

FULL HOUSE!

Well, certainly all the bedrooms were taken. There were 27 members who had booked places along with 3 facilitators and 4 therapists. Even the 'Harry Potter' room, not normally used because of its small size, was pressed into service by a member who preferred it as an alternative to sharing. The summerhouse on the edge of the side lawn provided an ideal place for individual counselling, made more agreeable with the light and warmth of real summer sunshine. Yes, for once, it really was a hot weekend. Even seasoned travellers were caught without their sun block.

There was a fairly even mix of old and new members with existing members slightly predominating. There was also a good spread of ages, and people coming from most parts of the UK including Scotland and Wales. By contrast, the ethnic and gender composition of the weekend was rather narrow. Only the presence of Joy as a therapist prevented it from being an all white weekend and we had only one female member present. (Tina had to cancel last minute due to ill health – get well soon Tina!)

Thanks to everyone who contributed prizes to the raffle and for generously buying tickets, with special thanks to Sally and Carl for taking charge. The amount raised was £201.50 Great! Danny took masterful control of the bingo games that followed the raffle draw, ensuring that all had a fun time. At least two people, one of whom was me, had only one number to go for a full house ...but it was Stella who won. Unbelievably I was also one of the last persons standing in the stand-up bingo...this time, though, it was Neil who got the jackpot.

Sometimes it seems impossible that such a diverse group of individuals with widely differing personal support needs could benefit in any significant way in such a short space of time.

Nevertheless, almost like magic, it happened. At the closing circle and in the evaluation forms, people expressed their appreciation and gratitude for a 'great, fantastic and wonderful' time, which ended, for some, much too soon.



Maurice

AGM

Although there were fewer people present in the room, the increased number of members sending in proxy votes meant that more members participated in the meeting than last year. At the request of the Chair, the formalities of appointing tellers, accepting minutes, approving annual reports and nominating an Independent Examiner were dealt with by a show of hands. The election of trustees and two resolutions were put to a secret ballot.

The resolution, proposed by the Chair on behalf of the Board to amend the constitution to allow notification of AGMs by email was passed unanimously. The proposal by Anthony Philips to set up a team of volunteers to fundraise for the NLTSG was also accepted (23 votes for, 7 against)

All candidates standing for Trustees were elected with substantial number of votes above the required 50%. The Chair expressed thanks for a well prepared AGM and thanked the members for their attendance.

The Board would also like to thank Stewart Selby for his dedicated, enthusiastic work as he stands down from being a Trustee.

NEW BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Andy Hilton (Chair), Danny West (Vice Chair), Gary Burns (Treasurer), Maurice Greenham (Secretary), Tom Matthews, Ian Ewers.

FUNDRAISING

September next year will see the end of the Elton John AIDS Foundation grant, which has allowed us to offer free places to many people who would otherwise have been unable to attend.

The need to fundraise is clear.

We now have collecting tins, which can be obtained from Gary. Danny has already used one to collect £125 at a local pub.

At the AGM, the membership agreed to the establishment of a small group of not more than 4 people who would take the lead on fundraising for NLTSG. It is hoped that the group would be concerned with raising funds at all levels. We have secured an initial grant of £3,000 to use towards fundraising. Although the proposition for a dedicated fund raising team was put forward by Anthony, I have been asked by the Board to take the lead on this issue, which is vital to the survival of the group. If you would like to join the group, or have any ideas, please contact me at thommatthews@sky.com

DATES FOR 2010-2011

2010

24 –26 September 17 – 19 December

2011

25 – 27 March 8 – 10 July
23 – 25 September 16 – 18 December