

December's **Living Proof** weekend was eventful for positive and not-so-positive reasons, as explained below. In true Christmas spirit Shallowford House pulled out all the stops in decorating the house and producing a memorable festive feast on Saturday night preceded by a very sociable drinks reception.

Regardless of the Friday night kerfuffle, or perhaps as a reaction to it, the group seemed to bond together more speedily and tightly than ever. The weather was kind for December and we had two glorious sunrises...witnessed by a few early risers.

Twenty two members attended with a mix of gender, sexuality and ethnicity, as usual. At the closing circle, Barry said that he didn't mind being the only straight man in the village – everyone had made him feel so welcome and included.



Our facilitators were Peter and Neil with Simone, Josie, Lynn and George providing a wide range of therapies.

## Raffle & Auction

Karl and Shaun did a fine job with the raffle: we raised £177. This was supplemented by a further £100 with the auction of a Kindle Touch Electronic Reader. Bidding became

fierce between an anonymous phone bidder (via Gary) and John in the room. Tension rose as Gary relayed each bid on his mobile and Neil, the auctioneer, egged on by enthusiastic non-bidders, did a fine job to achieve this excellent result. Well done everyone for donating prizes and buying tickets. And a big thank you to each and every individual who contributed to the success of the weekend.

## Maurice

### Behaviour

At the start of each weekend it is made clear to everyone attending that smoking is not permitted anywhere in Shallowford House and only alcoholic drinks bought on the premises may be drunk anywhere in the house or grounds. Unfortunately, on Friday night, 2 people broke these rules and were asked to leave on Saturday morning. Even more unfortunately, one of these people became abusive and aggressive when asked to leave leading to the involvement of the police. Both are now excluded from any future NLTSG activities.

This was an unfortunate and extremely unusual incident. We were forced to take these steps to protect the welfare of our members and our relationship with Shallowford House.

### Fund Raising

**£3 a month is all it takes** to help us support people who have been living with HIV for 5 or more years

[www.nltsg.org.uk/donations.htm](http://www.nltsg.org.uk/donations.htm)

## Isaac

Do to ill health and the pressures of studying, Isaac has resigned from the Board of Trustees of NLTSG. We would like to thank Isaac for the contributions that he has made towards running the group over the last couple of years.

## David Carpenter - Obituary

It was with great sadness that we learned of the death of David Carpenter in October 2013.

David was the most wonderful man. I first met him at Glenfall House in Cheltenham; I think it was 1994. David was kind and intelligent with an amazing ability to recognise the particular needs of others, and always with humour and laughter. In later years he played a key role in saving the group from closure and we all have reason to be grateful to him for that. David was a man of many passions and when he discovered "Soka Gakkai" he became totally involved in that organisation. He participated in many events throughout Europe.

He will be missed by all those who had the good fortune to meet him.

Nam-Myoho-Renge-Kyo

## Tom Matthews

### Newly Diagnosed Weekends

We have now successfully run three weekends for people recently diagnosed with HIV. We have not set a firm definition of 'recently': Anyone feeling that they are still coming to terms with their diagnosis is likely to find the weekends beneficial. The next one is 30 May – 1 June 2014. Please bring this to the attention of individuals or groups that might be interested.

## Newsletter articles

Contributions are always welcome and encouraged for the newsletter, which is written by members for members. If anyone would like to be guest editor for an edition, this is also a possibility that we would welcome. Please get in touch with Maurice email: [maurice@nltsg.org.uk](mailto:maurice@nltsg.org.uk)

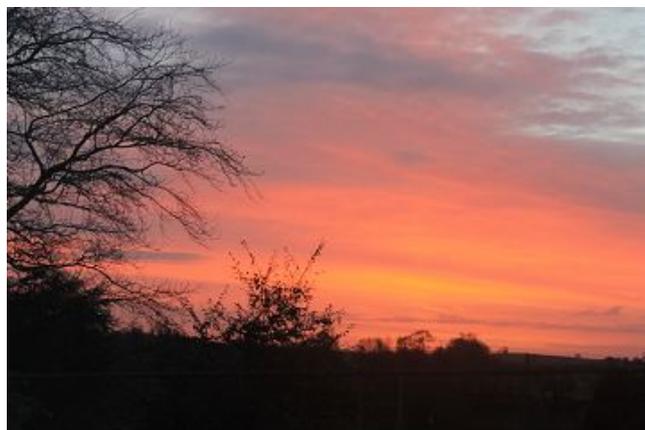
## Somerset

Good news for our members in Somerset: The Eddystone Trust have said that they can support people to come on *Living Proof* weekends. Please contact:

Maureen Bromage

Tel: 01752 254406  
Maureen@eddytone.org.uk  
[www.eddytone.org.uk](http://www.eddytone.org.uk)

## Sunrise at Shallowford



## Weekend Dates

### 2014

March 28 – 30

July 1 - 13

Sept 26 – 28

Dec 12 - 14

## Comments from the evaluations...

- Gave me strength to look forward to the future without fear
- [it was like] One big hug!