

Chair's Report 2017/8

Another great year! Doncaster Pride continues to grow and continues to make an impact 365 days of the year.

We are delighted that we have supported the setting up of the first ever Trans support and meeting group in Doncaster – Trans Mission, and we are grateful to Lisa, Rufus and the team for helping us to reach into the Trans community in a more effective way. We are also grateful to Health watch for the match funding that allowed the project to get off the ground, and Doncopolitan for the use of their space.

We plan to continue to support the group to grow even beyond the current financial commitment and as they seek to put together a self-funding business model for the coming years.

We have also seen yet another successful bid to the National Lottery – this time Rainbow Stories a project that will capture the memories of the older LGBT+ community and present these as an online resource and a coffee table book.

Our work to support young people continues and we are very grateful to the team now taking forward the project and the great support to our younger community and their families.

We have a new relationship growing with Rev Tom and The Unitarian Church and we are delighted they have taken the amazing step to make it possible for same sex couples to marry in the Church – this a truly amazing landmark and I'll confess I had a tear in my eye when I read the news. We plan to work closely on new projects in the future too so keep an eye out on that developing...

All this background work often is unseen and this is my chance to thank everyone that has any involvement in the wider project work... and please everyone remember that Doncaster Pride is so much more than a party!

So this year's event – a second Stage – thanks to Kerry and the team at Saints Among Us. An opportunity to give the community more of a relaxed and chilled out zone and for local upcoming acts to feature in the day.

A parade with floats ... and the continued support of Doncaster council to deliver a town bedecked in rainbows, which increases our visibility and normalises being gay in Doncaster.

The biggest crowd EVER – we have now for the last 5 years see consistent growth – we had close to 18,000 visitors.

A great stage, great volunteers and for a second year not one single negative comment on Social Media – this must be something of a record for any Pride in the UK.

I would like to thank our sponsors, without whom we couldn't deliver our Pride. We would like to thank the volunteers, the advertisers, and every one of the acts. We would also like to thank the council for their support and visit Doncaster for their help.

Finally, we would like to than every one of our visitors for making this such a great day.

In other news – we attended the UK Pride in the IOW and were the farthest travelling Pride in their march. We have also attended conference in Glasgow this last week and we are now fully paid

members of UKPON, EPOA and InterPride – something we believe will help our growth and representation.

The future...

We have grown to such a size that we will have to consider a reconfiguration of the site yet again, and we have, despite repeated requests arrived at a point where we will have to restrict alcohol being brought into the site. For years now we have asked people to respect the strict no glass policy for the sake of everyone's safety – once again, this wasn't done and huge amounts of broken glass were removed from the site following the event. This cannot continue and will affect our ability to gain a license to deliver the event in 2019. So sadly, we will have to put measures in place to remove this unsafe aspect. More on that in the coming weeks.

We plan to deliver an enhanced parade, with the opportunity to link in to the Stonewall 50 celebrations – but remember Pride in Doncaster will always retain an element of protest!

Finally, hot off the press and from Glasgow's conference we are delighted to announce we have been selected as host city for the 2019 conference – watch this space but we have great plans that will include not only the delegates from UK and Ireland but a huge celebration involving the community too.

I would like to end by thanking the committee for their hard work – this isn't an easy job... its time consuming, stressful and expensive! However, without every one of you we wouldn't be what we are today.

Jenny Dewsnap

26/10/18