

Berkshire Older Lesbian and Gay Forum

Steering Committee Minutes

Thursday, February 27th, 2003
Rupert Street Information Centre

Action

Attendees

Derek Rogers
Jenny Ward
John Wood
Gill Flannagan
Nigel Tooke,
Rebecca Ballard
Windham Clampett

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Maria and Jane.

2. Notes of Last Meeting

The Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 15th January, 2003, were agreed as a true record with the following amendments:

the date should read Thursday 15th January, 2003

neither Jenny Stroud nor Margaret Milan attended

item 2e - Web site should read "Rebecca will make sure the web site has information about how to subscribe to the Yahoo group".

Rebecca

3. Matters Arising from Last Meeting

a. 2f Age Concern Advocacy Training

Rebecca outlined the training that she and Margaret C will be doing for Age Concern Berkshire's volunteer advocates on March 13th. The session will be entitled "Hidden Histories" and will cover an awareness about:

- the assumptions people may make about older people's sexuality
- sensitivity to language used when talking to older people who identify as "not heterosexual"
- some of the histories that these older people may have
- the particular difficulties in reminiscing about these histories in a heterosexual world

The training was being offered to Age Concern Berkshire at no cost on this occasion. In the future we may wish to offer formal training to other organisations

b. Thames Valley Positive Response

Jenny has had no response to our invitation to TVP to attend a Steering Group meeting.

c. Gloucestershire Opening Doors Project

We will get in touch with Sally in the future.

d. Charity Status

It was agreed that we would discuss the benefits of applying for registered charity status at the next meeting. Before applying, we will need constitution to have a written constitution.

**Next
meeting**

4. Chair's Report

a. Conference with Age Concern

Jenny has had a meeting with Age Concern Berkshire (ACB) about the possibility of a Conference aimed at Service Providers (e.g. statutory agencies, charities and care providers). ACB are very keen on to support us in such a conference. Jenny briefly went through a proposal for an Autumn conference. ACB have a fundraiser who will look for money so that attendance at the conference can be offered for free. The proposal suggested the conference would be on a Weekday, from 10am to 4pm. Possible speakers were: Roger Newman of the Gay and Lesbian Alzheimer's Carers; Gordon Lishman Director General of Age Concern UK; Penny Henrion, chair of primary care trust (to chair the day); Prof Brian Heaphy of Nottingham Trent University and Jane Griffiths MP who has been involved in the Civil Partnerships proposals. Local radio and press would also be invited.

It was agreed that we would move forward with the conference. Jenny, Wyndham and Rebecca volunteered to meet and take the proposal further, others are welcome to join them. Jenny has already sounded some speakers out and had positive responses from Roger and Penny.

We agreed that it would be preferable if the Forum was able to contribute to the funding of the conference. To this end Jenny has put together a bid for "community champion" funds with 3 strands: 1) training for this group; 2) funding to visit other groups doing similar things and invite them to visit us (including transport and venues); 3) £1,000 for the conference. Jenny will send round a copy to members for information. The fund is being administered by the Community Council.

We agreed that it would be good to have the older people who are "receivers" of services attending, although the difficulty was finding out who and where they are.

Jenny W

Jenny will invite thoughts from Yahoo and anyone else.

b. Tea Dance

The Tea Dance on 9th February at the Earley Resources Centre had been another success with more than 80 people attending with a great age range. It is a lovely venue and there had been some great dancers. The Committee wanted to say a Big Thankyou for everyone who helped out. Jenny had written a letter to Sue and Muriel who helped with the sound equipment to thank them for doing so well with so little warning after the previously arranged sound system had broken down.

Wyndham suggested we get as many other web sites to link to ours so that more people visit and find about what we're doing and get involved in it. Rebecca will investigate this and the possibility of web rings.

Rebecca

We discussed whether to arrange another Tea Dance before the Autumn. We agreed we would. Jenny will investigate whether the Crescent Centre was free on Sunday, May 18th. Rebecca agreed to find out who is testing the waters about a Reading Pride because we might like to link a Tea Dance with it.

Jenny W

Rebecca

5. Treasurer's Report

a. Tea Dance

Nigel reported that the Tea Dance had made £198.34.

b. Account

The bank account has a balance of just over £400 and there is some petty cash.

We discussed whether or it would be useful for the Forum to have a PO Box. John believed it would cost £52 per year if the box is emptied by us plus a further £52 for delivery to a specified address.

John will check the information. We agreed that we would probably move forward with a PO Box, probably without onward delivery.

John

6. Change of Name

At the Tea Dance we had asked for suggestions for a new name for the Forum. We felt that none of the suggestions had been appropriate for the Forum in its totality.

We agreed to put discussion on a new name on hold again.

7. Any Other Business

a. Meal out at Ben's

Derek was organising a meal at Ben's Thai restaurant.

Jenny

8. Dates of Future Meetings

The next meeting is to be held on **Thursday, April 10th**, 2003, at Rupert Street Information Centre. The meeting will start at **8.00pm**. The following meeting will be on 15th May.