

Intercom Trust e-bulletin



Welcome to Intercom's April e-bulletin. Lots of extremely marvellous things have been and are happening lately and this is clearly the place to find out what is occurring.

LGBT Collective gets election fever

Now that the date has been set for the General election (6th May in case you haven't heard) this is just a little reminder to everyone out there to get registered to vote – deadline for registration is next Tuesday so there is still time! LGBT people in the South West could have a lot of influence on any final result if we are all registered. Don't be apathetic...the only way to see change happen is to be a part of that change. Following on from this The LGBT Collective has been proactive – and have just written to around 150 Prospective Parliamentary Candidates for the upcoming 2010 General Election. They have taken the opportunity to find out their views on voting around 3 key questions that might come up in the course of voting.

The questions relate to:

- The balance of rights between religious rights and gay rights
- The provision of goods and services and conscience
- Introducing a new offence of incitement to violence against a particular group in society

This election is an important one and LGBT people have huge voting power....but only if we actually vote!

If you would like to know the contact details for your local candidates so you can chase them for their answers (this will really help the campaign) then please email Paul on paul@intercomtrust.org.uk

Watch the www.lgbtcollective.org.uk site over the next couple of weeks to find if your local candidates have responded!!

Chillout – in either Cornwall or Dorset!

If you live in the South West or are just about for the weekend and fancy chilling out this Sunday then you are in luck because you can choose between Cornwall and Dorset!

Both Dorset & Cornwall Chillout Cafes are taking place on Sunday (April 18th) - offering Sun (hopefully), coffee (definitely), good conversation (probably), new friends (positively) and cake (unquestionably)! What more could you possibly want from a lovely Sunday afternoon in April!

Both Chillout Cafes are friendly, relaxed and safe spaces for LGBT people, with a great mix of women and men of all ages. Don't be shy to go along on your own - you might not know anyone when you get there but you will by the time you leave! Try it - you might like it!

Cornwall Chillout Café runs from 2pm - 5pm and is The Cross Roads Inn, Scorrier, near Redruth - one minute from the A30 – email cornwallchilloutcafe@hotmail.co.uk for more information or directions.

Dorset Chillout Café runs from 1:30 - 4:30 and is a cafe in South Street, Dorchester – email dorsetchillout@hotmail.com details of the venue.

Exeter Pride



*The front of the Exeter
Pride Parade*

Exeter Pride sets off the Pride season! A huge thank you goes out to all the organizers, supports, volunteers, and everyone that turned up, making Exeter Pride 2010 such a huge success.

Around 300 people paraded behind the 50m rainbow flag (see left) to celebrate Pride in the City. It was a marvelous site to see and was warmly received by members of the public.

Following the parade, events took place throughout the day at the Phoenix Arts Centre and kept everyone busy right throughout the day, attracting an estimated 500 people.

Exeter Pride organisers were very very pleased with how the day went and have already started on Exeter Pride 2011. Exeter Pride has been an independent project of the Intercom Trust since it started but now it is becoming its own autonomous organisation. So if you are interested in getting involved the group is calling for Trustees and Committee members for 2011 so get in touch for details of the next meeting on Monday 26th April 6pm at Vaults.

Telephone 01392 201012 or email: info@exeterpride.co.uk for more info.

New trustees needed to keep Rainbow Flag flying over Plymouth

The largest Pride festival in Devon and Cornwall is seeking new trustees to oversee and help with the running of the annual event. Plymouth Pride Event has grown over the past four years to be the most successful LGBT festival in the region, last year attracting over 4,000 visitors.

New trustees are needed to fill the roles of chair, secretary, and treasurer, as well as other general trustee positions as the existing post holders step down due to their own work commitments and for health reasons. The organising committee also want to find fresh faces to join them and help with some of the tasks which need carrying out.

The roles are all voluntary, and Plymouth Pride Event makes no secret of the fact that organising the festival has become a year-round commitment.

Plymouth Pride Event treasurer David O'Brien said: "We are financially very healthy, and we benefit from a huge support base among local businesses and a loyal following among LGBT communities all around the region."

Anybody interested in becoming a trustee or joining the organising committee, should contact Plymouth Pride Event before June 1 by emailing info@plymouthprideevent.org.uk or in writing c/o 36 Looe Street, Plymouth, PL4 0EB.

Further details about the vacancies and more information about the festival can be found by logging on to www.plymouthprideevent.org.uk, or by emailing info@plymouthprideevent.org.uk, or by telephoning 07753 339965.

New Chaps Campaign

CHAPS is a partnership of community-based organisations, co-ordinate by Terrence Higgins Trust, carrying out HIV health promotion with gay men in England and Wales. It's your turn to talk - We've been talking about sex for over 25 years. Now it's your turn.

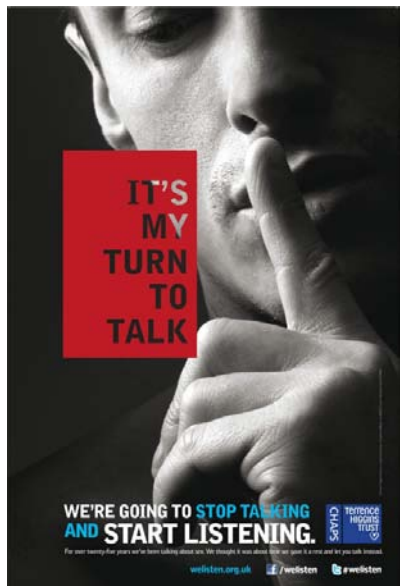
We want to hear what gay and bisexual men have to say about their sex lives, so we are asking them to come and share their views online at www.welisten.org.uk.

The forum will run through April and May and the comments will help us develop an autumn campaign with our CHAPS partners. Hundreds of gay and bisexual men will be able to post their thoughts and experiences about sex via this forum, no matter what your age is, where you live or whether you're HIV negative, positive or unsure.

What you tell us will make it easier to create a campaign that helps gay guys talk to each other about sex and HIV. If you're not a gay or bisexual man, you can help us by spreading the news about the forum to any friends who are!

Keep an eye out for the We Listen ads - on Gaydar, Facebook, in the gay press, London Underground and in gay venues across England.

The We Listen forum has moderators and is confidential and anonymous (only men who register can view it and you can create your own online identity). The



forum will have a wide range of serious and light-hearted topics which will change daily over the month that it runs.

For men interested in joining the chat, check out the forum at www.welisten.org.uk. If you're a gay or bisexual man who uses Twitter you can tag with #welisten any conversations you're having about sex. We'd be interested to listen in. Or you can check out the welisten Facebook page for more on the campaign and to post your comments. You can receive updates via Facebook, Twitter and the forum entry page. Come and check it out - and get talking!

IDAHO 2010

Religions, homophobia, transphobia.

This year the International Day against Homophobia and Transphobia (IDAHO) theme is Religions, homophobia and transphobic and some may say that this is particularly relevant in light of certain current events. On Monday 17th May – intercom will be marking the occasion but if you or your group would like to organise anything specific – please let us know so we can link in and advertise the options across the SW. May 17 was chosen because the date is the anniversary of the World Health Organization's May 1990 decision to remove homosexuality from its list of mental disorders. In more than 80 countries in the world however, being LGBT is considered illegal, at times involving life-time imprisonment. In 7 countries, homosexual acts are even punishable by death! But as we know - even in the most progressive ones, there is still homophobia and transphobia in the form of discriminatory laws, unjust representations in the media, unfair treatment by employers, negative social attitudes, and this is especially present in our minds this year as the general election approaches! The



International Day against Homophobia and Transphobia ("IDAHO") was created in 2004 to draw the attention of policy makers, opinion leaders, social movements, public opinion, the media, etc... to this issue, and to promote a world of tolerance, respect and freedom regardless of people's sexual orientation or gender identity. If you want to get in touch to either organise a local event or let us know about one that is happening – email vickyw@intercomtrust.org.uk or call 01392 201012

Exeter GLAM

This group is for LGBT people who like the movies, simple but effective! The next movie will be The Ghost 8:40pm at Exeter Picture House – meet at around 7:30 for pre-film drinky poos.

exeterglam@hotmail.co.uk for more information on what it's all about. And don't forget – if you want to set up a local GLAM group- Exeter stole the idea of the Cornwall GLAM in the first place and no one minds a franchise! Get in touch if this sounds like something you would be interested in! vickyw@intercomtrust.org.uk

LGBT Carers online survey

Do you provide support to someone or does someone provide support to you? If you are an LGBT person with caring needs or responsibilities or you currently look after an LGBT person we want to hear from you. We have set up the online LGBT Caring Survey where you can tell us about your experiences. Your answers will inform the commissioning and delivery of services for lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans carers and carers of LGBT individuals. Take the LGBT Caring Survey - Contact us for more information about the Consortium or for details on how to fill out the questionnaire www.lgbtconsortium.org.uk/carers
Phone 0121 773 6225 or Email carers@lgbtconsortium.org.uk

Womens groups & events

RADAR will be held on the SECOND & LAST WEDNESDAY of every month @ WOW nightclub on the Barbican. The night will start at 9 and go on till late (2/3am). There will be performances from live acts once a month, plus a free buffet at every event. Chart, dance and party tunes all night long from our resident DJs. Entry charge is only £3 /£2 with NUS.

Facebook Link: <http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=384333913746&ref=mf>

Velvet Scissors ...an exclusive female only gay night held at Bar Qdos once a month. The launch night was held on the 8th of March and was a great success with lots of woman of all ages coming along! Velvet Scissors will be held next on the 3rd of May at Bar Qdos and this month will be a Traffic light party so wear Green if your single and looking, Amber if you're considering and Red if you're in a relationship or not looking. The night will start at 8pm. Find Velvet Scissors on Facebook

Pony Club – for Lesbian & Bisexual Women. The Pony Club needs you! 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 for our ever-changing monthly events. See you soon!

Somerset Lesbian Network Based in Yeovil. Contact Sharon for further details. Open to all lesbian and bi women to come and join us **07599 070755** or sln09@btinternet.com

Women on Wednesdays (WOW) watch this space for news of the WOW ball happening in October! Email womenonweds.social.exeter@hotmail.com for more information

Mens groups & events

Senior Moments is a brand new group based in Bournemouth for older gay and bi men in and around the area. The group will be based at Over the Rainbow in St Michaels Street and will take place on the last Friday of every month from 11:30 onwards. There will be a heady mix of coffee and cake with a sprinkling of new friends and chat! The first event will be on Friday 30th April.

Number 3 coffee mornings will be taking place on Saturday 24th April; it's a regular event and a lively way to meet new people in a relaxed and friendly space. 11am to 3pm. Please bring along some food to share for the buffet. We will also be holding a Raffle. Refreshments available.

The Group, run by ken and Shaun has been running for over 5 years now and the aim remains the same... to provide Social Activities and Support for the local LGBT Communities, particularly for those who are in a rural location and are finding it hard to make friends and socialize.

The group currently hold LGBT Coffee Mornings, Mens Outings, Mens Naturist Days and are attempting to start GLAM Tiverton (Gay and Lesbians At the Movies). The group is also starting a Mens Coffee Evening in Ilfracombe during the winter months, and are looking for organisers in that area - suggestions are welcome.

Dorset Knobs is a group for Gay & Bi men and women who enjoy good ale and humour. The group meet informally on Monday evenings in a Weymouth pub, which changes depending on where the best Ale can be found! So call before you go along on **07957 551211**

Trans groups & events

South West Girls hold regular meetings for those who live in the South West and are – in South West Girls works 'have a leaning toward the feminine!' They are not a membership organisation and they say they have no world domination agenda, but are a gentle collection of like minds and interests.

The group on the second Friday of every month come rain or shine. Most meetings are just a chance to sit, chat with a tea or coffee and talk to people that know what you are going and have been through. Networking like this in such a private safe environment will give you the opportunity to discuss what you are doing, where you are going and arrange further outings.

Gender Benders a brand new group is starting in Yeovil in May – very exciting and long awaiting it will be once a month and provide trans communities with a vast array of activities and events.

The group will be meeting at The Manor Hotel, Hendford in Yeovil from 7pm - 11pm and their will be a small entrance fee of £ 2.00.

The group have release the meeting dates for the first 6 months – so get your diaries out...

Friday 21st May. "Getting to know you!"

Thurs. 17th June Quiz!

Friday 16th July

Friday 20th August

Thurs. 16th September

Friday 20th October.

Themes for future meetings will be advised later. The first, "Away Day." will be between the first and second meetings. Ladies/girls, everyone is welcome. Bring your partners; tell your friends. Look forward to meeting you all.

Contact Robyn for further information through info@southwestgirls.co.uk.

Kiss n Makeup are a Social group of TS/TVs their partners & friends. Meeting in Bournemouth, they hold social events for like minded people with this lifestyle interest within a safe, social environment for all.

Everyone is welcome at the meetings whether you are a new girl, Partner or friend. Please feel free to come and join us. Kiss & Make up meets every 2nd and 4th Saturday of each month. 8.30pm till late. The group has recently moved venue back to the Bakers Arms with a new start time of 8.30pm. They now meet up on the 2nd and 4th SATURDAY of each month, not Fridays as it was before.

Meet at The Bakers Arms, 77-79 Commercial Road, Bournemouth, Dorset, BH2 5RT

New Trans Group in Cornwall The Community Development Team have recently been approached by several individuals asking about Trans groups in Cornwall – they are quite keen to get together and start something along the lines of a fun/activity group and are putting out feelers to see if anyone else is interested – let us know and we can get you all together!

Vicky on vickyw@intercomtrust.org.uk

LGBT Parents groups

Exeter LGBT Parents group- Still in its first year, this group is going from strength to strength with regular, well attended meetings and activities. The group is for LGBT Parents and their children and is for them to get together and develop social and support networks.

Contact devonlgbtparents@hotmail.co.uk

Dorset Rainbow Parents is a gay and lesbian parent's social group. Meet once a month for a social get together and support for lesbian and gay parents. E-mail the group for more information on when and where. dorsetrainbowparents@hotmail.co.uk

Don't forget – we can offer lots of support and know how to anyone who wants to start a group in their own area – so if something listed here sounds like your cup of tea but is just too far away from you – why not set up your own! Contact us on...

vickyw@intercomtrust.org.uk | paul@intercomtrust.org.uk | or call us on 01392 201012

Events Calendar

For more events and further details of all the following events, check out

Date	Event & Contact	Time & Location
Sunday 18 th April	Dorset Chillout Café LGBT chilled out friendly café style event	1.30pm to 4.30pm Nappers Mite, 19 South Street, Dorchester
	dorsetchillout@hotmail.com	
Sunday 18 th April	Cornwall Chillout Café LGBT chilled out friendly café style event.	2 - 5pm Cross Roads Inn, Scorrier
	cornwallchilloutcafe@hotmail.co.uk or 01392 201012	
Monday 19 th April	Exeter GLAM – April’s GLAM film is The Ghost – with Ewan McGregor	Meet at 7:30 – film at 8:40 Picture House
	Exeterglam@hotmail.co.uk	
Wednesday 24 th April	South West LGBT Collective meeting Meeting for LGBT Leads of the SW LGBT Collective.	6:30 – 8:30pm Harry Hems Centre, Exeter
	vickyw@intercomtrust.org.uk	
Wednesday 28 th April	Rainbow Writing Group Writers group in Bournemouth – have changed their meeting day to the last Wednesday of every month	8pm Over The Rainbow in Bournemouth
	rainbowwritinggroup@hotmail.com	
Monday 17 th May	IDAHO International day against Homophobia and Transphobia	Various events
Monthly & Regular Events		
1 st Monday of the month	Gay Book Worm Exeter’s newest gay & lesbian Book Group - like reading? Love this group!	7:30pm Intercom Community Centre, New Bridge St
	gaybookworm@gmail.com	
3 rd Saturday of the month	Western Boys is a support and social group for FTM identified people. Group does not meet in June or Dec	6pm – 9pm Taunton location
	info@westernboys.org www.westernboys.org Text or phone: 07811 814302	
1 st Saturday of the month	PONY CLUB NIGHT @ BAR BEYOND Monthly event for LGBT women in and around Bournemouth’s Triangle.	8pm – late Bar Beyond, The Triangle, Bournemouth
	info@theponies.co.uk	
Every Sunday	Pink Sundays at Pâtisserie Angelique Coffee and loveliness every Sunday	2-5pm Pâtisserie Angelique, 79 Poole Rd, Westbourne, Bournemouth
	cakes@patisserieangelique.com	
2 nd & 4 th Friday of the month	Kiss n Make Up Social group for TS/TVs, partners and admirers	8:30-late At Bar Beyond, Bournemouth
	http://groups.yahoo.com/group/kissnmakeupdorset/	

Last Wednesday of every Monthly	Bournemouth Gay Writers Meet monthly to discuss writing and their own work.	8pm Over The Rainbow in Bournemouth
	bournemouthrainbowwriters@hotmail.co.uk	
1st Friday of the month	Bideford Benders A fun LGBT night in Bideford.	7:30pm -1am Tavern in the Port, Bridge Street, Bideford
	bidefordbenders@hotmail.co.uk	
Last Saturday of the month	Torbay Rainbow café Monthly café style event for LGBT people in the Torbay area.	11.00am - 1.00pm MCC - Unitarian Church hall, Torquay
	torbayrainbowcafe@hotmail.co.uk	
2nd & 4th Wednesday of the month	Sit & Stitch New knitting group in Exeter for those who like to knit and have a chat!	6:30pm-08:30pm Heavenly Yarns, Fore St, Exeter
	heavenlyyarns@hotmail.co.uk or 01392 215131	

Got an event coming up?
e-mail us, because not only will it appear above it will also appear on the new LGBT Collective Website -see www.lgbtcollective.org.uk

The **intercom** Trust
supporting lesbian gay bisexual & trans people & communities in the South West
Registered Charity 1072772

If you wish to update your e-mail address, or to have your name removed from our contact lists, please tell us by sending an e-mail to news@intercomtrust.org.uk
www.intercomtrust.org.uk
PO Box 285, Exeter, EX4 3ZT
01392 20 10 15 (main line)
08457 6020 818 (South West regional helpline, local-rate)
01392 20 10 12 (Lynx South West—LGBT Community Support Project)
01392 20 16 30 (fax)