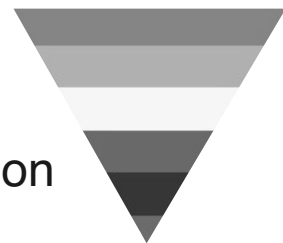




OLGA

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

PO Box 458 Scarborough YO11 9EH Telephone: 07929 465044
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Newsletter Issue 21

September-October-November 2013

Let's hope... will we have an Indian Summer?



As Autumn approaches after a fabulous Summer, we all long for the good weather to continue. Many of us dread the dark, cold, depressing days that follow Autumn, but do try and get out in to the daylight. This is good for your mental health and the Vitamin D from the sunlight strengthens your bones.

Many of us are in the autumn of our lives. We want our youthful,

summery memories to live on. The winter of our lives, of course, is end of life.

We all need to prepare for end of life at any age. Death is a particular issue for Gay & Trans people. How to record our wishes and protect our surviving partner is not always easy.

Age UK's LifeBook is an easy to use and safe method of recording the practical details of your life. This very useful

booklet deals with all sorts of issues, including recording life policies, bank accounts, where private papers will be found. You can express your wishes about end of life care, and funeral arrangements. The language in the booklet is all-inclusive, eg. 'partner' and 'civil partner' is there.

Phone number 0845 685 1061 (quote ref. ALL025) to obtain a copy.

Same Sex Marriage Equality

Legal History has been made on the 17th July 2013 with the Same Sex Bill being passed in the House of Lords. The first same gender weddings could take place by as early as Summer 2014.

The new Law, which applies to England & Wales, will.....

- Allow, same gender couples to marry in Civil ceremonies.

- Allow, same gender couples to marry in Religious ceremonies, where the Religious organisation has opted-in to conduct such ceremonies and their Minister of Religion agrees.

- It protects Religious organisations and their Representatives who do not wish to conduct marriages of same gender couples, from

successful legal challenge.

- It enables Civil Partners to convert their Civil Partnership to a Marriage, if they so wish.
- It enables Married individuals to change their legal gender without having to end their Marriage.

WE HAVE PETER TATCHELL TO THANK FOR ALL HIS TIRELESS CAMPAIGNING.

Human Rights for All People

Since being trained as Human Rights Ambassadors, by Age UK, OLGA includes human rights language in all its presentations, workshops, speeches, etc.

The strongest human rights article is No. 14 "the right not to be discriminated against".

Because there is still stigma and discrimination against Gay & Trans people in Health and Social Care, being able to use some simple human rights language, IS VERY EMPOWERING. For example, a person visiting a patient in a

hospital, and seeing that another patient is not able to reach for their water and is calling out for help for a drink. The hospital visitor can approach the nursing staff, and request them to give that patient a drink. If the nurse gives the excuse "I have not got the time.....look at all this paperwork I have got to do", the hospital visitor can then say "THIS IS A BREACH OF THIS PATIENT'S HUMAN RIGHTS. I WANT YOU TO GIVE THE PATIENT SOME WATER, NOW". This will usually do the trick. Article 3 of Human Rights



Human Rights

says it is illegal to neglect patients. Not assisting them to have life saving water and food is very serious.

We will cover different Human Rights issues in each issue of the Newsletter.

DO YOU HAVE ANY STORIES OF HUMAN RIGHTS BREACHES THAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO SHARE WITH US? Please contact OLGA on 07929 465 044, olga@mypostoffice.co.uk

OLGA AGM 2013

This took place at the Stephen Joseph Theatre, Scarborough on July 3rd 2013. Over 40 people attended the afternoon and enjoyed speeches from Carol Robson, an OLGBT speaker on Gay & Trans issues in Health &

Social Care. Mary, the Project Co-ordinator raised awareness on Human Rights. The Real People Theatre enacted scenes "Dementia & Me". Food and networking was enjoyed by all.

Thank you to all who attended.



Carol Robson

Comic Relief Funding



Our 3 year funding by Comic Relief ends this Autumn. OLGA will continue its campaign work and social support using money earned from workshops, and a small grant from Age UK for a 2 year Human Rights Ambassador

project. Comic Relief are actually funding Age UK to support this work.

THANK YOU COMIC RELIEF, YOUR FUNDING HAS ENABLED US TO HAVE A NATIONAL IMPACT.

OLGA Workshops

Recently we delivered 10 workshops to Care Home staff in North Yorkshire. To enable this training to be more widespread, OLGA is developing a training package on-line. Organisations will be able to purchase it. This training package includes a DVD

produced by a group from Derby, "Derby Seen Ya Rights", dealing with LGBT worries when entering a Care Home.

WE WISH TO THANK THE DERBY HUMAN RIGHTS GROUP FOR ALLOWING US TO USE THEIR DVD WITHIN OUR TRAINING WORKSHOP.

We are still worried by the lack of campaigning by other Gay groups, some with very large funding, about the Health & Social Care issues for Gay & Trans people. Nationally, we are going back in the closet when we receive care, because we fear abuse.

How can Housing Associations support LGBT Residents & Staff?

As a resident in a Housing Association, we may find it difficult to share discussions about our home life, because of fear of abuse. So, we will feel

isolated. A model of good practice is Hanover Housing Association. They are setting up a National Group for lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans Hanover

residents. This model is already in place with Anchor Trust who have been running a group for 3 years. They hope to set up a Gay & Trans staff network also.

RUSSIA

On June 30 this year, Russian President Vladimir Putin signed into law a bill banning the "propaganda of nontraditional sexual relations to minors," thus opening a new, dark chapter in the history of gay rights in Russia. The law caps a period of ferocious activities by the Russian government aimed at limiting the rights of the country's lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and intersex people.

The violations of fundamental, constitutionally protected rights of Russia's gay citizens have included multiple bans on gay pride

parades in Moscow and other cities, hefty fines to gay rights groups accused of acting as a "foreign agent," denial of registration to nongovernmental organizations, and regional laws banning the propaganda of homosexuality to minors, which served as a basis for the federal law enacted by Mr. Putin and unanimously passed by the State Duma. Against this backdrop, violent attacks on gays or "suspect gays" are becoming commonplace.

<http://www.pinknews.co.uk>

The actor, author and television presenter Stephen Fry has written an open letter to David Cameron, International Olympics Committee President Jacques Rogge and Lord Coe, urging them to ban the 2014 Winter Olympics due to take place in the Russian city of Sochi – because of Russia's treatment and discrimination of LGBT people. The letter is reproduced in full on the next page.



Dear Prime Minister, M Rogge, Lord Coe and Members of the International Olympic Committee,

I write in the earnest hope that all those with a love of sport and the Olympic spirit will consider the stain on the Five Rings that occurred when the 1936 Berlin Olympics proceeded under the exultant aegis of a tyrant who had passed into law, three years earlier, an act which singled out for special persecution a minority whose only crime was the accident of their birth. In his case he banned Jews from academic tenure or public office, he made sure that the police turned a blind eye to any beatings, thefts or humiliations afflicted on them, he burned and banned books written by them. He claimed they "polluted" the purity and tradition of what it was to be German, that they were a threat to the state, to the children and the future of the Reich. He blamed them simultaneously for the mutually exclusive crimes of Communism and for the controlling of international capital and banks. He blamed them for ruining the culture with their liberalism and difference. The Olympic movement at that time paid precisely no attention to this evil and proceeded with the notorious Berlin Olympiad, which provided a stage for a gleeful Führer and only increased his status at home and abroad. It gave him confidence. All historians are agreed on that. What he did with that confidence we all know.

Putin is eerily repeating this insane crime, only this time against LGBT Russians. Beatings, murders and humiliations are ignored by the police. Any defence or sane discussion of homosexuality is against the law. Any statement, for example, that Tchaikovsky was gay and that his art and life reflects this sexuality and are an inspiration to other gay artists would be punishable by imprisonment. It is simply not enough to say that gay Olympians may or may not be safe in their village. The IOC absolutely must take a firm stance on behalf of the shared humanity it is supposed to represent against the barbaric, fascist law that Putin has pushed through the Duma. Let us not forget that Olympic events used not only to be athletic, they used to include cultural competitions. Let us realise that in fact, sport is cultural. It does not exist in a bubble outside society or politics. The idea that sport and politics don't connect is worse than disingenuous, worse than stupid. It is wickedly, wilfully wrong. Everyone knows politics interconnects with everything for "politics" is simply the Greek for "to do with the people".

An absolute ban on the Russian Winter Olympics of 2014 on Sochi is simply essential. Stage them elsewhere in Utah, Lillyhammer, anywhere you like. At all costs Putin cannot be seen to have the approval of the civilised world.

He is making scapegoats of gay people, just as Hitler did with the Jews. He cannot be allowed to get away with it. I know whereof I speak. I have visited Russia, stood up to the political deputy who introduced the first of these laws, in his city of St Petersburg. I looked into the face of the man and, on camera, tried to reason with him, counter him, make him understand what he was doing. All I saw reflected back at me was what Hannah Arendt called, so memorably, "the banality of evil." A stupid man, but like so many tyrants, one with an instinct of how to exploit a disaffected people by finding scapegoats. Putin may not be quite as oafish and stupid as Deputy Milanov but his instincts are the same. He may claim that the "values" of Russia are not the "values" of the West, but this is absolutely in opposition to Peter the Great's philosophy, and against the hopes of millions of Russians, those not in the grip of that toxic mix of shaven headed thuggery and bigoted religion, those who are agonised by the rolling back of democracy and the formation of a new autocracy in the motherland that has suffered so much (and whose music, literature and drama, incidentally I love so passionately).

I am gay. I am a Jew. My mother lost over a dozen of her family to Hitler's anti-Semitism. Every time in Russia (and it is constantly) a gay teenager is forced into suicide, a lesbian "correctively" raped, gay men and women beaten to death by neo-Nazi thugs while the Russian police stand idly by, the world is diminished and I for one, weep anew at seeing history repeat itself.

"All that is needed for evil to triumph is for good men to do nothing," so wrote Edmund Burke. Are you, the men and women of the IOC going to be those "good" who allow evil to triumph?

The Summer Olympics of 2012 were one of the most glorious moments of my life and the life of my country. For there to be a Russian Winter Olympics would stain the movement forever and wipe away any of that glory. The Five Rings would finally be forever smeared, besmirched and ruined in the eyes of the civilised world.

I am begging you to resist the pressures of pragmatism, of money, of the oily cowardice of diplomats and to stand up resolutely and proudly for humanity the world over, as your movement is pledged to do. Wave your Olympic flag with pride as we gay men and women wave our Rainbow flag with pride. Be brave enough to live up to the oaths and protocols of your movement, which I remind you of verbatim below.

Rule 4 Cooperate with the competent public or private organisations and authorities in the endeavour to place sport at the service of humanity and thereby to promote peace

Rule 6: Act against any form of discrimination affecting the Olympic Movement

Rule 15 Encourage and support initiatives blending sport with culture and education

I especially appeal to you, Prime Minister, a man for whom I have the utmost respect. As the leader of a party I have for almost all of my life opposed and instinctively disliked, you showed a determined, passionate and clearly honest commitment to LGBT rights and helped pushed gay marriage through both houses of our parliament in the teeth of vehement opposition from so many of your own side. For that I will always admire you, whatever other differences may lie between us. In the end I believe you know when a thing is wrong or right. Please act on that instinct now.

Yours in desperate hope for humanity

Stephen Fry

Positive Images of Older People showing Affection



**Where are they?
Where are the photos?
Do older people show affection?
OF COURSE WE DO...**

Older people can continue to have close, loving, intimate relations in older age, whatever their sexual orientation. However, there is still a shyness by organisations to portray this.

Our website image of 2 older lesbians showing

affection is still pretty rare in this Country. We get requests for this image to be used by other organisations and researchers. Recently, we gave permission for the image to be used in Australia with the National Ministry for Ageing. So, there is a Global shortage of positive images, it seems.

COME ON OTHER GAY & TRANS ORGANISATIONS, AND OTHER OLDER PEOPLES' ORGANISATIONS!

DON'T BE SHY, YOU WILL REACH THAT AGE IF YOU ARE LUCKY, AND HOPE TO ENJOY CONTINUED, LOVING CONTACTS.

Future Events

Sept 2013	Oct 2013	Nov 2013
Monday 2nd OLGA Social – 1pm to 4pm	Monday 7th NO SOCIAL	Monday 4th OLGA Social – 1pm to 4pm
Monday 9th OLGA Social – 1pm to 4pm	Monday 14th NO SOCIAL	Monday 11th OLGA Social – 1pm to 4pm
Monday 16th OLGA Social – 1pm to 4pm	Monday 21st OLGA Social – 1pm to 4pm	Monday 18th OLGA Social – 1pm to 4pm
Monday 23rd OLGA Social – 1pm to 4pm	Monday 28th OLGA Social – 1pm to 4pm	Monday 25th OLGA Social – 1pm to 4pm
Monday 30th OLGA Social – 1pm to 4pm		

OLGA WEEKLY SOCIALS
All Mondays 1pm to 4pm

**New Venue For OLGA Socials from
September 2nd - please ring for details**

These are currently held weekly in Scarborough. Recently, our Members have enjoyed some art and drawing workshops, led by one of our Members.

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 8D

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:

Tel: 07944 210825
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