



Birmingham **LGBT**

**News from the Ageing Better
LGBT Hub
November 2017**



In this newsletter:

Trans Day of Remembrance

LGBT Hub News

Postcards With A Purpose

New Ageing Better Groups

Brum Bi Group

Hidayah

TranSpectrum

Ideas Board

Ageing Better Fund

Opportunities in the Community

BVSC 2017 Funding Fair and Marketplace Event

Catalyst Mutual Enterprise

Get Involved

Healthwatch Birmingham Community Engagement Volunteer

The last word . . .

If you would like to receive these newsletters electronically, please get in touch and I will add you to the emailing list.

Maria Hughes

Network Enabler

Ageing Better LGBT Hub

0121 643 0821

mariahughes@blgbt.org

Ageing Better LGBT Hub is run by and from Birmingham LGBT.

The Ageing Better in Birmingham programme is managed by BVSC and funded by Big Lottery Fund

Trans Day of Remembrance



Please join Birmingham LGBT in observing the Trans Day of Remembrance on 20/11/2017

Although LGBTQAI rights have progressed a lot over the past decades, Trans people worldwide still live in fear of violence and sometimes death just for being who they are.

At Birmingham LGBT, we do our best in availing a safe space for the Trans community through providing meeting spaces for Trans support community groups, a changing room, a dedicated Trans sexual health worker and a monthly trans sexual health clinic in partnership with Umbrella Sexual Health.

We would like your support in terms of attendance and solidarity for an event that we are putting up at the Birmingham LGBT Centre to mark the day.

There will be a minute of silence, a reading and light refreshments.

4:30 pm – 5:15 pm -The Café, Birmingham LGBT Centre, 38/40 Holloway Circus B1 1EQ

We will then all walk to the Pagoda Island in front the Birmingham LGBT Centre at **5:15pm** for a candle lit vigil at **5:30pm**. We look forward to seeing you there.

LGBT Hub News

Postcards With A Purpose – December 2017 to April 2018 – Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery



As part of the “Coming Out – Sexuality, Gender and Identity” programme, Postcards With A Purpose is a journey through art at 1967, with partial decriminalisation of homosexuality in the UK.

- *What did this mean at the time?*
- *How did this effect the lives of queer/ LGBT people?*
- *What if we could speak to someone who had experienced criminalisation pre-67?*

Postcards with a purpose is a bold and moving project hosted by Birmingham Museums and Art Gallery in Association with Birmingham LGBT. We are fortunate to be linked with members of the community that either remember a time before decriminalisation, or were directly affected by the legislation.

Using the postcards provided, participants can anonymously ask questions, share comments or write a message to these individuals. Your comments will be forwarded on and recipients will be invited to anonymously reply. These replies will be shared in our learning space in an ongoing conversation, evolving and changing as more people take part.

Help us create a unique piece of social history and reach out to others sharing history, emotion and memory. Ask a question . . .

Be part of *Postcards With A Purpose*

If you are a **gay or bi man** who was affected by the 1967 Act which partially decriminalised homosexuality, **or** you lived through the 50s and 60s and would like to share your **experiences of being lesbian, gay, bi and/or trans in this era** of changing rights and discrimination, would you like to take part?

This would involve being sent a list of questions and comments which you are free to answer and comment upon as you wish – and these responses will be sent back to continue the ongoing discussion. Your identity will remain anonymous and you won't be contacted any more frequently than once a month by Maria at Ageing Better LGBT Hub.

If you are interested, please get in touch with **Maria Hughes** by calling **0121 648 0821** or emailing **mariahughes@blgbt.org**

New Ageing Better Groups

We are pleased to welcome three groups who have joined the Ageing Better LGBT Hub in recent months:

Brum Bi Group

Brum Bi Group is a safe and friendly social and peer support group for people aged 18+ for anybody who fits under the bisexual umbrella, whether they identify or are questioning their sexuality/romantic life.



brumbicoffeegroup@gmail.com

<https://www.meetup.com/Brum-Bi-Group-Meetup/>

Hidayah

Hidayah is an organisation created to increase the representation, acceptance and equality of LGBT+ Muslims through providing a public face to the community and creating spaces to communicate. Hidayah runs a social meet up group for the LGBT+ Muslim community and their LGBT+ friends



info@HidayahLGBT.org

TranSpectrum

TranSpectrum is a Safe Social Space for anyone who identifies under the Trans* umbrella (as defined by Stonewall) – whether you are questioning your gender, don't fit in a box or don't want labels, or if you are comfortably identifying as anything other than Cisgender. A meet up for the whole gender spectrum.



07518 152 064 (Louie)

transpectrum@outlook.com

<https://transpectrum.wordpress.com/>

<https://www.meetup.com/TranSpectrum/>

<https://www.facebook.com/TranSpectrum/>

If your group would like to join our Ageing Better LGBT Family, please get in touch: **Maria** on **0121 648 0821** or mariahughes@blgbt.org

Ideas Board

Here are some suggestions made to the LGBT Hub recently:

A **'Coming Out'** group – for people who are considering coming out who would like to talk it through with people who have come out and have experiences to share. Coming out is not a one-time event, but a process, and anyone who is at any stage of the process would be welcome.

An **ex-military LGBT veterans group** – for people to offer mutual support and share their experiences of being out or not-out in the military.

A **watercolour classes group** - taking part in a series of classes on how to paint with watercolours, leading to a group which meets socially to paint, swap tips and share their work.

Do you have an idea of a group or activity you'd like to take part in? Get in touch with your ideas! You might be inspired to set one up yourself, with financial and practical support from the Ageing Better LGBT Hub (see below).

Get in touch: **Maria** on **0121 648 0821** or **mariahughes@blgbt.org**

Ageing Better Fund

Have you been inspired by the activities you've seen in this newsletter?

If you need resources to run group activities, you can apply to the Ageing Better Fund.

Unlike the requirements of a lot of other small funds, the group doesn't need to be 'formally constituted' or have a bank account. What it does need is a good idea which is costed out and the support of three or four people aged 50 or over who agree they would take part in the funded events.

Contact Maria to discuss what you need to complete the application.

Forthcoming deadlines for applications to the Ageing Better Fund:

- Monday 4th December
- Thursday 4th January
- Wednesday 14th February

You can also find out more about the Ageing Better Fund here:

<https://www.ageingbetterinbirmingham.co.uk/fund>

Opportunities in the Community

BVSC 2017 Funding Fair and Marketplace Event

Tuesday 28th November

Drop-in between 11am and 3pm

BVSC, 138 Digbeth, Birmingham B5 6DR

Following the success of our 2016 event, we're repeating it! Come and meet a range of funders who are actively investing in community groups in this region. We'll also be showcasing all that BVSC has to offer through its projects and services.

The Funding Fair will include the following exhibitors:

- Big Lottery
- Heritage Lottery Fund
- BBC Children in Need
- Matt Kendall Foundation
- Ageing Better Fund
- Heart of England Community Foundation (including Harry Payne)
- Birmingham Community Matters

Meet BVSC staff and find out more about our projects, including Ageing Better in Birmingham.

This is a drop-in event, but registration will help BVSC plan for busier times. You can register online here: <https://www.bvsc.org/funding-fair-and-marketplace-event> or call **0121 643 4343** or email comms@bvsc.org

Catalyst Mutual Enterprise

Catalyst Mutual Enterprise CIC runs FREE energy advice and Smart Meter awareness sessions for people over 65. The sessions last about 45-60 minutes, with useful information and the offer of one-to-one home visits.

If you would like them to run a session at your group, please contact **Philip Hartley** on **0121 607 1798, 07833 059 293** or philip.hartley@catalystcic.co.uk

Get Involved

Help us improve local
health and social care . . .



Become a Community Engagement Volunteer

Healthwatch Birmingham's aim is to be a visible and accessible presence in local communities, so people can share their experiences of health and social care where they live.

We need you!

- Do you want to make a positive difference in your local community?
- Do you want to ensure people feel listened to, involved and empowered to help influence better services?
- Would you like to build your skills and knowledge in health and social care?

We need individuals with a passion for working with the public in community settings. Volunteers can make a difference to health and social care services by gathering public experience and supporting our research and investigations.

Email: info@healthwatchbirmingham.co.uk

Call: 0800 652 5278 or 0121 636 0990

Visit: www.healthwatchbirmingham.co.uk/volunteers

The last word . . .

TRANS RIGHTS ARE HUMAN RIGHTS



International Trans Day of Remembrance

<https://tdor.info/>

Human Rights Campaign

<https://www.hrc.org/campaigns/transgender-day-remembrance>

Stonewall

<https://www.stonewall.org.uk/our-work/blog/trans-day-remembrance>