

NORTH MIDLANDS LGBT OLDER PEOPLES GROUP

England & Wales · Charity number 1186844

Details

Status Registered

Legal form CIO

Registered 2019-12-09

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

Contact

Address 1 Linley Road
Stoke-On-Trent
ST4 6AX

Phone 07757750255

Email olgbt2009@gmail.com

Website <http://olgbtstoke.org.uk/>

Activities

Objects: 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.

Activities: The Group provides a local network that encourages and enables LGBT people to participate more effectively with the wider community; and works to increase, and co-ordinate opportunities for LGBT people to engage with service providers. We are a self-help group that offers mutual peer support in regular meetings and through programmes of social, cultural & creative activities.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information, Acts As An Umbrella Or Resource Body
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes, The Advancement Of Health Or Saving Of Lives, Disability, Human Rights/religious Or Racial Harmony/equality Or Diversity
- **Who:** Elderly/old People, People With Disabilities, Other Defined Groups

Geography

- Staffordshire
- Stoke-on-trent City

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£41,125	£12,211	-	-
2024-04-01	£4,643	£3,717	-	-
2023-04-01	£2,965	£3,172	-	-
2022-04-01	£541	£556	-	-
2021-04-01	£5,625	£5,105	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
MAURICE ALFRED GREENHAM BA, LLCM	Chair	2020-07-20
Andrew Colclough		2021-05-18
Joe Waring		2021-05-18
PAUL TIMOTHY SMITH		2024-06-10
STEPHEN MALKIN		2020-07-20

NORTH MIDLANDS LGBT OLDER PEOPLES GROUP

England & Wales - Charity number 1186844

Accounts



North Midlands

Annual Report 2025

April 2024 - March 2025

North Midlands LGBT+ Older Peoples Group

A Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO)

Registered Charity number: 1186844

Web: olgbtstoke.org.uk Email: olgbt2009@gmail.com



facebook.com/OLGBT



[@OLGBT_N_Staffs](https://twitter.com/OLGBT_N_Staffs)

Tel: 07757 750255 (please text us or leave a voice message)

Postal Address: 1 Linley Road, Stoke-on-Trent, ST4 6AX



Supported using public funding by
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**



Funded by
UK Government

About Our Charity

North Midlands LGBT+ Older Peoples Group (Also known as OLGBT+) Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO)

Registered Charity 1186844

Trustees: Maurice Greenham (Chair), Andrew Colclough (Vice Chair), Joseph Waring (Treasurer), Stephen Malkin, Paul Smith

Governance -The charity is operated under the rules of its constitution adopted 9th December 2019.

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



Members at our January social meeting at Fenton Town Hall with guest speaker Craig from Citizens Advice Staffordshire North and Stoke-on-Trent Victims Gateway.

In the reporting period from April 2024 to March 2025, the OLGBT group held 52 support meetings, of which 12 were in-person at Fenton Town Hall Café at lunchtime, 12 at Summer Street Community Centre, Stoke in the evening, 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.

Back in 2023, the board developed a strategy and workplan that considered the feedback obtained from our members. This set out our priorities for the things that we would endeavour to achieve in the forthcoming years. Funding from the National Lottery Community Fund, The Arts Council, the LGBT Consortium, VAST and Stoke City Council has enabled to the group to pursue its objectives of public benefit.

Healthcare and wellbeing messages have been carried throughout the period in our weekly mailings and monthly newsletters.

In December 2024, the North Midlands LGBT+ Older Peoples Group celebrated its 15th anniversary. The celebration event also included the launch of a commemorative book of the history of the group.



Celebration event December 2024 at which the history book pictured was launched – photo from [an album](#) specially created by [Ruby Nixon](#)

We also created a video presentation of our fifteen year history which you can view here:

<https://olgbtstoke.org.uk/celebrating-fifteen-years>

Partnerships

The group has benefitted from partnership working with a several larger charities and arts organisations. Members participated in a theatre project with [B-Arts](#) - Who is Molly Leigh?



Members also participated in partnership working with Potboiler Theatre as part of the 'Gay Stoke' project, which culminated in a highly professional production of 'Stories from the Heart' in Fenton Townhall Ballroom. Attendees included the Lord Mayor of Stoke on Trent.



Potboiler Theatre Gay Stoke – Stories from the Heart – photo [Jenny Harper](#)



OLGBT+ with Potboiler Theatre – Stories from the Heart – photo Jenny Harper

The group has continued working with the Beth Johnson Foundation, supporting their monthly Tea and Tech sessions and other projects like Tackling Loneliness and Isolation.

Our most recent partnership has been with [GRAIN Photography](#) – a collaboration which began with the LGBT+ Memory Fair at Hanley and Stoke Libraries and brought in members of the local community in addition to our own members.



Group members together with Stoke on Trent Lord Mayor Cllr. Lyn Sharpe

Community Health Champions

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

We have continued our participation 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. A summary of our achievements can be viewed on our website - olgbtstoke.org.uk/reports

In addition, we are participating in the CHC Tackling Health Inequalities Grants Programme which provides funding to support Community Health Champions to identify and develop a small number of projects aimed at addressing health inequalities affecting our community in Stoke-on-Trent. Our small research project aims to gather data OLGBT+ members' experience of three areas of health inequalities. The result of the first survey on Adult Social Care can be viewed [here](#)

Financial support from the Community Health Champions scheme, has allowed us to continue offering free lunches at all Fenton Town Hall meetings, which has helped members to cope with the rising costs of living. Our social lunch gatherings are extremely popular and help us achieve our core aim of combatting isolation and loneliness.



Supporting projects tackling Health Inequalities in Stoke-on-Trent

Projects

A National Lottery, Awards for All grant has provided funding for a two-year project of creative arts workshops and outings. The first workshops with local textile artist Jane Titley were held under the title 'Rainbow Threads' and have already encouraged some amazing creativity from group members and the wider community.



A selection of Rainbow Threads pennants created by OLGBT+ and other organisations

Outings

Trips to Manchester and Birmingham focused on LGBT+ culture and history with a full itinerary, meticulously planned by member Jerome. In both cities, members had conducted tours of art galleries and museums as well as library archives.



LGBT+ tour of Manchester Art Gallery in November 2024

Excursions to Biddulph Grange, Little Moreton Hall, and Sudbury Hall were of a more relaxed social nature that promoted group cohesion and members' confidence to engage with the wider community in places of historical interest and natural beauty.



Lunch at Biddulph Grange – September 2024

Our annual outing in August on the Caldon Canal was blessed with fine weather and allowed members to spend time together in the safe, healthy, friendly environment of the narrowboat Beatrice. For the first time, the boat was skippered by a female volunteer.

Theatre Trips

Since coming out of the COVID pandemic, our members have shown increasing interest and growing confidence to see live performances together as a group. In July 2024 members attended a performance at the New Vic of Joe Orton's classic play, *What the Butler Saw*, our first outing paid for by the two-year lottery award. One member said he hadn't laughed so much since the last show we saw at the New Vic... 'One Man Two Guvvners'. In October, members enjoyed visits to the New Vic to see *Company of Wolves* and *Rock of Ages* at the Regent Theatre, Hanley in which one of our members took part.



Members also organised visits amongst themselves to Birmingham Rep to see *Becoming Nancy*. The trend continued in 2025 with an invitation to the New Vic Theatre to watch the dress rehearsal of 'The Last Quiz Show on Earth' and an organised outing to see *The Miner Birds* about the miners' strike in 1984.



Cast of the *Miner Birds* outside the actual caravan used by the North Staffs Miners' Wives

Stoke Pride 2024

OLGBT+ had three pitches at Stoke Pride 2024. Our stalls saw a steady stream of visitors throughout the day. In spite of inclement weather, some members took part in the parade whilst others tried to protect displays from the water seeping through the gazebos. We definitely need waterproof gazebos for the future. With increased attendance and the largest parade to date...Stoke Pride 2024 was an undoubted success.



Lining up for the parade for Stoke Pride in Hanley Park

We also had a small presence at Stafford Pride – their first. The organisers are to be congratulated in their meticulous planning that led to a smoothly run and successful event.



Stafford Pride 2024

Exhibition

With the assistance of Shiobhan and her team at B-Arts, we were able to mount a public exhibition of the artwork of our late and much-loved member Angie Boote. It was fitting that the exhibition was held in June, alongside Stoke Pride, and uplifting to know that over 100 people visited the exhibition.



Allies

We are fortunate to have a number of allies, amongst them is Berryhill Retirement Village who gave donations and made items for sale to raise funds for OLGBT+ The amount shown on the giant cheque was surpassed with further contributions on the day.



Cheque presentation at Berryhill Retirement Village

Communications

Website

Our website has been comprehensively redesigned and updated to better meet the needs of members and to promote our organisation. In the past year, we have added a history timeline, which has attracted attention not only within the local LGBT+ community, but also to a much wider audience. [Local LGBT+ History Timeline](#)

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.

Our mailing list, which is open to all adults, increased from 270 to 333.

Social Media

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

Phone

Our mobile phone is staffed by volunteers and regularly checked for voicemails, texts and WhatsApp messages.

Financial Statement (Appended)

The appended financial statement sets out our income and expenditure for the financial year April 2024 to March 2025.

We are grateful to the following for the grants we have received in the financial year 2024/25

Grants received £1,000 or more 2024/25

- Awards for All (The National Lottery Community Fund) - **£18,415**, a two year grant to be spent by 28th May 2026)
- Arts Council - **£13,500** for our photography based history project in partnership with GRAIN Photography which will conclude in financial year 2025/26
- Consortium LGBT+ Futures: Equity Fund (Consortium of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Voluntary and Community Organisations) - **£4,740**, to be spent by 30th October 2025
- Stoke-on-Trent City Council / UK Government (Small Community and Heritage Assets Grant) - **£3,180** (fully spent)
- VAST Health Inequalities - **£1,218** (fully spent)

Thank you also to all the individuals and organisations that have donated smaller amounts. Every penny donated is used to benefit our members. Thank you!

**Thank you to all our members and supporters,
we look forward to another successful year!**

**Independent examiner's report to the trustees' of
North Midlands LGBT+ Older Peoples Group
for the year ended 31 March 2025**

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the period ended 1 April 2025 which are set out on pages 7 to 9.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

As the charity's trustees of The North Midlands LGBT+ Older Peoples Group, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').


I report in respect of my examination of The North Midlands LGBT Older Peoples Group accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. Accounting records were not kept in respect of The North Midlands LGBT Older Peoples Group as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed  _____ Date 02/08/25
Daryl Denson ACMA
VAST


**North Midlands LGBT+ Older People Group
Receipts & Payments account
for the year ended 31 March 2025**

	<i>Unrestricted</i>	<i>Restricted</i>	2025	2024
	£	£	£	£
Receipts				
Donations	1,327	-	1,327	567
Grants	-	39,703	39,703	4,076
Bank interest	95	-	95	-
Total receipts	1,422	39,703	41,125	4,643
Payments				
Misc, insurance etc	176	-	176	979
Visits	-	9,885	9,885	130
Project costs	176	1,974	2,150	2,608
Total payments	352	11,859	12,211	3,717
Net receipts/(payments)	1,070	27,844	28,914	926
Cash funds at start of this period	1,377	500	1,877	951
Cash funds at end of this period	2,447	28,344	30,791	1,877

**North Midlands LGBT+ Older Peoples Group
Statement of Assets and Liabilities
at 31 March 2025**

	2025	2024
Cash assets	£	£
Current account	505	1,852
Savings Account	30,286	25
	30,791	1,877

These financial statements are accepted on behalf of the organisation by:

Signed  Date 02/08/25
Maurice Greenham (Aug 2, 2025 07:55:28 GMT+1)

Name - Maurice Greenham

Position - Chair

North Midlands LGBT+ Older Peoples Group
Notes to the accounts
for the year ended 31 March 2025

1. Receipts & payments accounts

Receipts and payments accounts are statements that summarise the movement of cash into and out of the organisation during the financial year. In this context “cash” includes cash equivalents, for example, bank accounts where cash can be readily withdrawn to pay for debts as they become due.

2. Creditors

	2025	2024
	£	
Accountancy	-	-
	-	-
	-	-

3. Funds

	Funds b/f	Income	Expenses	Funds c/f
	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted				
General Funds	1,377	1,422	(352)	2,447
	1,377	1,422	(352)	2,447
Restricted				
Awards for All	-	18,415	(6,315)	12,100
All the Small Things	500	-	(500)	-
Arts Council	-	12,150	-	12,150
Consortium LGBT+Futures	-	4,740	(646)	4,094
Stoke-on-Trent City Council	-	3,180	(3,180)	-
VAST Health Inequalities	-	1,218	(1,218)	-
	500	39,703	(11,859)	28,344
Total	1,877	41,125	(12,211)	30,791









OLGBT+ 2025 final accounts

Final Audit Report

2025-08-02

Created:	2025-08-01
By:	VAST Accounts (accounts@vast.org.uk)
Status:	Signed
Transaction ID:	CBJCHBCAABAAzCnRXpkAEIgwJq12KxWVzkRfRcZVarCC

"OLGBT+ 2025 final accounts" History

-  Document created by VAST Accounts (accounts@vast.org.uk)
2025-08-01 - 5:37:13 PM GMT- IP address: 82.31.1.14
-  Document emailed to Maurice Greenham (maurice.greenham@gmail.com) for signature
2025-08-01 - 5:37:21 PM GMT
-  Email viewed by Maurice Greenham (maurice.greenham@gmail.com)
2025-08-01 - 5:37:29 PM GMT- IP address: 142.250.32.3
-  Document e-signed by Maurice Greenham (maurice.greenham@gmail.com)
Signature Date: 2025-08-02 - 6:55:28 AM GMT - Time Source: server- IP address: 31.48.70.164
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2025-08-02 - 6:55:31 AM GMT
-  Email viewed by Daryl Denson (daryl.denson@vast.org.uk)
2025-08-02 - 7:21:21 AM GMT- IP address: 31.94.15.32
-  Document e-signed by Daryl Denson (daryl.denson@vast.org.uk)
Signature Date: 2025-08-02 - 7:22:06 AM GMT - Time Source: server- IP address: 31.94.15.32
-  Agreement completed.
2025-08-02 - 7:22:06 AM GMT

NORTH MIDLANDS LGBT OLDER PEOPLES GROUP

England & Wales - Charity number 1186844

Accounts



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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[facebook.com/OLGBT](https://www.facebook.com/OLGBT)



[@OLGBT_N_Staffs](https://twitter.com/OLGBT_N_Staffs)

Tel: 07757 750255 (please text us or leave a voice message)

Postal Address: 1 Linley Road, Stoke-on-Trent, ST4 6AX

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@gmail.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

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England & Wales - Charity number 1186844

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North Midlands LGBT Older Peoples Group

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Registered Charity number: 1186844

Annual Report 2023

April 2022 - March 2023

(DRAFT V2)

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Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO)

Registered Charity 1186844

Trustees: Maurice Greenham (Chair), Andrew Colclough (Vice Chair), Joe Waring (Treasurer), John Miller (Secretary), Angie Boote, Stephen Malkin.

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

In the reporting period from April 2022 to March 2023, the OLGBT group held 51 support meetings, of which 12 were in-person at Fenton Town Hall Café, the remainder online via Zoom. Our mailing list, which is open to all adults, increased significantly from 200 to 250 (25%). Similarly, the number of members and prospective members has risen by 20% (60). Sadly, one of our members and stalwart trustee died. Angie is fondly remembered and greatly missed.



Reclaim LGBTQI Mental Health Project



Members of the Group participated in RECLAIM – a mental health project organised in partnership with The Cultural Sisters and the ceramic artist Sarah Fraser. The project was successfully completed in April 2022.

The project explored connections between creativity and mental health through the transformation of clay. We used reclaimed clay to create objects together and explored the process of clay drying, dissolving and becoming soft and pliable again. As we created together we reflected on the emerging conflict in Ukraine. The project had a powerful impact on all involved.

A short film recording the project can be viewed on our website olgbtstoke.org.uk/2022-reclaim



Discover Digital

In 2022 we took part in a new local initiative called Discover Digital. This project aimed to boost “Digital Inclusion” in Stoke-on-Trent by helping people make the best use of the internet. Discover Digital was funded by the UK Government Community Renewal Fund distributed through Stoke-on-Trent City Council.

The Beth Johnson Foundation worked with OLGBT to support learning digital skills through engagements events and workshops including:

- An initial engagement event
- An online safety workshop
- A social media workshop

To support members’ ongoing learning we purchased a new smartphone and set up our own WhatsApp chat group.

We also obtained a Discover Digital grant from the Community Foundation which enabled us to comprehensively update and redesign our website including making it more accessible and mobile friendly.

The Discover Digital project was time limited but BJB have continued to work with us to offer support through a monthly “Tea and Tech” drop-in.





Tea and Tech session at Beth Johnson Foundation February 2023

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 now 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.

The first grant we received in 2022 enabled us to purchase a portable display board and folding table to help with health promotion. This was part of the re-launch of our in-person meetings following the end of the Covid lockdowns.

In 2023 we received a more substantial grant enabling us to extend our monthly meetings at The Café in Fenton to include a free buffet lunch and a speaker on a health related topic.



We continue to promote health and wellbeing through our online and in person meetings. We also post health messages in our WhatsApp chat and include information in our newsletter and other electronic mailings.



Photo of Community Health Champions with presenters on cancer screening at OLGBT meeting – March 2023 Newsletter

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.

Phone

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

Events and Activities

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



OLGBT Marching banner in the Stoke Pride Parade 2022

For the first time since the start of the pandemic, the group was able to organise a canal trip on the Caldon Canal.



Stop for lunch – canal trip on the Caldon Canal, August 2022

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 2022 to 31 March 2023

(1) Income & Expenditure

	Restricted	Unrestricted	Total	Last Year
	£	£	£	2021/22
				£
<u>Income</u>				
Donations		511	511	194
Grants	2454		<u>2454</u>	<u>347</u>
Total Income			2965	541
<u>Expenditure</u>				
Misc, insurance etc		347	347	286
Visits		150	150	270
Project costs	2675		<u>2675</u>	<u>0</u>
Total Expenditure			3172	556
Surplus/-Deficit	-221	14	-207	-15

(2) Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2023

Bank & Cash b/f	347	811	1158	1173
Surplus/-Deficit for year	<u>-221</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>-207</u>	<u>-15</u>
Bank& Cash c/f	126	825	951	1158

NORTH MIDLANDS LGBT OLDER PEOPLES GROUP

England & Wales - Charity number 1186844

Accounts

Trustees Annual Report 2021 -2022

North Midlands LGBT Older Peoples Groups

Charity 1186844

Trustees: Maurice Greenham (Chair), Andrew Colclough (Vice Chair), Joe Waring (Treasurer), John Miller (Secretary), Angie Boote, Dennis Layton, Stephen Malkin, Sue Wright

Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) – Association Model

We are a volunteer led group whose trustees are elected by its members.

Since the last Annual Report, the charity has continued to hold weekly meetings online. With the easing of coronavirus restrictions, we now have a hybrid system with one in-person meeting each month at Fenton Town Hall. The relaxation of COVID rules also allowed members and friends to meet outdoors with picnics in Longton and Burslem Parks.



Membership has increased and the mailing list has now surpassed 200 subscribers. This year, we have the strongest and most diverse Board ever. The number of trustees has increased, and we have appointed our first Vice Chair.

We had a presence at Stoke Pride 2021 that promoted the work of the charity and provided the opportunity to interact with other charities and healthcare organisations.



As part of the *British Ceramics Biennial (BCB)*, group members and friends took part in a creative ceramics project: *Stoke Makes Plates*. Not only were our plates exhibited in the 2021 BCB exhibition, but also, were amongst those chosen to be part of a small touring exhibition.



Similarly, in early 2022, we collaborated with The Cultural Sisters in an LGBTQ+ mental health project: RECLAIM. This imaginative ceramic project involved the creative reclamation of previously used clay.



Thanks to the generosity of a local benefactor, members had free tickets to theatre productions, including *Unforgotten Heroes* at the Mitchell Arts Centre. Other members engaged with the Restoke Choir and FRONTLINEdance in live workshops and performances at Keele University Chapel. Both events were part of a programme to accompany Luke Jeram's art installation *GAIA*. This programme organised by Appetite Stoke and ArtsKeele saw group members engaging with the wider community in social and cultural activities.



On World AIDS day 2021, the group showed solidarity with the local HIV+ community by participating in a candlelight vigil in Hanley for the first time since the start of the pandemic.

During the latter part of the reporting period, the charity participated in a local health project and were awarded funds to become Community Health Champions. Community Health Champions are local volunteers who help improve the health and wellbeing of people in Stoke-on-Trent. The project aims to help people better understand health issues and to share clear and accurate health information in their communities.



The charity's main project over the past year was OLGBT MIND-MATTERS, designed to help maintain members' mental health and wellbeing during the COVID crisis. The six-month project funded by the Government and the National Lottery, saw members engaging with local artists and members of the wider community in online workshops covering four craft activities and four performing arts activities. Post project evaluation indicated, members and allies had benefitted enormously from the creative activities; not only did participants report having enjoyed exploring this wide range of options, but that they felt less isolated and more in connected.



Other activities have included a group outing to see *Beauty and the Beast* at the New Vic Theatre. We were also invited to the theatre for a dress rehearsal of *As You Like It* as well as a rehearsed reading of *Confetti* in the theatre's Stephen Joseph Studio.



As a founder member of the Local Equalities Advisory Form (LEAF) the charity has engaged with NHS commissioners and other organisations to advocate better understanding of issues affecting older LGBT+ people.

Throughout the year, the charity has regularly updated its website and social media accounts, as well as responding positively to multiple requests from individuals and organisations wishing to engage with or access older LGBT+ peer support.

The forgoing report indicates the pursuance of the Charity's principal objects of promoting social inclusion for the public benefit to fully participate in society. In particular, by providing a network group that encourages and enables older LGBT people to participate more effectively in the wider community and increases opportunities to engage with service providers to better meet their needs.

Looking towards the next year, the group intends to include the following activities.

- More in person meetings (regular or ad hoc)
- Discover Digital
- Community Health Champions
- Website makeover
- New mobile phone and WhatsApp group
- Development of Helpers
- Launch a two-year programme of creative arts activities and outings.

North Midlands LGBT Older Peoples Group

Finance Statement FY 01 April 2021 to 31 March 2022

(1) Income & Expenditure

	Restricted £	Unrestricted £	Total £
<u>Income</u>			
Donations		194	194
Grants	347		347
Total Income			541
<u>Expenditure</u>			
Misc, insurance etc		286	286
Visits		270	270
Project costs			
Total Expenditure			556
Surplus/-Deficit	347	-362	-15

(2) Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2021

Bank & Cash b/f		1173	1173
Surplus/-Deficit for year	<u>347</u>	<u>-362</u>	<u>-15</u>
Bank& Cash c/f	347	811	1158

NORTH MIDLANDS LGBT OLDER PEOPLES GROUP

England & Wales - Charity number 1186844

Accounts

Trustees Annual Report 2020 -2021

North Midlands LGBT Older Peoples Groups

Charity 1186844

Trustees: Maurice Greenham (Chair), Paul Segynowycz (Treasurer), John Miller (Secretary), Angie Boote, Dennis Layton, Stephen Malkin, Andrew Colclough

Charitable Incorporated Organisation – Association Model

A volunteer led group whose trustees are elected by its members – In the past year, all activities including monthly Board meetings have been held online

The last twelve months has tested the resilience of the group with a second wave of the coronavirus leading to a prolonged lockdown. Members have met these challenges with remarkable good will and a generous spirit of cooperation. There has been consistent support for the programme of online activities we have been able to offer thanks to a successful project funded with a grant from the National Lottery Community Fund and the Government.

The group can now record passing its one-year milestone as a registered charity: Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) 1186844 (9 December 2019)

OLGBT MIND-MATTERS Project was awarded £5000 from the Coronavirus Community Support Fund to help with people's mental health and wellbeing. We can report that the project was completed on time and on budget. In total 47 participants attended at least one session; some were attracted to one activity more than another. All feedback from the four craft workshops and four performing arts series of workshops was positive. Realizing that not everyone was in the fortunate position of having a supportive organisation during the pandemic, all workshops and social Zoom sessions were made available to members of the wider public who felt they might benefit from our programme of creative and social activities. This explains the higher number of participants than normal and is in furtherance of our public benefit objective to integrate with the wider community. Moving our monthly group meetings to weekly ones online, increased opportunities for people to engage socially from 12 to 52...more than a fourfold increase.

Stoke Pride 2020 was cancelled because of the pandemic and the online version only had one contributor – this group. Preparations are underway for a better organised online Stoke Pride 2021, and we have been working on making a video of the OLGBT group's activities throughout the past year as our contribution.

As full members of the LGBT Consortium we benefitted from its advice and trustee training in conjunction with the Small Charities Coalition. As a result, our trustees are better

prepared to understand and undertake their roles and responsibilities. In addition, we now have a set of policies in place which we intend to review annually and update when needed. We can also be confident that all activities have directed at the charity's chief beneficiaries (older LGBT people) as well as for the wider public benefit.

Maurice Greenham (Chair)

