

Older LGBT Community Subgroup Pride 2008 meeting Monday 7th April 08.

1. Subgroup Management:

It was agreed that whilst Age Concern Camden would be taking the lead in preparations for the Older LGBT Community involvement in Pride this year, it would still be very much a joint presence of all representative older LGBT community groups marching under the one combined “Older LGBT Community” banner.

2. Pride Day Activities:

Nick outlined the proposed plans for the day as follows:

Initial assembly possibly at the Quebec for a brunch, as this was a fairly close venue to the parade start point. Nick to discuss this further with James (Quebec manager) when he sees him next week. It was also felt that an alternative meeting point should be arranged around Baker St, and it was suggested The Metropolitan pub beside Baker St tube. It was agreed that we would try for these 2 venues as meeting points and then have the final meeting place (for those attending the parade) on the bus. It was agreed that there should be mobile phone numbers available though on a cautionary note it should be remembered that often mobile signals are bad on Pride day.

Nick reported that we have been promised a double decker bus (TBC), and has requested an open decked bus. There was some concern from the group that previous bus “loans” from unions were essentially a shared space on the bus which essentially left very little space. Given that our own bus would generate a lot of interest and facilitate greater involvement and participation, it was felt that the group needed to know if Older LGBT Communities would have sole use of the bus. Nick to chase this up at the Pride meeting on the 16th. The group would also look at advertising on and for the bus.

It was agreed that we would like to go for rickshaws again this year, as well as aiming for a group of walkers too, under the “Older LGBT Community” banner. Nick has sent out letters to several key venues to try and arrange some form of sponsorship of the rickshaws from the pubs. It was felt that there should be a banner at both the front of the Older LGBT Community Parade presence and at the back.

The group wanted another Older LGBT stall at this year’s rally in Trafalgar Sq, though there was some concerns as to its location last year beside a very busy stall which crowded out and put older LGBT people coming up to the stall. Nick to look at this for this year’s rally. The stall would be staffed by members from the different organisations, who would be responsible for their own information and resources.

Nick stated that he thought that there had been some talk of a larger disabled viewing platform at Trafalgar Sq which would be part of the week's other events at Trafalgar Sq, and would make enquiries as to its use for older LGBT People on the day too. Nick to chase up.

The group agreed to booking St Ann's church again this year for the relaxation space after the parade, though concerns were noted that it was felt by some to be too far to go especially on the day as Soho would be very crowded. Use of volunteers/stewards on the day to escort some of the walkers etc up to St Ann's would be useful. It was also felt that a further information stall would be of use at St Ann's.

3. Pride Theme:

Nick reported that the theme for this year's pride was Fairytales, Myths and Legends, and gave out photos of costumes that could be hired by the group on the day from a gentleman who is associated with the GEMS group down in Brighton. Roger stated concerns that making older people dress up in costumes may water down the actual meaning and impact that having older LGBT people taking part should have. Nick stated that it was the theme for Pride, and given that we were asking for front placement, really we should be seen to be entering into the spirit of things. Nick added that costumes would not be compulsory, but he hoped that enough people would wear costumes to show willing.

4. Pride Festival:

Nick mentioned that Pride were looking for additional activities to be included as part of the Pride Festival fortnight, and suggested Tuesday 24th as maybe an open summer party. Jackie from metro Centre said that the metro Centre were having their afternoon party that day. The group would have a think and bring suggestions back to the next meeting.

Date of next subgroup meeting:
Thursday 8th May 3pm to 5pm
The Margaret Hepburn Centre