

The Spring *Living Proof* weekend was blessed with glorious weather; the sun shone brightly every day and seasoned members took advantage of it by socializing outside on the patio at the edge of the gardens. Those who were disappointed at the bedraggled state of the flower beds will be pleased to know that the volunteer Garden Group will be active from April, so we should enjoy the fruits of their labour at the summer weekend. The fine weather also allowed the Easter Bunny to lay a trail for an egg-hunt confident that the eggs would be found in a dry, edible state. Naturally, some people found more eggs than others. However, it was very touching to find that some discovered eggs had been shared and a few had been re-hidden by members who clearly felt that others ought to have a chance to find one too.



This same spirit of thoughtfulness was evident throughout the weekend. New members were carefully and sensitively looked after. Everyone got a prize in the raffle. So, we extend a very big thank you to Karl and Shaun for organising the event, as well as to everyone who brought prizes and bought tickets. We made £250, which we think is a record. Stewart displayed his skills

as an auctioneer, which resulted in the sale of a model racing car with track adding another £50 to our fund raising activities. To complete our Saturday evening's entertainment, Michael proved to be an accomplished quiz master with fiendish general knowledge questions prepared by our chair Andy.

We hosted a mix of 18 existing and 2 new members. John and Yvonne were our therapists joined by a new face: James. Our facilitators were Jenny and Neil who both reported enthusiastic engagement in the Open and Closed groups; their views would appear to be supported by the high evaluation ratings given by members who participated in these sessions. It was good to welcome people from all corners of the UK. The furthest was new member David from Cornwall who managed to drive the journey on his own and considered the mammoth solo round trip well worthwhile. For Jenny, the weekend was simply the best ever. Thank you to everyone who contributed to the weekend's success.

Keep well

Maurice

Obituary

It is with deep sadness we report the death of Billy Drake. He was a much loved NLTSG member and his warm friendly character will be greatly missed at Living Proof weekends. Our prayers and thoughts go out to his friends and family.



In late February, Danny and I were present at the 'Learning Positive' launch in the Atlee Suite of Portcullis House in the Houses of Parliament. This is an excellent web-based resource that aims to challenge and change attitudes towards HIV. It draws on the experience of HIV doctors and people living with HIV including a teenager who was born with the virus. Whilst it is aimed at secondary schools and colleges, anyone can make use of its extensive activities and video clips. This is highly recommended as a tool for anyone involved in HIV awareness training.

www.learningpositive.com

NLTSG 20th Anniversary

Special events to mark this landmark include a Living Proof taster day at AB+ in Birmingham in June. For details please contact Tom tommatthews@gmx.com

Isaac is organising a NLTSG Living Proof team to take part in the annual National Walk for Life in London on May 20th. If you would like to take part or sponsor a walker, please get in touch with iloveisaacsamuels@yahoo.co.uk

The September Living Proof weekend has been chosen as the one to mark the celebration of the 20th anniversary of the first meeting. There will be a screening of '*We Were Here*' followed by a champagne reception on Saturday night. Members are invited to bring along photos and mementos of past weekends and there will be an opportunity to record personal memories.

Members who were diagnosed before the era of highly active anti-retroviral therapy (HAART) will be especially welcome...offering a chance to meet up with old friends.

Fund Raising

All donations can now be Gift Aided. Gary has produced a visiting card to give to your family and friends. For further details contact Gary@nltsg.org.uk

£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

HIV Poz Photo Project

If you are interested in taking part in this attitude shifting project please take a look at the website...some of us have already signed up

<http://standtallgetsnaipped30hivpeople.tumblr.com/>

or you can contact the photographer, Edo, at hivpozproject@hotmail.com

Weekend Dates

2012

6 – 8 July

28 – 30 Sept

14 – 16 Dec

2013

22 - 24 March

5 -7 July

27 - 29 Sept

13 – 15 Dec