

WANDSWORTH LGBT FORUM
GENERAL MEETING — 17th March 2011
held at PCT Wandsworth, 3rd floor, Wimbledon Bridge House, WIMBLEDON, SW19

Present - David Robson — Chairman, John Frame — Vice Chairman and Metropolitan Police Schools Liaison Officer and LGBT Liaison Coordinator, — Tom Knight – Treasurer, Graham Harris – Secretary, Colin Smith — Committee Member, Chris Gurney – Committee Member.

Guest Speakers:

Dr Sian Job, Wandsworth GP and the leading GP for the proposed Consortium around engaging with Patients and the Public

Guests: Richard Eason and Laura Fox - Richmond Upon Thames LGBT Forum, Christina Chryssanthopoulou – St. George’s Hospital, Stuart Wynn – Wandsworth Libraries, Roehampton, Hatta Hodson – Families Together, London

1 - Apologies: - Tessa Willy — Committee Member, Denny Gallagher – Committee Member, Celia Young – Committee Member, Jane Ellison - MP Battersea, Councillor John Locker, Mark Holliday – Wandsworth Council, Lucy Brooke – GAP Youth Group

David Robson (Chairman) welcomed everyone and thanked Colin Smith for allowing Wandsworth LGBT Forum to use the Meeting Room in the PCT Wandsworth for this Meeting. Colin Smith acknowledged that Wandsworth LGBT Forum is welcome to use the facilities for meetings at any time. David Robson advised the Meeting that Celia Young has stepped down from the Committee due to work commitments. David Robson explained that it was necessary to change the venue of this Meeting due to Battersea Library undergoing refurbishments. We hope to be able to return there in April and all Members will be notified in due course. He also apologised that it was necessary to cancel our Meeting in February, again due to short notice of the refurbishment of our usual venue.

2 - Minutes of General Meeting held on 23rd September 2010 –Minutes Agreed after the following alterations and additions:

Apologies were given from Colin Smith and Graham Harris – Committee members. Final paragraph, 2nd sentence to read: A Part-time worker will be found for the South West London LGBT Alliance.

3 - Matters arising from those Minutes

Item 4 – Adult Social Services – David Robson has already had one meeting and is attending another meeting with the Adult Social Services on 24th March 2011 at 2.30 pm. He will report back at the next General Meeting.

Item 5 – Crime Figures and Police Update – John Frame explained that he is still having difficulties obtaining the details requested.

Item 6(b) – 2nd paragraph. The event held by Children Services on 16th February was not specifically about Sport.

Item 6 (b) – Penultimate paragraph - Chris. Gurney is anxious to start up a Classical Gay Literature section on our website and at libraries. Members would be invited to write a short appraisal of a Gay Classic they have read and have it posted at these sites. Chris. Gurney is anxious to converse with representatives from the Library Service to decide when and where this event will take place. Hatta Hodson asked if there was any Gay literature (novels) relating to Families coming to terms with a Son or Daughter who is Gay. Chris. Gurney will investigate and report back to members on progress.

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David Robson confirmed that the theme for the meeting is 'Health - After the White Paper - how will it affect you' and introduced our Guest Speaker - Dr Sian Job, GP in Battersea who is also the lead GP for the proposed Consortium around engaging with Patients and the Public

4 - 'Health - After the White Paper - how will it affect you' – Dr. Job has spent 30 years in Battersea as a GP. Dr. Job explained that the White Paper will bring a change beyond all others. There are great concerns within the NHS but confirmed that the changes will happen whatever changes are made to the White Paper. However, the emphasis is firstly Patients needs which will come ahead of financial baselines. What is important is having more Patient involvement. It is essential Patients realise they are at the heart of decision making. There will not be any new money – just a transfer from the PCT to GP's allowing them to commission services. GP's will, in fact, "run the show". At present GP's have a very good working relationship with the PCT who currently commission the services required. Dr. Job reassured the meeting that this is not the start of privatisation as was brought in with the railways. Some strands of health (such as those who have Diabetes) are already working towards the new commissioning. There will be Local Wellbeing forums set up involving Patients, NHS and the local authorities. The new consortium will be a joint initiative involving both Patients and General Public to discuss how they create a strategy. A Steering Group is being formed to overview the £50k spend. Workshops will also be set up in May/June 2011 with Patient and Public to see what they want from the Health Service. By September/October 2011 a formal presentation will be given as the findings from the Workshop and how things will be implemented. Dr. Job went on to ask those present to give her their individual feelings about the health provision in Wandsworth and what do you want from Health providers. This question is being put to all groups. She has already heard "alarming stories" with regard to issues experienced at surgeries and access to health services. Generally those present considered that GP reception areas should give an indication they are Gay friendly - perhaps displaying the rainbow symbol. LGBT publicity should be readily available, together with notices advertising links to LGBT organisations and services in the area. Those present also want all staff within a GP surgery to have training about LGBT and the specialist attention some members of the community need. David Robson thanked Dr Sian Job for her presentation and her time. He asked her to pass on an invitation to all GP's in Wandsworth to attend our Meetings to get a better view as to what we require. It is essential that we start dialogue with Wandsworth GP's to share the views and needs of the LGBT community. Colin Smith suggested that GP's become part of the Stonewall LGBT Champions. Another suggestion is that all members should enquire at their GP Practice about the Patient's Group and see if they can become a part of it.

5 – Putney Exchange - As part of LGBT History Month John Frame went to the Exchange Shopping Mall in Putney, SW15 to display literature about homophobic Hate Crime. The Managing Agents at The Exchange had been approached prior to his visit and full details of his purpose and the literature was given. On arrival John Frame erected the LGBT Banner and was immediately summoned to the management office. He was advised that he must remove the LGBT banner as "it might upset some of our customers". They went on to say that it was not their policy to allow individual strands of diversity to advertise or promote their individual strand within The Exchange. This matter has been followed up by the Metropolitan Police who had a telephone conversation with the management. It seems the Metropolitan Police have to accept the Putney Exchange's explanation for the removal of the banner even though they are not satisfied and do not understand their rationale. The Metropolitan Police are limited to what they can do as they do not consider it to be a criminal matter and will not pursue the matter. Wandsworth LGBT Forum committee considers the actions taken by the management of The Exchange were offensive. A letter was handed to the management of The Putney Exchange by David Robson and Chris. Gurney, requesting a meeting and a copy of their policy document giving their conditions for organisations displaying material within the Exchange. Wandsworth LGBT Forum will press for a meeting with

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The Exchange management. At that meeting we will advise them the average number of LGB and T customers that visit The Exchange. If our request is ignored we shall consider our next step, which may involve the gay press. It was agreed that we go ahead with pressing for a meeting for the benefit of all the LGBT community in Wandsworth. It is part of our constitution to challenge homophobia.

6- IDAHO Day 2011 – The International Day against Homophobia is held on 17th May each year. David Robson wants us to celebrate what we have achieved with regard to fighting Homophobic Hate Crime on this day. He suggests we invite all our friends to a ‘fun’ evening of cabaret/disco. One of the difficulties is finding a suitable venue. The committee will discuss this matter with urgency to finalise a suitable venue and performers. A suggestion was put forward that we may use the Battersea Barge, a venue which is becoming very popular situated between Battersea and Vauxhall. Tom Knight volunteered to research the possibilities of using this and other venues. John Frame knows performers and will make enquiries as to their availability.

7- Committee Members reports – Tom Knight (Treasurer) is anxious to receive ideas from members as to projects for funding suggestions. John Frame gave details of incidents reported since 01 November 2011. Fourteen LGB and T incidents were reported and some were highlighted and discussed. John Frame confirmed that these numbers are above the average and considers that there are still more crimes being committed that are not being reported. John Frame reported that the DVD for schools is almost finished. It is going through the editing stage and should be finalised during week commencing 21st March with a launch within the next month. There will be met. wide distribution with Wandsworth being the pilot Borough.

8 – Any Other Business – Richard Eason (Richmond Upon Thames LGBT Forum) advised the meeting that South West London and St Georges Mental Health NHS Trust have begun a public consultation to discuss its proposals to become a Foundation Trust. Becoming a foundation Trust will enable local people to have a real say in the development of services and plans for the future at South West London and St Georges Mental Health NHS Trust. The Trust is seeking views on its future clinical services strategy and has published a discussion document ‘Making Life Better Together - Our Clinical Services Strategy’ which is available on the Trust's website. The twelve week consultation on the FT proposals will run until 27 May 2011. Richard Eason. Colin Smith agreed to speak to our contacts at Springfield Hospital. Richard Eason would like Wandsworth LGBT Forum to join them at a Community Stall at this year's London Pride on 04th July in Trafalgar Square. It had previously been agreed that we would join in the parade and activities at this year's Pride and it was agreed we would assist Richmond Upon Thames LGBT Forum as part of the South West London LGBT Forums. Richard Eason will get more information with pricings and keep us informed. Richard Eason reported that Wandsworth Street Pastors are now in Richmond Upon Thames. **Wandsworth Street Pastors** was launched in May 2008 with a team starting night-time patrols in Balham. Since then, the team has quickly expanded and has two daytime teams, patrolling from 2.00 pm - 5.30 pm in Central Wandsworth, and a further night-time team in Tooting. Their vision is to have Street Pastor teams in all the main areas of the Borough of Wandsworth. Allegedly, there is some controversy about the group in Richmond Upon Thames due to being a religious group focussing on pressurising users to join their church. It was made clear that this is not the case in other parts of Wandsworth and other areas where they have been introduced. They have linked in well in Wandsworth and work with the metropolitan police. Good reports have also been received from Kingston Upon Thames. In Hounslow, apparently, they are funded by the local Council. Richard Eason will keep an eye on the Richmond Upon Thames group and report back. It is with sadness that we have to send condolences to Family and Friends of the Rev Elder Jean White who died 8 November 2010. Rev White was pastor of Metropolitan Community Church South London at the time of her death and a great friend of Wandsworth LGBT

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Forum. Richard Eason reported that the **Food Chain** is in great need of drivers and navigators to provide a Sunday service. The Food Chain provides nutrition services including home delivered meals, essential groceries and nutrition advice to men, women and children who are chronically sick as a result of HIV related illness. All their services are funded via public donations. Those interested are asked to contact The Food Chain direct.

9 – Date of next Meeting 21st April 2011. Venue to be advised.

Criticism was levelled that we have not published the dates of our meetings for 2011. All meetings are scheduled to be held on the third Thursday of each month but subject to alteration. We have had difficulty in maintaining our meetings being held at Battersea Library due to the ongoing refurbishments. We hope to return to Battersea Library in April. Please look at our website for weekly updates.

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