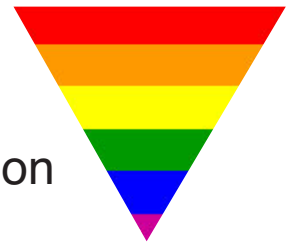




OLGA

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 20

June-July-August 2013

Dear Member,

Scenes like this do lift our spirits and encourage us to get out and about and stay active. It is an effort, especially when we are older, more infirm, and probably on our own. We must try and make contact with other Gay and Trans people, who can support us. Even the most vulnerable lgbt people, can offer support and be a ray of sunshine to others.



Scarborough South Bay

Why are we still vulnerable?

Stonewall's latest research tells us that a ¼ of the population is homophobic and 1 in 5 Health Care professionals have admitted to being homophobic. Most service providers do not put the effort in to "come out as being Gay and Trans friendly", so, we do not know if our 'coming out' will be received well.

The invisibility and seldom heard of nature of our sexuality and gender identity mean we

can suffer more from isolation, loneliness and mental health issues.

One of the problems OLGA has identified in its National work, is the olgbt support system is not joined up nationally. So, we hear of pockets of good practice in a few isolated areas, eg. 'Opening Doors' in Camden, 'Equity Partnership' in Bradford, Lancashire's 'Older & Out', and 'OLGA' in Scarborough. We should be co-ordinated, and we need a national mechanism to advertise support available.

Age UK, the massive older people's Charity can reasonably be expected to help us highlight issues on a national basis. Equality and Human Rights issues are the same for everybody, but many of our community have multiple concerns, because of our sexuality or gender identity, never mind our age, disability, race, and faith concerns. OLGA has begun a Human Rights project with Age UK. 1 of only 8 older peoples' groups in the Country trained as Human Rights Ambassadors, we will be working hard to encourage Age UK to educate the public about Human Rights in its National leaflets and newsletters. Our invisibility and seldom heard from nature has got to be overcome.

Mary Birch – Project Co-ordinator

What's wrong with the health system?

The lack of sexual orientation and gender identity monitoring by Health services, means there remains a distinct lack of information relating to the health and social care needs of lgbt people.

GPs usually assume their patients are straight, leading to the wrong information being given, and patients being forced to "come out" to their Doctors. One in ten lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans individuals has avoided using public health services for fear of homophobia and transphobia. This can easily be remedied, using inclusive language, referring to "partner", rather than making assumptions about gender. Lgbt patients will feel welcome by seeing lgbt specific materials in GP's surgeries, hospitals, etc. In 2012, Stonewall conducted a Gay & Bisexual men's health survey, the biggest in the World. This showed the health services often focus solely on gay men's sexual health. Only a quarter of gay and bisexual men said their healthcare workers had given them information relevant to their sexual orientation. A third of gay and bisexual men, who had accessed

health care services in the last year, had a negative experience related to their sexual orientation.

One strong recommendation is that surgeries display an Equality Statement which lists all the protected characteristics. Under the Equality Law, 'Sexuality' and 'Gender Identity' are to be protected. In the research, only 1/11th said their GP had done this.

A similar piece of research by Stonewall in 2008 called 'PRESCRIPTION FOR CHANGE' has results that should disturb any health care practitioner. Half the lesbian and bisexual women interviewed, had negative experiences in the health sector in the previous year, despite the fact that it is now unlawful to discriminate against lesbian and bisexual women. Half of lesbian and bi women were not "out" to their GP. 1 in 10 said that a health care worker ignored them when they did come out.

OLGA in its workshop presentations for health and social care providers finds that staff do not know how to show a positive response when Gay people come out to them. Worryingly, lesbian and bi women may think cervical smear tests are

not needed, and health professionals tell them it is not needed for them, because they have never had sex with a man, or had it many years ago. BUT, cervical cancer can develop from sex with men many years ago. The Human Papilloma Virus, causing cervical cancer, can be passed between women who have sex with other women. The misconception that "Sex Between Women is Safe" causes major problems. Women may have Chlamydia and Gonorrhea and not have any symptoms. Herpes and Wart Viruses can be transmitted between women. "ONCE IS ENOUGH TO PUT YOU AT RISK".

A big minority of lesbian and bisexual women dread telling their GP they are gay as they feel exposed and vulnerable. If you see your GP about something like an in-growing toe-nail, then sexuality does not need to be discussed, but for conditions around mental health and sexually transmitted diseases, then sexuality needs to be disclosed to the GP. Also, any consultations about gynaecological matters or getting pregnant mean you need to tell your GP your sexuality.

Mary Birch – Project Co-ordinator

SHARING YOUR EXPERIENCE

Want to tell the Care Quality Commission about a particular care service?

If you have experienced poor care, or know that poor care is

being provided somewhere you can report it to the Care Quality Commission, anonymously if you wish. You can also tell the Care Quality Commission when you feel you have received good care. Visit the Care Quality Commission website: www.cqc.org.uk/public/sharing-your-experience

Trans health issues



Trans people are now strongly protected under the Equality Law.

For instance, if a health professional discloses that a person is trans, without that person's permission, they face up to a £5,000 fine. Yet, some major health issues are completely neglected by health professionals, eg. breast implant problems, and prostate problems. A trans woman may still have a prostate and needs to be monitored for prostate cancer.

The General Medical Council March 2013 was looking at 39 cases brought to them by trans campaigners against medical professionals. Their claims include, sexual abuse and damaging treatment. Sometimes treatment was denied, in some cases with potentially life-threatening consequences, "because an individual is trans". There was also personal abuse. The Human Rights Laws have been breached many times over in these 39 cases.

We need to see what is the outcome of the General Medical

Council's hearing and it needs to be publicised. Health and Social Care providers must be educated and aware of our Human Rights. Care Quality Commission should act when they ask a provider "what systems have you got in place to ensure Equality of Provision for Gay & Trans People?", and the provider does not have a satisfactory answer. To say we treat everyone the same is not acceptable. Equality of Provision means our differences are recognised and catered for.

Mary Birch – Project Co-ordinator

Pride in practice



is a benchmarking tool

"Pride in Practice" is a benchmarking tool that identifies GP's surgeries that are fully committed to ensuring LGBT patients are treated fairly and are able to discuss issues openly with Health Care providers.

Pride in Practice Toolkit outlines

an action plan so surgeries can make positive changes. After undertaking a self-assessment, surgeries will be awarded a Gold, Silver, or Bronze "Pride in Practice Charter Mark", depending on the level of service they provide to Gay and Trans patients. It is designed with GPs for GPs. It brings together in one easy-to-use toolkit, everything a family

Doctor will need to effectively engage with and support LGBT patients.

THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF GENERAL PRACTITIONERS backs the 'Pride in Practice' Scheme. DOCTOR CLARE GERADA, the College's Chair says, "It is music to my ears". "It is so important that we raise awareness of lesbian, gay, and bisexual issues and debunk myths."

INTERNATIONAL NEWS & IMPORTANT TOPICS

My life with NON HIV AIDS

A request for help from a friend

I hope that you will support this humanitarian issue and spread the news too. In the fight for humanity.

Allied NATO Government is hiding millions of infectious NON HIV AIDS cases (like mine)

under the "Chronic Fatigue Syndrome (CFS)" ICD-code.

My case goes up through the White House, NIH, CDC, WHO, to the United Nations. I recently testified on a federal-level in Washington, DC, and have been published 12 times on 4 continents.

UK PROGRESSIVE published one of my letters about NON HIV AIDS. This topic has been censored from mainstream media since 1992 (i.e., circa Gulf War).

www.ukprogressive.co.uk/the-aids-like-disease-seldom-mentioned/article20891.html

It isn't easy for gay sportsmen such as Jason Collins to come out. Just look at the stereotypes

Full article in The Guardian

www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2013/may/07/gay-sportsmen-jason-collins-stereotypes

The US basketball star and the footballer Robbie Rogers have announced they are gay. The reaction shows how much sport still needs to change its attitudes to sexuality.

"I'd have loved to have had children," mused Jersey property tycoon David Kirch, 76, in a contemplative interview in the Times on Monday. "In my lifetime I have seen [people] going to prison for being gay and now [they are] adopting children."

Kirch is right to marvel at such progress, and in his own lifetime, too. With gay marriage now being legalised in various western countries from New Zealand to France, and its state-by-state progress across the US, it is easy to assume that, for a large part, the bad old days are behind us. This year, Bill Clinton took the almost unknown step for a US president of expressing regret for an action he took in office – specifically, signing the Defense of Marriage Act (Doma) – saying that "times have changed".

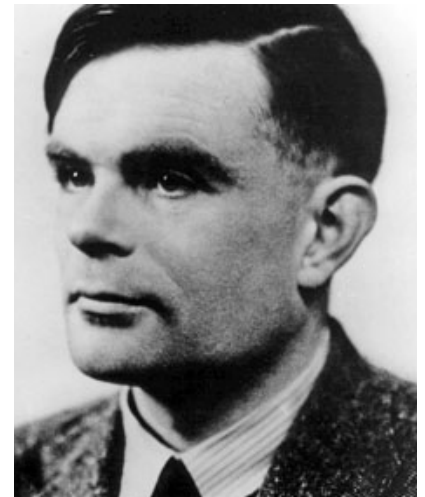
Well, they have and they haven't and it's worth noting just how much further there is still to go. It feels especially worthwhile to take stock now in Britain before the Conservative party makes its inevitable judder rightwards in response to UKIP, possibly divesting itself of any of its recent nods to gay rights, like hot air balloonists merrily chucking off ballast, in order to make that swerve all the more violently.

Lords bill introduced to pardon gay codebreaker Alan Turing

by Joseph Patrick McCormick

www.pinknews.co.uk/2013/05/10/

[lords-bill-introduced-to-pardon-gay-codebreaker-alan-turing/](#)



A private member's bill has been introduced in the House of Lords,

which seeks to pardon the gay computer genius Alan Turing, who was prosecuted for gross indecency in 1952, after having a relationship with another man.

The Alan Turing (Statutory Pardon)

Bill was introduced in the House of Lords for its first reading 9th May 2013 by Liberal Democrat peer Lord (John) Sharkey.

The gay mathematical genius and codebreaker was the effective inventor of the modern computer and a key driver behind the victory over the Nazis.

He killed himself in 1952, two

years after being sentenced to chemical castration.

In 2009, after a campaign led by Richard Dawkins, Stephen Fry and Peter Tatchell and supported by PinkNews.co.uk, the then prime minister Gordon Brown issue an apology for Turing's treatment on behalf of the British government.

OLGA TRAINING WORKSHOPS

Recently, OLGA delivered an Awareness-raising workshop to trainee GPs in Scarborough and 2 workshops at a Care Home in Skipton.

The Barchester Care Home Group now advertises the OLGA logo on its publicity material. This is a good strong positive step and it starts to give confidence to Gay and Trans people that the staff are lgbt aware and that they will be well provided for.

In May, OLGA presented a free training session, all places taken up, to a mixed audience of Care Home staff, Mental Health Staff, Council Human Resources Officers and OLGA members. We hope from this training session, that more OLGA members will be trained as trainers and able to deliver OLGA workshops to Health and Social Care providers. There is a mountain of work to be done and the training needs to be delivered by Gay and Trans people themselves. User-led is far better than e-learning, which does not tease out

unvoiced prejudices.

We hope to be offering more free training and we appeal yet again to Gay & Trans people to come forward, get trained and get involved in this campaign work. The abuse and discrimination of Gay & Trans people in health and social care is well researched. We have a battle on, and must take part in the work to make things better for now and for the future.

OLGA's Equality work benefits ALL PEOPLE because we teach about all-inclusive language.

OLGA'S AGM

**PLACES ARE FREE
APPLY NOW
07929 465 044**

OLGA's AGM 2013 will be at a central, disabled-access venue in Scarborough, on Wednesday July 3rd. Registration and Drinks on arrival at 1pm. Food towards close of session. The event should end at 4pm.

Real People Theatre – Dementia and Me

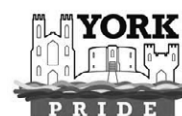
National Speakers

Carol Robson – Trans Issues 'Who will care for me?'

Dr Kathy Almack – Senior Researcher, Nottingham University, Palliative and End of Life Care – 'Older Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Trans and End of Life Care'

SUMMER PRIDES

Don't forget it is the Season to celebrate, so why not look up what Prides are on offer and go along and enjoy yourself.



YORK PRIDE – 1st June

The Racecourse (Tadcaster Road end)

BLACKPOOL PRIDE FESTIVAL

Blackpool's first Pride Festival is being held at the iconic Winter Gardens as a two day indoor Festival on Saturday 8th and Sunday 9th June. Entrance is free and all LGBT people, their families and friends are welcome.

HULL PRIDE

We are pleased to announce the 12th Hull Pride will be on Saturday 20th July & Sunday 21st July

LEEDS PRIDE

Over the Rainbow – Lower Briggate
4th August

WAKEFIELD PRIDE

August 12th – Southgate

MANCHESTER PRIDE

Come and join Manchester Pride's Big Weekend - one of the biggest parties in the UK. From Friday 23 to Monday 26 August, tens of thousands of people descend upon Manchester's world-renowned Gay Village to celebrate the climax of the Manchester Pride's festival.

Future Events

June 2013

Monday 3rd
OLGA Social – 1pm to 4pm

Monday 10th
OLGA Social – 1pm to 4pm

Monday 17th
OLGA Social – 1pm to 4pm

Monday 24th
OLGA Social – 1pm to 4pm

July 2013

Monday 1st
OLGA Social – 1pm to 4pm

Wednesday 3rd
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING –
1pm to 4pm

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

August 2013

Monday 5th
OLGA Social – 1pm to 4pm

Monday 12th
OLGA Social – 1pm to 4pm

Monday 19th
OLGA Social – 1pm to 4pm

Monday 26th
OLGA Social – 1pm to 4pm

OLGA WEEKLY SOCIALS

All Mondays 1pm to 4pm

MEET & EAT SOCIALS

are arranged with Members who attend the weekly
Socials. Other members who cannot attend the Socials,
can ring for details (07929 465 044)

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

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 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

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