

**Spring Update 2015**

Dear Fellow Members

Congratulations to you all! Together you raised about £25,000 for the Jillian Rennie Appeal. The entire sum, which includes Gift Aid, has gone to the Awards Fund and the income will support many women in their educational and training endeavours. You will be helping many of them to realise their potential ad to fulfil their dreams.

I want to thank all of you who contributed to the success of this Appeal—the ‘backroom’ ladies who did the planning, wrote the letters and addressed and stuffed the envelopes, the ladies who hosted the many creative events which opened the Appeal to a wider circle of people who might otherwise never have heard of the Yorkshire Ladies’ Council of Education, and all those who made donations large and small. You have all been utterly brilliant! I am so proud of you. Thank you.

Spring is sprung now and new events are on the horizon. The Forest Hill Garden Party is on June 11th. Do come. It is always such a happy occasion. Also coming up is a more serious opportunity. The Projects Committee is hosting a study afternoon on Internet Safety which is about safeguarding children and young people on the internet and how the YLCE might help. This event will take place at Forest Hill on Wednesday 22 July from 2 to 4:30 pm. An expert speaker will make a presentation. You might be interested because you have grandchildren using the internet or you might bring a guest whose children could be affected by cyber bullying or grooming. Do come and learn.

Meanwhile, enjoy whatever sunshine we get this spring and summer.

With very best wishes to you all

Nancy Donner

**GOOD GOVERNANCE CONTINUES……**

Have you ever read our Mem and Arts? Written in 1904, with only five alterations since…

1. In 1907, to allow the Training School to award diplomas
2. In 1912, to allow for there to be more than six Vice-Presidents
3. In 1955, to allow for the development of Forest Hill
4. In 2008, to take account of a name change from ‘auditors’ to ‘independent examiners’
5. In 2012, to remove life membership and allow for email communication.

…this document is the legal document which the trustees (members of the Executive Committee) must understand and implement as they seek to run YLCE in accordance with the good practice set out by the Charity Commission, known as Good Governance.

Wow, what vision the ladies of 1904 had to be able to put together a document that would still be able to be used 111 years later! Having said that there are parts of the document that we actually choose to ‘ignore’, such as: …if you haven’t paid your subs by the 31st July of each year your membership should be terminated (article 11), …your voting rights are removed during any time period when you are not a fully paid up member (article 38), …our Executive should consist of the Company Officers, all ex-officio, and 25-40 other members (article 41), …Officers and members of the Executive should retire annually! (articles 40 and 45). And there are areas of the document with insufficient detail to satisfy Good Governance in 2015.

Consequently, we are seeking advice as to the best way forward to bring our governing document into the 21st century. We will keep you, as members, fully informed of our thinking and, as always, no changes can be implemented without member approval at an Extra-ordinary General Meeting.

Watch this space!

Kim Knowles

**FOREST HILL**

At the AGM held early in December 2014 Mrs Liz Thring stepped down as Chairman of the Board. She had served for four years and with support from the directors had helped to bring Yorkshire Ladies Council (Hostels) Ltd into the 21st century by amending the Memorandum and Articles of Association and tightening up the day to day running of Forest Hill. The Board of Directors thanked Liz Thring for her sterling work and looked forward to her continued support as a director. Mrs Kathy Hart was appointed as the new Chairman.

There have been several changes in tenancy over the past few months, some movement within Forest Hill and three new tenants. Some flats have had a new bathroom and kitchen and have been redecorated before new tenants have moved in. There are two flats vacant and they are ready for immediate occupation.

Over the Christmas period the residents enjoyed various activities which included an excellent Christmas Dinner complete with Father Christmas and presents for all provided by Tess and her staff, a visit to the West Yorkshire Playhouse to see A White Christmas and carols sung by the Badgers from St Edmund’s Church.

The House Committee provided home-made scones and cakes when they hosted an afternoon tea early in March for the residents and staff. It was well attended and enjoyed by both the residents and the members of the House Committee.

The Annual Garden Party is to be held on Thursday 11 June 2015 at 2 30 p m and will be opened by the Reverend Andrew Atkins, the Minister of Lidgett Park Methodist Church. It is hoped that as many members as possible will be able to support Forest Hill and donations to the cake and garden stalls would be very much appreciated. The money raised will go into the Amenity Fund which is used to provide extras for the residents such as the computer and outings.

During the summer months Forest Hill will host an evening for new and prospective members and an afternoon talk and discussion event for members and their friends.

As always the buildings at Forest Hill need care and attention and this spring the wooden weatherboards on the north and south wings as well as the link corridor are to be replaced with upvc. This work will be followed by painting the gutters and fascia boards etc.

Patricia Hollis

**PROJECTS COMMITTEE**

This past year the Projects’ Committee has continued to 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 held our annual fundraising Coffee Morning on Thursday 16th March at St Chad’s Parish Centre, Otley Road, Headingley, The surroundings are familiar, of course to many of our members as it is where the Annual General Meetings of the YLCE are held. As ever, our guests enjoyed coffee and biscuits and the opportunity to browse and purchase cakes and home-made produce, bulbs and plants, handbags, scarves, cards and good quality second hand books. Thanks to the generosity of all our supporters, we raised over £725. Grateful thanks are due to the caretaking staff of St Chad’s Parish Centre as well as to all the kind volunteers from outside our committee who helped to make the morning such a success.

The Projects’ Committee has recently been considering the problems posed by internet pornography and the widespread grooming of girls and young women by predators. There is growing awareness that, although young people may have advanced computer skills and be confident in accessing the internet, they do not have the maturity or social skills to fully recognise the consequences that may result. The Projects’ Committee is organising a Study Day on July 22nd to address concerns our members may have about the protection of young people they know. Details are given elsewhere in this Newsletter; if you are able to attend, I do urge you to do so.

Margaret Pullan

**AWARDS COMMITTEE**

In our January and March meetings this year your Awards Committee considered applications from a total of 84 women, to 30 of whom we were able to grant an award. The January meeting was rather a sad occasion: we were saying good-bye to Mrs Françoise Logan who had served on the Committee for longer than she cared to remember. Françoise’s experience, sound judgement and her always apposite humorous comment will be really missed, you can be sure. In our March meeting we welcomed Mrs Carol Gleisner to our ranks, ready, willing and able to contribute in the future as much as Françoise has done in the past.

We continue to be gratified by the many and various expressions of thanks we receive on your behalf from past award recipients. Many are extremely conscientious and give a fully detailed run down of their academic progress. Others are simply profuse in their thanks. The general tenor is one of gratitude that ‘someone else believes in my potential – a very motivating feeling.’

We don’t only get letters, we get photographs. A young woman we helped progress in her high level Diploma in Sign Language Interpreting sent us a jubilant photo of her class, waving their certificates, celebrating their success and ‘signing’ their joy.

We also get visual thanks from those who follow courses in visual art. From a student of ‘Sequential Design and Illustration‘ we received a print of one of those illustrations she had completed for a book on the haberdashery stuff we all inherit one way or another from our grandmothers. She had designed her book as a portrait of women’s lives. It was most compelling and kindled all sorts of nostalgia.

Very many of the awards we make are to women preparing to embark on a Masters course without which they would have no relevant career prospects and for which funding is difficult to obtain, especially for those without any family support. However, there are some we help to come up with the final sum they still owe before they can complete their qualification. A case in point being a young woman who due to ill health had been forced to take extra time before submitting her PhD thesis: delay means extra fees.

A personal note:

I recognised the name in the programme at once..…yes, the young lady singing Helena in the RNCM’s production of Britten’s Midsummer Night’s Dream was one of ‘ours’. And beautifully she sang, too.

An afterthought:

One award holder tells us that she did ‘tweet’ about her good fortune, but noticed that we are not on Twitter. Watch this space. (What? You don’t have a Twitter account?)

Gillie Andrews

**INTERNET SAFETY STUDY AFTERNOON**

 **Safeguarding young people on the Internet and developing 'digital citizenship'**
We are holding a study afternoon at Forest Hill on Wednesday 22nd July from 2pm to 4.30 pm to learn more about the Internet issues facing young people today, especially young girls and to explore how YLCE could contribute to the work already underway in this area.

The afternoon will start with a talk from Claire Dodds from CEOP (Child Exploitation and On Line Protection) on current issues for young people including cyber bullying, grooming, inappropriate websites, social networking and sexting. In addition to informing of the risks and issues Claire will also cover what education, help and support is available and how to access it.

We will then have the opportunity to discuss in groups the issues raised and where YLCE might be able to contribute and be involved.

There is a small charge of £5 for the afternoon, including tea and cakes.

All YLCE members and friends are very welcome but numbers are limited so please advise Peggy Pullan 07947 606786, Tricia Hollis 0113 2664062 or Kathy Hart 07860 454894 by 12th June if you and any guests wish to attend.

New YLCE members are particularly welcome to come along to this event to meet with other Yorkshire Ladies.

Kathy Hart

**SOCIAL COMMITTEE**

We had a very successful Christmas Food Fayre and Sandwich Lunch, held in November 2014 at St. Chad’s Church Parish Centre, Headingley. It was well attended, and Members and their Friends bought from the stalls which included, the very popular food stall with all the homemade produce made by members of the Committee, Phoenix cards, Books, Handbags and scarves, and a Raffle. We were able to give £600 to the Charity we were supporting Craven Home Start, and we received a letter of appreciation and grateful thanks for our generous donation from Julie Moore Scheme Manager. The Charity helps Families with Young Children through home visiting support, addressing challenges facing these Families, such as, disability, isolation, the demands of parenting young children, bereavement.

The visits Strengthen parent/child relationships, improve parent’s physical health and well being, improve children’s health, and development, improve parenting skills.

In February the Social Committee, provided the Buffet Lunch at the AGM, which was enjoyed by all present, and we have received a very kind letter of thanks and appreciation from Margaret Bradbury, the Honorary Secretary of the Executive Committee.

In March several members helped at the Projects Committee Coffee Morning.

Gill Milner

**MEMBERS SUBS**

You will recall that the annual subscription for the YLCE increased to £30 from 1 September 2014. Unfortunately a lot of the standing order mandates still stand at £25 and we have therefore only received £25 from members for their annual subscription. If your bank has only paid £25, please could you contact them to update the sum to £30 and forward a cheque to me with the balance. Standing order mandate forms are available from the office if you need one.

Phillida Richardson

**MEMBER NEWS**

New Members

Janet Jurica

Virginia Rushton

Valerie Wood – Robinson

Resignations

Mrs Mary Chettoe

Deaths

Mrs V Ramsden

Ms Elizabeth Wilson

Golden Wedding Celebrations

Congratulations to Emeritus Professor Richard and Gillian Andrews who celebrated their golden wedding in April this year.

**WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBER……..**



I spend much of my time travelling to Australia, Spain and France visiting my children and grandchildren who all live abroad. I enjoy painting, walking, learning Spanish, and compensating for my lack of literary education by studying poetry and Shakespeare through U3A and other groups. My Science Education career in schools, teacher-training, advisory, inspection and research work continued into voluntary publishing activity with the Association for Science Education. Having retired from this commitment I accepted the invitation to join the YLCE as it focuses on supporting women’s needs and on a wide interpretation of education now absent from the constrained formal education system. Although not a designated “volunteer” I help to organise a number of older people’s activities and support elderly friends less able than myself.

Valerie Wood - Robinson

**DATES FOR THE DIARY**

Forest Hill Garden Party Thursday 11 June 2.30 pm

Internet Safety Study Afternoon Wednesday 22 July 2 - 4.30 pm

Executive Committee Meetings: Monday 29 June

 Monday 28 September

 Monday 30 November

 – Annual Meeting

Projects Committee Meetings: Monday 10 August 10.15 am

Social Committee Meetings: Thursday 24 September 10.15 am

Social Committee Sandwich lunch Thursday 5 November, St Chad’s Parish Centre 11.30 am

Annual General Meeting Monday 8 February

**STOP PRESS**

Please make a note of the new Awards e mail address – awards@ylce.org