

# LGBT Community Newsletter

August 2011



Registered charity 1072772

## Welcome to Intercom's August Newsletter!

Later than it should be, since a fault on the BT exchange meant that we had to live without internet and e-mail for two weeks...

### Round and about: Community news

**MANY** thanks to everyone who sent us news for inclusion below.  
Don't think we've missed anyone out, but if we have please accept our best apologies.

**=== Deadline for the September Newsletter is 24 August ===**

**==== Please send items for the Newsletter to [News@intercomtrust.org.uk](mailto:News@intercomtrust.org.uk) ====**

## Intercom's 14<sup>th</sup> Birthday



On Monday 8 August Intercom is fourteen years young. And flourishing!

We'd like to take this opportunity of thanking the many thousands of supporters and community workers, and the countless hundreds of professional colleagues in other organisations, who have worked with us over these fourteen years to make a real difference in the South West peninsula.

## The nation's favourite telecoms company... not

A fault on the local BT server has meant that from around 20 July to Thursday 4 August Intercom's Exeter office was without broadband. Steve and Sue, our workers in Cornwall and Dorset, have had no access to their Intercom e-mails or to the Intercom file-server. Other agencies in Cornwall who use our external server services have also been affected.

We did our best to keep the front page of the Intercom website updated from outside the system, hoping that people who had e-mailed us would see that there were problems.

We are far from happy about this, as you can all imagine. We send our regrets and sympathy to everyone else who has been inconvenienced. We also record our warmest thanks to our IT consultants at ThinkIT in Exeter, who have worked hard to help us sort this. (Unlike BT.)

## Youth Chances: new national project

We're delighted to have signed up to support a new community project called Youth Chances, which aims to survey 15,000 young LGBT people (16-25) across the country next year, and then put this to good use in improving life and resources for young LGBT people. Youth Chances is funded for 5 years by the Big Lottery Fund.

Have a look at their website ([www.youthchances.org](http://www.youthchances.org)), and there are some very sound videos on Youtube ([http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player\\_embedded&v=IjkTIMSLAco](http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=IjkTIMSLAco)).

Intercom thinks this is a very good project and we encourage our community partners to support it when they get the opportunity. We look forward to working with Dan and the team, and spreading news of developments round the Collective.

## “Transforming Local Infrastructure”

The Government has set up a national project to try to streamline and improve the provision of support for local community and voluntary groups. As you will know, Intercom has been doing this very actively for many years, though with the end of our major infrastructure funding last Winter we've had to learn to manage without Vicky and Paul (sob).

The survey the frontline groups filled in at last September's Community Conference (LGBT 11) was immensely helpful and supportive, and shows how successful these last years of work have been!

As a start, we've signed Intercom up in each of the ten local authority areas that we traditionally cover, and we hope that in the medium term this government initiative will help us place our support services for frontline groups on a sound footing for the future.

Keep your fingers crossed.

## Another breakthrough for equality at the United Nations...

A second healthy development to follow our UN story of last month...

ILGA, the major international body fighting for LGBT rights, has at last been approved for consultative status at the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).

This reverses a long and shameful fifteen years' gap after Senator Jesse Helms lobbied for ILGA's accreditation to be withdrawn in 1994. The original grounds of complaint (that ILGA had admitted to membership some organisations that promoted paedophilia) were resolved immediately: ILGA promptly examined the activities of, and expelled, these organisations. Ever since then, ILGA's application to resume its consultative status on ECOSOC has been blocked by countries whose records on LGBT human rights have been shown by ILGA and other agencies to be some of the most shameful in the world, including China, Iran, Pakistan, Russia and Zimbabwe.

However, on 25 July 2011, ILGA at last succeeded, and now once again has a vital rôle to play within ECOSOC.

## Great posters from sisters & brothers in the USA

Activist groups in the USA have produced some fantastic cool posters, as part of the Same-Sex Marriage campaign. Have a look for yourself, at

<http://www.happyplace.com/8958/the-most-hilariously-convincing-gay-marriage-signs>

... and why not tell us which one is your special favourite? ([News@intercomtrust.org.uk](mailto:News@intercomtrust.org.uk).)

## Equality and Human Rights Commission

There's been a massive outcry amongst LGBT community leaders and others about the news that the EHRC was planning to support two people who have been told by the UK Courts that Christian beliefs did not give them the right to discriminate against their organisation's LGBT service-users, and who are appealing against this ruling to the European Court. An EHRC official said they felt that "reasonable adjustments" should be made in the workplace to allow workers the right to discriminate against LGBT people on grounds of conscience.

This was absolutely outrageous, and could have led to all sorts of mischief affecting all sorts of people within all sorts of equality and diversity strands.

We're very relieved to say that Angela Mason, the original long-term Director of Stonewall and now a Commissioner of the EHRC, has said this is not going to happen: the EHRC is *not* going to support the idea of "reasonable adjustments" to enable workers to discriminate against us.

*Angela:* THANKS for this reassurance. We owe you. (Not for the first time!)

## Going abroad? Limited help from the Foreign Office

The UK Foreign office has produced quite a useful postcard ("Out & ...about") for LGB people and same-sex couples who are planning holidays abroad.

It refers us to a Foreign office website ([www.fco.gov.uk/knowbeforeyougo](http://www.fco.gov.uk/knowbeforeyougo)). If you look, you find this website covers other groups (disabled travellers, travellers with mental health problems, and many more), but for some reason it has no LGB-focused information. They haven't even put the postcard on the web.

Intercom has two questions: (1), why leave all the LGB-related information off the website? And (2) what about Trans people going abroad? The issues are different, and equally important.

We're contacting the Foreign Office to ask why they haven't produced Trans information resources, and why they haven't treated LGBT people equally on their Know-before-you-go website.



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Dorset Bournemouth and Poole

**01305 266642**

lesbian gay bisexual and trans  
 Advocacy, Info & Support  
 Dorset Bournemouth and Poole

www.intercomtrust.org.uk

Local Groups and Activities

DorsetHelpline@intercomtrust.org.uk

*Coasters for Dorset*

A reminder about our new cute coasters (aka beer-mats).

Have YOU got some good ideas about how these could help us reach out to LGBT people who don't know about the service?

If so, do contact Lizzie on 01392 678744 or at [Lizzie@intercomtrust.org.uk](mailto:Lizzie@intercomtrust.org.uk).

sexual orientation \* gender identity \* social groups

**0800 612 3010**  
 Confidential LGBT Helpline

homophobia \* prejudice \* transphobia \* harassment \* bullying \* discrimination  
 workplace \* family issues \* goods & services

*Coasters for Cornwall & Devon*

**Intercom's Confidential Community Help and Info**

**Cornwall Devon Plymouth & Torbay**  
[helpline@intercomtrust.org.uk](mailto:helpline@intercomtrust.org.uk)

Freephone **0800 612 3010**  
 (or 01392 201018)

**Dorset Bournemouth and Poole**  
[DorsetHelpline@intercomtrust.org.uk](mailto:DorsetHelpline@intercomtrust.org.uk)

**01305 26 66 42**

In Cornwall & Devon this service is funded by the Big Lottery Fund (Reaching Communities Programme)  
 In Dorset this service is jointly funded by Dorset County Council, Bournemouth Borough Council  
 and Poole Borough Council

**Love to all!**

**Michael and the team**

**Community News follows...**

## Community news

*You tell us — We spread the good news*

### Cornwall Pride

Cornwall Pride will be on Saturday 27 August, in Truro.

The Parade starts at 11:00 from Lemon Quay, and the Cornwall Pride Picnic with events etc. will be in the Victoria Gardens.

For details see the Cornwall Pride website at <http://www.cornwallpride.com>.

### Dorchester Love Parade

Dorchester Love Parade will be on Sunday 28 August.

This year's theme is "Roman and Gladiator".

The parade will go through Dorchester, and the main stage will be at Maumbury Rings, next to Dorchester South railway station.

For details of the programme keep an eye on the Love Parade website at <http://www.wix.com/nickwebster/dorchester-love-parade>.

The Love Parade Committee writes: "Love Parade is ready to roll again this year and there are several ways you can be involved. You could:

1. Have a stall, contact us (below: there are limited spaces so you will need to be quick)
2. March in the parade, starting from the pump in South Street (Roman theme)
3. Pop in to the day which will be at Maumbury Rings, live music all day, stalls and refreshments
4. Volunteer for the pre-planning group or on the day
5. Attend the party afterwards at Cafe Jagos.

Contact: [loveparade2011@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:loveparade2011@hotmail.co.uk)."

### Silver Moments

**Silver Moments is a Dorset Support and Social Group for mature LGBTQ people.**

**Next event: Friday 28 August: Silver Moments will meet at Over The Rainbow in Bournemouth for tea.**

For more details, contact John at Silver Moments on 01202 257478 / 07791 861384, or e-mail [silvermomentssouthwest@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:silvermomentssouthwest@hotmail.co.uk).

## Exeter Pride meeting, Monday 8 August

**Exeter Pride will be meeting at the North Bridge Inn at 18:30 on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> August. Everyone who'd like to help get involved in planning for the 2012 Exeter Pride is welcome.**

Contact details: [info@exeterpride.co.uk](mailto:info@exeterpride.co.uk), or find 'exeterlgbtpride' on Facebook.

## Tea for T Girls: Exeter

Tea for T Girls is a **new social group for trans women** in Exeter, running monthly on a Sunday. It aims to provide a safe social space for M2F women at any stage of their journey. Come dressed or not—space to change will be provided for those who would rather dress here.

**The next meet-up will be on 11 September  
from 4pm-9pm, here in the Intercom Centre.**

Please contact Andy or Lizzie for further details.

01392 678744 [lizzie@intercomtrust.org.uk](mailto:lizzie@intercomtrust.org.uk) or [andy@intercomtrust.org.uk](mailto:andy@intercomtrust.org.uk).

## Women's Groups in Dorset

**Women of Wessex**, a social group for women who identify as Lesbian, has a busy programme for August: a Coffee Club, a Book Group, "Ladies Who Lunch", and a Cheese and Wine afternoon. Contact [wow.dorset@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:wow.dorset@hotmail.co.uk) for information.

**West Dorset Women's Group**, based in Weymouth, writes:

"We're a friendly relaxed group of mature women and have been established for 20 years now, but welcome new faces. We meet the last Saturday in every month for a private social evening for those who prefer confidentiality but also arrange other events such as meals out, skittles, visits etc. tel. 01305816587 or mob. 07548918750."

**The Pony Club** writes:

"Come and meet new friends at one of our regular events from walking, to pub quizzes, live music sessions, five-a-side football, club nights and plenty more... We are very welcoming to all lesbian, gay and bi women, and those who identify with us, so don't be shy - give the pony club a try! Check our website [www.theponies.co.uk](http://www.theponies.co.uk) for our ever-changing monthly events. See you soon!"

## Kiss N Makeup “(All dressed up with somewhere to go!)”

Kiss N Makeup writes:

“We are a Social group of TS/TVs their partners & friends, meeting in Bournemouth every 2nd & 4th Saturday of the month. To see more details and RSVP, look at <http://sites.google.com/site/kissnmakeupgroup/>. We’re also on Facebook... search KissNmakeup Bournemouth.”

## Dorset Knobs

**Dorset Knobs meet every Monday in Weymouth: six p.m. onwards at the William Henry (Wetherspoon’s) Pub (DT4 8HQ), and then a club.**

Colin from Dorset Knobs writes:

“Dorset Knobs” which started as 4 or 5 guys is now attracting 25 plus on a good night! From 6pm a chance just to sit and chat... with an older group of guys... Later the younger dance generation join us and drag some gay grandads (me !) to night club!

We’re a very informal group... arrive and depart when you wish.. we have a good chat and lol ... and welcome new friends. OK! We just sit in st8 bar and have no problems.. .(the way it should be!) We even have a gay friend behind the bar! So, visiting Weymouth? or live near by? Try us...!

We hope to have some pix in the September Newsletter, if your Editor can get it sorted with Colin.

## Dorset Chillout: new Venue. Hooray!

There will be a Dorset Chillout social on **Sunday 21 August, 14:00 – 17:00**  
at the **Olde Tea House**, 44 High West Street, Dorchester DT1 1UT.

Parking in the Top of Town carpark at DT1 1TX (approximately 150 metres away across the Bridport Road roundabout).

**This will be the NEW VENUE for Chillout from now on.**  
**Note that times are now changed to 2 p.m. to 5 p.m.**

**For up-to-date information, look at <http://sites.google.com/site/dorsetchillout/home>.**

## Somerset Lesbian Network

**Somerset Lesbian Network Summer Picnic!**

**Wells, Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> August, 12:30.**

If you’re interested, contact [mallen63\\_8@msn.com](mailto:mallen63_8@msn.com). There are alternative arrangements in case of bad weather!

## New Network for LGBT Parents



### LGBT Family Network

RainbowFamiliesSW@gmail.com

There's a new social network being developed so that LGBT parents have got a space to meet each other (online or otherwise), and give support, advice, and generally meet to have fun and socialise the children. New members are welcome, so do get involved and suggest activities, where to meet, etc. Tell us what you find fun!

Contact Jeannette and SJ on [RainbowFamiliesSW@gmail.com](mailto:RainbowFamiliesSW@gmail.com).

## WOW (Women On Wednesdays, Exeter)

### WOW says Hi to the flurry of new members who've joined recently!

"This year's Picnic and Rounders afternoon is on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> August, 13:00 on the playing-fields just before the Double Locks pub, Exeter. WOW will organise the rounders: just bring your picnic.

Due to the unpredictable summer we are having please could you let us know if you intend to come along and if the weather looks awful then we will contact you to let you know if it will be going ahead. On the day please phone the Wow phone (below) if you need further directions etc."

### Future events.

This year's WOW Bop will be on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> October in Exeter. Further details to come out in due course.

The Christmas Meal will be on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> December.

### And remember...

...Women On Wednesdays have their regular **Wednesday Night Wow** from 8 p.m. at the Exeter Picturehouse, Bartholomew Street.

Contact details for WOW: 07814 19 84 75 or  
[womenonweds.social.exeter@hotmail.com](mailto:womenonweds.social.exeter@hotmail.com) or [www.wowexeter.org](http://www.wowexeter.org).

## Trans Men: Qwest FtM UK

**Qwest FtM UK will be holding its Third National FtM conference on 3 and 4 September.**

For information, contact [admin@qwestftmuk.org](mailto:admin@qwestftmuk.org).

## Rainbow Writing Group, Bournemouth

The Rainbow Writing Group meets in central Bournemouth on the last Wednesday of each month to discuss poems, plays, essays, novels and other forms of writing. For more information, contact [rainbowwritinggroup@hotmail.com](mailto:rainbowwritinggroup@hotmail.com).

## Dorset Police: Community Consultation

Teri Roberts, who has done so much for all strands of Equality and Diversity at Dorset Police (*THANKS Teri!*), tells us there's a new People and Equality Strategy up on the police website, with an online questionnaire where people can give their thoughts about the new strategy.

Teri writes: "We have recently drafted our People and Equality Strategy which sets out how the Force understands who it serves, where those people and communities are, what are their needs and expectations and how services are designed and monitored. The strategy also sets out how the Force understands the workforce, who and where our staff are and their needs and expectations of Dorset Police as an employer."

We believe Dorset Police have worked hard in recent years to earn our support and we encourage people who live / study / work / holiday in Dorset Bournemouth and Poole to have a look, and help them to further improve their services to LGB and Trans people.

Anyone who feels they would like to examine the new strategy and send in their thoughts, have a look at <http://www.dorset.police.uk/Default.aspx?page=536>, **before Friday 2 September**.

(Er, no, Intercom hasn't had a look yet! Too busy fighting BT and writing the Newsletter! But we will!)

## Open StoryTellers: Chief Exec's Post Vacant

"Openstorytellers is an arts based charity based in Frome, Somerset, run with people with learning disabilities, providing training courses and creative projects for people with communication difficulties."

This isn't an LGBT agency, but we thought many of our readers would like to know about it, and some might be interested in the fact that they're advertising for a Chief Exec. Closing date 22 August. For details have a look at their website, [www.openstorytellers.org.uk](http://www.openstorytellers.org.uk).

(Many thanks to Jan at the South West Foundation for alerting us to this.)

## Same-Sex Dance Classes in Cornwall

There will be a dedicated class for same-sex couples when Gemini Dance Studios starts its New Beginners' classes in September.

Christine Redfern, the Principal, writes:

“Same-sex couples have always been welcome at our classes, but this will provide a chance for couples who may feel a little nervous about attending our mainstream classes.”

For more information have a look at [www.gemini-dance.co.uk](http://www.gemini-dance.co.uk) or e-mail [credfern@macace.net](mailto:credfern@macace.net).

Intercom welcomes this. Many people will be happy to go to the generic classes, but the amazing legislative changes of the last ten years have not dramatically changed the society in which we live. There are many LGB and Trans people, especially in the rural South West, who live in environments where we still have to be thoughtful and careful about how and where we are Out.

## Torbay Council surveys

**Lorrie Layne at Torbay Council has asked us to let our contacts in Torbay know that there are two surveys online, and the Council would be very glad to have responses from LGBT people to whom they are relevant.** (Unfortunately, they have given no particular place to say that one is writing as an LGBT person, so you might like to make that clear in one of the free-text boxes at the end of each survey?) The links are:

Family Support Questionnaire for Parents:

<https://www.torbay.gov.uk/surveys/community/familysupport.htm>

Community survey for those who are not parents:

<https://www.torbay.gov.uk/surveys/community/local.htm>

**Note: last date these surveys will be available for completion is next Friday, 12 August.**

If you have any questions or comments about the questionnaires, contact Lorrie on [lorrie.layne@yahoo.com](mailto:lorrie.layne@yahoo.com).

## Pride events coming up...

<b>Cornwall Pride</b>	<b>Truro, Saturday 27 August.</b> <a href="http://www.cornwallpride.com">www.cornwallpride.com</a>
<b>Dorchester Love Parade</b>	<b>Dorchester, 28 August.</b> <a href="http://www.wix.com/nickwebster/dorchester-love-parade">http://www.wix.com/nickwebster/dorchester-love-parade</a> .
<b>Plymouth Out Fest</b>	<b>Plymouth Pride: To Be Announced.</b> <a href="http://www.plymouthout.co.uk">www.plymouthout.co.uk</a>

**CONCLUDED on next page / ...**

**Our September Newsletter will go out at the end of August.  
The deadline for news this month will be Tuesday 23 August.**

**Local Groups, if you want us to promote your events,  
let us know in good time!**

**If you want to be sure your event reaches the Newsletter team,  
send it to [News@intercomtrust.org.uk](mailto:News@intercomtrust.org.uk).**

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