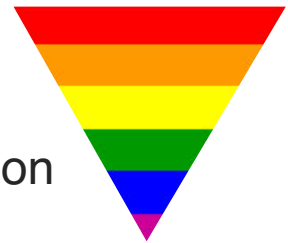




# OLGA

Older Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Trans Association  
**A Community Network**



PO Box 458 Scarborough YO11 9EH Telephone: 07929 465044  
Email: [olga@mypostoffice.co.uk](mailto:olga@mypostoffice.co.uk) [www.olga.uk.com](http://www.olga.uk.com)

Newsletter Issue 14

December 2011 – Jan/Feb 2012

## Welcome from OLGA

We hope you all enjoyed the good sunny autumn we had. At a time of year when nature slows down and rests, OLGA continues its hive of activity on behalf of the older lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans community. Our increased activity means we are applying for further grants

to enable us to have more paid staff and an office base. There doesn't seem to be an end to the work that needs to be done.

OLGA would like to make a request to the gay and trans community and organisations, for other people from our

community to do similar work in other parts of the country, using OLGA as an example of good practice. 'Spread the word!' (See Social Care article inside)

Oh and just in case you didn't know....OLGA is 4 years old this December... hip hip hip hooray!

## Scarborough Pride

The weather just about held for Scarborough's very own Pride weekend at the beginning of September. The main event in Peasholme Park was attended throughout the day by over 500 people, all happy to show their pride, not prejudice.

Highlights of the weekend were the launch BBQ and entertainment at The Station Pub in Filey and of course, the after show party at The Old Vic Hotel, Scarborough. The Pride Committee would like to extend a big thank you to Andy & Andy at the Station Pub, Filey

for their hospitality. And last but by no means least, all those who could make the events, and the fantastic after show party topped off by Jessica Gadrham and her Bass player Emma, who were happy to sign some cd's in the pub after.

Only one thing challenged the weekend....the brass band had also been booked to be in the Park that Sunday...and as the saying goes, the band played on', and the Pride DJ's just had to wait their turn.

Scarborough Pride will be

recruiting for the 2012 committee in the New Year – if you are interested in helping to run this important event, please get in touch with Gay Scarborough on 07748201474 weekdays 9am-9pm.

OLGA would also like to take this opportunity to thank the Scarborough Pride 2011 committee for all the Pride events; and to Matthew Joseph of Scarborough Borough Council for supporting and advising the committee. Roll on next year's Pride.

# What Has OLGA Been Up To?

## (In brief) September - November 2011

### September 2011

OLGA attended Scarborough Pride in September with our OLGA stall and signed up several new members

signed up more members and made more strategic partners.

Mary and Annie have also submitted two more funding applications. One to the North Yorkshire Police fund, 'Why Should They?', to enhance our 'safe socials'. The second application has been made to the Big Lottery, Silver Dreams. The Silver Dreams Fund, in association with the Daily Mail, is the first of the Big Lottery Fund's dedicated investments in older people in England. The money will allow an idea/project to be tested over 12 to 18 months. The challenge is to come up with a great idea for a project that will pioneer ways to help vulnerable older people deal more effectively with life-changing events. We think that is us.

We are awaiting the outcomes of these excitedly, and should hear from both by the

end of November.

Keep an eye on our website for up to the minute news. Which reminds me.....WE HAVE A NEW WEBSITE!

### www.olga.uk.com

The website will be used as a way of keeping in touch with what OLGA is up to on your behalf.

We will also use it as a way to share with you local national and international news that we feel you may be interested in. You must let us know if we are getting this right, or not. Or, if you have seen something you would like to share; please let me know:

Annie Hooper  
Marketing & Communications  
Manager – OLGA  
Tel: 07944 210825  
www.olga.uk.com



Pride in older age

We also attended York 50+ Festival, with the OLGA stall and



OLGA's website image leads the way

# Gosh, that was just September!

### October 2011

Mary, the Project Co ordinator and Annie, the Marketing Manager, attended a two day training course on 'outcomes'. Together with our 3 year strategic plan this will keep us focused on evidencing the benefits of our activities in line with our funders.

Working closely with Comic Relief, our present funders, we have managed to get 10hrs paid administrative support.

OLGA Secretary Jackie, and Chair Diane, attended an 'End of Life' Forum for older lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans.

OLGA had a stall at Hull University (Scarborough Campus) Fresher's Day. Mary, Project Co ordinator chatted to Robert Goodwill MP about our work. He appeared to understand that much of the problem lies with

the care needs assessment language not 'allowing' us to disclose.

### November 2011

Diane, the Chair and Jax the Vice Chair attended the Police Advisory meeting (see article on the 'partners' page).

Mary, Project Co ordinator and Jackie our Secretary attended a 'Health' day in Leeds for lgbt organisations. The Department of Health representatives were there. Olga reminded the NHS rep that personalisation of health and social care means being able to safely disclose our sexuality.

Mary also undertook her Champions Training for Safeguarding of Vulnerable Adults. That's all three levels of Safeguarding training – well done Mary.

Mary, Project Co ordinator and Shirley our Treasurer attended the Mental Health Equality Access meeting. Mary had a teleconference with the Royal College of Nursing about strengthening our working relationship. Also this month, Mary attended a 'Health-Watch' workshop. Major changes in the structures of Health and Social Care mean OLGA will need to have a voice, wherever we can.

### September, October and November 2011

OLGA weekly Socials continued with raffles and speeches, for example one on Dementia last week.

OLGA workshops were given to 6 organisations, including care and nursing homes, staff and managers.

**How to book an OLGA workshop or find out more email [info@olga.uk.com](mailto:info@olga.uk.com) or telephone 07929 465044 in confidence.**

## Olga Workshop Update:

OLGA has delivered many awareness -raising workshops to organisations including Care & Nursing Homes. It is evident from the reaction of attendees that where the organisation has a strong ethos of providing equality and diversity training for ALL staff, including

domiciliary and nursing staff, in fact anyone who comes into contact with service users – the reactions at our workshops are open, positive, with a curiosity and confidence to ask questions. Compared to care and nursing homes where it is clear, the staff get very little

in-service training, especially in equality and diversity. Here staff are resistant to change, asking 'why are we here?', closed minded and often refuse to accept the evidence for personalised need on the grounds of our sexuality.

*"It is the organisation that needs to 'come out' as gay or lesbian friendly, rather than depending on clients to 'come out' in order to get their needs met" – Age Concern England, Opening Doors Project 2001*

## Mary's health & social care section

**At a recent Health Forum for LGBT people, OLGA was given a 10 point charter for 'Dignity' in Health and Social Care. The following 10 targets are NOT being met in this Country:**

| <b>The Ten Points of The Dignity Challenge<br/>High quality care services that respect people's dignity should</b> | <b>OLGAs Comment</b>  |
|--|---|
| 1. Have a zero tolerance of all forms of abuse.  | Who do you report abuse to? When you are in hospital or in a Nursing Home you feel vulnerable. Do you rock the boat, or do you stay quiet and hope that the neglect and abuse stops?  |
| 2. Support people with the same respect you would want for yourself or a member of your family.                    | The gay and trans community have got different concerns because of their sexuality. Will our sexuality be respected if we disclose? If we don't disclose, we are not 'whole' people.  |
| 3. Treat each person as an individual by offering a personalised service.  | What does 'personalise' mean? At the Health day attended by OLGA, we pointed out that it doesn't just mean 'direct payments' it also means allowing us the confidence to disclose, so that the 'whole' of our identity can be recognised.                                 |
| 4. Enable people to maintain the maximum possible level of independence, choice and control.                       | OLGA says 'choice' & 'control' mean some gay men and trans people may wish a particular gender carer to tend to them. Our contact with our gay community remains a priority, even when we are in care. How do we retain this contact – who will help us?                  |
| 5. Listen and support people to express their needs and wants.   | Gay and trans people are not disclosing their sexuality, because Care Needs Assessment language is neither all inclusive nor appropriate. OLGA workshops deal with this subject.  |
| 6. Respect people's right to privacy.  | Quite right, however, we may decide to disclose because we want to stop being invisible. We do not want to have to hide our home or family life. Why should we? Can we put our photos on view, showing our same gender partners and still expect respect from our carers? |
| 7. Ensure people feel able to complain without fear of retribution.  | Research from Age Concern 'opening doors' shows there is still abuse in Health & Social Care against gay and trans people. Who do you complain to – this is usually the same organisation that is abusing us?   |
| 8. Engage with family members and carers as care partners.   | Blood family may not approve of gay carers. On admission to Health & Social Care, service providers must record 'who do WE want as our named CONTACT person?'   |
| 9. Assist people to maintain confidence and a positive self-esteem.  | If we can be open about our sexuality and our same gender partner and friend, we will feel mentally well. We will be 'whole' people.  |
| 10. Act to alleviate people's loneliness and isolation   | Gay and trans people who cannot disclose to service providers will feel extremely isolated. Most heterosexual people enjoy the luxury of chatting in a relaxed way about their personal life.   |

**NHS & Department of Health.....WAKE UP  
Make sure 'Dignity in Care' WILL happen  
for ALL people, as it's not happening now.**

Care Home managers, Nationally, still say 'we don't have any gay or trans people here' And yet nationally recognised statistics suggest that there will be up to 10% of the Care Homes residents and Staff, who will be gay and trans.

# Partners page

This is a joint media release prepared in partnership with OLGA & and North Yorkshire Police. Not only will it feature in the OLGA Newsletter, but also in the NYP internal/staff newsletter and will also be submitted to the Scarborough Evening News. It is intended to showcase the strong relationship between OLGA and North Yorkshire Police and their continued shared commitment to tackle homophobic and transphobic incidents and to make the reporting of such incidents easier and less stressful.

## Diversity

**OLGA recently met with Superintendent Javad Ali & Inspector Tony Quinn to further develop the strong relationship between NYP and the gay and trans community.**

North Yorkshire Police have trained OLGA (Older Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Trans Association) representatives to receive reports on hate crime incidents.

A homophobic or transphobic hate crime is any crime which is perceived by the victim or any other person, to be homophobic or motivated by

prejudice. This may include any criminal act towards someone because of their sexuality. An abusive homophobic or transphobic comment is a hate crime and is reportable. It does not have to be aimed at you, if you overhear such a comment, you can report it.

During the period of April 2010 to the end of March 2011

Scarborough Police recorded a total of 23 hate crime incidents, however only one of these related to sexuality and that was a homophobic incident.

OLGA, are also waiting for an invitation to reciprocate the training by raising awareness of LGBT issues with senior and front line officers.

## To report a homophobic or transphobic incident:

You can visit your local police station request to speak in private.

You can call 0845 6060247

In either case the details of the incident will be recorded and an officer will normally be allocated to investigate if that is what is required. If you would just like

the matter to be recorded and no action taken at that time then that is also possible, however if the circumstances you are reporting pose a risk to others then the police do have a duty to protect and will take action if it is necessary for them to do so.

All Hate Crimes are reviewed by

a supervisor before they can be finalised.

Or you can contact OLGA directly; info@olga.uk.net

or write to: PO Box 458, Scarborough YO11 9EH

Mobile: 07929 465 044

# Global Gay & Trans News

## A third of gay over-55s in Ireland fear coming out, study finds

pinkpaper.com  
5 november 2011

More than a third of gay over-55s in Ireland are reluctant to come out to neighbours, friends and family, a new study has revealed.

The Visible Lives study found 28% of gay people were not open about their sexuality to their neighbours, while a further 10% had not told family members, the Irish Times reports.

More than a quarter of those

asked had been married, while 46% of gay over 55s live alone - three times more than their straight counterparts.

The study, funded by Age of Opportunity, interviewed 144 gay over-55s in Ireland and used survey data to make recommendations for the provision of services for older members of the gay community.

Catherine Rose, chief executive of Age and Opportunity told the Irish Times: "We all need to work together to ensure the issues and needs identified in the report can be addressed and inform the broader agenda of the status and visibility of older people in Irish society."

Kieran Rose, chairman of the

Gay and Lesbian Equality Network (Glen), said now is the time to build upon recent progress in pro-gay legislation in Ireland following the implementation of the Civil Partnership Act in January.

"This progress, especially the status arising from civil partnerships and the Government's commitment to enact gender recognition legislation, are strong platforms from which the recommendations made in this report can be implemented," Rose told the Irish Times

(What could this mean for OLGA? OLGA will contact the 'Visible Lives' study group and look for opportunities to work together).

## Prime Minister tells leaders aid is dependent on changing anti-gay policy

pinkpaper.com  
30 October 2011

Prime Minister David Cameron has told leaders of countries that continue to criminalise homosexuality that he plans to carry out his threat to withdraw aid, during the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Perth, Australia.

Speaking on the BBC's The Andrew Marr Show, Mr. Cameron said he has spoken to leaders of "a number of African countries" at the conference, while Foreign Secretary William Hague had also made Britain's stance known.



# Channel 4 to broadcast new trans documentary series

pinkpaper.com – 27 October 2011

Channel 4 have announced plans to broadcast a brand new documentary on gender identity.

Debuting on 8 November, the show – entitled My Transsexual Summer – is a four-part series which follows seven transgender men and women as they share their experiences of changing sex.

(If you missed it – watch it again on <http://www.channel4.com/programmes/my-transsexual-summer/4od>)

Subjects include a former policeman called Karen, 52, who is preparing herself for full gender re-assignment surgery, and Lewis, 22, who is looking to raise money for a double mastectomy and a

phalloplasty - penis construction.

The show also follows the journey of a North London man called Max, 25, who has already undergone 'top surgery' - a double mastectomy and male chest sculpting. He is hoping to become Britain's first transgender Rabbi.

# Zimbabwe's prime minister does surprise u-turn on gay rights

pinkpaper.com – 24 October 2011

Morgan Tsvangirai, the Prime Minister of Zimbabwe, has made an unexpected u-turn on gay rights – even saying they should be ring-fenced in a new

constitution

The leader of the African country has previously echoed Robert Mugabe's homophobic views, but revised his stance

during an interview with the BBC.

He claimed gay rights were now a "human right" that should be respected.

# Gay rights groups defend demoted housing manager

Gay rights groups have urged a housing association to reinstate an employee it demoted for expressing his views on gay marriage via Facebook.

Housing manager Adrian Smith, 54, was relegated to a more junior role and had his salary cut by Trafford Housing Trust after he commented on a story on

churches being eligible to conduct gay marriages, which he described as “an equality too far”.

After being questioned by a colleague, he added on his personal Facebook page: “The Bible is quite specific that marriage is for men and women. If the State wants to offer civil marriages to the same sex

then that is up to the State; but the State shouldn’t impose its rules on places of faith and conscience.”

Following his demotion, gay rights campaigners have defended the housing manager, arguing his comments were not homophobic, just a reflection of the widely held public concerns on the issue.

## Olga people

This is a regular feature in our Newsletter. This time we will hear from a member of the OLGA Steering Group, Jax.

### What do you do at OLGA?

I am the Vice Chair. I help run the socials on Tuesday afternoons. This involves organising raffles, doing art work, talking and generally socialising. I also attend other meetings on behalf

of OLGA.

### What do you enjoy most about OLGA work?

Helping people, meeting people and contributing to OLGA. I like sorting problems out for people.

### What do you not enjoy about OLGA work?

I enjoy all of it – being involved.

### How do you like to relax when not working for OLGA?

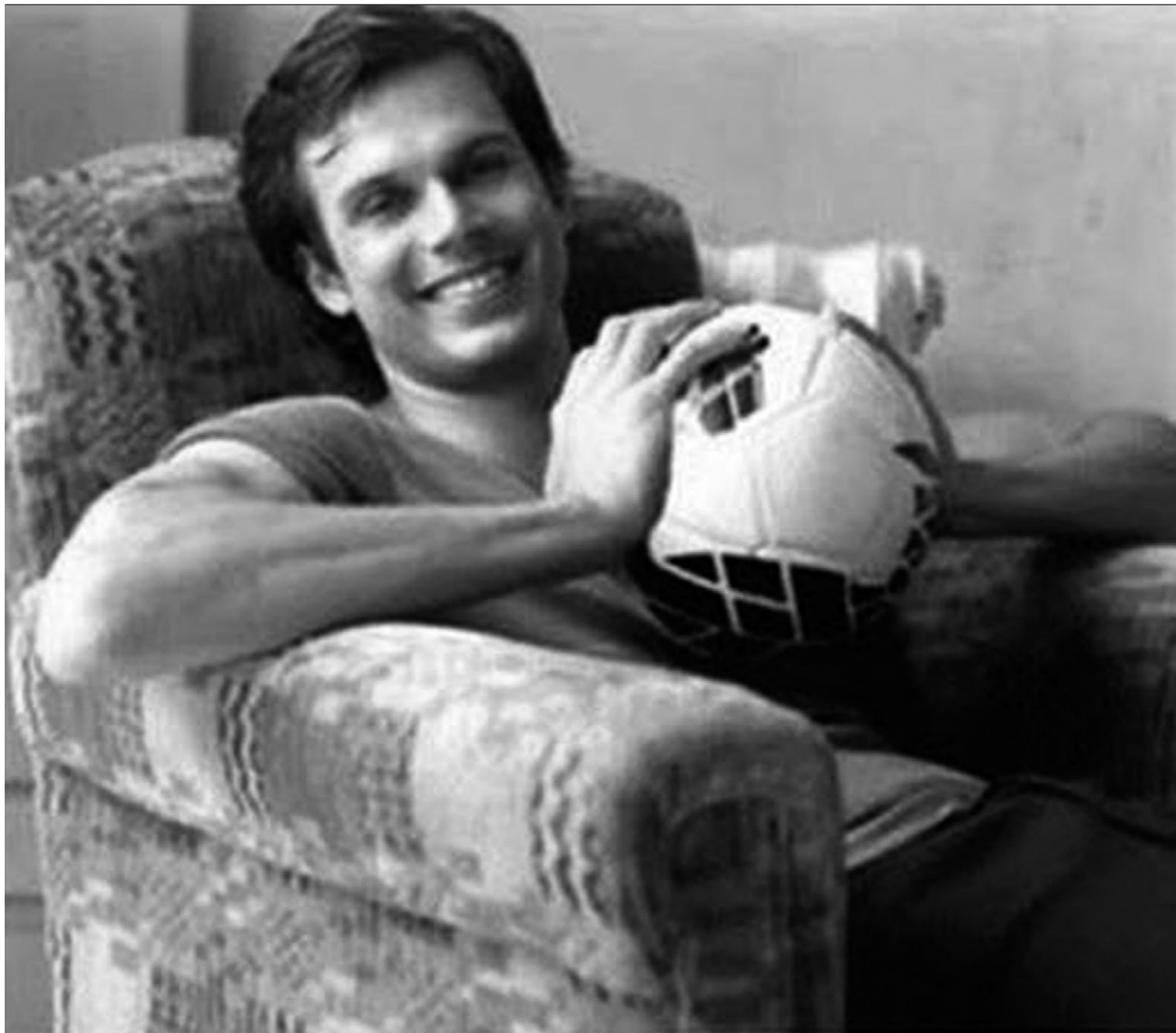
Relaxing with a good book, music or occasionally a good film.

### Where would you like to see OLGA in the future?

More involved in Care Homes, visiting, befriending on a regular basis. Getting the word out about OLGA and bringing more members in.



*Local police officer Sgt Jacqui Raynor, speaks at the OLGA AGM 2011*



**Think you might be gay,  
but you're not sure?  
Take this quick test.**

**If you think the guy in the chair is cute,  
you might be gay. If it occurred to you  
how ugly the chair is, you are gay.**

# Future Events

## December

1st WORLD Aids Day

World AIDS Day is celebrated on December 1 each year around the world. It has become one of the most recognised international health days and a key opportunity to raise awareness, commemorate those who have passed on, and celebrate victories such as increased access to treatment and prevention services.

Tuesday 6th – OLGA SOCIAL  
1pm – 4pm

10th Human Rights Day

Human Rights Day on 10 December recognizes the work of human rights defenders worldwide who act to end discrimination. Acting alone or in groups within their communities, every day human rights defenders work to end discrimination by campaigning for equitable and effective laws, reporting and investigating human rights violations and supporting victims.

Tuesday 13th – OLGA SOCIAL  
1pm – 4pm

Tuesday 20th – OLGA SOCIAL  
1pm – 4pm

Last Saturday of the month Circle  
Dancing at St James Church,  
Scarborough, 7pm – 9pm

## January

Tuesday 3rd – OLGA SOCIAL  
1pm – 4pm

Tuesday 10th – OLGA SOCIAL  
1pm – 4pm

Tuesday 17th – OLGA SOCIAL  
1pm – 4pm

Tuesday 24th – OLGA SOCIAL  
1pm – 4pm

Tuesday 31st – OLGA SOCIAL  
1pm- 4pm

Last Saturday of the month Circle  
Dancing at St James Church,  
Scarborough, 7pm – 9pm

## February

Tuesday 7th – OLGA SOCIAL  
1pm – 4pm

Tuesday 14th – OLGA SOCIAL  
1pm – 4pm

Tuesday 21st – OLGA SOCIAL  
1pm – 4pm

Tuesday 28th – OLGA SOCIAL  
1pm – 4pm

Last Saturday of the month Circle  
Dancing at St James Church,  
Scarborough, 7pm – 9pm

### MEET & EAT

OLGA will arrange one per month, details to follow, as we usually contact our members by phone.

Christmas Social – OLGA will contact you a bit nearer the time! If you would like to join us at one of these socials, get in touch with OLGA on 07929 465044 and we will talk you through the membership details.

# Useful contact information

## SEXUALITY

**OLGA** Tel: 07929 465 044

Email: [olga@mypostoffice.co.uk](mailto:olga@mypostoffice.co.uk) [www.olga.uk.com](http://www.olga.uk.com)  
PO Box 458, Scarborough YO11 9EH

**MESMAC** Yorkshire. Tel: 01904 620 400  
PO Box 549, York. YO30 7GX

## MENTAL HEALTH

**Crisis Call** Tel: 0800 501 254 (telephone support)  
01723 384644 (crisis response, resolution and  
home treatment)

(Free from landlines. Mobiles - cost for initial  
message and Crisis Call will call you back, which  
is free)

**Samaritans** Tel: 01723 368 888  
Samaritan House, 40 Trafalgar Street West,  
Scarborough YO11

**Survivors** Mental Health Resource Centre  
Tel: 01723 501 049  
9 Alma Square, Scarborough YO11

**Mind** Tel: 01723 588008  
Drop in Centre at Queen Street Methodist Church,  
Fridays 12.30 to 3.30pm.

## HOUSING

**Housing Support** Tel: 0845 872 7374  
North Yorkshire County Council [www.northyorks.gov.uk](http://www.northyorks.gov.uk)

**Stonham Homestay** Tel: 01723 366 566  
Scarborough & Ryedale Homelessness Prevention  
Email: [scarborough@homegroup.org.uk](mailto:scarborough@homegroup.org.uk)  
Tenancy Support Services  
Roscoe Street, Scarborough YO11

*\*Stonham is an organization which is committed  
to social inclusion, equality and diversity and  
equal access to services for all, hence they aim to  
try to make sure that they reach out to their local  
communities by all available means, so potential  
clients are aware that their service exists and that  
everyone has the right to access it.*

**Yorkshire Coast Homes** Tel: 0845 065 5656  
Gladstone Road, Scarborough YO11

## SOCIAL CARE

**Social Services**  
North Yorkshire County Council Tel: 08450349410

## SOCIAL

**OLGA** Tel: 07929 465 044  
Email: [olga@mypostoffice.co.uk](mailto:olga@mypostoffice.co.uk)  
[www.olga.uk.com](http://www.olga.uk.com)  
PO Box 458, Scarborough YO11 9EH

**Albion Pub & Cabaret**  
136 Castle Road, Scarborough Tel: 01723 379068

**Gay Scarborough** Tel: 01723 375 849

**Bacchus Night Club** Tel: 01723 373 689  
7a Ramshill Road, Scarborough YO11

**York Lesbian Social Group 18+** Tel: 07963 414434  
Email: [yorklsg@talktalk.net](mailto:yorklsg@talktalk.net)

## GENERAL ADVICE

**Customer First** Tel: 01723 232 323  
Scarborough Borough Council (General Enquiries)  
St. Nicholas Street, Scarborough YO11

**OLGA** Tel: 07929 465 044  
Email: [olga@mypostoffice.co.uk](mailto:olga@mypostoffice.co.uk)  
PO Box 458, Scarborough YO11 9EH

**Age Concern Scarborough** Tel: 01723379058  
39 Aberdeen Walk, Scarborough YO1 11 BD

**Advocacy Alliance** Tel: 01723 363 910  
Allatt House, 5 West Parade Road, Scarborough  
YO12 5ED

**Citizens Advice Bureau**  
Tel: 01723368710  
2 Roscoe Street, Scarborough YO11

**Police**  
Tel: 999 (Emergency/Crime Being Carried out)  
Tel: 0845 606 0247 (Police attendance is required)  
Tel: 0800 555 111 (Crime Stoppers/To pass on  
Information related to any Crime)  
Tel: 01723 384 444 (Anti-Social Behaviour)