

Berkshire Older Lesbian and Gay Forum

Steering Committee Minutes

Tuesday, May 13th, 2003
Rupert Street Information Centre

Action

1. Attendees

Derek Rogers,
Jenny Ward,
Lois Williams,
Nigel Tooke,
Pat Herriott,
Rebecca Ballard
Wyndham Clampett
Jane Winter (Age Concern)

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from Jane Kightley.

3. Notes of Last Meeting

The Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday, April 10th, 2003, were agreed as a true record.

4. Matters Arising from Last Meeting

a. Meeting with Reading PCT (Primary Care Trust)

The meeting with Reading PCT had been a very useful one. Clare had also enjoyed it and had taken on board what we had had to say.

b. 107FM Broadcast

Jenny and Nigel had not been given much notice of the first broadcast of their interview. The next broadcast was to be on the 27th May. We had not yet had any direct response as a result of the interview.

5. Chair's Report

a. Autumn Conference

On April 14th Lois and Jenny went with Jane Winter from Age Concern to look at the rooms in the Old Town Hall that have been booked for the Autumn Conference. It was very impressive – particularly the large hall. Lois has started to compile a list of contacts for the conference, and is designing a page for our web site, to advertise it. Jenny has done some "cold calling" to potential attendees, with varied results! People were quite taken by surprise, but when they had a few minutes to think about it they gave interesting and useful responses: "I didn't realise/no-one has told us about this/ its not discrimination so much as ignorance/ we think we have equal opportunities services but we know we don't etc".

Fundraising is going well and we have had £1500 from Reading BC, £500 from Reading PCT, and the latest is £250 from Slough PCT. We are hoping to raise £4000 to make it a free conference but can probably manage on a bit less than that. The hall is costing just under £1000 and it will be £13 per head for refreshments and lunch. However we also need to cover speakers' expenses and administrative costs (postage/advertising etc). Jenny's approach to Sandi Toksvig has met with silence and we are considering who else we can invite as a speaker (in addition to Roger Newman and Brian Heaphy).

(See below for details of the discussion at the meeting.)

b. Networking Day

Jenny has checked with the Community Champions funders and they have agreed that we can use the money to invite other groups to us as our way of networking.

Jenny has contacted the following groups/organisations to see if they would be interested, and what they would like to get out of the day:

- **Gloucestershire Opening Doors Project** - Linda Shepherd and Sally Middleton. Sally has offered to do any work that is required.
- **Thanet Opening Doors Project** – Maggie and Sylvia
- **Alzheimer's Society Gay and Lesbian Carers Group** – Roger Newman*
- **Metro Centre London** – Jackie Foley*
- **Polari London** – Phillipa Thomas
- **Brighton Older Lesbian and Gay Forum** – Peter Otto (no reply as yet)
- **Age Concern England** have also asked to send a rep (their Head of Regional Fieldwork for the South)

*Roger and Jackie also represent **Affinity Trust**

All those that Jenny has communicated with thought the networking day was a great idea and much needed. Most also said that it should have potential to launch an umbrella group, and that we should have that on the agenda.

30th August has been confirmed. Jenny will try to book a room at RISC.

Rebecca and Margaret will draw up an agenda, using based on Sally's outline and suggestions from the meeting. They will then circulate it.

Jenny

**Rebecca/
Margaret**

c. Publicity

Wyndham has prepared final drafts of the brochure, posters and compliment slips. The word "out" in the sentence "For the first time an older generation of "out" gay men and lesbians are making themselves seen and heard" has been removed.

We now have leaflet that we can send out when requested.

It was agreed that we would talk about publicity in detail at a future meeting.

**Future
meeting**

Next social

We also agreed that for the next social event, we would keep a record of

how many tickets were bought before the event which were not used.

d. Tea Dance

The third Tea Dance was held on Sunday 11th May. We had just under 40 people attend. Sue and Muriel provided the sound system which was excellent, and Di was accompanied this time by Paul as a second dance teacher. They danced very well together giving demonstrations, and with less people on the floor it was easier to teach the dance steps.

With under half the numbers of the last tea dance we have not made a great profit. Talking to people on the day we felt that the holiday season meant that quite a few people were missing, and we had not worked as hard at selling tickets as for the last two events. We had still managed to make £75.60.

We noted that not many older people were coming to the tea dances and we wondered whether we should be advertising in Care homes and Day Centres.

Next social

6. Treasurer's Report

Nigel reported that the bank account stood at £1,466.93. This included the £1,000 Community Champions grant.

7. Autumn Conference

a. Accommodation

3 planning meetings have been held with Age Concern and Reading Borough Council. Penny Henrion has attended as has Ray Williams, Age Concern's fundraiser.

In the Town Hall, the Victoria Hall has been booked plus the Waterhouse Chamber and the Silverthorne Room for workshops: total cost approx £1,000. The Victoria hall will seat 150. The cost per head is £13, for teas, coffees and lunches for the day. So far £2,500 has been raised, including money from the Reading and Slough PCTs. All money will go through Age Concern Berkshire who will keep separate account.

b. Speakers

We have had confirmation that Roger Newman and Dr Brian Heaphy will attend and speak. Penny Henrion has agreed to chair the day. No response had been received from Sandi Toksvig. Mr Lishman, Chief Executive of Age Concern England, was not able to come. This means we are still short of a key speaker. Jenny will contact the authors of the "Out of the Shadows" article which she had circulated.

We thought it would be a great idea if we could get a well known gay or lesbian figure to speak. Someone like Pam St Clement or Amanda Barrie; possibly someone with a Berkshire link or someone who was going to have a show in Berkshire at the time of the conference.

c. Workshops

The plan is to run four workshops. If more there are more than 100 delegates then we would run five. Each workshop would be run once in the

morning and once in the afternoon. The four would be

1. "Caring and Carers" – led by Roger Newman
2. Importance of Language – working title "mind your language" - led by Rebecca and Margaret.
3. Residential Care Issues – probably facilitated by Sue Dolding of Age Concern.
4. Health issues – possibly led by Eddie Newark of Battle Hospital, (Jane will contact)

Jane W

If other workshops were required they could be on:

Jenny W

- Housing issues – possibly led by Cindy Creasy – Jenny to follow up.
- Legal issues – Pat will try and track down the solicitor who did work for her and her partner.

Pat

Jenny/Lois/Jane W will find out whether it's possible to divide the main room up for workshop groups.

We agreed that we need to be able to give a good brief to the Workshop leaders.

d. Mail shot

We are aiming to send out a mail shot at the end of June. The publicity will need to have the logo of Age Concern as well as our own. The web page will look like this too.

Wyndham
/Rebecca

Lois

Lois is compiling a list of people to mail shot. She is up to about 65 at the moment. Age Concern are to co-ordinate all the paperwork. Jane W will send out information to Reading Older People's Forum.

Jane W

e. Publicity

Will also need to contact radio and press nearer the time.

f. Post-Conference Report

It was agreed that a post-conference report would be a good idea, although it would need funding..

g. Patrons

In the light of our discussions about "names" as conference speakers, we thought it would be a good idea if g² had a patron or patrons. This should be discussed at a later meeting.

Future
meeting

8. Constitution

It was agreed that this item needed to be further up the Agenda of our next meeting. Nigel and Derek believed that the Thanet constitution was looking a very useful template. Nigel will circulate the Thanet example (amended) for comment.

Nigel

Agreed to be the top of the agenda of the next meeting. Then we will need to think charity status at a later date.

Next
meeting

9. Summer Events

a. Tea Dances

We agreed to have no dances during the summer.

b. Social Event

Nigel and Derek will investigate the possibility of a day out in Cliveden which has a pub outside the gates for a pub lunch. Then we could walk around the Cliveden grounds, having afternoon tea. Dates to be avoided are 21st June and 30th August.

**Nigel
Derek**

10. Dates of Future Meetings

The **next meeting** is to be held on **Tuesday, 24th June** 2003, at Rupert Street Information Centre. The meeting will start at 8.00pm.