

O X A I D S

A CHARITY PROVIDING HIV RELATED EDUCATION AND CARE IN OXFORDSHIRE

PRESS RELEASE TAKE A COURSE IN SAFER SEX

OXAIDS have published a safer sex leaflet-poster for students at Oxford Polytechnic and University. The leaflet, *Take a Course in Safer Sex*, outlines safer sexual choices to avoid unplanned pregnancy, cervical cancer and sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV, the virus that can lead to AIDS. The leaflet will be distributed to all students during October.

The material is specifically targeted at students, not the general public and was prepared in consultation with a range of student representatives. The leaflet was piloted to a group of over 200 local students to assess need and knowledge and what styles and language would prove most effective in changing behaviour. For many students, going to college is also about confronting sexual choices and a 1987 survey found that 60% of Oxford students had their first sexual experience at college. According to a recent report, the poor take up of safer sexual practices among students makes them more at risk from HIV than prostitutes.

This leaflet shifts the focus onto non-penetrative sexual activities, broadening what is meant by safer sex. Safer sex is usually linked to condoms and used properly condoms can significantly reduce the risk of HIV infection. However, even protected intercourse is not the safest form of sex. The leaflet does not isolate HIV but instead looks at healthy safe sex more generally.

The leaflet aims to cover all areas of sexuality with a focus on sexual activity rather than sexual preference. The information and the suggestions are applicable to anyone, regardless of their sexuality.

Every effort has been made to ensure the language used is straight forward and accurate. HIV is transmitted sexually and it is vital to be explicit and clear about sex. The leaflet provides facts and options for students but does not presume that they are sexually active. It stresses the importance of listening and talking to each other about sex.

Further information and copies of the leaflet are available from Roger Mortlock (0865) 243389.

OXAIDS, The Monument Wing, Radcliffe Infirmary, Woodstock Road, OXFORD, OX2 6HE

Administration Office
and Respite Care:
Tel: (0865) 243389
Weekdays
10.00 am - 6.00 pm

Helpline:
Tel: (0865) 728817
Sunday, Monday,
Wednesday, Friday
6.00 pm - 8.00 pm

OXAIDS is a Registered Charity (no. 801443) and is supported by Oxford City Council and Oxfordshire Health Authority

RESPONSES TO THE LEAFLET

This poster was designed for students to be presented in a manner which is applicable to students. It does not promote promiscuity but if the students are practising sex, it informs them of the safer sex choices. HIV is still with us and is a fact of life but it has not recently received the attention that such a vital issue warrants. This poster was produced to highlight the problem of HIV, not to promote sex but to inform students of the dangers and how to reduce them.

Tracy Neale, Oxford Polytechnic Students Union, Deputy President (Welfare/Campaigns)

The OUSU executive believe that explicit material on safer sex is necessary given that lives are at risk and it therefore supports the distribution of the OXAIDS leaflet amongst University students.

Mary Wimbury, Oxford University Students Union

Oxford Body Positive feel that this leaflet is of extreme value to the specific section of the community that it is aimed at. It is felt that the approach adopted by OXAIDS in this instance will not only help to counter the spread of HIV infection, ultimately saving lives, but will also help a great number of people come to terms with safe sexuality.

Oxford Body Positive

The idea behind this leaflet is good. Research has shown that students are taking risks of acquiring HIV infection. Health education is the only method of reducing this risk. 'Safer Sex' is rarely taught in schools or by parents, because it is a very sensitive subject. So the aim of the leaflet is accordance with our strategy for HIV prevention. The medical basis for the contents of the leaflet is correct.

The Oxfordshire Health Authority made a small grant towards OXAIDS work on educating students, because OXAIDS can reach this important group in ways that our services cannot. The principle of plain speaking by independent charities is important.

Dr Dick Mayon-White, Consultant in Public Health, Oxfordshire Health Authority

OXAIDSnews

September 1990

New Workers

Anna and Roger - Leading OXAIDS into the 90's

Anna Eden, OXAIDS' first Care and Training Facilitator, and Roger Mortlock, Development Worker, took up their new posts just over a month ago.

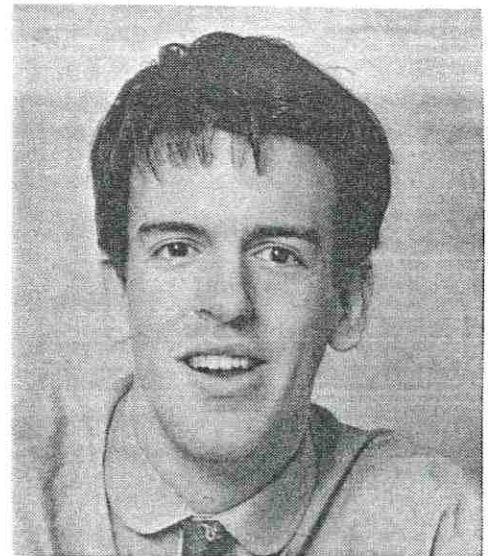


Anna has come to OXAIDS from Bristol where she was a free-lance trainer in the HIV/AIDS field and a very active volunteer for the Aled Richards Trust.

Anna said: "I worked as a helpline, a buddy and a counsellor and was a member of the management committee during my three and a half years with the Trust. I was delighted to be offered this post with OXAIDS and am very excited about the future." She will coordinate and train OXAIDS volunteers so that they can offer face-to-face counselling, Respite Care, befriending and buddying.

Roger joins OXAIDS from the Oxford Regional Health Authority where he was involved in setting up the National Drugs Database in the Oxford Region. He trained as an OXAIDS volunteer at the beginning of the year and also brings with him the experience he gained working for Sheffield AIDSline.

He takes over from Paul Devlin who has been OXAIDS Development Worker for the last two years. Paul has gone to London to work as HIV Training Co-ordinator for the Federation of Independent Advice Centres.



Roger and Anna can be contacted in the OXAIDS office at the Monument Wing, Radcliffe Infirmary, Woodstock Road, Oxford Tel: 243389 between 10 am and 4 pm Monday to Friday.

Up, Roll up..... Giles Fair Friday September 3

are needed to staff the OXAIDS stall for the afternoon. Can you do a two-hour stint? If so please contact Chris, or leave a message at the office.

is an important opportunity to reach lots of people, especially young people, with safer-sex messages. I remember some time I had last year overcoming condom-resistance in a man. I handed him a safer-sex leaflet and he replied very calmly and with a look to wither me into a tiny heap, "I wouldn't wear a condom any more than I'd wear socks in bed". Later though I was surprised when he came back to our stall and snatch a few of the free condoms on display.

If you plan on going to the fair this year, why not sign up for the stall and break up the rides by giving out condoms.

Ben Gilbert

Coming soon.....

OXAIDS Social Evening September 20 7.30 pm Stable Bar, Apollo, St Aldate's, Oxford

Ever wondered where all the people you trained with are now? Ever thought who are all the people on the helpline rota? Ever considered swapping notes with people in other groups in OXAIDS? If you are curious about any of these things then the new social evening planned for the 3rd Thursday of every month could be just what you are looking for.

The evenings will be mainly social but will also involve a workshop, training or speaker on an HIV-related issue. Hopefully the evenings will attract volunteers from all over the organisation so you can put all those names to faces. If you have any friends who perhaps think the introductory weekend is all too daunting, bring them along to the social and see if they are interested.

The evenings will bring together volunteers old and new (and also those just thinking about it) for a drink and a chance to think some more about those things we never quite finished off on our training weekends.

Helpliners Need Help!

It has been very hard to fill up the helpline during July and August. Many people have been on holiday, some have moved on to other things and it is always difficult to summon up any enthusiasm to sit answering the helpline when the sun is still shining outside.

This means that all helpliners are desperately needed, especially to fill up September and October. So if you find that your routine is gradually coming back after those hazy days of summer, perhaps you could slot in the helpline and contact the office with the times you are free.

For those volunteers on the last training and any other volunteers who feel they might like to train for the helpline, the next training will be on Saturday, 27 October.

Please phone Anna at the office on Oxford 243389 if you are interested.

Drugs Group

The Drugs Group is still working hard to set up the Drop-in Centre. Unfortunately the launch has been postponed for the time being but a new date should be fixed soon.

On Monday September 17, there will be a mega fundraising event - *The OXAIDS Risky Business Rave* - to raise money for the Centre.

Chris, Cliff and Phil managed to secure the Rave venue at Minchery Farm in Littlemore (map on tickets). Anna has printed the tickets and at £5 each they are a must. They are available from any member of the drugs group and also from the OXAIDS office. Raffle prizes, also thanks to Cliff, include goods from Next, Next to Nothing, Browns, Blackwells, Dillons and Culpepper. Linda has her heart set on winning a rucksack, whereas I fancy the day out for two at the Manor; Virgin Records' recording studios! Our amazing prizes include something for everyone so don't miss out on your ticket.

Risky Business Rave
Monday September 17
8 till late

Besides organising ceremonies and fundraising events we have also been busy with the preparations for the opening of the drop-in centre for its clients. We have been discussing issues such as health and safety with particular regard to volunteers, giving out advice about immunisation against hepatitis b. Training needs are still being organised particularly with regard to the needle exchange. The all-important provision of beverages week by week along with a duty rota of volunteers to staff the centre are being organised by Christine and Mark. Issues such as publicity and the involvement of current users in the drop-in project are still under discussion.

Finally I would like to express congratulations to Mark, Phil and Susanne in finding new jobs, all related directly to HIV prevention work.

See you all at the RAVE!

Susanne Munt

For information, help and advice about HIV and AIDS, ring OXAIDS in confidence on Oxford

728817

Mon, Wed, Fri & Sun 6 pm - 8 pm

This Newsletter Needs You!

Have you ever fancied yourself as a part-time journalist? If you think you could provide anything useful for the newsletter (or even if you don't, but are still curious) then we badly need your help.

Knowing what everybody is doing is vital to OXAIDS and the newsletter is a really good way of keeping you up to date with what's going on, as well as with developments in treatment, care and prevention. It would be great to produce the newsletter more often but to do this more people need to be involved. Interested? Phone the office for more details.

Student Leaflet: Hold your breath it's coming!

The long awaited student leaflet is at the printers and is due to be distributed at the beginning of the new term to all students in the University and Polytechnic. For some people a final version can't have seemed possible but a consensus has finally been reached. The leaflet's focus is on non-penetrative sex and gives a wide range of possible options; enough to make anybody rethink the way they think about sex.

oxaids news is produced by Roger and Rebecca

all contributions welcome