



Newsletter

Autumn 2019

Yorkshire Ladies' Council of Education

Committee Meetings

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

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)

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

HOME AWARDS ABOUT US NEWS
AND EVENTS

OUR TEAM MEMBERSHIP CONTACT
DONATE

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

Email: nicolalewis@ylce.org

Tel.: 0113 2691471

Social Committee Meetings (2-3 per annum)

Letter from our Chairman



To all our members:

Greetings! A pleasure to be in touch and I do hope you enjoy reading the newsletter. Our thanks go to Lorraine for producing it and, of course, to all contributors. I think it offers an interesting snapshot of how we're doing as an organisation. Like the rest of the country at the moment, we may be feeling somewhat uncertain but we certainly appreciate that these days, we need to be flexible. So you will read an interesting report from Gillie, pointing out a change of direction in the work of the Awards Committee, which is now offering 2 substantial, annual awards: the Clarkson award for excellence in Performing Arts and the Donner award for excellence in STEM subjects. Circumstances change and we are changing with them. Peggy's report points out that the Projects' Committee feels it can no longer run its Coffee Morning as there are simply not enough people attending but Projects will regroup, rethink and focus on something different.

I'm thinking about events at the moment - such a shame that too few applicants meant we had to cancel both Kirkstall Abbey and the Sparkling Afternoon Tea, and unfortunate that we then received applications after the closing date. Please do make sure that you notify us in good time of your intention and, if payment is due, please send it before the closing date.

As we don't have an Events Organiser at the moment (volunteers for the post most welcome!) the above 2 events were organized by other members of Exec and we shall try for the moment to continue on this basis. We do however need someone to take over the title! – lots of help available. Please do get in touch with me if you would be willing to help in any way – for example, you may be able to suggest something that you feel would interest members? Or organize an event? In the meantime, we can all look forward to the Social Committee's Sandwich Lunch on November 7th – and a good turnout!

The Executive Committee meets on November 25th for its AM (Annual Meeting) where it considers only the business of the AGM and receives the Independent Financial Advisor's report from David Hartley. Tricia will have put in a lot of work (and gentle threats) extracting Exec reports for this meeting – so serious stuff - but we will meet with a feeling of Christmas coming and a sense of year ending and maybe a chocolate or two. I think it fair to say that much is good. We are, at time of writing, financially sound; Rowena at Investec works diligently on our behalf and Anne keeps a sharp eye on our investments and how they are performing. We continue to enrol new members. I am ever appreciative of an unfailingly supportive Executive committee and I am probably the first person to be wishing you a happy and healthy Christmas and New Year.

Please do try and come to the AGM on **Monday, February 10th** – a short business meeting, and a fine lunch round a table, with friends, courtesy of Gill and the Social Committee.

My best regards,

Gill Lydon ***Chairman Executive Committee***

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Future Events- Dates for your Diary!

Christmas Food Fayre and Sandwich Lunch 7th November 11.30 am - 2 pm at St. Chad's Parish Centre Presentation on the Lighthouse School (See invitation p.6 and Social Committee Report pp.7-8).

Annual General Meeting 10th February 11.45 a.m. at St. Chad's Parish Centre Followed by lunch.

Do remember that our events are open to members and

Note on Subscriptions

Subscriptions are now due - technically on 1st September, but must be paid by 1st February 2020. £30 p.a. If you pay by Standing Order, please ensure that the amount is updated to £30. If paying by cheque, please send to Nicola Lewis at our office.

guests, who will be made most welcome.

YORKSHIRE LADIES COUNCIL OF EDUCATION
SOCIAL COMMITTEE

invite you and your friends to a

SANDWICH LUNCH

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

**on Thursday 7 November 2019
from 11.30 am to 2.00 pm**

***Home-made Christmas Fare
Cards Handbags & Scarves Jewellery
Books CDs & Puzzles Raffle***

Proceeds in support of
The Lighthouse School in Cookridge

A short presentation will be given at about 12.45 pm
by a representative from the Lighthouse School

Social Committee

We held a very successful Christmas Food Fayre and Sandwich Lunch in November 2018, and we were able to donate £500 to HELP, the Charity we were supporting.

In March The Committee arranged a visit to HELP; this visit being open to all Members of the YLCE. HELP is based in Harehills at St.Aidan's Church. It is an English Language Project for Asylum Seekers; where there is also a creche for children and babies belonging to the students. We were able to observe a class and speak with the students, who all said how very beneficial they found the teaching and learning about English traditions and customs, and the language; while knowing that their children were being well looked after meant they could concentrate on learning in a relaxed and supportive atmosphere. We all felt it was a very worthwhile Charity to support.

The Social Committee provided the Buffet Lunch for the AGM held in February 2019, which was enjoyed by all who attended. Several members helped at the Projects Coffee Morning in March, on the Cake Stall and serving coffee.

The Charity we will be supporting for the coming year is the Lighthouse School based in Cookridge; details of the school can be found in the report on page 9.

Representatives from the School will give a presentation about the school at the Social Committee's forthcoming Annual Christmas Food Fayre and Sandwich Lunch, to be held on Thursday 7th November 2019, 11.30am to 2pm. at St. Chad's Church Parish Centre, Otley Road, Headingley, Leeds 16. Please make a note of the date in your diary, bring your friends and help us to make it a successful and enjoyable event

The date of the next meeting of the Social Committee is 3rd October 2019 at 10.15 am at Forest Hill, to discuss food and arrangements, stalls etc for the Sandwich Lunch.

Gill Milner

The Lighthouse School



lighthouseschool.co.uk

The following is based on material on the website:

The Lighthouse School is for children with autism spectrum condition (ASC) and related communication disorder. Abilities range from moderate learning disability to high functioning; the age range is 11 - 19 years old, and all the students must have an Education Health and Care Plan or Statement of Special Educational Needs from their local authority. The school has the backing of the Department of Education as a free school employing specialist teachers and tutors with a high level of expertise in the field of autism. Students are taught in small groups, and there is a high staff ratio. Teaching groups match ability rather than age.

According to a Message from the Principal on the website, the Lighthouse School is destination focused, a school where students' special abilities and skills are developed so that destinations can be identified for each individual. These include work, Further and Higher Education, supported or semi-independent living. The four cornerstones of the provision and programmes of study are: Curriculum, Wellbeing, Speech and Language Therapy, and Experience and Skills. Students gain nationally accredited qualifications in Key Stages 4 and 5. In addition to their academic studies, students access a variety of life and employability skills. They have progressed successfully into supported internships, college courses and full-time employment.

Mission Statement

We are committed to inspiring and enabling our students, delivering meaningful skills for life in a holistic, nurturing, and stimulating learning environment. This is achieved through exceptional teaching, unwavering support, outstanding work experience, and positive interactions and role models. We repeatedly instil good behaviours in order to encourage resilience, independence, confidence, and well-



being in all of our students.

Projects' Committee

The Projects' Committee's Coffee Morning took place on March 21st 2019 at St Chad's Parish Centre in order to raise funds for Inside Outside Childcare at St Gregory's, Seacroft, Leeds and the Donkey Facilitated Learning Programme at the Donkey Sanctuary, Eccup, Leeds. Representatives from both organisations gave interesting talks to the guests. This year the Coffee Morning had its usual pleasant atmosphere despite a low attendance and raised £357. Guests were also generous in their food donations which were set aside for Inside Outside Childcare.

The members of the Projects' Committee were greatly assisted by members of the Social Committee, especially Janet Juriça who not only provided a great many items for the bake table, but also made the cake for the Guess the Weight of the Cake competition.

Of the money raised, £250 was used to support the extra needs teacher at The Inside Outside Club, St Gregory's, Seacroft which is in one of the most deprived areas of Leeds. Inside Outside Childcare offers valuable educational and practical support for children of school age as well as their parents.

We also sent a donation of £130 to the Donkey Sanctuary Assisted Therapy Centre at Eccup, Leeds, where 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.

The Coffee Morning has always been a friendly and happy occasion but sadly its organisation has become increasingly expensive in both time and money and attendance has been dropping steadily over the years. The Projects' Committee has therefore decided not to hold a Coffee Morning in 2020.

We thank all the members of the Yorkshire Ladies' Council of Education who have helped and supported the Coffee Morning over the years. I would also like to add my particular thanks to the dedicated members of the Projects' Committee who have given so much of their time and have worked so hard to raise money for educational projects that are deserving of our help. The Projects' Committee has focused on helping educational projects in the community where state funding is either not available or is inadequate. I hope we may find some means of continuing this valuable work in the future.

Margaret Pullan





Forest Hill

Forest Hill looks very smart with the new roof on the north wing and a new porch on the stable block. The gardens have been very attractive this summer with colourful planting and have been enjoyed by all.

In addition to a wide variety of social activities organised by the residents, Mrs Hollis and members of the Board held two very enjoyable afternoon teas, the Spring Tea in March and the Yorkshire Day Tea on 1st August when scones were served with cream and strawberries. Both occasions were well supported by residents and Board members.

The heating system at Forest Hill is in need of overhaul and probable replacement. We will be reviewing the options over the next few months looking for reliability, energy efficiency and considering environmental impact.

Since the last newsletter we are pleased to report that all the flats had been let and there was a period of full occupancy. At the time of writing there is one vacant flat.

Any Yorkshire Ladies who are aware of anyone who might be interested now, or in the future, in renting a flat at Forest Hill please do suggest to them that they contact Kathryn Taylor, the Manager on 01132667247 or Tricia Hollis or myself for an informal discussion or a visit.

Kathy Hart



Awards Committee

Since you last read about what the Awards Committee is up to, we've worked our diligent way through a record number of applications for a YLCE award. We met in March, in June and in September. I thought I'd numb you with some numbers: we received in total 365 applications; Deputy Chair Carole Gleisner and I weeded out 154 of those as being extremely unlikely to get the thumbs up; so in committee sessions we considered 211 applications; we offered grants to 94 women; we refused the other 117; we offered in total £27,000 – on your behalf.

We hope that all these offers will be taken up; some won't because the women concerned will not have been able to raise sufficient money to fund the extraordinarily high fees demanded, and this will be despite the loans available for postgraduate courses. This is a sad thought. (You might like to check online what sort of debts graduates are likely to chalk up.)

As is usual now the vast majority of applications are for postgraduate courses, most of them to do what is now called a 'Masters'. We are increasingly impressed and/or surprised at the subject areas chosen to be studied: Conflict, Security and Development, Popular Music Research, Science Communication, Biological Photography and Imaging, Composition for the Screen, Directing and Producing Science & Natural History Documentaries, Forensic Psychology, Media Practice for Development & Social Change – I could go on.

But not everyone wants an academic course. We've been delighted to receive applications from women without necessarily impressive school and university qualifications, though we were a little disappointed that we felt unable to support Jane who was determined to do 'Semi-Permanent Make-up and Fibroblast Training'. We offered money also to some animal lovers: to Charlotte to take a City & Guilds Diploma in Animal Management at my all-time favourite institution: Tiggywinkles Wildlife Hospital. Laura will be embarking (sic) on a course in Canine Communication. Elizabeth will be studying Canine Care, Behaviour & Welfare.

Now, for a bit of history. You may or may not be aware that at the outset of its existence in 1990 the Awards Committee offered scholarships and bursaries to a variety of institutions, including Leeds Girls High School, Leeds College of Music and Trinity and All Saints College, as it was then called. Departments of Leeds University received grants: the School of Education, the Food Science Department, the School of Music and the Medical School amongst them.

Even the University of Sheffield was able to offer grants to women students taking courses in Science, Engineering and Technology thanks to YLCE. Gradually more and more individual students found out about YLCE Awards, and gradually the specific scholarships to institutions were discontinued for a variety of reasons. Only the scholarships to the College of Music and the University School of Music remained. You may well have guessed that new members to the Awards Committee questioned what they saw as a bizarre bias towards music.

To check this conspicuous imbalance, one of us proposed that we should try to set up a scholarship for students of a STEM subject – very much in the news and echoing the earlier Sheffield scholarship. After, as you can imagine, long and agonised discussion, we eventually decided that scholarships to individual institutions should be discontinued altogether. We felt, among other things, that the choice of recipient had not been in our hands and that it was perfectly possible for the students chosen to apply to us as individuals. So, should we do anything instead? We finally agreed that we should give annually a more substantial, named award to an individual applicant. In the spirit of the bequest by the Misses Clarkson we proposed to award a Clarkson scholarship to a worthy performing arts applicant, and in honour of our lamented Chairman, Nancy Donner, to award a Donner scholarship to a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) applicant.

The Clarkson Scholarship has not yet been awarded, but we chose an outstandingly worthy recipient for the Donner Scholarship: Lilybelle Cowland Kellock, proposing to read for an MSc in Pure Mathematics at Imperial College London, will receive £600.

Miss Cowland Kellock is a 21-year-old mathematician who has just graduated with a First from Durham and is about to embark upon that MSc at Imperial College London. She's quite a mathematical star: in her third year undergraduate degree she 'discovered a new mathematical result' as she put it, but expressing herself in a very modest way.

She lives in a council house in St Albans with her mother and will commute daily into London, having saved enough over the summer to pay her train fares. She will work at the weekends to cover living costs. Her career intention is to become an academic. She is also insistent that outreach and inclusion should play a role in what she does. She is very forthright in championing the cause of working-class students, particularly those hoping to study at postgraduate level. She left us in no doubt as to the financial difficulties and stresses lower class students face. She complains of the sheer unfairness of it all; how students like her have to build up enormous debts whilst those with lots of family support sail through their studies untroubled by the anxiety of where the next penny is coming from. The whole system as it stands could well be preventing brilliant minds from making their contributions to scientific knowledge, she knows.

Do keep your subscriptions and donations flowing. There are so many worthy women out there who need our help.

Gillie Andrews



From an appreciative recipient:

YLCE gave 29-year-old Jessica an award of £300 in March 2018 to help fund the second year of her part-time Masters degree in Inclusive Arts Practice. What's that? You can read about it below. We were impressed by her drive, enthusiasm and determination. Hers was not in any way a sob-story. In fact it was only much later we discovered more about her. At the age of ten she was diagnosed as having dyslexia, dyspraxia and dyscalculia. There had been nothing of this in her application. She fought through to get a BA in Photography and Digital Learning, has had internships within the heritage and museum sectors and has set up her own award-winning organisation: 'Dyspraxic Me', a support group for young adults with dyspraxia. Her latest employment had been as Co-ordinator of Youth Volunteering at the British Museum.

Awards Committee

Here's what she has to say:

For the last two years I've been studying part-time at the University of Brighton, working for a Masters in what's called Inclusive Arts Practice. The MA is aimed at artists or individuals from related fields who are working in healthcare, in education, in the arts in general or in the community sector. It focuses on the role that art and artists can play in the lives of people living with disabilities. I've gained important experience of collaborating with disabled artists, developed and delivered workshops and built up a large portfolio of art projects to help further my career as an inclusive arts facilitator.

I've managed to fund my course by working 4 days a week, and, of course with the help of YLCE, to pay my fees. Thank you. Through the course we got to collaborate with the Rocket Artists, a group of artists in Brighton, some with and some without disabilities; we spent a week at the Tate Modern delivering activities for their Tate Exchange activities and got to develop our own creative practices. (It's worth looking up what Tate Exchange does.)

The course is organised in modules. One especially important module for me was the individual research project. We had to set ourselves a research question and work to find a creative rather than a written response.

My question was: 'How should we interpret and curate the history of labelling people with learning difficulties – which we refer to as "neurodiversity"?' I found eight people willing to participate and collaborate in this project over a period of seven weekly sessions. We looked in turn at the medical, educational, media and personal narratives and at how charities respond. We all defined ourselves as having a learning difficulty, for example dyslexia, ADHD, autism. Each session focused on one of these themes using art-based research, history and language, visiting the Wellcome Collection library and archive, the media such as newspapers, TV and film. We made a comic book about neurodiversity, looked at current views on 'curing' and made icing sugar medicine bottles; we recorded thoughts on education by doodling on school exercise books; we made our own charity badges; we designed our own accessible protest and we created an architectural drawing of our ideal neurodiversity museum.

My creative response was going to address these issues: the language used by the media; accessible activism; campaigning and protesting; changing people's perceptions and neurodiversity agency. I curated a museum on neurodiversity. It was exhibited at the University of Brighton end of year show in July. I wanted to see if I could make an inclusive and welcoming space. I feel that accessible activism can take place in the form of being able to take ownership of a space that is unwelcoming and making it accessible for yourself and others. I designed cushions covered in words we feel are negative when people describe us and also with words we feel comfortable with, a film of the newspaper headlines that we looked at as a group, a framed newspaper article about myself that I don't feel comfortable with, a neon sign of the word 'suffers' a word we discussed a lot during the research as the media tend to use this word regularly, and a white board protest signs for visitors to add their responses.

During the research I brought along a polystyrene head on a plinth - like a statue you might see in a museum, to have a conversation about 'Percy F', the first diagnosed dyslexic, then in 1896 labelled as 'Congenital Word Blindness'. Visitors were welcome to write or draw a message to Percy F on how you would feel or how you think Percy might have felt being the first dyslexic. I also recorded talking labels and a talking book explaining the work. The walls were also painted cream, as the usual white walls for an art gallery can be stressful for some neurodivergent people.

Reports on events

Projects' Committee Coffee Morning 21st March 2019

I always look forward to the Coffee Mornings at St Chad's. I get teased



that it's another excuse for shopping and gossiping, a remark which makes my feminist hackles rise. This time on 21 March I tried as usual not to eat too many of those come-again biscuits, nor talk with my

mouth full as I chatted somewhat relentlessly with fellow members



and their guests. And I wasn't the only one.

Each year many of us resolve not to buy another book or CD – 'our shelves are already groaning', is the complaint I hear.

But true to form we can't resist, and know it's we who will probably be groaning ourselves under the weight of our purchases, not only the books, but the plants and bulbs, the cards and the bags and those irresistible scarves; never forgetting the wonderful home-made cakes that we can later falsely claim to have baked ourselves and so impress our visitors.

I'm also always really pleased to hear Carole O'Connor from St Gregory's Inside/Outside Club. You'll have read Carole's piece in the Spring Newsletter reminding us of our 22-year-old connection with the Club. At the Coffee Morning she was her usual informative and inspiring self and reinforced how much our contributions (however modest) help fund the much needed Special Needs support. Our gifts of breakfast cereals and the like continue to put a smile on her face.



This year, as you will have read, we were also raising funds to support the Donkey Sanctuary Assisted Therapy Centre at Eccup. You can read in detail about all its activities in our last Spring Newsletter and online.

At the Coffee Morning we were privileged to hear Daniel McCloughlin championing, amongst many other things, the inspiring success achieved in their 'Donkey Facilitated Learning' programme. This is a structured 8-week programme giving self-awareness and self-confidence to vulnerable children - and adults; it happens in a series of one-to-one contact sessions with a donkey, an animal who is by nature affectionate, curious, and pre-disposed to socialise with whatever animal it meets – human or not.

I made a note to visit the Sanctuary and see for myself, as I'm sure did so many of us.

Gillie Andrews

Editor's note: *Went to their Spring Fayre and thoroughly enjoyed it!*



The Rose and The Nightingale 13th April 2019

In April, the musical ensemble Ad Hoc Baroque presented a concert of music entitled The Rose and The Nightingale, to celebrate the coming of spring. The players staged their



performance in the curved space within the elegant bay window of Devonshire Hall's Fenton Room. The group consisted of a soprano voice and five different instruments: just the right amount for the intimate setting. In a larger venue, with a more robust style of musical offering, more players and instruments augment the ensemble and personnel change to suit the repertoire.

Ad Hoc Baroque is composed of a group of friends who specialise in smaller scale concerts of chamber music under the aegis of Jillian Johnson, the group's convenor. Most members of the group also perform with the Leeds Baroque Choir and Orchestra and they enjoy playing, among other genres, 17th and 18th century music. Their instruments, copies of those from the baroque period, produce a pleasingly authentic sound.

The Nightingale and The Rose celebrated spring through the theme of birds and flowers. Both were, at the time this music was written, metaphors for the emotional state of the singer or poet. Love and yearning blossom with the spring flower: 'wretched nightingale stop your singing ... and keep company among the leaves with the sighs of my heart'.

The programme offered works by baroque composers ranging from the well-known Handel and Scarlatti, to the rather less so - Pepusch and Hotteterre.

Five of the eight pieces were arias or cantatas, and were sung by soprano Marie Lemaire, during which she was accompanied by smaller groups of instruments or simply continuo, to allow her beautiful voice to be heard clearly.

Mary Lance



Lady Halifax's achievement

As reported in The Yorkshire Post, our President the Countess of Halifax has become a jockey for the first time, to celebrate her 70th birthday, and to raise money for Macmillan Cancer Support. She rode Irish four-year-old Windsor Cross at York Racecourse (her husband, the Earl of Halifax, is the life president of the course) on 15th June. It was the last race of the day, the Ernest Cooper Macmillan Ride of Their Lives, 9 furlongs round the Knavesmire. There were 11 amateur jockeys, and together they raised over £125,000. Lady Halifax, though an experienced rider, was the race's most senior novice and had admitted to feeling nervous! However., she practised before the race, at the stable of owner/trainer Richard Fahey. Although she did not win, she completed the race and her participation was recognised as a great achievement.

Lady Halifax has been associated with Macmillan Cancer Support for four decades and has served as its president since 2002 She is inspired by the difference made to cancer patients by Macmillan Nurses. The relationship between Macmillan Cancer Support and York Racecourse has seen more than £8m



raised since in 1971.

New members

Sue Clarke



Born and educated in Surrey/Sussex, I came to Leeds in my early twenties and stayed! Work was mostly in University management/administration including strategic planning, governance, communications and external relations, quality assurance and validation of academic programmes, and estate management. Though over the years I have been involved in a number of small businesses, which have all to some extent been fun and hard work!

My first degree was in Physics. At school I attended the local boys' school to study science A levels. At University I was one of a handful of females studying physics and maths – these experiences catalysed my interest in providing opportunities and support for children and young people. As a parent (we have 4 daughters) and grand-parent, I enjoy being involved in innovative projects which are providing opportunities for all to achieve their potential, explore and enjoy life.

Thus my active involvement in a fledgling charity MathsWorldUK, which aims to establish the first UK Mathematics Discovery Centre, and my recent involvement with Gipton Together, a community charity providing after school classes in the performing arts and sport. I also enjoy estate and building projects so looking forward to being involved with the Forest Hill team.

Sue Clarke

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Mrs Gill Lydon

Awards Committee

Mrs Gillie Andrews

Projects' Committee

Mrs Margaret Pullan

Social Committee

Mrs Gill Milner

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