



**WANDSWORTH LGBT FORUM
MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
THURSDAY 21ST JANUARY 2010
WANDSWORTH TOWN HALL**

Present: William Gallagher – Chairman
David Robson – Vice Chairman
Graham Harris – Secretary
John Frame – Committee Member
Colin Smith – Committee Member

Apologies – Jo Semlyen – Committee Member, Sue Yoxall, Community Safety, Wandsworth Council, Wilfred Carneiro, NHS, St Georges Hospital

The Meeting was opened by David Robson, Vice Chairman who welcomed all those present and asked for Introductions to be made.

Annual Report – A written report was made available to all those attending. David Robson highlighted some points within the Report and went on to confirm that it had been a very good year for the Forum. It was noted that we have a well established team. However we are still anxious to increase the number of Committee members. An invitation was extended all those present to put their name forward for election to the Committee for 2010. It was stressed that we especially need representatives who are female. Special mention was made about Idaho day. John Frame gave an account of the day and the impact that it made on those who were part of the proceedings. He went on to say that events like that are important and the IDAHO day was one of the highlights of the year. Wandsworth LGBT had sponsored a group called Gendered Intelligence to run a workshop for young people to be made aware of homophobia and hate crime. The event was a great success. We are anxious to follow this up with another workshop in 2010.

Lucie Brook, Connexions, Roehampton explained the help she had received from Wandsworth LGBT Forum in raising funds and awareness of LGBT Youth matters. Lucie Brook is in the process of setting up a LGBT Youth club and we all hope to see it open in the Spring, 2010.

Colin Smith explained that Wandsworth Primary Care Trust had applied to become part of Stonewall's Diversity Champions programme. This is a Stonewall programme in which employers can work with them, and each other, to promote lesbian, gay and bisexual equality in the workplace. A Survey form was completed and the results have only recently been announced. The PCT would value the Forum's support in becoming a "champion" and to help raise their profile in the LGBT community.

Mark Holliday, Wandsworth Council, Education Department thanked us for the links we have made within his Department and looks forward to our continued working arrangement in 2010.

Financial Report – Graham Harris (Acting Treasurer) presented the Accounts for 2009. These were accepted as the Final Accounts for the year.

Election of Committee for 2010 - William Gallagher thanked all members of the Committee for their work in 2009. Due to pressures of work William Gallagher is unable to continue in his role of Chairman as he considers he is unable to devote as much time as he would wish on the Committee. He was asked if he would consider a place on the new committee but declined due the reasons for his stepping down as Chairman. David Robson thanked William Gallagher for the way he had led the team during 2009. William Gallagher will remain an Adviser to Wandsworth LGBT on disability and domestic violence issues. Jo Semlyen, Committee member has also left due to work commitments. Jo has given Wandsworth LGBT



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Forum a great deal of support during the year and she was thanked in her absence. David Robson stated that we had lost two valuable members of our committee.

The following nominations were made and all were voted unanimously to the position stated.

David Robson	Chairman
John Frame	Vice Chairman
Graham Harris	Secretary
Colin Smith	Committee Member

A vacancy still exists for Treasurer and Graham Harris will act as Treasurer for the time being.

LGBT History Month in Wandsworth 2010 – David Robson gave a report on our involvement in LGBT History Month in Wandsworth. He explained it is an excellent method to meet the LGBT community and to network with organisations and agencies in the Borough. He invited all present to the Launch of LGBT History month in Wandsworth. We are sponsoring an exhibition of photographs depicting images of members of the ethnic community who have come out. The exhibition will be held in Battersea Library, Lavender Hill, Battersea for the whole of February 2010. The launch is on Monday 01st February with Sonalle, the photographer and other guests. Later in the month we have sponsored LGBT Cinema events in the Exhibit, Balham. These will be held every Thursday evening in February.

Mark Holliday, Wandsworth Council Education updated the meeting as to what is happening in the Education department and the work he is doing with regard to challenging homophobia in schools. Some teaching staff has problems in dealing with homophobia in schools and the work he is doing is tackling this problem. There will be a LGBT History month event on March 05th and Wandsworth LGBT Forum will be represented. David Robson suggested maybe teacher training staff at Roehampton may want to get involved and Mark Holliday will get in touch. Mark Holliday would like to get Gendered Intelligence to be involved also.

John Frame gave an update on his work towards third party reporting. It is still in progress and he hoped it would have been in place in March but it seems it will be later. All strands of diversity (Race, Age, Gender, Disability, Religion or Belief, Sexuality) want to be involved.

The Chairman of Richmond upon Thames LGBT Forum is anxious to form a partnership with Wandsworth LGBT Forum to be part of the South London LGBT Forum or to join the West London Group. Richmond upon Thames LGBT Forum is keen for more involvement with Transsexual issues across London and wants us to join them in matters arising from this. More discussions are to follow on this matter.

Mention was made about the Older Gay Group which is being run by the Opening Doors Scheme and Age Concern, Camden. We are eager to get Wandsworth involved in this scheme and will be having discussions with Age Concern and the Opening Doors Scheme in Camden.

We are still working on other events for History Month and we shall be looking for other events through the year.

Colin Smith explained that Wandsworth PCT had applied to become part of Stonewall's Diversity Champions programme. This is Britain's good practice forum in which employers can work with Stonewall, and each other, to promote lesbian, gay and bisexual equality in the workplace. A Survey form was completed throughout London and Wandsworth was marked



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in the bottom quarter. The result has only just been announced and we will help PCT to raise their profile in the LGBT community.

Wandsworth LGBT Forum has a Facebook Account and it was agreed that Colin Smith will be the official Facebook Administrator.

With no further Business the Meeting closed at 20 20.