

Minutes of Berkshire Older Lesbian and Gay Forum meeting 1st August 2002.

Present : Jenny Ward, Chair. Nigel Tooke, Treasurer. Maria Ottway.

Apologies : Nakhat, Jane, Rebecca, Cheryl

Minutes of previous meeting were agreed.

Matters arising from previous minutes.

The fund raising / profile raising brainstorm has begun and various ideas were discussed in detail - see below.

The Web site is now up and running –www.bolgaf.org.uk

Report from the Chair.

Jenny had lots to report having been busy networking on BOLGaF's behalf. She has attended 2 meetings of a **Reading Borough Council** Steering Group which is organising a conference at which **Reading Older People's Forum** will be launched **on 1st October being held at Renaissance Hotel**. Attendees will be both voluntary and statutory bodies, private care providers and older people. BOLGaF are to attend along with the **Affinity Trust** and the **Lesbian and Gay Alzheimer's Carers Group** and have a stall. Jenny has also been instrumental in introducing a key speaker for the conference - Roger Newman of the L&G Carers Group, Alzheimer's society. This is excellent news.

Through this steering group Jenny has met Chris Whittington who runs Tanfield House - a Reading Borough Council older persons care home in Whitley. He hopes to invite a Forum representative along to a meeting of all managers of Borough residential care homes to talk about the Older Lesbian and Gay Forum.

Jenny met with Rhiannon Williams from RVA. This was a very useful meeting and amongst other things it has been suggested that the Forum should present a paper to the **Older Persons Strategy and Implementation Group** which is co-ordinated by Reading Borough Council. Jenny will draft something and circulate it for comments.

Jenny has also met with the Campaigns Officer from Age Concern Slough and had more contact with the Reading Chief officer who wrote supporting the forum but had been unable to attend a meeting. All very supportive.

Funding.

RVA have been very supportive, and we are feeling confident that grants will be a real possibility when we are ready to apply – also note strong support from Borough Council. We agreed at this stage not ready to apply for a grant – still building our thoughts on how to conduct needs analysis etc.

Congratulations to Jenny who held a fund raising wine event with Kenric friends, this raised £25. £10 has been spent on the web site and £5 hiring the risc room for the meeting tonight.

Discussed ideas from brainstorm paper. Agreed to try an event that might raise some money but would also raise profile – accepting that in principle we will raise more funds through grants than events and events are very time consuming for relatively small returns.

Nigel agreed to set up a bank account for BOLGaF – with any 2 of 4 signatures if possible to be authorised to write cheques.

Training.

Agreed to hold over to a future date, when we will have more clarity.

Publicity.

Nakhat from RVA has secured services of Tony Short to assist with publicity design. Jenny to meet with Tony on Friday 9th August and the most pressing item will be publicity for the conference in October. We also want to publicise our planned event well in advance (see below), discussed using The Dove and The Wynford for posters, and will ask Tony to help with that.

Events.

Maria suggested holding a **tea dance**, which everyone thought was a good idea. Since the meeting some action has taken place that I minute here. Jane, Maria and Jenny went and looked at a hall on Sunday and have hired the Coronation Hall, Woodley, for **Sunday 13th October**. It is early days in the planning but so far ... Tea dance to take place 3.30 to 6.30. Cost to be £5.00 per person including refreshments and dance lessons. The Hall has a maximum capacity of 150 people – but we are aiming for @60 – 80. The hall costs £15 an hour, less discount so total hire cost will be @ £70 plus £50 damage deposit. We will need to pay dance teachers and for use of Amp and deck, hopefully through contacts no more than @ £40 total plus refreshments. Selling tickets will be a big priority over the next few weeks as advance ticket sales will ensure we cover our costs. Also need to provide cups, saucers and plates – any ideas??

Future meetings

Nakhat has found us room with access that we can meet in for free (thanks Nakhat!). Jenny is checking out but it is Rupert Square Information Centre in Orts Road – very near the Dove pub for after meeting drinks! Jenny is looking at the facilities on Friday 9th August and will confirm details by e-mail before the next meeting.

Dates have been set as:

Thursday 5th September

Thursday 24th October

Thursday 5th December

Maria Ottway
06 August 2002