

# Berkshire Older Lesbian and Gay Forum

## Steering Committee Minutes

Thursday, 5th September  
Rupert Street Information Centre

### Action

#### 1. **Attendees**

Jenny Ward, Maria Ottway, Jenny Stroud, Margaret Milan, Nigel Tooke, John Wood, Rebecca Ballard.

#### 2. **Apologies**

Apologies were received from Leslie Sherwood and Jane Knightley.

#### 3. **Notes of Last Meeting**

##### a. **Apologies**

Margaret had sent her apologies for the last meeting. The Minutes will be amended accordingly.

Rebecca/  
Jenny W

##### b. **Publicity Material**

Tony Short had prepared some material for us - some fonts and some images. The images looked very heterosexual. We agreed that the layout of the wording with "Berkshire Older" separated from "Lesbian and Gay Forum" was not appropriate.

Tony had also prepared a poster for the Tea Dance which was very effective.

##### c. **Bank Account**

Nigel now has all the relevant paperwork to open a bank account. He needed signatures which were duly provided.

Nigel

##### d. **Finance**

Jenny Ward's wine tasting had raised £25. £10 will go to Rebecca for the domain name and £5 for hire of the room at RISC for the previous meeting.

Jenny W

Nakhat had arranged for us to use the room in Rupert Street for which we are very grateful. It is a great venue.

#### 4. **Chair's Report**

##### a. **Positive Response**

Jenny has been contacted by Mark Taylor from Positive Response, asking if we had heard of them and offering that one of the Trust could come and talk to us if we wanted. Jenny had responded that we didn't at the moment but would keep in touch.

##### b. **Age and Opportunity Conference**

See below.

## 5. Fundraising - Tea Dance, October 13th

### a. Entertainment

Posters have been prepared. Dancing teachers have been booked. They will teach how to do the foxtrot and the cha-cha-cha. The sound system has been organised. Jenny W is planning to get the two sets of people together.

Jenny W

### b. Refreshments

Jenny has found a place where we can hire 60 cups and saucers for £12. Penny and Dawn were able to give us 30. Maria will get cakes and biscuits. We will need big plates to put cakes on, and will use paper serviettes rather than side plates. There is a huge urn at the community centre. We will need tablecloths. Nigel has some which he could bring. Anyone else should bring what they can too.

Jenny W  
Penny &  
Dawn  
Maria

Nigel

### c. Tickets

Tickets have been priced at a fiver. 14 had already been sold. It was agreed that the only people to get in free, would be the dance teachers and sound system people.

Jenny has given 10 tickets to the Wynford, and 10 to the Dove. She will check how they have been going after a fortnight.

Jenny

### d. Expenses

The cost of the hall is £67.00 (for 5 hours) plus £50 deposit. We will need money for dance teachers and sound system; and for tea, coffee, milk, biscuits, cakes, fruit drinks.

### e. Publicity

The Wynford and the Dove have agreed to put up posters for the event.

John Wood will meet with Jenny W at the Wynford to ask Simon to ask his partner about having an article in the Evening Post.

Jenny W will ask Leslie Sherwood to put up posters where older people will see them. She will also try the Age Concern Day Centre, in Woodley.

John

Jenny W

### f. The Room

Maria will do some small floral things and perhaps some balloons.

Maria

### g. All "Helpers"

It's a 2.30 start. Please can we bring as many tea cups, tea cloths, tea towels etc... as we can.

All

## 6. Age and Opportunity - Reading Borough Council's Conference

The Reading BC conference is to take place on Tuesday 1st October, at the Renaissance Hotel. Roger Newman, of the Alzheimer's Society, Gay Carers Group will be one of the main speakers. He will talk about

caring for his partner.

Jenny has reserved 4 places. She will ask Rita if she would like to attend and would like to give the names of all the people by the last week in September.

**Jenny W**

The purpose of the conference is to launch Reading Borough Council's own Older Person's Forum.

**7. Training Issues**

Discussion was postponed until a later meeting.

**Future Meeting**

**8. Needs Research**

We were aware that there is no evidence for the "need" for the forum. i.e. not even anecdotal evidence of whether the needs of older lesbians and gay men are being met or what those needs are. This is one area we would see as being important in the near future.

**Future Meeting**

**9. Any Other Business**

**a. Saga**

Margaret hasn't had a reply to her letter. She will resend it.

**Margaret**

**b. New Job**

We congratulated Jenny Ward on her new job at the Berkshire Community Trust as their grant officer.

**10. Future Meetings**

Dates for future meetings were confirmed as:

Thursday, October 24th,

Thursday, December 5th

at 8.00pm, the venues to be confirmed later.