it is a pleasure to work.

My best regards,

Gill Lydon

Chairman Executive Committee

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Dates for your diary:

Subscriptions -

were due to be paid by **1st February** at the very latest (N.B. before the AGM on 11th February).

Thursday 21st March 10.30 am

Coffee morning

St Chad's Parish Centre

Otley Road Far Headingley Leeds LS16

5JT

Saturday 13th April 3 pm

Ad Hoc Baroque Concert

Devonshire Hall

Date to be agreed

Spring event Kirkstall Abbey

Wednesday 19th June pm

Sparkling Afternoon Tea

Devonshire Hall

Future Events

Thursday 21st March

There will be a Fundraising Coffee morning, doors open 10.30 am. at St Chad's Parish Centre Otley Road, Far Headingley, Leeds LS16 5JT. Cakes, plants, books, CDs etc. Fund-raising in support of the Inside/Outside Club, and the Donkey Sanctuary Assisted Therapy Centre at Eccup.

Saturday 13th April. A concert by Ad Hoc Baroque will be held at 3 pm at Devonshire Hall. Owing to difficulties in finding mutually convenient dates for venues, speakers and performers, we had to postpone the traditional pre-Christmas concert which has been held for the last two years and has, by now, become an annual YLCE event. As it proved impossible to arrange in the Advent period, Ad Hoc Baroque have agreed to hold a concert to herald the coming of Spring and to look forward to Summer. This will be held in the afternoon of Saturday 13th April and refreshments will be served. Invitations will be sent out.

Spring Event (probably morning, at a date to be agreed). One of the YLCE members, Lorraine Harding, acts a guide at Kirkstall Abbey and has very kindly offered to host a personal tour of the Abbey, at a date to be arranged, sometime during March/April. The tour will include a guided walk around the Abbey and grounds to be followed by tea in the Abbey House café. Invitations will be sent out when a date has been arranged and we hope that as many as possible will be able to join us.



Wednesday 19th June. Following the very positive feedback we received after the event in June 2018 we have made a booking for another ‘Sparkling Afternoon Tea’ on Wednesday 19th June 2019. This will be held at Devonshire Hall as before and, hopefully, the weather will be a little kinder to us and we can have our drinks on the lawn in ‘sparkling’ sunshine. Invitations will be sent out in due course.

Do remember that our events are open to members and guests, who will be made most welcome.

Further details of all the events listed in the newsletter will be sent out in due course.

In the meantime, if you have any queries, or any ideas for future events, please do let me know by email on gtabbron@talktalk.net.

I look forward to seeing you very soon.

Carole Tabbron

Social Committee

Following our successful Annual Christmas Food Fayre and Sandwich Lunch, we were able to donate a cheque for £500 to HELP, the Harehills English Language project for Asylum Seekers and Refugees, based at St. Aidan's Church, Roundhay Road, Harehills, which offers a safe, welcoming, supportive and caring environment where the students can feel valued as they learn English. The charity also takes care of their children in the creche, which allows their families to access the classes.

I have received a very kind letter from the Chairman of the Trustees, Rev. Diana Zanker, thanking the Committee very much, and saying that the money would be put to immediate use in their Project.

We had expressed a wish for members of the Social Committee to visit the Project and see first hand the work they do. Celia the Project Leader is arranging this for us in March.

The next charity the Social Committee would like to support is the Light House School based at Cookridge, which teaches 11 - 18 year olds diagnosed with Autism; this has been approved by the Executive.

The Committee also had a meeting to discuss the food we would provide for the buffet at the AGM on 11th February 2019.

Gill Milner

Projects Committee

Like all the members of the Yorkshire Ladies' Council of Education we were very saddened to hear of the sudden and unexpected death of Nancy Donner in January. Nancy was a member of the Projects' Committee for many years and we shall greatly miss her valuable contributions at our meetings and wise advice.

Our annual fundraising Coffee Morning will take place on **Thursday 21st March at St Chad's Parish Centre**, Otley Road, Headingley. As ever we shall offer tea, coffee and biscuits and the opportunity to browse and purchase cakes and home-made produce, bulbs and plants, cards, CDs and good quality second hand books. This year the Projects' Committee will support the extra needs teacher at The Inside Outside Club, St Gregory's, Seacroft. Seacroft is one of the most deprived areas of Leeds and Inside Outside Childcare offers valuable educational and practical support for children of school age as well as their parents. We shall also be raising money for the Donkey Sanctuary Assisted Therapy Centre at Eccup, Leeds. At the Centre the donkeys help adults and children with a wide range of emotional, psychological and cognitive needs to develop key life skills such as self-esteem, managing emotions and empathy. Both Carole O'Connor of Inside Outside Childcare and Daniel McLoughlin of the Donkey Sanctuary will speak at the Coffee Morning about their organisations and how the money we donate will be put to good use (see over page for more information). The Coffee Morning is always a friendly and happy occasion and we look forward to your support to help us to raise as much money as possible for our good causes.

Margaret Pullan

Inside Outside Childcare

Inside Outside Childcare is a Breakfast and After School provision based in Swarcliffe Community Centre in Leeds 14. The provision covers the local ward and the five local schools in the area. It has been running for 15 years as a non profit making organisation, 11years as a voluntary organisation, 26 years in total. The organisation employs five local people, all qualified in childcare and child protection.

The majority of our parents are either lone parents or families on low incomes. The service we provide gives them the opportunity through employment or training to enjoy a better quality of life, which has an effect on the whole family. The provision runs from 7am to 9am then 3pm to 6pm Monday through to Friday. It also provides full day school holiday cover for nine weeks of the year. The age range is 4yrs to 12yrs or 19yrs if a young person has learning needs.

The children are given breakfast then taken to their respective schools. They are picked up from school, taken to the centre and provided with a snack. Activities vary from day to day but include educational and fun activities. There is also a homework room where young people can do their homework away from sibling disruption. The provision is fully integrated and has young people with physical and learning needs as well as able bodied young people.

The Yorkshire Ladies have been fundraising through coffee mornings for over 20 years now. The funding is used towards a special needs worker which is needed to provide one to one care. They also support us with cereals which is ideal for the children's breakfasts.

Carole O'Connor



Children at Inside Outside Childcare

Donkey-Assisted Therapy at the Donkey Sanctuary

The Donkey Sanctuary has grown from a charity rescuing UK donkeys from neglect and abuse, to an international animal welfare organisation transforming the lives of millions of donkeys and mules, and the people who depend on them for their livelihood. Today there are 10 sanctuaries around the UK and Europe, giving lifelong care to over 6,000 donkeys and mules, reaching approximately 1.8 million donkeys and mules in 35 different countries. The sanctuaries' 'gold standard care' is a beacon to educate people everywhere about animal welfare, based on experience and ongoing discoveries.

An important part of the work is rescue and rehoming. Rescue operations have saved thousands of suffering donkeys, by providing sanctuary in one of the charity's centres. But this is a last resort, as donkeys thrive best in caring and loving homes, and there has been an increase (35% 2016-17) in the number of donkeys rehomed. The charity's hospital also treats sick donkeys inside and outside their care.

The charity's global programme stretches across five continents, and has a lasting impact on donkeys/mules and the people whose lives they touch. The outreach embraces animal welfare education, awareness training, and advocacy including lobbying governments and media relations. There is also a dedicated research team, constantly improving levels of expertise and resulting in scientific breakthroughs. Schools education is another aspect of the charity's work, with onsite educational visits, outreach work, and the provision of free curriculum-linked educational resources.

Daniel McLoughlin from the programme at Eccup adds:

Here at The Donkey Sanctuary Leeds, our Donkey Assisted Therapy programme falls into three main areas:

Donkey Facilitated Learning (DFL): A complex 8-week programme working with both children and adults to develop life skills, emotional growth and personal awareness. The key life skills we focus on – as published by WHO/the UN - are self-esteem, empathy and managing emotions.

Schools Programme: A more accessible DFL programme, relevant to age and ability of key stage 1 & 2 pupils, which also takes on elements of Barn Management

Barn Management: A fully accessible programme - which maximises interactions with donkeys to help build self-confidence, and to learn about their habitat and care – for those who are not ready to access DFL fully.

These three programmes running in conjunction allow us to offer donkey assisted activities for all age groups and abilities. We also open our doors to the public outside of our teaching hours, to help everyone understand the benefits of being around donkeys, as well as to find out more about how our charity works with, and for, them.



Harbin, Billy and Ripple

We look forward to hearing more at our coffee morning!

Forest Hill Report to the Executive

The gardens at Forest Hill are looking very springlike and tidy and thanks are due to Residents who help with the planting. One of the wings will be re-roofed later in the Spring to resolve some leaks that have occurred over the winter. There continue to be more empty flats than we would like but following a recent advertisement in 'Leeds Homes' we have successfully let three flats to new tenants. This leaves two vacant flats to let.



We are very pleased to welcome two new members to the Forest Hill Board who are also new members of YLCE. They are Mrs Sue Clarke and Mrs Janette Spencer. Both bring a wealth of varied experience to the Board and have already provided fresh insights at our meetings.



Mrs Hollis and members of the Board will be holding a Spring Afternoon Tea for the residents on 19th March when they will provide an array of home made cakes and tea. The staff and residents continue to organise a range of social activities including dinners, coffee mornings and quiz evenings.

Kathy Hart

Awards Committee

Our Committee meets in September and then not again until March, so I have no details to pass on to you of any recently successful award recipients. Instead I can tell you of some of the applications we have already received for consideration in our next meeting. As I write we're looking forward to reviewing just under a hundred in our mid-March meeting, when round the table we will have to make some tough decisions as to who to choose to be your beneficiaries. We will have received a lot more than that hundred by our deadline of 1st March, but our Deputy Chair, Carole Gleisner and I will have whittled them down to a number manageable for the meeting itself on the day; she and I between us draw up the short-list; we do a bit of preliminary agonizing over which applications to exclude from that list: those which we know the Committee will give a thumbs down to: those from applicants with really unrealistic expectations of themselves as well as of their ability to finance their studies. And if in answering our questions they don't follow the strict guidelines we spell out, we have to look on them unfavourably!

Again the vast majority of our applicants are seeking to continue their education by following courses leading to a master's degree or a doctorate. We are particularly pleased when we receive an application from a woman with less academic ambitions, but they are few and far between. Where are the would-be plumbers, the bricklayers, the hairdressers? Then it slowly dawns on us, of course, that training for such vocations comes most often via apprenticeships where that training is paid for from other sources: money comes from the government with a contribution from the employer.

We know that in the present financial climate many school leavers are put off going to university because of the debt they will accrue. (In this funding round so far students are confessing to £45,000 of debt and more, and that's just from their first three years of study!) These school leavers are looking seriously at the apprenticeship route into a long-term career not only in the construction and beauty industries: apprenticeships we learn are available in business administration, graphic design, banking, TV camera work, to name just a few areas. And where they will get a pay packet while they train. It's worth checking out the government leaver programme.

But back to our applications for a master's degree and beyond. What courses are being applied for? Many women want to continue with their studies in areas which will lead them to jobs in what are considered the traditional female caring roles. Social work is popular, as are courses in various therapies both practical and psychological, where help can be given in resolving personal or psychological problems. *Humanistic and Psychodynamic Counselling* is the title of one such course. We also have women whose first degree was in *Biomedical Sciences* who may not have quite managed the grades at A Level good enough to get into medical school, but they had always wanted to be doctors. They now wish to grasp the nettle of embarking on a five-year course leading to an MBChB. This will be their second undergraduate degree, so they are not eligible for a student loan to cover their fees, typically £9,250 per year; and they have living costs in addition. We obviously get a little worried on their behalf when they need our help to help cover their fees in the very first of their five or six years of medical study. Some of them, however, opt to study to become a Physician Associate, a relatively new role supporting doctors in diagnosis and management of patients; the course is an MSc, lasts just two years and its students are eligible for a postgraduate loan.

Who else? Many aspiring musicians come to us seeking essential further training before they can make their career in the highly competitive world of the professional musician: we have promising opera singers, viola players, flautists and a jazz saxophonist. Many women with a first degree in history or art want a further qualification to enable them to take up a career in curating. How about *Visual, Material and Museum Anthropology*? We get applications from women concerned with the environment: *Nature, Society and Environmental Governance* is the course one of our women is applying for. There are those keen to be more knowledgeable and skilled in dealing with a whole raft of the social problems and inequalities they see in our society: they want to look at community development, at adult education, at youth work.

Some more course titles: *Race and Resistance, Bioinformatics, Applied Neuroscience, Systemic Theory and Practice, Children's Accelerated Trauma Technique, Translational Oncology*. All intriguing, all to be investigated in the context of the individual applicant's circumstances. There are some weird and wonderful course titles which I thought you might like to fantasize over: *Semi-permanent Make-up and Fibroblast Training, Turps Correspondence Course for Painters* and my favourite, the rather appropriately named *Astrophysics by Distance Learning*.

You'll know that we can accept applications only from British citizens. I look at the surnames of our applicants: Smith, Thatcher, Kambazemba, Jones, Scott, Arif, Hughes, Newton, Miyouga, Archer, Hope, Emenkeng, Churchill, Jameson, Timere, Fitzpatrick, Thomas, Bicsak I could on. I find it right to be reminded of the diverse origins of members of our multicultural and hopefully integrated society.

Gillie Andrews

Reports on events

Thursday 1st November 2018

Christmas Sandwich Lunch and Food Fayre



It was a pleasure to drive through the tree lined streets of Leeds with flutters of leaves tumbling down. The tracery of black branches was holding up golden crowns of leaves lit by sunlight. I was going to the YLCE lunch at St Chads. Who would be there? Will I know anyone? Wonder if I can find the perfect gift for daughter and daughter in law? I hope I am not too late to buy one of the delicious cakes or a jar of unusual preserves? The charity talk sounds interesting....

And so I arrived in good time. Lots of friendly smiling faces and hot coffee on arrival. The social committee had been very busy. There seemed to be more people than I remember at past events and there was an animated buzz of conversation. The stall holders had excelled themselves and their displays were very tempting. Lots of unusual costume jewellery in a variety of mediums. Nancy's leather handbags, gloves and beautiful silk scarves did a roaring trade whilst the greetings card lady always seemed to have a queue. Ann's pre loved book stall was very inviting but I had to resist as we are trying to empty two bookcases before next week, and we are finding it very difficult! The well stocked food stall did not disappoint and the problem was what to buy and carry home safely. Over a very enjoyable lunch it was good to catch up on YLCE news and hear about future events.



The presentation by the project manager, Celia Roberts, from the Harehills English Language Project (H.E.L.P.) was very powerful and moving. ((Did you see the article in the YLCE Autumn newsletter? also see over page.) I think everyone was pleased to support the charity by buying many raffle tickets from Tricia who had assembled a large number of prizes. Gill Milner and her team were splendid. It was a very enjoyable event. Thank you ladies!

Rosemary Ward

Presentation at the Christmas Fayre by Celia Roberts from H.E.L.P.:



Thank you for your warm welcome. A special thank you to Janet Jurica for contacting me initially and for thinking about our project for your next charity fundraising lunch. Also to Gill Milner and Gill Lydon for the very warm and positive welcome we received on the day.

I have been project leader for the last two years with Harehills English Language Project (H.E.L.P.); this is my third year in post. Before this I worked as a volunteer with the project and was part time project leader for a while. The project started about 12 years ago – founded by Rev. Diana Zanker, who was then Curate at St Aidan's Church in Harehills. Diana recognised the need for free ESOL classes for refugees and asylum seekers – indeed anyone who needed to learn English. The classes started with four learners and three teachers in the lower hall at St Aidan's Community Centre. Since then the project has developed and grown into a thriving, vibrant and very successful project.

So, on Tuesday and Thursday mornings between 10 am and 12 noon the church undercroft, community hall and nearby Trinity United Church are transformed into buzzing workspaces. In 2010 we became a registered charity (1138199). Annually we have around 200 students who register with us. Our classes serve mainly women, but not women only. Students come from all over the world – Eritrea, Sudan, Russia, Poland, China, Vietnam, Pakistan, Birkin Faso, Zimbabwe – to name just 9 countries of over 45 that we have recorded so far. We accept any adult learner who needs to learn English and if classes are full we often have waiting lists. We have six classes of varying levels including a class where students can learn to read and write from scratch. Some of our students cannot read and write in their own language as they have never been to school. This sometimes makes it more difficult for them so we give them extra support. We have all levels of classes from pre entry to advanced. Many of our students have had extremely traumatic lives and journeys, so our classes are not only about learning English but they offer a safe space where students feel valued and they can make new friends.

Our free crèche can take 14 children aged 1 to 4. It is run by a manager who was one of our first learners, a deputy manager, plus 7 volunteers, some of whom have also been students. When we realised we needed to expand the number of classes, we decided to move the crèche to the upper hall at Trinity United Church which is a two minute walk away from St Aidan's church. This is a very bright space with good facilities for a crèche.

An annual very enjoyable event has been our trip to the seaside. This is funded by Wades Charity and the funding is specifically for recreational purposes. Every year we take many students and their families to Sewerby near Bridlington. Volunteers also run visits such as to the main Leeds library, Temple Newsam or Harewood House.

We rely on volunteers and there are now over 20. All of our teacher volunteers come from a teaching background. Without them we could not run our project – they show great dedication and commitment. Also we have a group of trustees (all volunteers) who support our project and work on funding streams and the legal aspects of the project. Volunteers are expected to attend an annual training afternoon where we explore a variety of issues related to teaching ESOL. There is also specific training for crèche volunteers every year with topics such as paediatric first aid or health and safety. There are also four paid workers – two for the crèche and myself (project leader) and Nick (deputy project leader).

Our project is funded solely by gifts and grants. Rev. Diana works relentlessly looking at ways to fund the project and without these fundraising bids we could not function. The main expenses are rent, resources such as textbooks, whiteboards and stationery, and also wages. The trustees worked out that it costs over 130 pounds a year per learner. However, we feel that this is really good value.

I would like to say a huge thank you on behalf of everyone at H.E.L.P. for your kindness and generosity in supporting our charity. We welcome visitors to our classes and if anyone would like to come and visit, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Celia Roberts
Project Leader

Monday 12th November 2018

Elizabeth Peacock: ‘The Story of the Suffragettes’



In the centenary year of female enfranchisement it was fitting that, on 12 November 2018, forty members and guests assembled at Devonshire Hall to hear Elizabeth Peacock give a fascinating talk on the history of the suffragette movement.

Taking her cue from Eleanor Roosevelt, who had once said “A woman is like a tea bag - you never know how strong she is until she gets in hot water”, Elizabeth traced for us how the firmly held opinions and actions of the suffragettes - and suffragists – in the first decade of the 20th century built on earlier efforts to achieve parliamentary reform and paved the way for women’s suffrage. Yorkshire and indeed Leeds were key areas of activity (Leonora Cohen and Isabella Ford). But it was not until February 1918, and in recognition of the contribution of women to the war effort, that the Representation of the People Act offered women over 30 the right to vote. Full universal suffrage would only come ten years later.

As befits someone who was herself an MP (Batley & Spence 1983-97) our speaker was keen to show us that this early pioneering work had only gradually seen changes within the parliamentary system: Nancy Astor the first woman MP in 1919; Margaret Bondfield the first woman Cabinet Minister in 1929; and Margaret Thatcher the first woman Prime Minister in 1979. Elizabeth followed this up with some well-chosen and entertaining anecdotes about her time in parliament.

Elizabeth gave us all pause for thought through her illuminating talk and the ephemera she had brought with her. This was the latest in the series of events which YLCE has now started to arrange and I welcome the opportunities they provide to extend our knowledge and to socialise with our fellow members.

Gillian Roche



Monday 11th February 2019

Annual General Meeting

Present, Past and Future of YLCE: report on the AGM day 2019

The Present

Considering the present state of the Council was a requisite of the Annual General Meeting, attended by 35 Yorkshire Ladies, on 11th February at St Chad's Centre. The President, Lady Halifax, sent her apologies, so Chairman Gill Lydon presided from the outset, welcoming everyone. She paid tribute to Nancy Donner who died recently, and a period of silence was observed. Nancy's family had requested that donations in her memory be given to the YLCE, and, together with donations at this AGM, will be spent as a fitting tribute.

During the year August 2017-2018, governance and administration had involved GDPR, revising committee structures, re-writing the memorandum and articles, and work on the website. Gill thanked members, committees and the staff at Forest Hill for their contributions to a successful year. The Treasurer, Anne Taylor, and the Independent Examiner, David Hartley, reported on the financial health of the YLCE. Although administrative costs and website expenses had increased, we were able to give away £24,151 in grants. Despite a turbulent period in the financial markets we have about £700K in reserves and assets, thanks to our "robust portfolio".

Resolutions, as on the agenda, were accepted in the formal manner. Gillian Roche paid further tribute to Nancy and thanked the present Chair and Executive for maintaining the healthy state of the Council. Announcements of forthcoming events concluded the AGM.

A sumptuous buffet of delicious home-made dishes, provided by the Social Committee, was the enjoyed by members while engaging in interesting conversations.

The Past

After lunch 20 people stayed to hear Isobel Jenkins talk about the Early Achievements of the YLCE. Originating, in 1871, as the Ladies' Honorary Council within the Yorkshire Board of Education, it had three tasks: promoting access for girls to the emerging public exam system, improving education for girls over 12, and the extension of existing education endowments to girls. In 1875 it became a separate organisation, The Yorkshire Ladies' Council of Education.

Isobel presented the achievements of the first 25 years through the profiles of four Yorkshire Ladies, Frances Lupton, Emily Kitson, Catherine Buckton and Annie Eddison. They sought educational initiatives that would improve women's lives, such as setting up the College of Cookery and pressing the government department for a qualification structure for the teachers. Whenever they did not attain the desired outcomes the Ladies adjusted their aims to local needs. When the Ladies found few girls of 12+ attending their courses, and realised that poor housing conditions were affecting working women's health, they shifted to offer Health and Hygiene talks and booklets. Another concern was for the limited prospects of unmarried middle-class women. The YLCE set up the College of Housecraft and was influential in the establishment of the Girls' Grammar /High Schools in Leeds, Bradford and Wakefield. The Council was involved in the Yorkshire College of Science, precursor of Leeds University, where it endowed Chairs of Literature and of Physiology, and where Lucy Cavendish (YLCE President 1885-1912) and Annie Eddison (Hon Secretary 1885-1916) were the first women to be awarded (Honorary) degrees.

The Future

Gill Lydon continued with history, particularly the Yorkshire Ladies' Secretarial College, and showed archival slides. She changed the focus to consider how YLCE should embrace the future in the spirit of our indomitable forbears. We might offer talks to local organisations on our history and purpose. Members agreed that this would promote the Council, educate the public, attract new members and raise funds through speakers' fees. Gill asked for ideas of initiatives that the Council could undertake. Suggestions from the floor referred to On-line protection and a Sure-Start substitute. Gill invited further ideas by email.

It proved an informative, enjoyable and thought-provoking day.

Valerie Wood-Robinson



The sumptuous buffet!

New members



Hello, my name is Gill Eastabrook. I was born in Lancashire, raised in Derbyshire, and moved to Yorkshire over twenty-five years ago having spent my early adult life in the south of England. Most of my career was in the Government Statistical Service working particularly on health issues such as medical workforce planning and cancer waiting times.

Since retirement I have returned to an earlier interest and become a history student, currently working on the relationship between food and northern identity in the nineteenth century. I am a governor at Shire Oak Primary School where I am vice-chair and have a specific brief for disadvantaged children and those with special educational needs. I am also involved in local cultural and voluntary activities including as an active member of the Yorkshire Archaeological and Historical Society and a volunteer receptionist at HEART Centre in Headingley.

Throughout my life I have been very fortunate, in various different ways, in my own access to education. So I appreciate the way YLCE assists other women who have not been so privileged.

Gill Eastabrook

Obituaries

Brian Stead 1925 - November 1918

Honorary Member of the Yorkshire Ladies' Council



Members of the YLCE will be sorry to hear of the death, in November 2018, of Brian Stead who had been an honorary member of the council for almost 30 years. Brian was proud of his links with the YLCE and was delighted that his service to the organisation, and particularly to the secretarial college, was recognised through his honorary membership.

Brian was a chartered accountant by profession who gave some of his time to teaching book keeping courses at the Yorkshire Ladies' Council Secretarial College. He also encouraged members of the business community of Leeds to provide talks for the college students about wider business practice.

Brian was also a member of the governors of Leeds Girls' High School and for 12 years acted as treasurer. He was a very experienced JP and became a senior member of the Leeds Bench.

In retirement Brian enjoyed living in the Dales. He had many interests. He was an active member of his Methodist chapel and was also an enthusiastic and talented member of the amateur dramatic society in Dacre.

In addition every summer he would travel to Scotland to enjoy the local festival in Pitlochry and meet old friends. In old age, in spite of his many disabilities, he remained practical, uncomplaining and good humoured. He took great pleasure in his friends' visits – visiting Brian was never dull.

Isobel Jenkins

Nancy Donner 9 February 1942 – 21 January 2019
Longstanding Member and former Chairman



Nancy's sudden death was a great shock. Many Yorkshire Ladies attended her funeral and managed to meet her family and friends.

Born in Minneapolis, Nancy was educated in the States, obtaining a B.A. from Wellesley College in 1964. Having met her future husband Ricky Donner in the U.S.A, she married him in 1964 and they moved to Wakefield. She received an M.A. in Classics from the University of Leeds in 1966.

In Yorkshire, Nancy became involved in various educational organisations. She became a member of the Yorkshire Training Fund for Women in 1970 and its Chairman in 1978; she joined the Yorkshire Ladies' Council of Education in 1973, and was very active in many sub-committees over the years. She was a keen supporter of women's education and served for many years on the Awards Sub-Committee. She was appointed Chairman of the YLCE in 1995 until her retirement in 2015 when she gently persuaded Gill Lydon to succeed her.

During her chairmanship, she ensured that the Council's Funds were well managed and with the help of judicious advice the capital kept increasing, partly through dividends and gains on investments and fundraising events. When the Training Fund for Women closed last year, the residue of the charity funds was transferred to the YLCE as our aims were similar.

Nancy was a caring and kind lady; she wished to help the education of women in her area as well, and volunteered as a Tutor in English for adults in Wakefield College. She had many interests, including the family business and extensive travel.

Her family is giving all donations made in her memory to the Yorkshire Ladies' Council of Education and at our AGM it was decided to make all our donations in her memory. It will be a fitting memorial to her.

Françoise Logan

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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