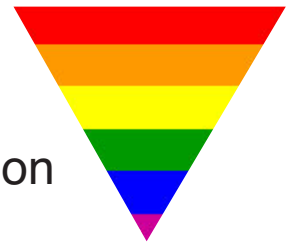




# OLGA

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 19

March-April-May 2013

## HOPE SPRINGS ETERNAL

Dear Member,

Spring is being heralded by both the daffodils and the news of the successful passing of the new Marriage (Same Sex Couples) Bill.

On 5th Feb MPs voted by a majority of 225 in favour of the new Marriage Bill (Same Sex Couples) Bill. The final vote in favour of marriage was 400 to 175 at Second Reading

and the Bill will now go into its Commons Committee Stage.

As the last piece of the legislative jigsaw providing equality for lesbian, gay and bisexual people in Britain, this is a truly historic step forward. We're absolutely delighted that MPs have demonstrated so overwhelmingly that they're in touch with the twenty-first century (see article on page 5 - for more comments).

## OLGA Social

These are held weekly, every Monday 1pm-4pm, in Scarborough at a disabled access central venue. Members can be relaxed and feel safe there. We sign-post for advice, and offer befriending.

At OLGA socials, we often undertake other activities. Recently, one of our members,

Graham, gave a workshop on winter flower arranging. What a magnificent experience! The glorious flower arrangement was raffled by our volunteers and with the support of The Albion Pub, in Scarborough.



**Graham's wonderful flower arrangement**

We often invite co-ordinators from other organizations to come along and talk to our members. On March 4th 2013 Age Concern, Yorkshire & Humber

are visiting our Monday social and presenting a workshop on the subject of depression amongst older LGBT people. Loneliness, isolation, ageing alone and single, are issues well known to older LGBT researchers. The importance of staying in contact with other gay and trans people is crucial for good mental health. So, groups like OLGA, need to be developed throughout the Country.

Part of offering social support is OLGA's regular Meet & Eat activities. Usually attendees go from the Social for a meal somewhere in Scarborough. This ability to support and help other LGBT people, no matter what problems we ourselves have, is a corner stone of OLGA's aim.

# OLGA Befriending

**National Research shows that LGBT people age single and alone, more so than heterosexual people do. Isolation and**

**depression can be eased by being part of a support network.**

**OLGAs befriending volunteers**

**are all CRB checked.**

**If you would like a regular phone call, or email to ease your isolation, let us know – by phone/text or email.**

# OLGA Volunteers

**OLGA, being a voluntary organisation, run by a steering group made up of older LGBT volunteers, is truly user led. We are all inclusive, having younger members also.**

**OLGA membership for Individuals is FREE. For Organisations, it is just £10 a year. Members get a Newsletter 4 times a year – and Organisation members get a discount on the OLGA equality and diversity training.**

**We have members all over the Country, not just in the Scarborough Area. Members have a right to Vote at the AGM and can be befriended, either by phone or email.**



**OLGA Newsletter, being distributed by our volunteers**



**In January, thanks to an Age UK grant, a group of members enjoyed a meal out at a nice restaurant. We all enjoyed this social occasion, where we felt safe and relaxed. A snow blizzard came down upon us, burying pavements and roads, but we managed to get everybody home through mutual support.**

# Prostate Cancer UK



**Back in September, Mary Birch from OLGA, attended, and spoke at a conference hosted by Prostate Cancer UK** exploring the needs of gay and bisexual men diagnosed with prostate cancer. One of the issues raised there was a lack of

support groups.

Since then Sean Ralph, a Therapy Radiographer in a cancer centre in the north west, has been in touch with OLGA. Sean has been working in partnership with Prostate Cancer UK and the Lesbian and Gay Foundation to set up a

prostate cancer support group for gay and bisexual men, which will be the first of its kind in the UK.

Sean has written an article about this, which is in the current issue of outnorthwest [www.lg f.org.uk/outnorthwest](http://www.lg f.org.uk/outnorthwest)

## OLGA Workshops & Training

**We are still the only people in the country** delivering awareness raising workshops on LGBT issues, in care and nursing homes. OLGA workshops are titled "Equality means Mind your Language." If

your paperwork asks "are you married, single or divorced?" then you need to book an OLGA workshop.

If you are a staff manager or a staff trainer of ANY

organisation – and you wish to give your staff equality and diversity training, then book OLGA. See our website for details.

[www.olga.uk.com](http://www.olga.uk.com)

# OLGBT Research

## The Last Outing

Nottingham University invite anyone from the older LGBT community to take part in this survey. The project website can be found at:

[www.nottingham.ac.uk/nmresearch/lastouting](http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/nmresearch/lastouting)

You will find a link to the survey here.

We urge people to do this survey, as the needs of OLGBT

people, especially in health and social care, need to be highlighted.

Remember social care providers (care homes, nursing homes) still say 'we don't have any of them here'.

Some pleasing news recently is that Stonewall are working with the Care Quality Commission to improve advice for health and social care providers for LGBT people. OLGA, however, is concerned

that Stonewall traditionally does not deal with Trans issues. Trans people, like anyone will be heterosexual, lesbian, bisexual, gay. How the health and social care sector provides for their gender identity is essential.

Care Quality Commission inspectors will ask health and social care providers "what systems have you got in place to cater for the needs of gay and trans people?"

## OTHER NEWS

# Uganda deports British theatre producer

**Pete Jones and Mark Schenkel in Kampala, guardian Tuesday 12th Feb 2013.**

A British theatre producer who angered Ugandan authorities by staging a play about

homosexuality has been deported back to the UK, leaving behind his partner and two children. David Cecil's deportation came as a shock to his family and legal team, who had been hoping to appeal against proceedings to expel him from Uganda, where

homosexuality is illegal. Cecil was charged last year after putting on *The River and the Mountain*, a play that explored the difficulties of being homosexual in Uganda, but the charges were dropped due to a lack of evidence. He was rearrested last week.

# A transsexual deputy speaker could open people's eyes in Poland

**Remi Adekoya,  
[www.guardian.co.uk](http://www.guardian.co.uk)  
Friday 8 February 2013**

Anna Grodzka has been nominated by her party to be deputy speaker, but opposition from politicians reflect wider prejudices.

The Polish MP Anna Grodzka could make history today by becoming the highest-ranking transsexual politician in the world. Grodzka, elected an MP in 2011 on the platform of the liberal Palikot's Movement, has been nominated by her party to become the deputy speaker of

Poland's lower house of parliament. A parliamentary majority will now be needed to approve her candidacy. But the idea that a man who underwent a sex-change operation could become one of Poland's top officials has sparked controversy.

# Gay marriage: some legal inequalities still remain

Owen Bowcott, [guardian.co.uk](http://guardian.co.uk), Tuesday 5 February 2013

**Gay couples will not be able to divorce on grounds of non-consummation or adultery with someone of the same gender.**

The aim of the marriage (same-gender couples) bill is to ensure that all couples enjoy equal marriage rights. Some elements of legal asymmetry remain, however, under the legislation.

Those who draft the parliamentary bills have been unable to define what constitutes consummation of a same-gender union. Consequently there is no provision for divorce on the grounds of non-consummation of a gay marriage.

That problem also means that same-gender couples who wish to divorce will not be able to cite adultery with someone of the same gender – the civil servants similarly struggled to

find a definition of adultery between two men or two women. Adultery will, nonetheless, be a permitted grounds for divorce if it follows sexual intercourse between one of the couple and someone of the opposite gender. That, at least, is consistent with existing marriage laws: if a man decides he is gay and leaves his wife for a man, she can divorce him for unreasonable behaviour but not adultery, which is defined as sexual intercourse.

## TRAINING THE TRAINER

**OLGA is offering a FREE workshop on Wednesday 22nd May 1.30 – 4.00pm in Scarborough.**

This is aimed at health and social care providers – but will be applicable to all

organisations. When Care Quality Commission inspect these providers, and ask, as they do – “what systems have you got in place for good provision to LGBT people?” Undertaking this training will help that organisation to be

ready to show compliance. The workshop will help any organization improve and update its policies and language. Thus the organization will be more inclusive and give confidence to LGBT people to “come out” if they wish.



# Apply for a **FREE place**

Contact [olga@mypostoffice.co.uk](mailto:olga@mypostoffice.co.uk)

# **OLGA AGM 2013**

will be Wednesday July 3rd – 1.00- 4.00pm. There will be speakers, refreshments and networking opportunities. One confirmed speaker is Dr. Carol Robson, a National speaker on Trans issues.

# **OLGA Continues To Receive Training**

**OLGA constantly strives to keep up to date and informed with legislation and human rights issues.**

And so, we were delighted to have been approached by Age UK to join a National programme of Human Rights Ambassador Training. It focuses on human rights for all older people. The training is in three parts and at the

end OLGA will be asked to present a case study or project on a Human Rights issue – if you think you have anything to contribute to the case study, please drop us a line, we are particularly interested in health and social care stories.

The need for older LGBT people to have their sexuality and gender identity to be received in a positive way, instead of being abused and discriminated against,

is a matter of Human Rights.

Our family, which may consist of gay and trans friends, means that we want the rights to a family life, and recognition of our family in the same way as anyone else.

Abuse of LGBT people in health and social care venues must be tackled – more about the Human Rights Ambassador training in the next issue.

# Future Events

## March 2013

Monday 4th - OLGA Social  
1pm to 4pm  
NB. Depression Workshop

Monday 11th - OLGA Social  
1pm to 4pm

Monday 18th - OLGA Social  
1pm to 4pm

Monday 25th - OLGA Social  
1pm to 4pm

## April 2013

Not the 1st, this is a bank holiday and our venue will closed.

Monday 8th - OLGA Social  
1pm to 4pm

Monday 15th - OLGA Social  
1pm to 4pm

Monday 22nd - OLGA Social  
1pm to 4pm

Monday 29th - OLGA Social  
1pm to 4pm

## May 2013

Not the 6th, or the 27th these are bank holidays.

Monday 13th - OLGA Social  
1pm to 4pm

Monday 20th - OLGA Social  
1pm to 4pm

(our weekly Socials are at a central location with disabled access, in Scarborough).

## OLGA WEEKLY SOCIALS

All Mondays 1pm to 4pm

## MEET & EAT SOCIALS

OLGA usually arranges these for after each social on a Monday

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

**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 2HG

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

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

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

**Citizens Advice Bureau**  
Tel: 01723368710  
Elders Street, Scarborough, YO11 1DZ

**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)

**If you move or change any of your contact details – please tell us, so we can keep you informed.**

## [www.olga.uk.com](http://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](http://www.olga.uk.com)