

Autumn 2016

Sandwich Lunch and Christmas Fayre

Thursday, 3rd November, 11:30am – 2:00pm at St Chad's Parish Centre,

Annual General Meeting

Monday, 6th February, 2017, 11:45am at St Chad's Parish Centre

Executive Committee Meetings (5 per annum) Monday 28 November 2016 - Annual Meeting Monday 30 January 2017 Monday 26 June 2017 Monday 25 September 2017 Monday 27 November – Annual Meeting 2017

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: Wednesday, 16 November 2016

Social Committee meetings (2-3 per annum) The next: Thursday, 12 January 2017

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

Forest Hill Garden Party In June 2017 - Date to be announced

Letter from our Chairman

To all our members

I continue to find life on the Executive Committee happy and cooperative and am pleased to be reporting on progress in a revamped Newsletter, nobly produced and edited by two members who have taken over *pro tem* from Phillida. Our thanks to them and to all our volunteers. Very many thanks to Phillida who added this to her workload when we were between editors.

In the last Newsletter, I mentioned the need for a fundraising group and we now have a small working party of two executive members and a new member of YLCE who has agreed to share her expertise - please do remember we welcome help and volunteers with open arms. At the moment, two of our members are organising a new programme of events - one down and several in the pipeline. The first was at Devonshire Hall where we heard Louise Cantley speak about women within the prison system, a talk that resonated powerfully with YLCE aims and aspirations and was both sobering and moving. Your input here would be appreciated - maybe suggestions for future events? help with future events? any offers, please contact me in the first instance (details below) and I will pass on what you say.

I thoroughly enjoyed the Forest Hill Garden Party in June, where I won my second raffle prize of this year, bought very fine cards and acquired sweet peas and marigolds (amazingly prolific) Then in July, we were invited to Garrowby Hall where we so much appreciated the welcome and the generosity of our hosts, Lord and Lady Halifax. Very many thanks to our President. We can look forward to the Social Committee's Christmas Fayre and Sandwich Lunch at St Chad's Parish Centre on November 3rd and to "Pepys at Christmas" on December 4th with Ad Hoc Baroque in St Edmund's Church, our AGM on February 6th 2017 and the Projects Committee's Coffee Morning on March 23rd.

Our Awards Committee continues its work throughout the year; their meetings can last the best part of the day (occasionally with a small glass of wine during a brief lunch). Hear more about this (the work not the wine) at the next AGM.

Soon all events will appear on a new, professional website, painstakingly researched by an executive working party: an exciting development which will be a great help to us in so many ways - in our presentation of the YLCE, recruitment, online awards applications, just to offer a few brief examples

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It goes without saying that we depend on you and your involvement. At the moment, attendance at events averages around only 25% of membership. Please do try to come; as you know, we welcome you, your families* and friends* at fundraising events. It is always a pleasure to meet you there.

*We have been asked if men may attend these events. Yes, they are very welcome!

Gill

Gill Lydon Chairman Executive Committee

tel. 0113 2785596 mob. 07940 539360 email. gillian_lydon@hotmail.com

Social Committee

Several Members of the Committee helped on the Cake Stall at the Projects Committee Coffee Morning in May, and served Tea at the Forest Hill Garden Party.

On Thursday 3rd November 2016 we will be holding our Annual Christmas Food Fayre and Sandwich Lunch at St Chad's Church Parish Centre, Otley Road, Headingley, from 11.30 to 2pm. There will be various Stalls: Seasonal homemade food all made and provided by the Social Committee, Handbags, Purses, Scarves, Phoenix Greeting Cards, both Christmas and for other occasions, Wrapping paper, Christmas fancy goods, Second hand books and CD's and Jewellery.There will also be a Raffle.

Please help us to make this a successful event by your support and bring your Friends.

The Charity we are supporting this year is Lineham Farm Children's Centre.

Lineham Farm is set in 120 acres of beautiful Yorkshire countryside near Eccup, Leeds. It was set up by Denise Atkinson in 1993 to give underprivileged and disabled children a residential break in the countryside.

Government cuts within Children's Services across the city of Leeds are limiting support to vulnerable families. Issues such as domestic violence, abuse and neglect, long-term unemployment, single parent families, are causing more children to be taken into care, and also to their needing increased support. Up to 1,500 children between the ages of 8 and12 yrs are welcomed every year; over half of them live in the most deprived areas in Leeds; their needs and challenges are very real. Lineham Farm works closely with those schools and teachers who have a large number of vulnerable children amongst their pupils. Schools return to Lineham Farm year after year, as they see the enormous benefits their children reap.

During their stay the children work with experienced and professional outdoor activity instructors. They are skilled educators, able to take young people on a challenging adventure and help them understand what the experience means to them. The children usually spend a week at Lineham Farm. They partake in activities varied and exciting, e.g. on the climbing wall, the traversing wall, low and high ropes and so develop confidence through success and trust by looking after each other. Mountain-biking, archery, orienteering, following country trails all feature during the week, as well as sessions where the children learn about the environment and how to explore the natural world. There are sessions about animal care which promote responsibility and art classes to promote self-expression and creativity.

Many others benefit from the week, too, out of termtime, including teachers, special needs assistants and support groups.

Riding for the Disabled, Aware Autism Resource, The Variety Club, Chernobyl Children UK, Martin House Children's Hospice are a few of the additional groups supported by Lineham Farm.

A representative from Lineham Farm will be present during the event and will give a short presentation on the work of Lineham Farm Children's Centre.



Gill Milner

Lineham Farm



Projects Committee

This past year the Projects' Committee has continued to support *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. This year it was confirmed that the money raised at our annual fundraising Coffee Morning in March would be used to help fund an additional needs worker.

We look forward to our next Coffee Morning which is to take place on Thursday 23rd March 2017 at St Chad's Parish Centre, Otley Road, Headingley, Please mark the date in your diary and come and support us! Not only is it a pleasant social occasion and a perfect opportunity to shop for gifts and plants, but it is the Committee's main fundraising event of the year.

Margaret Pullan

Forest Hill House Committee

In April Mrs Auriol Moore retired from her post of deputy chairman after serving under Mrs Gwynneth Owen for very many years and under Mrs Patricia Hollis for the past four years. Her support and help had been very much appreciated. Mrs Lindsay Taylor is the new deputy chairman. In July Mrs Valerie Wood-Robinson resigned from the committee owing to other commitments.

The House Committee were delighted to welcome Mrs Gill Lydon to the April meeting; she also attended the Board meeting in July.

Over the summer months there has been a great deal of movement between flats and lettings to new tenants. Currently flat 6 is the only flat vacant.

The annual garden party took place in June. The weather was fair but unfortunately the attendance was less than had been hoped. £624 was raised from the stalls and donations, and some of this has been spent on a new television for the lounge, and tea and coffee making facilities for the tenants to use during their own activities.

On Yorkshire Day, 1 August, the House Committee gave a Strawberry Tea for the residents. Several members of the Board of Directors attended and enjoyed a pleasant afternoon.

Various parties and activities are being arranged both by the staff and the residents to take place during the next few months including the Christmas period.

Patricia Hollis

Awards

Your Awards Committee has not slackened in its efforts on your behalf to support admirable women in their search for the funding of their chosen courses. In our June and September meetings this year we considered in total 131 applications from deserving, often very talented women, ranging in age from 21 to 59. We had to say 'no' to 87, but were able to put a smile on the face of 43. We know that some amongst those 43 will not find sufficient funding from other sources to cover their fees and so not be able to take up their places. It's sad.

But on a happier note: the small amounts we offer in grants can and do make a difference. Recipients see that there are strangers out there who believe in them, and the letters of thanks we receive are quite humbling.

It was with much pride that Jane sent us a copy of her (with Postgraduate Diploma Distinction) in Integrative Psychotherapy. She writes, "Your belief that I was worth your support has made such a difference to my life in so many ways. Your help enabled me to achieve my goal and give my life renewed purpose. My confidence and self-esteem have increased enormously as well as, of course, my counselling skills." Jane, with a degree in Human Psychology, had worked with adults with learning disabilities, but had been suffering from M.E. for more than 10 years. Her job was proving far too physically demanding. She is now a self-employed counsellor for people with chronic illnesses; she can set her own hours and work at a pace suitable to her health and varying energy levels.

One of the bonuses of our job is the insight our applicants give us into what's happening in the world of education. We are sometimes quite startlingly brought up to date with the march of technology.

Elizabeth needed some help with her fees to continue into the second year of her 2-year part-time MA in Printmaking at the Royal College of Art. She's exploring the relationship between

technology, industrialisation and print, developing her skills in technologiclal advances such as 3D printing in resin, plaster, paper, wax and plastic, and printed sculpture. She works part-time at the University of Creative Arts in Epsom as a Printmaking and Imaging technician where she has already come up with exciting innovations. With her MA she will be qualified to take up a full-time lecturing position at the University. We might like her to come and talk to us.

We've been noting a trend towards courses which will help our applicants understand the world's present woes and possibly be in a future position to address them: courses in International Development, in Islamic Studies, in Environmental Conservation, in Global Mental Health.

Carla also needed help to fund the second year of her MA: in her case in Islamic Societies and Culture at SOAS. Having graduated in Philosophy, Theology and Religious Studies, with special emphasis on Modern Trends in Islam, she is determined to work in the areas of conflict resolution and peace-building initiatives, in the context of Muslim-majority societies in the Middle East and in Africa, so much so that her studies include Intensive Arabic. Oh, the optimism of the young! However, her hopes of completing her Masters were threatened. There had been a sudden decision to sell the family home in London, buy a property 'up north' and use the resulting extra capital to help with her father's growing health needs and major family misfortunes. This, of course, meant that Carla would now have to pay for London accommodation as well as her course fees. Her developing expertise, allied to the strong personality we detected, makes her someone the world needs and we decided we should help her.

Do keep up the good work of supporting the Awards. We shall be talking in depth and detail at the AGM in February about our work, its joys and tribulations. We shall try to give you all an insight into the concerns and the ambitions of our applicants, as well as the ins and outs of the process of our decision making. Do come and learn more.

Events Diary

Thursday, 3 November 2016 11:30 – 2:00 pm

Christmas Fayre and Sandwich Lunch at St Chad's Parish Centre

Sunday, 4 December 2016 3:00 pm

'Pepys at Christmas' Music and Readings by Ad Hoc Baroque at St Edmund's Church, Lidgett Park Road

Monday, 6 February 2017

YLCE Annual General Meeting followed by 'The Awards Committee Reveals All' at St Chad's Parish Centre

Thursday, 23 March 2017

Projects Committee Coffee Morning at St Chad's Parish Centre

April 2017

Visit to a Leeds University Research Department Details to follow

May 2017

Visit to the William Merritt Disabled Living Centre Details to follow

June 2017

Coffee Morning in Wakefield with optional visits to the Hepworth Gallery or the Yorkshire **Sculpture Park** Details to follow

Thursday, 15 June 2017 Forest Hill Garden Party

The launch of our programme of events

On 6th October 2016 a large group of Yorkshire Ladies and their guests met at Devonshire Hall to launch a series of meetings and events of various kinds. These events we hope will stimulate awareness of the Yorkshire Ladies' Council of Education's main purpose (and raise a little money to further that purpose) whilst providing congenial circumstances for YLs to meet and get to know each other.

YLCE's main purpose is to help women further their education, whether from university studies or from practical training for future occupation or from improvement of exceptional skills. Obtaining grants, scholarships or training places is difficult in all fields. YLCE wants to help as many ambitious women as possible. We hope that YLs will support these events.

"Women, the Criminal Justice System and Afterwards"

We were privileged to hear Mrs Louise Cantley talk of the plight of disadvantaged women in the Criminal Justice System. Louise is Cumbrian-born, with a degree from Bradford University and further Social Care qualifications. She has worked with men and women with drug and alcohol issues in Liverpool and Yorkshire. In formerly used terms she is Senior Probation Officer and is now, here in Leeds, Strategic Manager of Ripon House and Cardigan House, which are 'Approved Premises' (in earlier terms 'Probation Hostels'). Ripon House is for women serving prison sentences of six months or more. Cardigan House has men only who will usually be serving longer sentences. Both are run by the charity 'Progress for Change', earlier known as the catchy 'Ripon and Leeds Diocesan Council for Social Concern'. We understood the re-branding.

'Approved Premises' are residential units which house offenders in the community on release from prison on licence. These establishments are not numerous. Only six of the one hundred and one establishments are for women offenders. The women stay three or four months or longer, receive some education and are helped to develop skills to help them prepare for a place in the difficult job market. Only 12% of employers are willing to employ men and women with a prison record, so jobs are far from easy to obtain. In 2016 there are 3,843 women in prison: a lot, yes, but only about 5% of the total prison population. Their crimes will have been less serious than those of men: viz, shoplifting, handling stolen goods, petty theft. Crimes such as arson, assault or murder are rare. Sentences are short, six or eight months. Louise expressed most clearly how such time away from family and friends, often many hundreds of miles distant, can have an extremely disruptive, negative effect on the women's ability to cope with life. There are only twelve women's prisons in the whole of England. Women offenders tend to be in poor health, might have spent years in care and have issues with alcohol (51%) or have suffered sexual or domestic violence (44%). Women suffer greatly from a prison sentence, however short. They may lose benefits, housing; they may have their children taken into care, however short their sentence and often they will see little of their families. It is common that their education will have been curtailed either by leaving school as early as thirteen or by family problems. The rehabilitation offered by the 'Approved Premises' and the programmes run to address their offending issues are crucial.

We heard some alarming statistics, not least that 45% of women leaving prison reoffend within a year. For those women who have served more than eleven previous custodial sentences the reoffending rate rises to 75%.

We were given to ponder on the effectiveness of short-term prison sentences.

Louise Cantley had inspired us by her dedication. She has qualities which our founding Yorkshire Ladies themselves demonstrated.

Mary Herbert



Our speaker Louise Cantley (2nd from right) enjoys a convivial cuppa with Rosemary Ward, Gill Lydon and Katherine Widdowson

Such events will put a little bit extra into the Awards coffers. Our predecessors invested very wisely and from the income provided by these investments we are able to offer the small grants we do.

But we need more, we always need more, not only to boost our Awards fund, but also to enable us to support new educational or welfare initiatives for women.

YLCE has formed a small group to drive and focus our fund-raising efforts.

Could you be part of that group? Coming up with ideas? Just writing a few lines to the right people? Could you volunteer yourself and a friend? Or do you know someone who might be persuaded to join the group?

Contact Gill Lydon



Christmas with Mr Pepys and Ad Hoc Baroque

seasonal words and music and seasonal refreshments

on Sunday, 4 December at 3:00 pm in St Edmund's Church, Lidgett Park Rd, LS8 1JN

Samuel Pepys is arguably the 17th century's best-known diarist. His recorded observations of the society in which he lived give an unparalleled picture of political and social life in London. He is a great enthusiast for music – both as a performer and as a critic and much of his social life is based around his musical activity.

For this performance Ad Hoc Baroque are joined by narrator Richard Andrews as we explore a 17th century Christmas with Samuel Pepys, illuminated by readings from his diaries and music of the period.

> Tickets £7.50 To reserve your tickets to be collected at the door contact Phillida Richardson tel: 0113 269 1471 / email: admin@ylce.org

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

Our visit to Garrowby Hall

A collation of some reflections by members and guests on our visit to the home of our President, Lady Halifax on 6th July 2016

Contributions from Nancy Donner, Heather Harrison, Helen Owens, Katherine Widdowson and Gillie Andrews

The approach

We used take our children on holiday to a caravan site on the

east coast near Bridlington, via Garrowby Hill, so I was familiar with the approach to Garrowby Hall, the drive leading off a bend next to the old AA box. What a surprise to find the drive wound through parkland to the house high on the hill, invisible from the road. It was a lovely day, perfect for



exploring the park except that I was wearing heels for meeting a lady.

The welcome

The Yorkshire Ladies and their guests were warmly welcomed to the delightful Garrowby Hall by our President, the Countess of Halifax, and her husband, the Earl. We entered through the part of the Hall which faces the formal gardens and appears to be suitably aged though



it was only built in 1980, we learned. When the present Earl took residence he and his wife decided that, so inadequate was the condition of that part of the house that they would rebuild, in order to be able to house their extraordinary art collection, but especially the Stubbs! I was one of the lucky band of Yorkshire Ladies whom Lord & Lady Halifax welcomed into their home on 6th July 2016. I say 'welcomed' but that hardly does justice to their wonderful hospitality.

..... when I say we were welcomed into the Halifax home I mean just that. It feels like a home rather than rooms to be viewed. And it is, of course, a private residence. No coach parties here.

After being welcomed to Garrowby Hall by Lord Halifax, and a brief explanation by Lady Halifax of the changes she and her husband had made to the original Hall building, we were offered a choice of two activities: a guided tour of the house by Lord Halifax or a visit to Lady Halifax's "Jungle".

The house and the art collection

We entered from the terrace overlooking the formal gardens. The rooms here are light and airy with comfortable furnishings. The many photographs on display demonstrate that Garrowby is very much a family home. Lord Halifax was our expert guide as we moved through the more formal rooms and corridors lined with the family's wonderful collection of artworks. The portraits of magnificent horses by Stubbs reminded us how important the Garrowby Stud is to the life of the family and the Estate. A visit to the elegant chapel with its small circumference and very high ceiling rounded off our tour.

We were invited to join Lord Halifax in his most interesting and amusing tour, or make our own way round the ground floor, or both as the whim took us. The opportunity to get up close to such magnificent art with no attendants ticking one off was a privilege indeed. Guido Reni, Ben Nicholson, George Stubbs, John Singer Sargent and plenty more - I was in heaven. Lord Halifax was an entertaining and engaging guide. Anecdotes from family history kept us smiling. He was quick to point out that the male members of the family had managed to marry well – 'well' referring to their inherited fortunes. (His mother was the grandaughter of Lord Roseberry and of a de Rothschild.) The stories of the Temple Newsam sale and the auction of its contents also kept us amused. His grandfather, the 1st Earl had inherited from his aunt, the redoubtable Emily Charlotte. In 1922 he had decided to sell the House and the Estate to Leeds City Council for what was really a nominal sum, but the contents of the House were to be auctioned – and over many days. Many of the paintings at Garrowby are from Temple Newsam, but we know that much has been returned. I was quite flumoxed by not having the Breughel pointed out as we were guided to the magnificent room designed to hold the Stubbs paintings, clearly the Halifax's pride and joy. I'm far from being a horse-lover, but, wow, those were some paintings! (We refained from taking photos – obviously.)

The grounds and gardens

Following Lady Halifax uphill past the house we left behind us elegant long views of greensward. Atop a grassy rise to the side of the Hall stood an imposing, large, open-fronted folly, its roof supported by classical pillars, its interior warmed by a huge log fire.





Following in Lady Halifax's footsteps, we passed a pair of tall, wrought iron gates, the two gateposts sporting statues of what I took to be foxes. Another pair of similar gates a little way off had gateposts on top of which sat large stone dogs. Turning a corner to pass a circle of pleached trees, I saw to my left a whimsical wire

mesh statue of a large pig, no doubt truffle hunting. A little further on we were led through a small gate into a walled garden.





This was the "Jungle". Lady Halifax had referred to her garden as if it would be advisable to take a machete with which to hack one's way through the dense plant life. This was not at all the case. The garden was set out in beds, small paths allowing one to see the plants from various points of view. The planting scheme was very much in cottage garden style, the plants given freedom to grow to their natural potential. Leaves and stems of different plants mingled and encroached on to No Victorian massed ranks of summer bedding paths. plants here. It was difficult to know where to look first: such a variety of colours in the flowers, and plants ranging from ground covering dwarfs to overhead giants. It was all entirely unpretentious, many of the plants readily recognised by gardeners amongst the visitors.





Even for those of us for whom gardening doesn't rank among our favourite activities, the delightful planting of 'Jungle' almost made us get out our trowels when we got home. Visits to garden centres are planned.

The Tea

Lady Halifax had organised the most scrumptious tea from her kitchens (slight regret that I missed the coffee cake which disappeared from the table before I could get my hands on a slice).

After we bought our raffle tickets it was time for a splendid tea! Cucumber sandwiches, cream cheese sandwiches, sausage rolls, scones with jam and cream, cake and more cake were washed down by either white wine or endless cups of tea, depending on whether you were the driver or passenger on the journey home. I was lucky, I wasn't driving.

There were a few us who were too busy lingering and chatting to appreciate fully the delectable spread laid on for us on the terrace. Though we did manage a glass of bubbly. I'm told that the Great British Bake-off contestants would have no chance up against these pastry cooks. Weren't we lucky that the earlier threatening clouds decided to go away!

Final thoughts

Thank you Lady Halifax

What an amazing day! What generosity!

We made our way to our cars amid a buzz of happy conversations centring on the beauties of our surroundings at Garrowby Hall and gratitude to Lord and Lady Halifax for their very generous hospitality in opening their home to us.

> All the proceeds of the day, including from an oh-so-discreet raffle went to supporting the Awards; those proceeds included money from the sale of copies of the book: 'The Halifax Collection of Sporting Pictures'. Again: what generosity!























Meet two of our new members

Lorraine Harding



I have lived in Yorkshire for 40 years. since being appointed Lecturer in Social Policy at the University of Leeds. Before that, I was peripatetic! Over my years at the University I saw many female mature students blossom and obtain good degrees - but often after a period of struggle, including financial strains. Hence my

interest in the work of YLCE. Since my retirement in 2005 I have been involved in many things, including chairing a Parish Council and a Friedship Group, being a School Governor, and joining a number od U3A groups and classes. I was also a room guide at East Riddlesden Hall (National Trust) and am now a tour guide at Kirkstall Abbey. In 2015 I moved back to Leeds after 15 years in the Keighley area, and have found many things to do/lovely people to meet. My other interests include social history and wils flowers. As an academic I did the usual stuff, and still get the occoasional royalty/copyright payment! I am writing my memoirs and currently run a Life writing group with U3A.

I am happy to be associated with the YLCE.

Diana Wetherill



Born in Cheshire, I came to Leeds in 1960 to study medicine – and have lived in Yorkshire ever since. After qualifying I married John, who was also a Leeds medical graduate, and we moved to Dewsbury when he was appointed consultant physician there. I have three sons (none of whom is a doctor) and I pursed a career in

general practice combined with an appointment as a police surgeon. Eventually clinical forensic medicine took over full-time, which involved seeing prisoners in police custody regarding their physical and mental health, and also examining victims and perpetrators of crime for forensic evidence. This often led to giving evidence in court for either the prosecution or the defence. I retired in 2006; my husband died in 2013.

I enjoy classical music and was a singing member of the Huddersfield Choral Society for over 30 years. I am also a subscriber to Opera North. My husband and I enjoyed travel, often to slightly unusual places to see the local wildlife e.g. Madagascar, Svalbard, and the Galapagos islands.

I first heard of YLCE from Françoise Logan some years ago and have finally joined! As a recipient of higher education myself, I strongly support its aims and objectives.

> Our other new members are Sheila Wainwright and Eileen Parkes

HELP: EDITOR NEEDED!

A message from your temporary editors Valerie Wood-Robinson & Gillie Andrews

Could you volunteer to be our new Newsletter Editor? Or do you know of someone who could be persuaded to take on this rewarding job?

Your present very temporary, emergency editors have enjoyed the challenge of producing what you've been reading. However, they both have other timeconsuming activities, one of them even being in nominal charge of Awards.

The times they are a-changing. We'll have a new website very soon and a new presence online. The moment has come for a new-look Newsletter, perhaps. For us, editors at the last minute, it's been interesting. For the next editor, with time to plan which member will report on which event in advance, it will be even more so. And assigning the photographer in advance, too, what a luxury!

If you're interested, or know someone who might be, get in touch with Gill Lydon or Gillie Andrews

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