

Minutes of meeting at 10 Mount Bradda, Douglas - 16th May 2007

In attendance – Steven M, Katie W, Nick B, Lee H, John B, Josh, Sam, Michael K, Debbie, Amy, Tony D, Tom, Mark D.

Social Events

In addition to the Tapas evening this Saturday (19th May) Steven has secured a venue for events to be held on the following dates – 13th July, 14th September and 21st Dec. The events are to be held at the South Douglas Old Friends Assoc. just off Prospect Hill.

There were a number of younger people in attendance who were unaware of the Carrey Friend web-site and forums, therefore out of the loop with regard to any social events that were being organised through the forums. We discussed ways in which we might advertise both the site and specifically the social events and reach out to a wider audience. Ideas for advertising included setting up a gaydar and gaydar girls profile, newspaper, radio (Energy give a certain amount of free airtime to local non-profit organisations and John B was to talk to Juan Turner re the same), mailshot and email shot from the existing CF databases.

There are a group of people organising an Alton Towers trip and in the future we might organise similar groups for Manchester / London Pride events through the forums and word of mouth.

Any ideas about themes for the forthcoming social events?

Amy mentioned that she knew the management of Clinches bar and may be able to secure it as a possible future venue.

Angela Eagle – speaker evening. Mark D had spoken to Paul B re. this and Paul is unable to devote the time which would be required in order to arrange this. For the time being, this is on hold.

Youth Groups

Tom, together with Katie, a youth worker for the West have arranged for an Issues Youth Group to be held on a weekly basis at Kensington Road Youth Centre. Initially the group would be based around an “drop in issues”. They still need to complete talks with the Dept. of Education to talk through the aims and objectives of the group and how it would be advertised.

Tom is prepared to go into schools and talk about issues surrounding homophobia and bullying at school. He will talk to the Minister directly in an attempt to formulate a policy whereby this aim can be achieved.

Visibility

The idea of a CF stall at Tynwald was discussed and Steven was to look into booking one. The idea being that we could give out leaflets / condoms and safer sex info.

and Tom or Debbie were to approach Amanda Dawson at the GUM clinic re. a supply of free condoms / lube to hand out. Tom was also to approach his contacts at Out Northwest to see if they had any materials they could give us. We also thought helium balloons would be a good addition and Tom was going to look into this. Amy mentioned that her uncle owned a copy shop and that she would be able to assist with any printed materials.

John B gave us his views about the parliamentary system and how he sees it operating and wondered why our gay parliamentarians do not come out of their closets. His experience in the UK of 30 years hence reminded him of how things are here currently on the Island. He thinks it's about time we should embarrass the House of Keys into coming clean about their stance on homosexuality, and only then will there be a groundswell of opinion strong enough to push things forward.

Steven's views were that his own focus would be better spent trying to improve the social scene for the community and that we should keep this separate from the political jibing. His ideas about visibility were more about reaching out to a wider audience and involving more of the LGBT community and forming a more stable social scene for everyone to enjoy.

Steven had written to the Douglas Library to see if they would accept edition of Out Northwest on their shelves, if successful he was going to write to the other libraries around the Island.

Someone mentioned writing to the brewery to see if they could offer any assistance with gay / gay friendly venues (can someone tell me who this was?)

Josh said he was doing the Parish walk this year and was wondering if anyone would like to join him, and that perhaps they could have some T shirts printed up, with a rainbow 3 legs.

HIV / Safer Sex

Debbie pointed out that there was very little information freely available on the Island and that there was no budget for HIV info from the Govt.

John B wondered if it would be possible to bring an international Aids conference to the Island, that way the Govt. would have to take the issues seriously.

World Aids Day – we've missed the date to apply to collect in the street. We should work more closely with the GUM clinic to organise an event for next year.

We would ask the GUM clinic for free packs of condoms / lube which could be made available at the social events.

Function of Carrey Friend

The idea of forming another charity was raised by Tom. Some of us felt that it may be fragmenting the focus slightly and that injecting new blood into the old charity and giving it a facelift was not such a bad idea. Tom was to report back after he'd spoken to Paul B and John W re. the legals etc. and decide which was the best way forward.

Mark D, the current convenor of CF expressed a willingness to hand over the convenor role to Tom, if he wanted it, giving some ownership and input to the younger community.

It was generally agreed that CF has done a lot of good work over the years, and that the website and forums were a valuable resource to the LGBT community. However, the website should have more moderators and volunteers are sought. Also, anybody with web design / html experience, who could keep the website more up to date.

Date of next meeting

Was set to Wednesday 13th June 07 at 10 Mount Bradda, Douglas. 6.30pm.

Task List

Update main site with new events calendar (MD)

Set up gaydar and fitlads.net profiles to advertise website and events (MK)

Set up gaydar girls, myspace and facebook profiles as above (Amy)

Talk to Energy re. free advertising (JB)

Check re. Clinches as possible venue (Amy)

Finalise Youth Group A&O's (Tom and Katie)

Talk to minister re. homophobia / bullying at school (Tom)

Book stall at Tynwald (SM)

Source materials for Tynwald stall (Tom, Debbie and Katie)

Report back on any reply from the Library re. mags (SM)

Letter to Brewery (??)

Ask GUM clinic for free condoms / lube packs to hand out at Tynwald and socials (Tom)