



Working to support the Lesbian, Gay,  
Bisexual and Transgender local communities

# Annual Report

**1<sup>st</sup> July 2008 to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2009**

**Hastings & Rother Rainbow Alliance  
c/o 31a Priory Street  
Hastings  
TN34 1EA**

**Tel. 07505 819344**

**Web site. [www.hrra.org.uk](http://www.hrra.org.uk).**

**E mail [info@hrra.org.uk](mailto:info@hrra.org.uk)**

## **Aims and Objectives**

Hastings and Rother Rainbow Alliance is dedicated to the support and promotion of equal rights and opportunities for all lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people in Hastings and Rother. The Alliance is dedicated to encouraging the development of safe environments for a wide range of events for the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender communities.

## **Appointment of Trustees**

Trustees are drawn from members of HRRA by nomination, there are currently vacancies and we are under represented by younger people, people from the Transgender and also Black and minority ethnic communities. All LGBT people ( over 18) are able to apply to become a voting member of HRRA, a full name and postal address is required. HRRA has a confidentiality policy.

## **Trustees/Officers to 21<sup>st</sup> November 2009**

Les Tostevin	Chair
Jackie Langley	Vice Chair
Mary Benton	Secretary
Ben Sallows	Treasurer
Diana Nicholls	
Ambrose O'Boyle	
Julia Parsons	
Dave Burke	
Nadine West	
Charles Neal	

'Whats on' administrators Pam Shallcrass and Sandra Morris (not trustees)

## Chair's Report

Those of you who attended the last AGM will be surprised to have another in less than a year. The reason for this is that the previous one was very late due to the restructuring of HRRRA. Since our financial year ends 30 June, about November is an appropriate time for an AGM. We are now back in the correct sequence.

The Committee have been very busy in the past months organising training events, setting up a new website and e mail address, attending a wide variety of local forums and meetings and generally keeping up the profile of the organisation. Some of these include:

- Hastings Community Networks
- Health and Social Care Forum
- Community cohesion
- The Link
- Safer Hastings Partnership

Through attending all these Forums, committee members have sought to raise awareness of LGBT people in Hastings and Rother. For example when attending an Older peoples engagement day, members ran a workshop on how staff dealing with older people in homes, hospitals and centres need to be more aware that the people they are providing services to could be LGBT and not assume that everyone has/had an opposite sex partner. The need for training staff on these issues has been included in the action plan.

We have also set up meetings on Mental Health issues, older peoples needs and LGBT health.

Pam and Sandra have kept e mail members up to date with the latest news and events. We have also set up a website [www.hrra.org.uk](http://www.hrra.org.uk) so that the organisation has an online

presence and this provides additional ways for the organisation to be contacted and for information to be available to both members and non members. We are researching an appropriate venue to start up the Supper Club and plans to establish a regular Gay disco with 'Azur' are progressing well. We are also establishing a walking group. A book club has been commenced and we are always happy to hear from members who have some spare time and would like to organise a social event or a regular meeting with a specific theme. We have set up a training course for agencies working with older LGB people and, in the new year will be running an equalities training course and a seminar on hate crime.

Our next challenge is to secure funding from April 1<sup>st</sup> 2010.

Les Tostevin .Chair

### **Future Plans**

- To continue raising awareness of LGBT issues
- To look at future funding and the possibility of paid staff
- To develop the committee and sub groups to include, younger, transgender and ethnic minority people from the LGBT communities.
- To continue to organise training workshops/seminars that make the wider community aware of the needs of LGBT.
- Peter Tatchell will be the speaker at our Equalities seminar, which should take place in February 2010.