



With 26 members, three facilitators and four therapists, it was almost a full house for the spring Living-Proof weekend. Whilst we weren't exactly blessed with the best of weather, this didn't dampen the spirits of the diverse group of old and new members at the March weekend. It was amazing to see how quickly people responded in a sensitive and supportive way to personal accounts of living with HIV that fused people of different ages, genders, and backgrounds into a well-functioning group.

Thanks to everyone's willingness to participate fully, the magical, warm, supportive atmosphere that is the hallmark of every Living-Proof weekend was soon evident. Tribute for the weekend's success should be paid to those who took on tasks that helped its smooth running ...like Karl and Sean who ran the raffle which raised £177. ..and Barry and Baz who gave us the most amusing and entertaining Bingo session imaginable. Words of gratitude and praise for the facilitators and therapists poured out of the completed evaluation sheets along with sincere notes of appreciation regarding the high standard of care from Simon and the Shallowford House staff, as well as the excellent cuisine under chef Roger.

Subsidised places

As you may know, the Elton John AIDS Foundation award scheme ends this year. However, with the help of a professional fund-raiser, Andrew Farrow, we have secured some new grants. We have been successful with our bids to the Make A Difference Trust (MAD) and Gilead, which will allow us to offer fully funded places to a limited number of people associated with the British arts and entertainments community as well as half-price places for existing members on a first come basis. More details are available in the enclosed letter, by telephoning 07967 430797 or by emailing mail@nltsg.org.uk.

This is the first time that the newsletter has carried a group photograph. So a big thank you to everyone who bravely agreed to show their faces. Finally, an even bigger thanks to everyone for making the weekend such a great success.

Maurice

HIV Activists Network

Do you ever find yourself getting frustrated by cuts in Government spending? Maybe you're worried that local services may suffer because money earmarked for HIV Support is no longer ring-fenced? If the answer to any of these questions is YES, then you should consider joining the HIV Activists Network.

If you are interested in joining the 'HIV Activists Network' or simply want to find out more, you can email:

HIVactivist@nat.org.uk or call 020 7814 6767 or go to www.nat.org.uk

Mission Statement

Over a period of time the Board of Trustees have been working on their vision for NLTSG and planning for the future. The bed-rock for this is our newly written Mission Statement:

The National Long Term Survivors Group is a user-led organisation for people who have been living long-term with HIV.

We promote positive living by facilitating peer support, challenging isolation and empowering people to build networks.

We are passionately committed to the equality, diversity and human rights of all people living with HIV.

Baseline Weekends

These weekends offer people living with or affected by HIV an opportunity to challenge themselves in a safe environment whilst enjoying a chance to socialise with others in a similar situation.

The locations are breathtakingly beautiful. You get two night's youth hostel accommodation, meals, two days of guided walks and the chance to meet new friends. Thanks to the kind support of Baseline magazine, the weekends are subsidised so you only pay £85 for the whole weekend. The weekends are open to all regardless of

age (must be over 18), sexuality, ethnic background or HIV status.

For full details visit:

www.largeoutdoors.com/Baseline

Shropshire

When Shropshire Buddies & Body Positive ceased to operate in July 2010, they awarded £1,000 to NLTSG for the benefit of their Shropshire service users. There is still funds in this ring-fenced account for fully funded places for former SB&BP service users.

Fund Raising

You can now donate by PayPal on the Group's website at:

<http://www.nltsg.org.uk/donations.htm>

Keeping in touch

Join the Yahoo group to keep in touch

<http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/nltsgmembers/>

Find us on Facebook – National Long Term Survivors Group. Our Facebook page needs people to "like" the page - the more who "like" it; the more it raises our profile.

Weekend Dates

2011

8 – 10 July
23 – 26 Sept
16 – 18 Dec

2012

23 – 25 March
6 – 8 July
28 – 30 Sept
14 – 16 Dec

