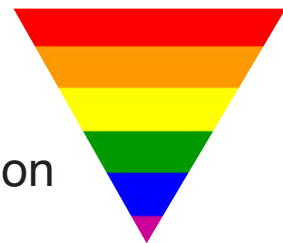




OLGA

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



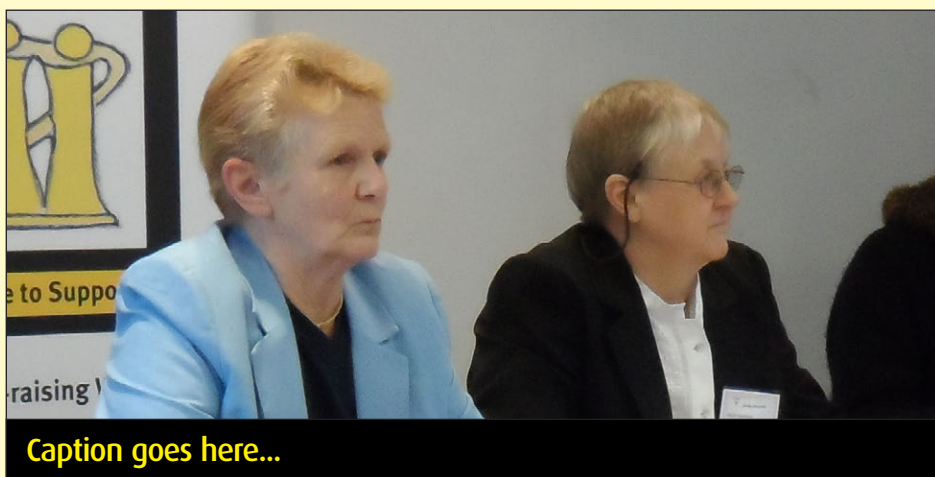
PO Box 458 Scarborough YO11 9EH Telephone: 07929 465044
Email: olga@mypostoffice.co.uk www.olga.uk.com

Newsletter Issue 17

September-October-November 2012

OLGA AGM 2012

Another very successful OLGA AGM was held in July 2012. Over 50 people, members and strategic partners attended. A new member of the Steering Group was elected and the present Steering Group will continue with their sterling work.



Caption goes here...



Belinda

Belinda Dennis, a lesbian care home manager, within the Barchester Care Home Group, gave a lovely, hopeful presentation about her work. She explained that after attending an OLGA workshop with her other care staff, her Home has developed several ways of being more LGBT inclusive. Her Home's website shows the OLGA logo and name, and she has tried to make the Home's care needs assessment language more inclusive. We look forward to further positive developments within the Barchester Care Home Group, as a whole.



Mary

Mary, the Project Co-ordinator, reminded the audience of the need for OLGA's work, and the fact that we are the only user-led group going into care and nursing homes. She also stressed the critical need for more people from our community to do similar campaigning work. The fact that nationally when we go in to hospital or care, we go back in the closet, means we must help organisations come out as being Gay and Trans Friendly.

OLGA AGM 2012 continued

One interesting question from the audience was, "as a care worker applying for a job at your Care Home, how early on in the application process, would I know that you were lgbt friendly?" Obviously, this needs to be at the very outset, worded in the job advert, and on the application form. Remember, "Equality Means Mind Your Language".

Also, we were entertained by a most interactive and enjoyable Drama presentation, by The Real People Theatre Group from York. Audience input and participation was fabulous. OLGA can recommend this Drama



The Real People Theatre Group

group to any organisation wishing to improve its staff's equality awareness.

Some nice refreshments and useful networking completed a

good AGM.

A BIG thank you for all who attended and especially the volunteers who worked on the day.

Torch bearer kisses his boyfriend as spectators cheer

A gay man carrying the Olympic torch on the streets of London was cheered by spectators when he kissed his boyfriend during his stretch of carrying the device that will light the giant Olympic Flame tonight during the opening ceremony

that will be telecast by NBC in the U.S. on a tape-delay basis.

Chris Basiurski, who chairs Gay Football Supporters Network in Great Britain, was one of thousands of Britons who were chosen to carry the Olympic torch over the past 70 days as



part of the Olympic Torch relay that leads up to the lighting ceremony.

Basiurski told the spectators that he and his partner, James, would be getting married next year.

10 Gay Olympians win medals

Over 40% of openly gay Olympians won a medal in London, higher than Team USA. Total medal count ties Team Gay 31st.

British equestrian Carl Hester won gold in team dressage in London. Midfielder Megan Rapinoe has scored three goals

for the U.S. women's soccer team and several other lesbian players are part of the Dutch field hockey team heading into Friday's final.

But it's likely there have been more triumphs by gay and lesbian competitors that the world doesn't know about.

There are more than 10,000

athletes competing at the London games, but when the gay website OutSports.com set out to count how many were openly gay, it came up with 23.

"It's an absurdly low number," said site co-founder Jim Buzinski. He said that compared to the arts, politics or business worlds, "sports is still the final closet in society."

55Upitty

OLGA are really keen to promote intimate images of older lgbt - as you know, much of our work focuses on lgbt in a care and nursing setting - so promoting images around intimacy and ageing is really important to us. OLGA were recently contacted by 55Upitty about their project:

"We're still here: This project is about challenging people's

ideas about older LGBTI women; it's about our feisty over-55 upitty women. We want to pull apart the clichés about women and aging; about the diminishing of sexuality and the relaxation of passions; about what older dykes and queers and lezzos wear and think and believe. Diversity, political awareness and activism, style and beauty, so valued and represented in

youth-oriented queer cultures, is not the sole purview of the young, and this project aims to represent—through collaboration, photographic portraits, and interviews—the mysteriously disappearing older LGBTI woman. We are still here: This project aims to record the history of women who have been, and the women who still are, involved in lesbian, feminist, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex and queer activism and culture, but also to represent that we are still here."

Please check out their website: www.55upitty.com/

OLGA people

This is a regular feature in our Newsletter. This time we will hear from a Volunteer, Lea.

Q. What do you do at OLGA?

A. I befriend and help with administration work.

Q. What do you enjoy most about OLGA work?

A. Meeting people and learning how to get on with them and help them.

Q. What do you not enjoy about your work with OLGA?

A. Nothing really, I enjoy it all.

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

A. Socialising with OLGA members and watching DVDs at home.

Q. Where would you like to see OLGA in the future?

A. Well established, and able to employ more people to help.

Report on homophobia in schools to be launched in Manchester

The Greater Manchester Prevalence of Homophobia Report 2012 will be launched later this month. The pioneering campaign was launched by local associations of the National Union of Teachers to survey members' views on levels of homophobia in schools.

The report is also sponsored by SchoolsOUT, the oldest UK teachers' organisation campaigning against homophobia and transphobia in schools.

In a press release, SchoolsOUT said: "The near unanimous

voices of over 750 classroom teachers working in Greater Manchester confirm the shocking news that the homophobic abuse of children remains an endemic feature of our increasingly independent schools system."

The report's launch will coincide with the world premiere of the Pink Triangle Theatre's new play SHOW ONE, TOO! which the organisation says is a resource which schools can adopt to address the dangers of homophobia faced by students and teachers.

SchoolsOUT have also recently

raised concerns about private companies who have been given free rein in running the curriculum through the Academies programme. Until very recently, the policy of the private company OASIS Education – funded by the tax payer and operating in Greater Manchester – was to only teach students about human sexual diversity in relation to fatal diseases.

The launch will take place at 7pm on Thursday 23 August at Three Minute Theatre, Ground Floor, Afflecks Palace, Oldham St, M1 1JG

Befriending & Loneliness

This is an integral and very needed part of OLGA's work. OLGA Befriending volunteers are CRB checked, and have attended a Safeguarding of vulnerable Course run by North Yorkshire County Council. Befriending takes place at the Socials, by phone, and by paired volunteers visiting LGBT people in hospitals

and care homes. Loneliness and isolation is a major problem with LGBT people, especially in rural areas. Because we fear disclosing when we go in to hospital or care, and we hide an important part of our identity, this makes the feeling of loneliness even worse.

From National research by

Opening Doors (Camden Age UK), and Stonewall, we know that LGBT people are going back in to the closet nationally when they go in to a care home or a hospital. Because of this, we appeal to other LGBT organisations to do SIMILAR BEFRIENDING in hospitals and care homes.

OLGA socials

These are held weekly on Tuesday afternoons in a safe, confidential, disabled access venue in Scarborough.

Latest activities have been, three taster IT sessions run by North Yorkshire County Council Adult Learning. Our tutor

looked after us really well and catered for a very wide range of abilities and needs.

Plans for future activities from Adult Learning are, Assertiveness and Confidence Building, and Entrepreneurship.

We also hope to have some talks on Trans issues given by Trans people.

And of course, we always enjoy meeting, chatting and having a raffle. We regularly arrange a meet and eat social after the social has finished.

AGE UK CONFERENCE "Over the Rainbow but not Alone"

OLGA is very pleased to have been invited to make a presentation on November 9th 2012 in York (venue & details to follow). We will hope to influence the provision of user

led befriending and support for olgbt and people. We look forward to meeting many of our members and other lgbt people, there.

Donations

OLGA needs your support to keep up its good work, we will be setting up a "donate" button on the website, but in the meantime - if you are able and willing to donate; our bank details are:

OLGA
30-97-43
00433207

Scarborough Area Pride Event 1 - 2 September 2012

The event begins at The Albion on 1st September @ 6.00pm

And will conclude with a BBQ from 5pm on Sunday 2nd @ the Station Pub, Filey.

Tickets for The Albion Party on 1st Saturday are just £5, this includes

your free return transport to Filey on Sunday (leaving from the Albion @ 3.30pm on 2nd)

@The Albion 1st 6pm Live acoustics & open mic, 8pm Drag Act, 10.30pm Cheesy Disco

@The Station Filey 2ns Pride

BBQ Party from 5pm, Pop Bingo, Disco & Karaoke 7pm-1am

For more information call The Albion on 01723 375895

You can also view details on www.facebook.com/ScarboroughPride2012

OUR COMMUNITY NEEDS THIS WORK TO BE DONE NATIONALLY

Think of your needs when you are an older lgbt person...

Do you fear disclosing to your GP, hospital, care worker or care home?

How precious it would be to have a befriender from the lgbt community.

PLEASE COME FORWARD AND VOLUNTEER TO YOUR LOCAL AGE UK BRANCH, for example, OR YOUR LOCAL GAY GROUP. TRY AND ENCOURAGE THEM TO SUPPORT YOU IN DOING THIS BEFRIENDING. OLGA WILL CERTAINLY ADVISE AND SUPPORT AS MUCH AS WE CAN.

If you feel isolated and lonely, ring OLGA on 07929 465 044.

Future Events

Sept 2012

Saturday 1st & Sunday 2nd - Scarborough Area Pride Event (see article)

Sunday 2nd - East Coast Walking Group
Phone Jackie on 01723 375180

Tuesday 4th - OLGA Social
1pm to 4pm

Tuesday 11th - OLGA Social
1pm to 4pm

Thursday 13th York Over 50's Festival, York Guildhall, Coney Street, York 10.00am to 4pm
OLGA are having a stall.

Tuesday 18th - OLGA Social
1pm to 4pm

Tuesday 25th - OLGA Social
1pm to 4pm

Saturday 29th - Circle Dancing at St. James Church, Seamer Road, Scarborough 7.30pm to 9.30pm

Oct 2012

Tuesday 2nd - OLGA Social
1pm to 4pm

Sunday 7th - East Coast Walking Group
Phone Jackie on 01723 375180

Tuesday 9th - OLGA Social
1pm to 4pm

Tuesday 16th - OLGA Social
1pm to 4pm

Tuesday 23rd - OLGA Social
1pm to 4pm

Saturday 27th - Circle Dancing at St. James Church, Seamer Road, Scarborough 7.30pm to 9.30pm

Tuesday 30th - OLGA Social
1pm to 4pm

Nov 2012

Sunday 4th - East Coast Walking Group
Phone Jackie on 01723 375180

Tuesday 6th - OLGA Social
1pm to 4pm

Friday 9th - "Over the Rainbow but not Alone"
Age UK OLGB Conference in York (venue & details to follow)

OLGA doing a presentation

Tuesday 13th - OLGA Social
1pm to 4pm

Tuesday 20th - OLGA Social
1pm to 4pm

Saturday 24th - Circle Dancing at St. James Church, Seamer Road, Scarborough 7.30pm to 9.30pm

Tuesday 27th - OLGA Social
1pm to 4pm

MEET & EAT SOCIALS

OLGA will arrange 1 per month - details to follow, as we usually contact our Members by phone.

CIRCLE DANCING

Last Saturday of every month, at St. James' Church, Scarborough. 7pm to 9pm

Useful contact information

SEXUALITY

OLGA Tel: 07929 465 044
Email: olga@mypostoffice.co.uk 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 YO12 7AS

Survivors Mental Health Resource Centre
Tel: 01723 501 049
9 Alma Square, Scarborough YO11 1JR

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

Stonham Homestay Tel: 01723 366 566
Scarborough & Ryedale Homelessness Prevention
Email: scarborough@homegroup.org.uk
Tenancy Support Services
Roscoe Street, Scarborough YO12 7BY

Yorkshire Coast Homes Tel: 0845 065 5656
Gladstone Road, Scarborough YO12 7BH

SOCIAL CARE

Social Services
North Yorkshire County Council Tel: 08450349410

SOCIAL

OLGA Tel: 07929 465 044
Email: olga@mypostoffice.co.uk
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

GENERAL ADVICE

Customer First Tel: 01723 232 323
Scarborough Borough Council (General Enquiries)
St. Nicholas Street, Scarborough YO11 2HG

OLGA Tel: 07929 465 044
Email: olga@mypostoffice.co.uk
PO Box 458, Scarborough YO11 9EH

Age UK Scarborough Tel: 01723379058
39 Aberdeen Walk, Scarborough YO11 1BD

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: 101 (Non-Emergency)
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)

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