

# Berkshire Older Lesbian and Gay Forum

## Steering Committee Minutes

Thursday, July 30th, 2003  
Rupert Street Information Centre

Action

### 1. Attendees

Derek Rogers,  
Jenny Ward,  
John Wood,  
Lois Williams,  
Maria Ottway,  
Rebecca Ballard,  
Wyndham Clampett.

### 2. Apologies

Apologies were received from Pat, Nigel, Liz and Jane.

### 3. Notes of Last Meeting

The Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, 24th June, 2003, were agreed as a true record with the following amendments:

- Maria was really in attendance as was Liz;
- The date of the meeting was missing – Tuesday 24th June;
- Wyndham's name was spelt wrong.

### 4. Matters Arising from Last Meeting

#### a. **Day Out to Cliveden**

Derek agreed to organise this. After discussion it was suggested that it take place on Sunday, September 28th. Derek will talk to Nigel about where to have lunch and then put a message on the Yahoo mail list to let everyone know.

Derek

#### b. **Conference Funding**

Jenny had looked at the costings for the conference. The shortfall was now about £250 and Reading Borough Council have said they will cover this.

### 5. Treasurer's Report

There was no formal report from Nigel but we had a comfortable margin.

Rebecca reported that the facility for the Forum to gain money from Amazon for purchases made after a click on our web site had been set up.

### 6. Chair's Report

#### a. **Autumn Conference**

Great progress had been made during July. Jenny, Wyndham, Lois and Liz had been working to send out the flyers to a huge list of statutory and

voluntary organisations across the County, announcing the conference. The flyer went out by email to about 90 addresses during the first week of July and then another 150 or so were posted in the following week.

By 22<sup>nd</sup> July, almost 30 replies had been received from people wanting to attend. As we only have 100 places in total that's not bad going! Steering Group members were reminded to book places early – even though you are coming as helpers on the day – they will be needed on the list!

There is much more work to be done and during the next couple of months we need to prepare publicity material, delegates papers and packs for the day.

Rebecca will be completing a "Quick Response" grant application to Berkshire Community Foundation for a contribution towards the stationery and publicity materials.

### **b. Networking Day**

We now have representatives from 6 other groups in the South coming to the Networking Day on 30<sup>th</sup> August.

Thanks to Sally Middleton (Opening Doors in Gloucestershire) and Margaret Collins, an agenda had been prepared and sent out. All members of the Steering Group were encouraged to attend the event which is being held at RISC from 11.00 am to 4.30pm. Margaret will be facilitating the day.

Derek was to order the lunch

### **c. Our Vision for the Road Ahead**

With a total of five hours spent on this item with Margaret Collins facilitating we had a structure for action over the coming year and a bit beyond that. Jenny had found it very useful and especially heart warming that there was so much congruity of thought. We all had similar views about what we are doing and where we are going.

The Steering Group expressed its thanks to Margaret for facilitating the two session. It had been very worth while having someone who was external to the Steering Group to do this.

## **7. Main Business**

### **a. Constitution**

Derek and Wyndham had spent a lot of time and effort in producing the Constitution which had been circulated via the Yahoo mailing list. They were thanked for this. They had received feedback from Adrian at RVA about previous draft which had been very useful. We had a discussion about individual points for clarification. Wyndham took note of suggested, minor, changes.

Maria proposed that, subject to the alterations discussed at the meeting, we accepted the Constitution. The proposal was seconded by Rebecca. The proposal was accepted unanimously.

## **b. "Opening Doors in Berkshire" Conference, October 29th**

Jenny tabled the draft programme for the day.

Lois reported that just about 50 people had now signed up to attend.

Pat and Nigel have yet to confirm that they will be attending. Among those attending were to be Councillors, members of Primary Care Trusts (PCTs), many member of Thames Valley Police staff and members of various Age Concerns within and without Berkshire.

Wyndham had prepared a poster for the conference to be put up at local venues.

Details of the conference were to be placed in RVA's September mailing.

The conference's speakers have been booked into Syndlesham Moat House Hotel, Jenny, Penny Henrion and Geoff Chivers will be meeting with them the night before. Other members were welcome to join them for a drink.

## **c. Networking Day**

Maria, Jane, Rebecca, Margaret, John, Derek, Wyndham were definitely coming. Jenny reported that that would mean 21 people in total so far. Jenny would let Derek know of any change to this.

Jenny

The room is booked from 10.30. Derek will order the food from Panino's, half vegetarian and one wheat allergy, plus fresh fruit. He will order for 16 people at £5.

Derek

7 organisations across southern England were going to be represented.

Sally Middleton has agreed to write up a report afterwards including notes of flipcharts which were written.

## **d. Insurance**

Jenny has met with Adrian at RVA who advised that we do not need insurance because the events we hold will be covered by the public liability of wherever the event takes place. This was good news.

## **8. Any Other Business**

### **a. Government Civil Partnership Proposals**

Jenny had received an email from Liz Barker who is Age Concern England's person for Lesbian and Gay issues. They are putting together response to government's proposal.

Rebecca agreed to co-ordinate individual responses and draft our own response, communicating those that we had by the end of August to Liz Barker. Our full response would be needed by the end of September.

### **b. Reading Gay Christian Forum.**

Wyndham advised us of this new group which had just started in Reading.

**c. Publicity**

Wyndham had produced a template for leaflets. He is looking for ideas to put on them.

**9. Dates of Future Meetings**

The next meeting is to be held on Tuesday, September 2nd, 2003, at Rupert Street Information Centre. The meeting will start at 8.00pm. The following meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 21st.

Opening Doors in Berkshire Conference – October 29th.