

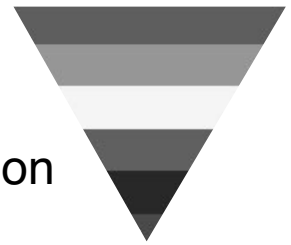


OLGA

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

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Newsletter Issue 22

December 2013 January February 2014

Winter Warmer



The beautiful Autumn that we are all enjoying will lead us in to the shut down of nature, called Winter.

Beautiful as it can be, cold weather means we must look after ourselves. We must eat well, dress sensibly and heat our homes as best we can. Going out in the Winter can be beneficial as

we will get daylight in to our brains and keep us feeling better. Of course, icy pavements mean we must take care. No falls, no slips, no broken bones. Footwear with good grip will help, as also will a walking stick to steady ourselves.

Loneliness & Isolation is an all year round occurrence. Depression

in the Winter can be very severe. Therefore, we need to try to attend any social gatherings where our depression may be alleviated. Older peoples' socials run by Age UK, and of course, Gay & Trans social groups will help. Keeping in touch with friends and family by phone will give us a social lifeline if we can't get out and meet people.

OLGA Socials

As a model of good practice, **OLGA** continues to run its weekly socials at a brand new venue in Scarborough.

This lovely new venue is very comfortable, warm, and safe. **OLGA**, of course, has always been all inclusive, having younger and heterosexual members. We relax, chat openly and support each other. Sometimes we have outside co-ordinators attend to speak to our members. Sometimes our own members lead activities, such as, writing workshops, drawing, etc. Raffles are held

regularly. Usually, after the Monday social has ended, members continue their get-together by having a meal out at

a restaurant. For many Gay & Trans people, especially older ones, this could be the only social eating they do.



A Winter Social Meal Together

Human Rights for All, is a project run by Age UK and funded by Comic Relief

**OUR RIGHTS
OUR VOICES**

OLGA, having been trained as Human Rights Ambassadors now incorporate human rights language in to articles and speeches.

Our main work centres around Health and Social Care for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Trans people. Nationally, service providers still say "we haven't got any of them here". Gay & Trans people when they receive care, do fear abuse and discrimination, and are frightened of coming out to service providers. Our Human Rights work concentrates on persuading service providers to "come out" as being Gay & Trans

friendly, rather than the gay or trans person having to come out in order to get their needs met.

One important Human Right we claim is The Right to Form a Family. Many Gay & Trans people lose the support of blood family because of stigma and prejudice. We therefore form a "Family of Choice", made up of gay and trans people who will support us. When we go in to hospital, or a care home to live, we will want to name someone from our Family of Choice to be our "Contact Person". This person is to be sent for in an emergency, be involved in health care decisions, including End of Life

Care decisions. Unlike the outdated term "Next of Kin", "Contact Person" is all inclusive, and allows heterosexual people also to name who they want involved.

The Equality Law mirrors the protection for vulnerable groups. It recognizes the legality of a Civil Partnership equal to that of a Marriage. So, when care service providers, as has happened in the Harrogate area, say "it must be blood family" to register as contact person, this must be challenged. It is a Human Right, backed by the Equality Law, to have our Family of Choice recognized.

Concerns About Care?

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.

**Speak Up on: tel: 03000 616161, enquiries@cqc.org.uk,
or CQC website: www.cqc.org.uk/public/sharing-your-experience**



Stonewall & Homophobic Hate Crime

Major new polling released today by Stonewall shows that Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual people remain at risk of suffering violent abuse and discrimination in Britain. Homophobic Hate Crime: The Gay British Crime Survey 2013 looks in detail at the experiences and

extent of homophobic hate crimes and incidents. The polling of 2,500 people, conducted by YouGov for Stonewall, shows that hate crime remains a serious issue across the Country.

One in ten (10%) of those who experienced a homophobic hate

- Three out of Four Gay people still don't report hate crime to the Police
- One in six experienced a hate crime or incident in the last three years
- Two thirds did not report it to anyone

crime were physically assaulted, with almost one in 5 (18%) victims of violence or the use of force. Worryingly, more than 8 in 10 (85%) Gay people, who suffered a hate crime or incident, haven't reported the harassment or intimidation.

NOVEMBER 2013 – CAMPAIGN LAUNCH

Gay, let's get over it

Dear friend,

A message from Will Young

I'm delighted to be part of Stonewall's new campaign to tackle homophobic language, which launches today as part of Anti-Bullying Week. I wanted you to be one of the first to hear about it and I'd also like to ask for your help!

We know that 99 per cent of lesbian, gay and bisexual young people hear phrases such as 'that's so gay' or 'you're so gay' in school. We also know that hearing the word 'gay' to mean 'rubbish' can have a devastating effect on gay young people's self-esteem.

The new campaign – 'Gay. Let's Get Over It' – aims to tackle the casual use of homophobic language in schools across Britain. Stonewall have launched powerful new posters and clear guidance for both teachers and pupils to help them to challenge

this harmful language.

The series of posters are being sent to schools across Britain with the clear messages: "Gay. Let's Get the Meaning Straight", 'Your So Gay. Can You Spot the Two Common Mistakes?' and "That's So Gay. Let's Be Honest. It's Probably Not."

I've raised this issue with the Secretary of State for Education, Michael Gove MP, but we need you to get involved too:

- Make a donation – just £5 allows Stonewall to send these materials to a secondary school, ensuring that hundreds of pupils know why it's wrong to say 'that's so gay'. Simply text GAY to 70500 to donate £5.
- Buy a 'Gay. Let's Get The Meaning Straight' t-shirt – help us reclaim the word 'gay' and show your support to young people.



- Get your friends and colleagues together and raise awareness and funds for Stonewall during Anti-Bullying Week. Go to www.stonewall.org.uk/ABW13 for our fun ideas!

For more information, visit www.stonewall.org.uk/ABW13, follow @StonewallUK on Twitter or like StonewallUK on Facebook. Follow the conversation by using hashGetOverit.

Thank you.



Stonewall challenges footballers to back gay players with national rainbow laces campaign

Stonewall teams up with Paddy Power for ground breaking campaign

Rainbow laces sent to all professional footballers in the UK

**Odds of no gay professional player?
'Over a quadragintillion-to-one'**

Stonewall today teams up with leading bookmaker Paddy Power to challenge players to show their support for gay footballers by wearing rainbow coloured boot laces.

The laces have been distributed to every footballer across all 134 professional clubs in the UK. Each player is asked to wear the special laces in their club fixtures on Saturday 21 and Sunday 22 September. The campaign's simple message of 'Right Behind Gay Footballers' is designed to kick start a change in attitudes and make our national game more gay-friendly.

Paddy Power and Stonewall are asking fans and the public to back the campaign by taking to social media and using the hashtag #RBGF, Right Behind Gay Footballers, during the week and in the build-up to the weekend fixtures.

Kicking off on Monday 16 September there will be a week of activity shining the spotlight on homophobia in football. The campaign will see daily advertising and editorials across traditional media, billboard sites, and through social media with the aim of getting support from footballers, celebrities, fans and the public.

Stonewall Deputy Chief Executive Laura Doughty said: 'It's time for football clubs and players to step up and make a visible stand against homophobia in our national game. That's why we're working with Paddy Power on this fun and simple campaign. By wearing rainbow laces players will send a message of support to gay players and can begin to drag football in to the 21st century.'

Paddy Power, the bookmaker's spokesman, said: 'We love football but it needs a kick up the arse. In most other areas of life people can be open about their sexuality and it's time for football to take a stand and show players it doesn't matter what team they play for. Fans can show they are right behind this by simply tweeting using the #RBGF hashtag whilst all players have to do is lace up this weekend to help set an example in world sport.'

**Enquiries: Richard Lane, Media Manager,
on 020 7593 3469 or 07525 359960.**

NOTES:

- **Seven in ten football fans who have attended a match had heard or witnessed homophobia on the terraces.**
- **Over half of fans thought the Football Association, Premier League and Football League weren't doing enough to tackle anti-gay abuse.**

Read the full report here:

www.stonewall.org.uk/leaguesbehind

THE STATS:

- There are 134 clubs across England, Scotland, and Wales in the Premier League, Championship, Football League 1, Football League 2, Scottish Premier League, Scottish Championship, Scottish League 1, and Scottish League 2.
- There are approximately 5,000 professional players across these leagues.
- We've done the maths and the odds on there being no gay person in a random sample of 5000 assuming a 6% likelihood is 1 in 2.29×10^{134} .
- In long form that number is:
22,947,321,563,647,480,000,000,000,000,
000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,
000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,
000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,
000,000,000,000,000!
- In technical terms that is over a quadragintillion.
- As a comparison, this is similar odds to predicting the correct score in 150 consecutive football matches.



Lord Alli, CBBC and Antony Cotton lead 2013 Stonewall Award winners

Russian LGBT Network and Lord Alli jointly named Hero of the Year
Antony Cotton recognised for 10 years on Coronation Street
CBBC's Marrying Mum and Dad and Mamas & Papas ad each triumph

Coronation Street's Antony Cotton was among the big winners at last night's Stonewall Awards, held at the V&A and supported by Gender Gap. The soap favourite was commended for his decade of walking the nation's favourite cobbled street as a proud gay role model. He was joined by Mamas & Papas, CBBC's Marrying Mum and Dad and the Cardiff Lions who also took home awards for their support of lesbian, gay and bisexual people in Britain.

Nearly 500 people, including celebrities, sports stars, politicians and writers, joined host Susan Calman at the ceremony to honour those who've made a positive contribution to the lives of Britain's 3.7 million gay people.

Thousands of Stonewall supporters voted to name Lord Alli and the Russian LGBT Network as joint Hero of the Year, supported by Gender Gap. Lord Alli has been a tireless advocate for equality since he became the first openly gay member of the House of Lords 15

years ago. He was instrumental in successfully navigating equal marriage through the House of Lords this year.

The Russian LGBT Network was recognised for its courageous work to support gay people in Russia despite gay 'propaganda' bans and ever increasing hostility. In a statement the Russian LGBT Network said that Britain's 'journey from Section 28 to marriage equality inspires us as we campaign against those who seek to deny us our fundamental human rights'.

The Quaker LGBT Fellowship was named Community Group of the Year by Stonewall supporters for their long-standing commitment to equality. The group was presented with a cheque for £5,000 – kindly provided by The Inclusive Foundation and supported by Square Peg Media – to continue their work to promote equality and religious freedom.

Stonewall supporters overwhelmingly

voted US TV evangelist Pat Robertson as 2013's Bigot of the Year – the award reserved for an individual who has gratuitously caused hurt and offence to gay people around the world. Robertson – a long standing and vocal opponent of equality – hit headlines in August by saying that gay men viciously spread HIV when shaking hands by using 'special rings'.

Metro was named Publication of the Year for its frequent and incidental coverage of gay issues throughout the newspaper as well as its support for tackling homophobia in football.

CBBC's Marrying Mum and Dad became the first children's show to be named Broadcast of the Year in recognition of the shows sensitive and moving portrayal of children planning the civil partnership of their proud parents.

In a landmark year for equality Baroness Stowell was named as Stonewall's Politician of the Year

for her unstinting work to secure marriage for same-sex couples. The Conservative Peer was applauded for her deft handling of the Marriage (Same Sex Couples) Bill in the House of Lords.

Scottish writer Damian Barr took home the prize for Writer of the Year for his biography *Maggie and Me* which was praised for its honest and compelling narrative of growing up gay.

Wales' only gay-friendly rugby club, the Cardiff Lions, beat tough competition to take home the Stonewall Sports Award of the Year, supported by Paddy Power, in recognition of their grassroots work supporting gay people in sport and defying stereotypes.

The Independent's Grace Dent was named Journalist of the Year for her unflinching support of equal marriage in the mainstream media. The columnist, author, TV critic and restaurant reviewer was applauded for her humorous and honest coverage of gay issues throughout the year.

Yummy Mummy and Dreamy Daddy favourite Mamas & Papas scooped the first ever Stonewall Award for Advert of the Year for its campaign featuring same-sex parents. The brand proudly declared 'This is how we roll' with its commitment to support different families.

Stonewall Chief Executive Ben Summerskill said: 'In a landmark year for equality the Stonewall Award winners really do exemplify the very best of British. Each and every one of our winners has made the world a better place for gay people and will continue to inspire millions of people through their work'.

Sam Jones, CEO of Stonewall Award 2013 supporters Gender Gap, said: 'We're incredibly proud to support the Stonewall Awards. The individuals and organisations recognised this evening have campaigned tirelessly to make the world a better place. That's a vision and a mission we share at Gender Gap.'

THE WINNERS:

Hero of the Year (supported by Gender Gap) – Lord Alli and the Russian LGBT Network

Broadcast of the Year – CBBC's Marrying Mum and Dad

Entertainer of the Year – Antony Cotton (Coronation Street)

Journalist of the Year – Grace Dent (The Independent)

Politician of the Year – Baroness Stowell of Beeston

Publication of the Year – Metro

Sports Award of the Year (supported by Paddy Power) – Cardiff Lions

Writer of the Year – Damian Barr (Maggie and Me)

Community Group of the Year (supported by Square Peg Media and the Inclusive Foundation) – Quaker Lesbian & Gay Fellowship

Advert of the Year – Mamas & Papas

Bigot of the Year – Pat Robertson

www.stonewall.org.uk/awards

Enquiries: Richard Lane, Media Manager, on 020 7593 3469 or 07525 359960

Future Events

Dec 2013

Monday 2nd
OLGA Social – 1pm to 4pm
Monday 9th
OLGA Social – 1pm to 4pm
Monday 16th
OLGA Social – 1pm to 4pm
Monday 23rd
OLGA Social – 1pm to 4pm
Monday 30th
OLGA Social – 1pm to 4pm

Jan 2014

Monday 6th
OLGA Social – 1pm to 4pm
Monday 13th
OLGA Social – 1pm to 4pm
Monday 20th
OLGA Social – 1pm to 4pm
Monday 27th
OLGA Social – 1pm to 4pm

Feb 2014

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

OLGA WEEKLY SOCIALS

All Mondays 1pm to 4pm (see dates above)
Recent activities at the Socials have been
quizzes and raffles

MEET AND EAT SOCIALS

Usually, arranged at
the Monday Socials

Useful contact information

SEXUALITY

OLGA Tel: 07929 465 044

Email: olga@mypostoffice.co.uk www.olga.uk.com

From January 2014 OLGA no longer has a PO Box address

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: 07929 465044

www.olga.uk.com