

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.