

**Feedback to SIWG Wed 2 Dec 09**

Sue Lister

**SIWG DIVERSITY DAYS**  
**FOOD & DRINK FESTIVAL – Tues 22 Sept 09**  
**YORK 50+ FESTIVAL – Sat 26 Sept 09**

**1. FOOD & DRINK FESTIVAL in Parliament Street**

Our participation was well supported by the festival organisers, Michael Hjort and Debbie Waite and involved display stands by YOPA, the LGBT Forum, Interfaith, Humanists and Age Concern. Michael & Debbie had laid on a chair-based exercise session, an open mic, and a tea dance replete with scones & cream. Hundreds of people passed through the Fountain Café, paused to see what we were up to or stayed to join in. Excellent public relations exercise and good promotion for the 50+ Festival the following week.

**2. BRIDGING THE GAP at the Friends Meeting House at the start of the 50+ Festival****a) OVERALL**

A great way to bring people from minority communities together for networking and to inform and engage with the public. About 130 people attended the 14 events and talked to people at the 5 display stands. There was a festive atmosphere with balloons, refreshments, chatter, delicious curry scents wafting from below, and Indian Dance music when the main hall door was open!

**b) EVENTS**

Creative Writing – Sharon Emery  
Mobile Phone Photos – Future Prospects  
Inspiring Older Women – Centre for Women's Studies, University of York  
Gay Drop In – LGBT Forum  
Laughter workshop – Terry Anne Scholes  
Curries – Sharmini Thomas  
Carers Forum – Kate Smith and Irene Mace  
40-70 Rule – Luke Norbury  
Childhood in War & Peace – Brenda Mackfall  
People First workshop – Sandra  
Ancient Order of Foresters – Enid Webster  
Annapurna Indian Dance workshop – Shantha  
YOPA Public Meeting. Old Age: Who Pay? Who Cares? Organised by Don Derrett  
Poetry Evening – Harry Chambers (Peterloo Poets) and Ann Drysdale

**c) DISPLAYS**

YOPA display provided by SIWG grant  
LGBT Forum display provided by SIWG grant + their own stand  
YREN York Racial Equality Network  
Interfaith  
York Independent Living Network  
NB The Travellers' Trust were invited and Christine Shepherd hoped to come but couldn't at the last moment.

**3. FINANCES**

Of the £1,500 SIWG grant, £1,200 was spent on the Bridging the Gap Day and £300 on the Tea Dance and displays at the Food & Drink Festival – see attached sheet.

#### **4. OUTCOME**

Both events ensured a presence for minority groups in major festivals and generated a sense of well-being and inclusivity for those who participated as audience, workshop participants or organisers. Money well spent and hopefully this initiative will continue in future years with SIWG having a presence in many other city festivals.