

HAPPY LGBT HISTORY MONTH!

Intercom news bulletin

Greetings, welcome to the first e-bulletin of 2009!

Here's hoping you have all fully recovered from a spiffing festive season and have dragged yourself through January into the fast approaching February which hosts LGBT History Month. This e-bulletin, the first of 2009, includes the LGBT History events that groups have let us know about so try and get along to them and show your support and enjoy. The events are not just about getting a glimpse into the past, they are a celebration of LGBT heritage and a really positive way to start looking to the future.

Now, if you will kindly permit us, we would rather like to present to you what has been occurring and what jolly things there are to look forward to in the coming weeks...

Past, Present & Future Plymouth LGBT History Event

Plymouth LGBT History event is taking place on **Wednesday 11th February 2009**; from 6.30 – 8.30pm at 'The Reception Room' at the Council House, Plymouth. Entrance Free Refreshments will be provided. This will be a thought provoking evening, reflecting on the changing issues for the Lesbian Gay Bisexual and Trans communities

Speakers include Terry Reed: The Gender Identity Research & Education Society (GIREs) and Sarah Stephenson; LGBT Historian.

There is also a fascinating chance to hear what life was really like for lesbians and gay men in the 1940s and 1950s from an inspirational member of Plymouth Pride Forum who witnessed the journey towards full equality over the second half of the 20th century.

If you would like to come please contact Rhian on (01752) 304321

Exeter LGBT History Pride

The Pride event is taking place on Saturday 28th February 11.30 - 3pm based around Gandy Street and the Phoenix Arts Centre. There will be lots of different activities including, an archaeological dig, story telling, a question time panel, music from the Exeter World Music Choir and street performers. Good times.

A full programme will be available throughout February.

To find out more or to get involved please contact us on 01392 201012 or info@intercomtrust.org.uk

Being Out There

The Intercom Trust have been funded by the Equality and Human Rights Commission to run a short-term project, right across the whole South West Region, to create a good practice booklet to help the media to cover their stories in an effective partnership with the LGBT communities, and to help our communities to work more effectively with the media.

With the involvement of LGBT people and mainstream and other media we will see very exciting new developments!

If you would like to know more about this project or give us your comments about the media please email Paul (at) intercomtrust.org.uk, or ring Sorrel on 07854 160690 or Paul on 01392 201012

Trustee recruitment and group networking

In association with Dorset & Cornwall Standing Council Lead Officers.

There seem to be two things that LGBT groups and projects consistently voice their concerns about: getting new members and getting new trustees/management committee members or just general organisers and volunteers!

We also constantly meet people who would like to be involved in groups but have no idea what's out there or who to contact. So...we want to bring you all together and see what happens!

There will be two pilot events, one being held in Dorset and another in Cornwall, the idea behind them is three fold; Firstly it will offer people who are not already part of an LGBT group or project to come along and find out more about your groups. Secondly we hope that it will attract people to come and find out what it means to be a trustee or part of a management committee.

And finally, it gives the groups a chance to get together do a bit of that all important 'networking'!

We will advertise it all and drum up the bodies, all you have to do is come along and sell your group, tell people what your about and let people know how they can get involved in one way or another.

Contact Paul or Vicky for more information on 01392 201012 or vicky@intercomtrust.org.uk.

Age of Consent to Age Concern

The 'R U Sex Positive Conference' is going ahead this year on **18th February 2009** at South Devon College. Organised by The Eddystone Trust, the conference will have speakers and a range of workshops and aims to promote recent changes in sexual health services throughout the South West and Torbay and to share information and good practice.

For information or to book your place you can contact The Eddystone Trust on the following details

T: 01752 257077 or Email: info@eddystone.org.uk or visit www.eddystone.org.uk

Standing Council

The South West Standing Council met for the second time since its creation, here is a taster of the kind of thing that they have been doing...

Lead Officers from all four county groups; Cornwall (including Scilly Isles) Devon (including Plymouth & Torbay), Somerset (including BANES) and Dorset (including Poole & Bournemouth) have been busy organising events in their own areas and working to engage groups with the Standing Council.

Lead Officers at the meeting had the opportunity to find out what had been going on in other counties and to come together to look at regional campaigns. One of the agreed priorities for the South West Standing Council will be to work to engage LGBT people with groups and projects and to publicize resources such as the Standing Council and LGBT groups to those who wouldn't normally get involved for what ever reason.

Here is just a few of the things that the Standing Councils County groups are up to at the moment...

- Organising a women's event in Devon.
- Pride events surrounding Glastonbury Pink Picnic in Somerset.
- Publicizing LGBT groups in all counties
- Creating and supporting new LGBT groups to set up where there are gaps, e.g. a new gay men's group in Bournemouth.
- Organising Trustee recruitment events.

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

Devon Libraries Website LGBT Pages!

Devon Libraries Website now has new LGBT information page! The pages include bibliographies of titles in stock and useful website links for information and guidance. The library have highlighted The Intercom Trust partly in recognition of our role and partly because of the support Sarah Stevenson provided in supplying some of the information.

The main front page is here:

<http://www.devon.gov.uk/index/culturetourism/libraries/lgbthistorymonth.htm>

The page relating to young people is here:

<http://www.devon.gov.uk/index/culturetourism/libraries/urlibrary/urlibrary-breakingnews.htm>

Check them out and see what you think!

Rainbow café hopping!

The Community Development Team has spent the weekend visiting some of the South West's Rainbow Cafes...here is our guide to what's hot!

[Rainbow Café in Bath \(Gay West\) Every Saturday 10 - 1pm](#)

Run by volunteers with the longest running gay organisation in the South West, Gay West (celebrating its 26th year in action this year!!) this café takes place in a lovely space set up in a café style. It's a really warm and welcoming atmosphere in a great central location, and you are welcomed at the door by the host, which is really nice for first timers or those not so confident about going to events alone. The coffee was tasty and the prices are very reasonable, there was also cake, which is always good! info@gaywest.org.uk for more info.

[Dorset Chillout \(Dorchester\) third Sunday of the month](#)

Also run by volunteers, it runs in a café called the Nappers Mite in Dorchester which is exclusively open for the group. Really great mix of ages, men and women and again, you are greeted by a very charming host, who gives you a name badge! Chillout asks for £1 donation on entry which goes towards the cost of securing the venue and coffees are charged at the cafes prices. We tested the caramel slice, in the name of research, and felt very satisfied but also a little hyper from the sugar/caffeine mix, good times. dorsetchillout@hotmail.co.uk for more info.

Exeter Rainbow Café: Tuesday evening 6 -9pm & Saturday morning 11 - 2pm This Rainbow café is run by both paid staff and volunteers and takes place at the Intercom Community Centre in Exeter (unfortunately it is not an accessible venue, but they are working on it!)

It's a safe and friendly group where people can meet and chat about stuff and things and I am reliably informed that there is often the most splendid cake available! A small donation is asked for refreshments. helpline@intercomtrust.org.uk for more information.

Torbay Rainbow café - last Saturday of the month 11am - 1pm in Torquay

Café hosted by volunteers at the MCC Church hall, this group is relatively new and sprang from an Torbay LGBT community focus group. The café offers a non-scene alternative for LGBT people in the Torbay area who would like to meet people from the local communities and build social networks but aren't really into the pubs and clubs.

Torbayrainbowcafe@hotmail.co.uk for more info

Rainbow Room - Cornwall - not currently active

Once upon a time this volunteer run group met fortnightly to offer a safe and friendly space for LGBT people to meet and have a hot beverage together. Unfortunately it lost its volunteers and although the money to run the group remains, it needs willing bodies to host it. We have already had a couple of offers from individuals in Cornwall, but we would need a few more to ensure it keeps running this time. There is no set location so it can work around its volunteers and it can meet monthly rather than fortnightly if that suits. Interested?

Call Vicky on 01392 201012 or e-mail vicky@intercomtrust.org.uk to find out more.

Coffee Posse events

There is also a veritable plethora of coffee posses in and around the South West in Plymouth and Exeter to name but a few. Details of these events and groups can usually be found on www.outeverywhere.com

South West Pride Calendar for 2009

Get these dates in your diary now to avoid disappointment...

Exeter LGBT History Pride; Saturday 18th February www.intercomtrust.org.uk for more info

Bournefree: 10th -12th July 2009. www.bournefree.co.uk for more info

Plymouth Pride Saturday 15th August 2009. www.plymouthprideevent.co.uk for more info

Cornwall Pride: Saturday 8th August. <http://www.cornwallpride.com> for more info

Pink Picnic @Glastonbury; to be announced

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

Somerset Lesbian Network

The Somerset Lesbian Network is a new group that is being set up by a group of women in Somerset. Many people have been feeling the absence of such a network in Somerset and so this exciting new group should really fill a gap in social activities for women in the area.

The group are having several planning meetings in the lead up to their launch where there will be time for networking and opportunities to meet new people and find out information on what's going on.

The Launch will take place on **Saturday 14th March** in central Yeovil. Light refreshments from 12:30 with the Launch at 1pm. For further information please e-mail sln@btinternet.com or call 07599070755.

South West lesbian Arts & Social group

An on-line meeting place for women interested in going to live music events, visual art exhibitions, cinema and festivals.... A space to post events you think others might be interested in going to and maybe find like minded women to go with. Events may be mainly in the Exeter area but could be anywhere in the southwest. For more information contact the group on southwestarts@hotmail.co.uk

Lemmy Out!

Exeter University's Lemon grove now hosts Exeter's newest and biggest gay club night, Lemmy Out!

Organised by the Exeter University's LGBT Society the next night will be held on Friday 30th January, 9pm – 2am. The event is open to all, not just students. Entry costs £4 and £3 if you are a student. Special events include Gay Blind Date, guest DJ's and the owner of ticket 100 get a prize, good times!

Women on Wednesday...

Same day, new venue

Woman on Wednesday is an informal and friendly women's group that meet weekly on, wait for it...a Wednesday! It is a new year so the group are changing the venue for their Wednesday gathering, same time and day, still meeting at 8:00 on Wednesdays but will now be meeting at VIVO, a gay friendly bar in Fore Street, Exeter. New faces are always welcome. For more information on the group or venue please contact the group on womenonweds.social.exeter@hotmail.com.

Valentines Stomp

The 'Strictly Sisters Valentine's Stomp' plus 'Strictly Tango' dance workshop will be a relaxed, friendly, funky and fun dance night for lesbians and bisexual women. There will also be a 'Strictly tango' workshop which will be a chance to learn some serious steps in a short workshop led by experienced teachers. Saturday 14th Feb, Strictly tango workshop - 7.30-8.45pm followed by the Stomp dance night from 8:45pm to midnight.

Tickets are £8/£7 (benefits/elders) for the workshop and stomp, £7/£6 (benefits/elders) Stomp only (after 8.45). for more information on location please contact the group on jojazz@onetel.com

International Womens Day - Walk for Peace

Exeter Phoenix would like you to come on the 'Walk for Peace' on Sunday 8th March for International Women's Day. Meeting at 11.45 Bedford Street, just off the High Street. The walk (a slow 30 minutes down and up the High Street) will end at Exeter Phoenix for socialising/activities/refreshments and performances (1-4pm). For more information contact education@exeterphoenix.org.uk.

Dorset Knobs

This is a group for gay and bi men (and friends) that meet in a pub in Weymouth. New members are always welcomed and it's a great way to make new friends, so add it to your social calendar! There is apparently a rather good selection of real ales on offer, if that pleases you.

Takes place weekly on a Monday evening, for information on the venue contact Colin on 07957551211.

Stand up to Hatred

Dorset Mind have asked us to highlight that it will be Holocaust memorial day on 27 January 2009, to remember the Holocaust and genocides in Cambodia, Bosnia and Rwanda, Building a safer, fairer world. STAND UP TO HATRED

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. The group meet on the **third Thursday of the month** at a Community Centre in Bournemouth for more information contact Vicky on 01392 201012 or Vicky@intercomtrust.org.uk.

Rainbow Mind

A member led group for LGBT people who are affected in some way by mental health issues. The group meet in a safe, relaxed and unpressurised environment for a coffee and a chat and also arrange activities outside of the group setting. The group runs from 2:30pm but make sure you get there before 3pm in case they decide to go out on an activity.

For more information or directions to the venue e-mail. rainbowmindexeter@hotmail.co.uk

Please note this is a social/activity group and not a counselling group, if you feel that you may require something more support based please contact you local LGBT helpline for more information. (Intercom Helpline: 08457 6020818 or visit <http://www.rainbow-ring.info> for details of confidential LGB and Trans Community Info and Help in the South West peninsula)

Do you live in Dorset?

Then DORSET POPP WAYFINDERS are here to help you. They provide free, impartial and confidential information for all groups of people over the age of 50. If you are over 50 and want some help or information about Benefits; Keeping Healthy; Social Activities; Legal Issues; Community Transport; Housing Options; Learning Opportunities; Safety & Security; Care Agencies; Reliable Traders or Local Information. WAYFINDERS run Coffee Mornings, Information Days and provide Outreach services in our community. You can call in and speak to them at these events or you can ring 01305 213345 to get their contact details for a confidential discussion.

You can also send an e-mail to wayfindersinfo@acdorchester.org.

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

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)