



❖ DECEMBER 2008



Intercom news bulletin

As I write this I am stoically preparing myself to be subjected to Paul's extensive collection of Xmas music which, I am informed, he will begin playing at the beginning of December and will not cease until the festivities are well and truly over. Meanwhile, as some groups wind down towards the festive season there is still a veritable plethora of things to report and lots still going on in December so hold you're your pantaloons, here is a taster for you...

Exeter LGBT History Pride

The LGBT History Month Planning Committee are soooo brilliant they have already come up with trillions of splendid ideas and would like to invite others to get involved. The Next planning meeting will take place at the Intercom Community Centre in Exeter on Friday 5th December at 6:30pm and is open to anyone who would like to get involved with the planning and volunteering side of the project.

Contact Sarah for more information on sarah@intercomtrust.org.uk or 01392 201015.

Exeter Pride meets Exeter LGBT History Pride!

Because the LGBT Pride Planning Committee is so brilliant and is working so well at planning a massively exciting events in Exeter for February 2009 we think that an Exeter Pride would take the focus away from it and really be doing the same sort of thing! So if you wanted to be involved in EXETER PRIDE come and get involved in this instead, then who knows what we can achieve afterwards. So the meeting that was planned for **6pm on Wednesday December 17th is now cancelled** but please see the details above for the next meeting of the LGBT History Pride Meeting and go along to that instead, fun *and* educational, go one try something new!

Standing Council

Well well well, where to start. We are nearly through the second round of County meetings of the Standing Council and so far so good. More LGBT groups and projects are engaging with Lead Officers and are coming along to meetings to have their say. This is all fabulous and we hope that this will only increase as more groups and projects get to know a bit more about it all.

The County groups will all convene at the South West Standing Council in January at a date to be confirmed. If you would like to contact one of the lead officers you can do so through vicky@intercomtrust.org.uk (although this will change when the gateway Intranet is up and running for LGBT groups to join, as group will be able to contact Lead officers more directly)

If you are in Cornwall then you haven't missed your County group meeting which is on - Saturday 6th December 1:30pm in Truro (contact us for details of venue)

For more information about either the Standing Council or the meetings please contact Vicky on 01392 201012 or vicky@intercomtrust.org.uk.

New LGBTQ Youth Cornwall

A group of people from different organisations around Cornwall have spent the last few months asking young people what they would want from an LGBTQ youth group and making sure that the necessary structure is in place to make such a group last for years to come!

The advisory group is made up of representatives from some of the following organisations: The Intercom Trust; Healthy Gay Cornwall; FFLAG; Falmouth University Student Union; Connexions; Cornwall County Council and PACT (Partners & Communities Together).

The group now has a website up and running and has a poster available for distribution so if you think you may be able to promote the group to young LGBTQ people please let the group know.

Most importantly the group are still collecting young peoples views on the Where/When/What's of the group by asking young LGBTQ people what THEY want. To find out more about collecting young LGBTQ people views follow http://www.lgbtqyouthcornwall.co.uk/get_involved.html.

You can contact the group on info@lgbtqyouthcornwall.co.uk or visit their new website at www.lgbtqyouthcornwall.co.uk

Trans groups website

Some of the South West's trans groups have got together to start a project to have a permanent central web site to host the groups names and links their sites. They would like to invite other trans groups to join them. To find out more information please contact the groups through vicky@intercomtrust.org.uk

FFLAG newsletter

Sorrel from FFLAG has recently found herself becoming the new editor of the FFLAG Newsletter, she is asking all of you to support the newsletter and to please send in any articles/ideas/contributions. It might be that you have ideas for future newsletters or features, whatever your thoughts - please share!

There are already some ideas for regular features, such as 'Family Outings' where relatives are invited to share their stories and experiences of when one of their family came out (obviously names changed /confidentiality assured).

The series will start off with 'open letters' from siblings, so go away and talk to your brothers and sisters and invite them to write a short 'letter' or even just a few words that they feel happy to share.

The next newsletter is due out in January. Please would you get any contributions to Sorrel by December 14th, you can send them to her via us at intercom on vicky@intercomtrust.org.uk and mark them for the attention of FFLAG.

Make your meetings more entertaining...

You may remember that last month we gave you our letter of the month along with our specially chosen words and challenged you to use them in meetings – if you did, well done, if not we are going to try again, don't let us down - and yes, we are rather silly!

This month's letter is “P” and your challenge is as follows. Please use the following words as often as possible, especially in meetings. Thank you please.

Pantaloons; Preposterous; Pickle (as in; I am in a bit of a pickle)

***** Group News*****

Cornwall Health Community

lesbian, gay, bisexual & trans Staff network

The network is primarily aimed at workers from the three Cornish NHS Trusts and the Ambulance Trust who are lesbian, gay, bisexual or trans. The group arranges speaker meetings, social events, trips to the theatre or cinema and to places of interest. Some of its aims are;

- 🚧 Promoting to the Trusts any issues faced by LGBT staff, visitors and service users
- 🚧 Feeding back to the Trusts the experiences of LGBT staff and service users
- 🚧 Being a 'sign-posting' service for LGBT individuals needing to access information, help and support.

The hope is that once the network is established it can formally extend it to other public sector and voluntary organisations in Cornwall.

For more information on the group contact Charles on 01872 253243 or email lgbtstaff@rcht.cornwall.nhs.uk

Coming Out Group

A new group for women who have recently or are considering coming out as lesbian, gay or bisexual. The group offers total confidentiality and hopes to be a place where you can share your experiences and the strategies that have helped you to cope and move forward.

Depending upon the needs of the group, topics could include: coming out to yourself, coming out to family and friends (including male partners and children), coming out at work and anything else that is important to you.

If you think you might be interested in attending and would like to find out more, contact Vicky on 01392 201012 or vicky@intercomtrust.org.uk

If you would like to know more about the group leader, an experienced and qualified life coach, visit www.coachingontheedge.com

Rainbow Roof

For people who are interested in looking at LGBT housing needs and issues. The next meeting will be taking place in January on a date to be confirmed. Contact rainbowroof@hotmail.co.uk for more details about the group and the next meeting.

River of Life MCC Dorchester

Some of the upcoming events at River of Life MCC...

- 🚩 Christmas Cracker Extravaganza in Dorchester is on the 3rd December 5.30pm
- 🚩 Social Night at Cafe Jagos - meet about 7.30pm
- 🚩 Carol Service is on 21st December 08 again at The Arts Centre at 6pm (followed by refreshments at The Old Tea House - thanks to Deb and Derek!)
- 🚩 January sees the start of our small group ministries - called TREES. This will be a time to explore subjects and ask questions in a safe space. This starts in Dorchester on 21st January - venue to be confirmed. A second group will run concurrently in a different area (to be decided based on interest!)
- 🚩 We are producing a Community Christmas Card in which you can buy space and send your greetings to others - Closing Date - 14th December.
For more information check out their website www.river-of-life.org.uk

Rainbow Room-Bude

This group is no longer running.

The funding for the group remains so if anyone would like to start the group up, either in Bude or another location in Cornwall please let us know, if you think your area needs something like a rainbow café now is the time! Get in touch with Vicky on 01392 201012 or vicky@intercomtrust.org.uk

Dorset Chillout

The next meeting of Dorset Chillout will be on Sunday 18th January 2009, 1- 4pm Napper's Mite in Dorchester. A Chilled out atmosphere where you can make new friends and generally eat cake!

Writers group in Bournemouth

A new group based in Bournemouth is in the midst of setting up a writers group for LGBT people in and around the area. The group will welcome writers of all levels who would like to share their work with one another, or bounce around ideas; the sky is the limit really. If this sounds like something you would like to get involved in, contact Vicky on 01392 201012 or Vicky@intercomtrust.org.uk.

Torquay Gay Men's Social Group

The aim of the group is to provide an opportunity for like minded gay and bi men to meet in a safe and secure environment. The group will meet fortnightly starting on a Wednesday. Start time will be 6.30pm until 9.00pm. For further details or directions to the venue, e-mail msgtorbay@btinternet.com or call Robert on 07752514574.

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 lynx@intercomtrust.org.uk.

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