

## Rear View: December 2021

Monthly spotlight on an item from the HIV/AIDS Graphic Communication Archive

### 11. PYGG

Flyer: Positive Young Gay Group, North London Line lesbian & Gay Project & Frontliners. A4, black on coloured stock. Design: in-house at NLL. 1988. Kindly donated by James M Barrett.

#### Chosen by James M Barrett:

“In 1988 I was hired as a youth worker for North London Line Project (NLL) in Camden to set up The PYGG – a social support group for HIV+ gay men aged from teens to mid twenties. It was the first of its kind in the UK, and was backed by Frontliners, the peer support network of people with AIDS.

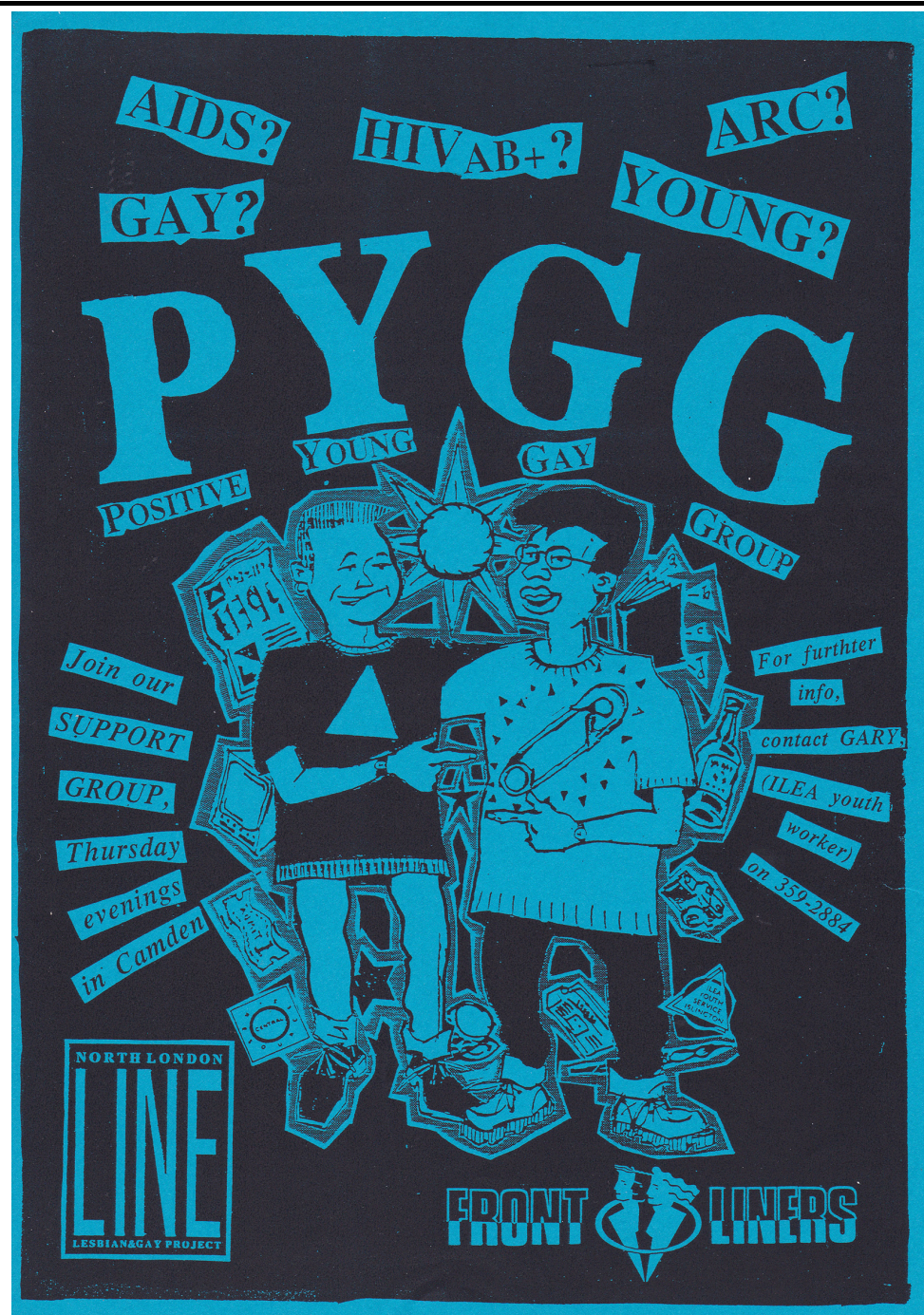
PYGG quickly established itself, and I am still haunted (and inspired) by the personal stories of the participants. Most had been too terrified by the government’s 1986 ‘Don’t Die of Ignorance’ campaign to come out and tap into peer support. For many, Thatcher’s 1988 Section 28 (a law banning the ‘promotion’ of homosexuality in schools) had deprived them of basic safer sex information. A few had been street homeless, were sex workers, or had learning difficulties, and not all identified as gay.

Once the group was up and running I moved on, and it subsequently transferred to a more secure base at Body Positive. There it became Positive Youth with a wider remit to support all young people living with and affected by HIV.

The PYGG launch flyer was produced by the in-house graphic designer at NLL – a simple photocopy on blue A4 paper. It was praised for its up-beat, trendy style and for featuring a black gay man in the image.

I remember seeing the Positive Youth flyer when it was first distributed. The colourful cut-out design by Wendy Eastwood really stood out, with the use of a feisty gender- and ethnically-ambiguous figure kicking out alongside the combative slogan ‘Fighting Back’.

The reverse of the flyer describes a wide range of activities on offer, including services for those broadly ‘affected’ by HIV. At a time when HIV+ status was heavily stigmatised, this would have made it easier for young people to make contact with the group without having to declare their status.”



## 12. Positive Youth!

Flyer: Body Positive. A5, 4 colour, mono reverse (both sides shown). Design: Wendy Eastwood. 1991.



**YOUNG PEOPLE FIGHTING  
BACK AGAINST HIV + AIDS!**

INFORMATION, ADVICE, SOCIAL AND SUPPORT GROUPS FOR YOUNG MEN AND WOMEN (UNDER 26) AFFECTED BY HIV & AIDS.  
POSITIVE YOUTH, 51B PHILBEACH GARDENS, LONDON SW5 9EB TEL (071) 373 7547  
COMPANY REGISTRATION NUMBER 2164911 CHARITY NUMBER 297823



DESIGN © WENDY EASTWOOD 1991

# POSITIVE YOUTH IS OPEN TO ALL YOUNG PEOPLE WITH HIV/AIDS.

We offer information, advice, social and support groups to young people 16–25 living with and affected by HIV/AIDS.

**SOCIAL GROUP FOR ALL YOUNG PEOPLE  
LIVING WITH AND AFFECTED BY HIV/AIDS  
every Friday 6–9pm  
at the Body Positive Centre**

An opportunity for young people to meet and spend time together, food available.

**There is also a closed support group for those with  
an HIV positive diagnosis and/or AIDS.**

Regular outings and activities as well as residential weekends, opportunities for training and volunteering, including speaking to young people about personal experiences of living with HIV/AIDS.

Counselling and access to other agencies and services by referral.

For more information please telephone  
**071 373 7547**

**BODY POSITIVE CENTRE,  
51B PHILBEACH GARDENS, LONDON SW5 9EB  
(Earl's Court tube, Warwick Road exit)**

## **December Guest Curator**

### **James M Barrett**

James is a fine artist whose work featured in a number of high profile HIV themed exhibitions. He worked in the HIV sector from 1986 to 1998, where he held key strategy and leadership roles.

His current visual art projects can be seen here: [www.jamesmbarrett.com](http://www.jamesmbarrett.com)

IG @james.m.barret

*@emmacolepositivevoice via Instagram: I was a member of this group, joining shortly after my diagnosis in 1991. Those meetings at Philbeach Gardens were a lifeline. I remember this graphic well.*