



The Gazette

*** A SUMMARY OF IMPORTANT 18 PLUS NATIONAL NEWS ***

NOTE TO GROUP SECRETARIES: Please make sure that one copy of the 'Gazette' is seen by all Group Committee members and that another is displayed or distributed to the whole Group. Every 18 Plus member has a right to know this information; please do not hide it away from them!

SPRING HOLIDAY

Final preparations for this holiday are under way. For those singers amongst you, there will be a "Stars in their eyes" competition. Additionally, there will be a Real Ale Trip and a carvery lunch available on the Sunday. There will be a disco every night and live bands.

Time to book for this event is running out. Please contact Wayne Fenton, holiday Co-ordinator for more details or complete the booking form enclosed with this posting.

ANC

Bookings for this prestigious event are now being taken. The ANC will be held at the Britannia Hotel, Coventry on Saturday / Sunday 20th / 21st April 2002.

The committee have already booked a DJ and a band for the Saturday evening entertainment. The theme for this years dinner dance will be magic. A newsletter will be sent out in the February bulk posting giving more information.

ANC Awards & Trophies

You have already received the revised criteria and the new entry forms are enclosed with this posting. The NEC hopes that more Groups / Areas put themselves forward for the various trophies this year.

TAG & NGOOT 2002

Following on from the success of last year's event, the NEC have decided to combine the two events and rename the holiday. Details of the venue and price will be sent out shortly after the ANC.

The Restructuring Forum

The first meeting of the restructuring forum took place on the 19th January 2002. Jo Woodhead, the facilitator of the forum was encouraged by the hard work and dedication of those members who attended.

For an opportunity to have your say on the future of the Federation, please contact Jo Woodhead to join the forum. You must be dedicated to the future of 18 Plus and be prepared to put in the time and effort needed to formulate proposals ready for presentation to the NEC by January 2003. It is hoped that such conclusions will be presented to the ANC 2003

Honorary Life Membership

The NEC has decided to propose a motion to the ANC 2002 that if a Group or Area awards an Honorary Life Membership to a member, that Group or Area must purchase a Life membership at the rate stated in the constitution (currently six times the current annual membership for a full member) The person awarded the life membership will still need to apply for membership on an annual basis to maintain his membership

Development

The National Development Officer (NDO), Iain Parkes, has produced a new style feasibility study for the use of persons wishing to open a new 18 Plus Group or a Second Tier Group. The studies are simple to use and give guidelines on how to open a successful Group. Anyone wishing to open a Group should obtain a feasibility study from HQ and liaise closely with the NDO. He will be happy to provide support and advice.

The NDO has also revamped the Potential New Members pack that is sent out when an enquiry is received at HQ. The pack contains information on 18 Plus and details of the local Groups. Remember, any Group can arrange for a copy of their programme or advertising literature to be sent out to Potential New members provided they send a supply to HQ

National Video

The NDO still needs more footage for the National Video. The video will be used as a publicity tool to recruit new members. Anyone with suitable footage should contact Iain Parkes.

Appointments

Pete Sharples was elected as Publications Officer. The next Plus News is due to be distributed at the ANC. The more articles submitted, the better the publication will be. The Area Chairmen have all promised to submit articles but the Editor would also like to receive articles from all Groups.

Vacant Posts

More National Officers are needed. The current vacant posts are External Publicity & Recruitment Officer, National Training Co-ordinator and National Executive Officer. Nominations for these positions must be received at HQ by Monday 15th July 2002.

The post of National Chairman is up for election at the ANC. Only full members are eligible to stand and their written nomination, signed by the Chairman of two Groups (a proposer and a seconder) must be received in the office by 5pm on Friday 22nd March 2002. Nominations cannot be accepted via email.

Glossy Folders

The folders mentioned in the last Gazette are currently at the printers. They should be at HQ within the next couple of weeks. Each Group will be given five folders, free of charge. Further supplies can be purchased via HQ for 75p each.