



North Midlands LGBT Older Peoples Group

A Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO)

Registered Charity number: 1186844

Annual Report 2024

April 2023-March 2024

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About Our Charity

North Midlands LGBT Older Peoples Group (OLGBT)

Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO)

Registered Charity 1186844

Trustees: Maurice Greenham (Chair), Andrew Colclough (Vice Chair), Joe Waring (Treasurer), Stephen Malkin, Antony Forst.

Object (paragraph 3 of Constitution) Certified 19 December 2019

The object of the CIO is the promotion of social inclusion for the public benefit by working with people who are socially excluded on the grounds of their gender identity, gender expression and sexual orientation (in particular lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans people) to meet the needs of such people and assist them to fully participate in society, in particular by: (a) providing a local network group that encourages and enables LGBT+ people to participate more effectively with the wider community and (b) increasing, or co-ordinating, opportunities for LGBT+ people to engage with service providers, to enable those providers to adapt services to better meet the needs of those people.



Combatting Isolation and Loneliness

At the beginning of last year, the board developed a strategy and workplan that took into account the feedback obtained from our members. This set out our priorities for the things that we would endeavour to achieve in 2023/2024

In the reporting period from April 2023 to March 2024, the OLGBT group held 51 support meetings, of which 12 were in-person at Fenton Town Hall Café, 12 at Summer Street Community Centre, Stoke, and the remainder online via Zoom. The new regular meeting at summer Street fulfils our workplan consideration to have another in-person meeting each month and reduce our online Zoom meetings.

With financial support from the Community Health Champions scheme, we have been able to offer free lunches at all Fenton Town Hall meetings, meeting another consideration in the 2023-2024 workplan.

Events and Activities

The provisional commitment to Discover Digital in our workplan developed into a valuable partnership with the Beth Johnson Foundation (BJF) and Staffordshire University. OLGBT members gained confidence in using online tools and learned how to protect themselves from Internet fraud. Our partnership with BJF has continued with joint, monthly 'tea and tech sessions and a community library project that included creating a book of poetry 'Spilled Words'.



Trips and Outings are always popular with members, they not only fulfil the primary purpose of the charity in strengthening bonds within the group, but also enable LGBT+ people to participate more effectively with the wider community. Donations from outside sources like Berryhill Retirement Village have helped towards the cost of outings such as the day trip on the Caldon canal.



Undoubtedly, the most successful outing was the trip to London to visit Queer Britain museum and other places of LGBT+ interest. This was achieved in collaboration with Appetite based at the New Vic Theatre who organised the trip and covered its costs. On the journeys to and back from London, our members engaged with other local LGBT+ people from Staffordshire Sexual Health Charity, Students from Keele University, Appetite staff, as well as with the wider public.



Photo credit Andrew Billington andrewbillingtonphotography.com

Projects of creative arts activities have, in the past, been a way of ensuring members meet more often to engage in activities which are beneficial for their health and wellbeing. This year, we took the opportunity to work in partnership with three larger charities on a Creative Lives, Know Your Neighbourhood project that allowed OLGBT members to engage in creative activities with individuals from the Beth Johnson Foundation (BJF), the Methodist Homes Association (MHA) and Fr Hudson's Charity. OLGBT undertook the organisation and running of Singing sessions at Fenton Town Hall. The entire project was a great success with all of the charities expressing the wish to work together again.



Sing! Free fun singing sessions

Singing can:

- help improve mental alertness, memory and concentration.
- benefit our lungs and help us breathe better
- promote relaxation, release anxiety and boost our mood
- create connections with others
- be engaging and fun

Great news! It doesn't matter whether you can sing in tune or not: the health benefits will still be the same!

Who is this for? Adults of all ages, no experience necessary, just come along and have some fun singing with others.

When: Wednesdays 3.30pm to 5pm until the end of October 2023. Come to as many sessions as you like, join in on any days you choose - no booking necessary.

Where: The Ballroom, Fenton Town Hall, ST4 3AF

Sessions will be led by Paul Rogerson the inspirational conductor of Rastoke Town Choir and Up Men Choir

This project is part of a collaboration between four local charities - the Beth Johnson Foundation, Father Hudson's Care, MHA Communities North Staffordshire and North Midlands LGBT Older People's Group. Funded by Creative Lives. To contact the organiser of this event - Email: alex2020@barnal.com or Tel: 07757 750255

Singing Sessions Organized by the North Midlands LGBT Older People's Group
A Charities Incorporated Organisation (CIO) - Registered Charity Number: 1156244

Know Your Neighbourhood Celebration **Fun!**

Tuesday 13th February 10:30am - 2.00pm
The Valiant Suite, Port Vale Football Stadium

Free! Family friendly accessible activities
Free buffet lunch

Sing along with the Boat Band
Join in with Indian Dancing
Polymer Clay Modelling

For further information:
Website: www.bjf.org.uk/creative-lives
Contact: Alex Baines Tel: 07467062139
Email: alexandrabaines@fatherhudsons.org.uk

A community event supported by local organisations

A collaboration between four local charities - the Beth Johnson Foundation, Father Hudson's Care, MHA Communities North Staffordshire and North Midlands LGBT Older People's Group. Funded by Creative Lives.

The group's fifteenth anniversary is in December 2024. This has given impetus for the group to create and engage in LGBT+ history projects. In addition to the trip to Queer Britain, already mentioned, we have worked with Potboiler Theatre Gay Stoke project and the creation of an opera by B-Arts based on the history and legends around Molly Leigh. In February, LGBT+ History Month, we began work on writing a book of the history of the OLGBT Group.

OLGBT group continues to engage with the annual Stoke Pride and other LGBT events such as LGBT History Month.



Our mailing list, which is open to all adults, increased from 250 to 270. More significantly, the number of members and prospective members has risen from 60 to 104.

Sadly, our oldest member, Geraldo, died at the age of 93. Geraldo was a remarkable, vivacious character who lived life to the full. He was with us for our lunchtime meeting at Fenton Town Hall, the next morning, he died on his way to his Spanish class. Geraldo is fondly remembered and greatly missed.

Community Health Champions

The North Midlands LGBT Older Peoples Group is a partner of the Community Health Champions initiative co-ordinated by VAST.



Since participating in the NHS Community Health Champion scheme, the group has four health champions who have overseen regular health messages delivered in-person by healthcare professionals, as well as digitally through our weekly mailings and monthly newsletters. We recently published a summary of our achievements on our website - olgbtstoke.org.uk/reports

Communications

Website

Our website has been comprehensively redesigned and updated to better meet the needs of members and to promote our organisation.

Newsletter and Mailings

We have produced a Newsletter every month throughout the period and kept in touch with our members and prospective members through weekly emails as well as by phone and personal contact.

We include health information from Community Health Champions and tips from Discover Digital in every mailing.

Social Media

We now have a Facebook page and private group, a twitter account and a WhatsApp group. All have been used within the reporting period, with the WhatsApp group proving the most popular.

Phone

We have a new mobile phone staffed by volunteers which we regularly check for voicemails, texts and WhatsApp messages.

Thank you to all our members and supporters
We look forward to another successful year!

North Midlands LGBT Older Peoples Group

Finance Statement FY 01 April 2023 to 31 March 2024

(1) Income & Expenditure

	Restricted	Unrestricted	Total	Prior Year
	£	£	£	2022/23
				£
<u>Income</u>				
Donations		567	567	511
Grants	1076	<u>3000</u>	4076	<u>2454</u>
Total Income			4643	2965
<u>Expenditure</u>				
Misc, insurance etc		979	979	347
Visits		130	130	150
Project costs	702	1906	2608	<u>2675</u>
Total Expenditure			3717	3172
Surplus/-Deficit	374	552	926	-207

(2) Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2024

Bank & Cash b/f 01/04/2023	126	825	951	1158
Surplus/-Deficit for year	<u>374</u>	<u>552</u>	926	<u>-207</u>
Bank & Cash c/f 31/03/2024	500	1377	1877	951