

# 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)  
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](http://www.northyorks.gov.uk)

**Stonham Homestay** – Scarborough & Ryedale  
Homelessness Prevention Service  
Tel: 01723 366566  
Email: [scarborough@homegroup.org.uk](mailto:scarborough@homegroup.org.uk)  
Post: Unit 18, The Street, 12 Lower Clark Street,  
Scarborough YO12 7PW

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

## SOCIAL CARE

**Social Services**  
North Yorkshire County Council Tel: 08450349410

## SOCIAL

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Email: [olga@mypostoffice.co.uk](mailto:olga@mypostoffice.co.uk)  
[www.olga.uk.com](http://www.olga.uk.com)

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

**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.

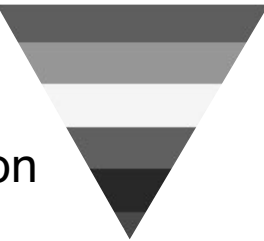
We will also use it as a way to share with you local  
national and international news that we feel you  
may be interested in. You must let us know if we  
are getting this right, or not. Or, if you have seen  
something you would like to share; please let me  
know:

Tel: 07929 465044  
[www.olga.uk.com](http://www.olga.uk.com)



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

Telephone: 07929 465044  
Email: [olga@mypostoffice.co.uk](mailto:olga@mypostoffice.co.uk) [www.olga.uk.com](http://www.olga.uk.com)



Newsletter Issue 24

June July August 2014

# Summer's here

The swallows are busy building  
nests and raising their young.  
Time goes on and we are all  
ageing. Interestingly, when we  
were preparing this newsletter,  
we searched the internet for  
images of older people enjoying  
the summer! Plenty of images of  
children licking ice cream, dogs  
frolicking, and young couples  
enjoying the sunshine. Very few

of older people. Yet again,  
emphasizing that in this Country,  
older people in general are  
ignored. Older couples do lick ice  
cream and sit out in the sunshine,  
and even play in the warm sun.  
Photographers please value older  
people and fill your photo library  
with good positive images of older  
people. One day it will be you...!



## Final Newsletter from OLGA

This is the last newsletter that  
OLGA will be distributing.

OLGA's money has been running  
out, and OLGA has decided to  
make the best use of the  
remaining money, by funding the  
mobile, and the broadband. In  
this way, we can continue to be  
contacted by organizations and  
members. We shall continue to  
support members who want  
telephone befriending, and our  
weekly Monday afternoon Socials  
will carry on.

## Founder Member of OLGA returns home to the USA



John, one of the founder  
members of OLGA left his home  
Country, of the USA, about 11  
years ago. As John says "I ran  
away from home at 60!" Having  
travelled to most of Europe, John  
decided he would return to San

Diego, with its sunshine and older  
gay centre. John is looking  
forward to making new friends  
there and being with his family.  
We are in regular email contact  
with him and wish him well.

# Hanover flies the flag



Nationally, Hanover Housing Association has 'come out' as Gay & Trans friendly. Its Engagement Officers are travelling around the Country in efforts to give lgbt residents the confidence to 'come out' to their Housing Manager.

OLGA has always argued that "it is up to the Organisation to 'come out' as Gay & Trans friendly, rather than the Individual having to 'come out' in order to get their individual needs met" (Age Concern, Camden 2004). Recently OLGA met 3 of their National Engagement Officers. 2 were Gay, one was Bisexual. This is important as it means that their work is user led.

At this meeting, some lgbt Hanover residents gave their views on issues:

- The importance of Hanover showing their Equality Statement on publicity material, eg. "This Organisation aims to provide as good a service as possible. Please give us as much detail about yourself as possible. This may include details of age, civil partnership & marriage, disability, faith, gender, gender identity, pregnancy & maternity, race, and sexual orientation. This information will be treated in confidence."

- The importance of using all inclusive language on application forms, eg. Civil Partner/Husband, Wife/Partner.
- The importance of using all inclusive images, eg. Same gender couples as well as heterosexual ones. Positive images of older people showing affection are still very rare.
- Hanover LGBT+ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans & asexual) logo was decided on. A nice strong image of the rainbow flag is on it.

OLGA and Hanover have begun what promises to be a very strong working partnership.

## CQC NEWS

We await news from CQC as to whether they are going to train their inspectors and give them the confidence to ask service providers "what systems have you got in place to ensure good service provision for Gay & Trans people?"

The fact that we are waiting for this to be done, beggars belief.

Why has this not been done before?

Why isn't it already an integral part of inspectors' training?

It is not rocket science.

Inspectors should not be in the job if they are incapable or unwilling to talk about Human Rights issues for Gay & Trans people.

We continue to wait.....

# A Project run by Age UK and funded by Comic Relief



# Human rights issues

OLGA in its presentations, uses real life examples of lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans people receiving health and social care. Audiences are asked "how would you manage the situation and what Human Rights issues are identified?"

## Case Study

One of the residents in your home, an unmarried woman, has developed a very intimate friendship with another female resident who is widowed. They are inseparable and often sit in the lounge holding hands.

One afternoon, you go in to one of

the women's bedrooms to deliver a letter (after knocking and assuming the room is empty) and find them lying together on the bed holding each other.

## Answer...

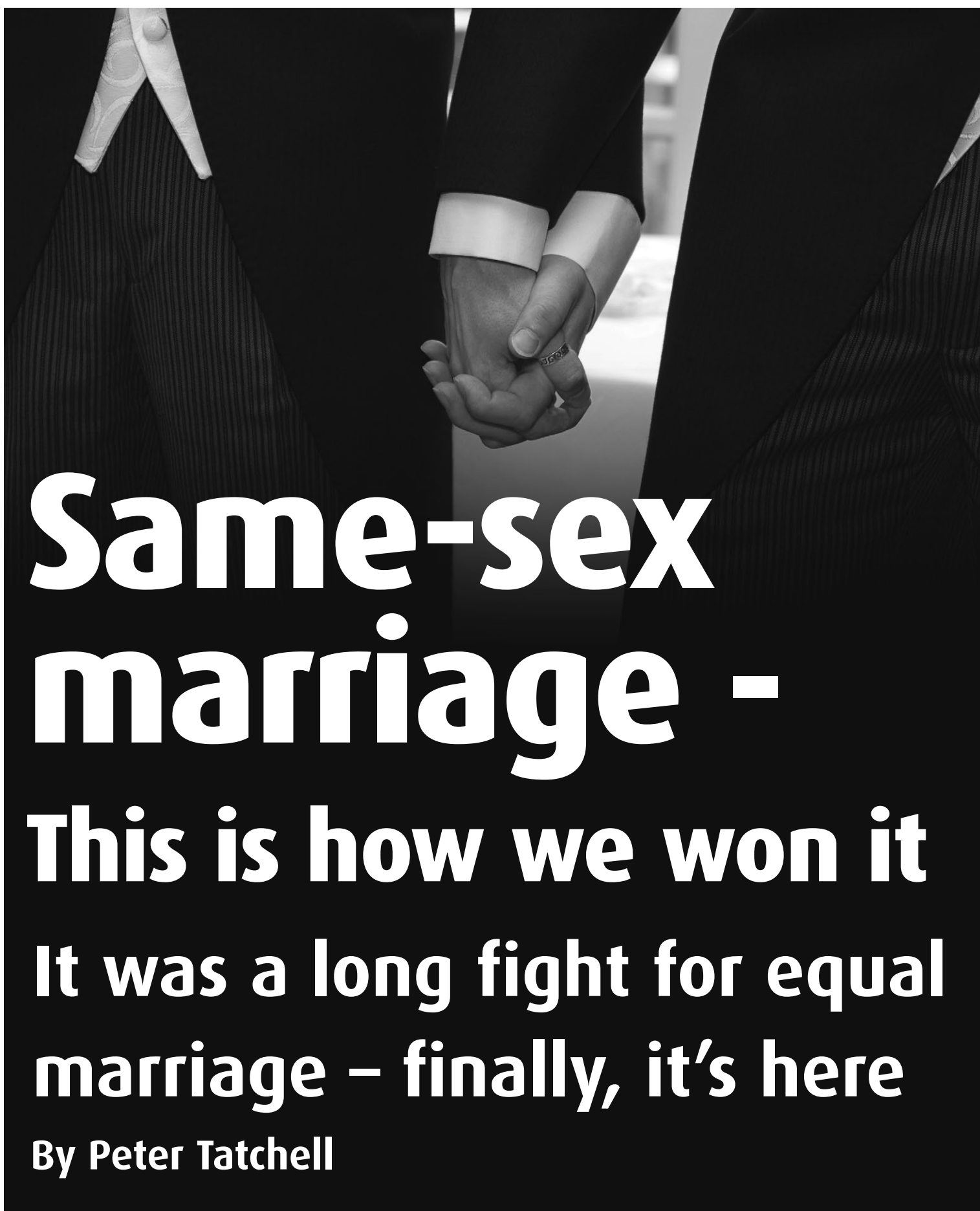
You have interrupted a private moment. If you merely leave the room, the couple may think their relationship is not accepted. You should say "sorry, I thought the room was empty". Later on, the couple will appreciate a quiet reassuring chat to let them know that staff will accept their relationship and offer them support. You may offer a "do not disturb" sign for their room door.

## Human Rights Issues are...

Article 3 - "Right not to be tortured or treated in an inhuman or degrading way". Verbal or physical abuse or neglect as a result of staff prejudice is illegal. Staff colleagues should "whistle blow" to CQC and the Police.

Article 8 - "Right to respect for private and family life, home and correspondence" as the couple will want their relationship accepted by staff.

Article 14 - "Right not to be discriminated against", as a result of their sexual orientation".



# Same-sex marriage -

## This is how we won it

### It was a long fight for equal marriage – finally, it's here

By Peter Tatchell

The battle for equal marriage in England and Wales did not begin a year or two ago. It started way back in 1992 when the LGBT direct action group OutRage! organised the first challenge to the ban on same-sex civil marriage. Five lesbian and gay couples from OutRage! filed marriage licence applications at Westminster Register Office in London on 19 March 1992. They were refused. But this was the opening shot in the long campaign for equal marriage.

Twelve years later, while most LGBT organisations accepted the second best option of civil partnerships when they were legislated in 2004, OutRage! continued the campaign for marriage equality. We said that civil partnerships were a valuable advance but not good enough. They were a well meaning but second class system that segregated same-sex couples legally - and denied them equality. Our view was shared by the parallel marriage equality campaign in Scotland, spearheaded by the Equality Network.

In the run-up to the 2010 general election, the Conservatives were the only major party with no gay rights policies. Together with Tamsin Omond, I organised a flashmob protest outside Tory election headquarters. As a result, David Cameron arranged for us to meet George Osborne and

Theresa May. At this meeting, we urged them to agree to end the ban on same-sex marriage. They promised a review of the ban if they were elected.

Three months after the election, the Conservatives announced that they had done a review and had decided to keep the ban.

In response to this intransigence, later in 2010 we formed the broad-based Equal Love coalition, with support from cross-party MPs, MEPs, trade unions, the National Union of Students and secular, humanist and LGBT religious organisations.

<http://bit.ly/1f9TH22>

The Equal Love campaign was dedicated to full equality in civil marriage and civil partnership law. We sought the repeal of the twin legal bans on same-sex civil marriages and opposite-sex civil partnerships; pressing for both systems to be open to all couples, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity.

That year, 2010, at the LGBT Pride London parade, I ambushed the newly-elected Mayor of London, Boris Johnson, and persuaded him, in front of the national media, to support same-sex marriage. I got him to publicly reiterate his commitment at a City Hall reception just a few days afterwards. Johnson's support was crucial to making it safe

and respectable for Tory MPs to back marriage equality. Several did so, including Margot James, Chloe Smith and Mike Weatherley.

By late 2010, we had broad cross-party support: the Greens, Lib Dems and Labour officially endorsed equal marriage. But despite the support of individual Tory MPs, the Conservatives were still not on side.

I began intensively lobbying Tory MPs and party activists, arguing that same-sex marriage was consistent with Conservative values; that it chimed with their support for the institution of marriage - an argument that was later closely echoed by David Cameron in his pro-gay marriage speech to the 2011 Tory party conference.

When lobbying the Conservatives, I deliberately tried to frame the issue in terms of Conservative values which, although I do not share them, would be most likely to persuade more Tory MPs. I argued:

*"Marriage is a Conservative value. Tories encourage and approve loving, stable relationships because enduring care and commitment are good for individuals, families and for the well-being of society as a whole. Contrary to what some people say, gay marriage doesn't undermine marriage, it strengthens it. At a time when large numbers of heterosexuals*

*are deserting marriage and cohabitating instead, shouldn't Conservatives see it as a good thing that many same-sex couples still believe in marriage and want to be part of it? The elimination of discrimination in marriage and partnership law is consistent with modern, liberal Conservatism, and with the Prime Minister's personal pledge to eradicate homophobia and secure gay equality."*

On 2 February 2011, the Equal Love campaign filed a legal case in the European Court of Human Rights. Bought by four same-sex couples and four opposite-sex couples, it sought to have declared illegal the UK's twin discriminations in civil marriage and civil partnership legislation. Just as same-sex couples were barred from civil marriage, opposite-sex couples were (and still are) prohibited from having a civil partnership. Our aim was to end both forms of legal discrimination.

See the Equal Love legal case here: <http://bit.ly/xJumf0>

Up until this point, David Cameron and the Conservative Party did not back equal marriage.

The main gay rights lobbying group, Stonewall, also declined to support same-sex marriage until late October 2010. It said civil partnerships were sufficient. The CEO, Ben Summerskill, incorrectly claimed there was little support for it within the LGBT

community and that many gay people opposed marriage. Both these claims were untrue.

As well as briefing against the Equal Love campaign, Stonewall also exaggerated the cost of equal marriage rights; making absurd, unfounded claims that it would cost billions of pounds.

Stonewall's refusal to support the campaign and its counter arguments were often quoted by homophobes to justify their opposition to same-sex marriage. This was hugely damaging.

Stonewall only switched to support equal marriage in late 2010, after a coalition of other organisations had done the groundwork and after they faced a huge LGBT backlash - including harsh criticism from two of their founders, Ian McKellen and Michael Cashman.

The Equal Love legal case in the European Court of Human Rights was significant. It was one of a number of factors that helped persuade the Conservatives to change their minds on same-sex marriage. Keen to de-toxify the Tory brand, David Cameron did not want to go to the European Court of Human Rights to argue in favour of homophobic discrimination in marriage law. Moreover, he knew that we might win and did not want the embarrassment of being forced by Europe to legislate equal marriage, which would have

been used against him by Euro-sceptics in his own party and by UKIP.

Subsequently, three months after we filed the European Court case, the government agreed to consult on ending the ban on same-sex marriage. A few months after that - in October 2011- David Cameron made his now famous Conservative Party conference speech where he said he supported same-sex marriage because he is a Conservative and because equal marriage is consistent with Conservative values - using very similar wording to the arguments that I had put to him and Conservative MPs the previous year.

The formation of the Coalition for Equal Marriage and Out4Marriage gave big boost to the pro-gay marriage campaign. Their lobbying had a huge positive impact; giving the push for marriage equality new momentum, as did lobbying and reporting by Benjamin Cohen of Pink News.

Securing same-sex marriage was ultimately the cumulative, collective effort of many LGBT organisations and tens of the thousands of grassroots LGBT people - and our many straight allies - who signed petitions, made submissions to the government, lobbied their MPs and wrote letters to newspapers. Bravo!

OLGA salutes Peter Tatchell and his Foundation's work...

What OLGA says...

This success of same-sex marriage despite divisions within the Gay & Trans community, underline the need for unity, and dedication to the ongoing campaign for equality and human rights for Gay & Trans people, especially in health and social care.

There is an overwhelming need for more Gay & Trans groups in the Country to get on board and do the campaign work. We

believe there is plenty of research data to prove the need. What we do not have is another group like OLGA confronting and enlightening organizations.

We feel proud of the work that OLGA has done, and we know that the challenge is still out there!

We continue to hope.....

Future Events

June 2014

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

July 2014

Monday 7th  
OLGA Social – 1pm to 4pm  
Monday 14th  
OLGA Social – 1pm to 4pm  
Monday 21st  
OLGA Social – 1pm to 4pm  
Monday 28th  
OLGA Social – 1pm to 4pm

August 2014

Monday 4th  
OLGA Social – 1pm to 4pm  
Monday 11th  
OLGA Social – 1pm to 4pm  
Monday 18th  
OLGA Social – 1pm to 4pm  
Monday 25th  
No Social – BANK HOLIDAY

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