

INTERCOM NEWS BULLETIN MAYISH 2007

Paul zooms in leathered up on little buzzy scooter!!

Removes helmet with big grin on face

Hola hola hola to everyone! Thought I would get the scooter out in the office to see if it could help me get from place to place quicker...but I think others are having issues with the smoke fumes...oops! Was worth it just to get the old leathers out...haa haa! ☺

As you can see I am once again off on a mad one....hoorah! The summer is here (apparently someone forgot to tell the weather people though...I mean slack or what?!!) and I never thought it could but things seem to be getting even busier here at Intercom Towers...but all for the better of course!

So how are you all? *shouts across the peninsula telling me who people are* Whoooooaaaa.....that was one big response....glad to hear you are all well...and keeping out of trouble ;).....as if!!

Okies....time to rev that scooter and zip around Mayish's e-bulletin...ummm as you can see, my kinda apology for not getting it out sooner...told you it was busier than ever! *Writes must try harder on hand*

HERITAGE IS HERE....HOORAH FOR HERITAGE!!! ☺

You might recall that last month we mentioned that we were in the middle of recruiting for our new LGBT Heritage Project Coordinator....well guess what....we didn't....no really....WE DID!! Hooray!!

We are delighted to welcome Sarah Stephenson to the Intercom on Monday 4th June and as just soooooo excited to get this project underway. All the preparations for the start have been made and now comes the really really exciting part of putting everything into action!

So watch this space to hear about project developments and don't forget....there will be plenty of opportunities for people to get involved! If you want to be a volunteer with the project or you have some items you think should be archived in relation to LGBT things then please please please please (and a thousand more pleases....get in touch!!).

You can contact Sarah or myself on 01392 201012 or email sarah@intercomtrust.org.uk.

THANKS YOU FOR THE.....CONSULTATION

Paul puts another big grin on his face

I just wanted to put in a quick mention into this bulletin to say thanks to all the LGBT groups I have been in touch with about consultation over our big business plan to hopefully secure some great funding for our group support work. Everyone please cross your fingers as we finalise it all and get ready to submit. If anyone else has any comments about emails I have sent out then please get in touch. Even when we submit our application, the consultation will not stop there! All our community support, just as with all our other work, is community led from the start and reflects the needs of our own communities.

So all feedback is gratefully received and I look forward to working with you all for many moons to come ☺!! *enough groaning over there at the back...hee hee*!!!

THE RAINBOW CAFÉ

Why not come along and have a coffee in a friendly informal setting and meet other LGBT people.

Saturday daytime 11am – 2pm

Tuesday evening 6.30 – 9pm

VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED

Have you got a few spare hours and would like to put them to good use? We require volunteers to help out with the Rainbow Café and the helpline. Training will be given and expenses paid.

If your interested give us a call and speak to Tess the volunteer co-ordinator on 01392 678744.

COMMUNITY & PERSONAL SAFETY

We thought that this month we would put in a message into the ebulletin about our own personal and community safety when out and about as this work forms a large part of everyday Intercom work!

Just a reminder for people to be aware when they are out and about (when it comes to being out on the scene, with safer sex, whether cruising, etc, etc) and to take sensible precautions. If you are going on a date on your own, think about making sure someone knows where you are in case of an emergency, think about carrying appropriate safer sex gear with you, etc!

We know everyone hears this message all the time and we know ourselves how it can sometimes go straight over our heads...but the message is still important, no matter how many times we hear it!!

Stay Safe!!

Remember, if you experience any phobic abuse, need to discuss any health issues, need someone to listen to you, then feel free to call our confidential helpline on 0845 6020 818. We will try to help or signpost you onto the most appropriate person ☺!

Rant over....I promise! ☺ Thanks for listening...hee hee!

X-PLORE JOB OPPORTUNITIES

X-Plore LGBT Youth Group in Exeter are currently looking for two part-time youth workers (only a very few hours a week) to help run this important group.

Anyone who would like to know more about these opportunities should call and leave a message on the X-Plore mobile and someone will get back to you ASAP!

07867 570944 or email info@x-plore.org.uk

KPS JOB OPPORTUNITY

Kernow Positive Support (KPS) supports people who are infected or affected by HIV living in the county of Cornwall.

Support Worker—Up to £8.5k, 1 year fixed term contract - Part-time post (18.5hrs per week).

Applications for this vacancy are now open. Deadline for application submissions have been extended to 9th June 2007, whereby interviews will take place shortly after this date. KPS expect the post to commence by early July 2007.

The post is to ensure that Kernow Positive Support (KPS) volunteers and community outreach facilities in our coverage area runs effectively and efficiently, while offering a full service to anyone who needs HIV/AIDS support within the county of Cornwall. Initially, working from home and within the community, our current drop-in facilities and venues.

You'll need excellent people skills coupled with the ability to manage the business element of helping to run a small but effective charity and you should be confident in promoting our service across the county of Cornwall and helping the volunteer trustees shape the service for the future.

For more information and to download an application pack, go to....
<http://www.kpsdirect.com/classi.htm>

NORWICH UNION RESEARCH

NU are currently conducting an important piece of research to help uncover the perceptions of people who are LGBT towards **Norwich Union** as a potential

employer. Why? Because the Norwich Union would like to recruit and retain more people who are LGBT to help address the under-representation of these groups as part of their current workforce and to be able to deliver better services to the diverse range of customers that utilise their services.

We would like to invite between 6-8 people who are LGBT and of working age to participate in a focus group that will last approximately 90 minutes during which we will explore areas such as:

What attracts individuals to a job / employer?

What are the barriers that they face when looking for a job?

How do they look for a job?

What do they take into consideration when applying for a job?

What can **Norwich Union** do to help attract more people who are LGBT to their organisation?

The results of the research will enable Norwich Union to become more strategic in the methods they use to recruit people who are LGBT to their organisation.

We are currently working to a tight deadline and would appreciate it if anyone who thinks they can help contact me on the number below.

Contact Shahzad Hussain on 0115 9243520 for more info.

NEWS FROM OUTSIDE THE SOUTH WEST:

Just a couple of bits of news people thought I might want to include this month so I thought I would give it a go! If anyone sees any relevant articles they think would compliment the ebulletin then please forward them on. Always good to keep up to date with things happening outside the region as well as in!

Transsexual Mayor ☺

A male to female transsexual has become the UK's first mayor. Lib Dem Jenny Bailey underwent gender reassignment surgery to become a woman around 15 years ago & has just been sworn in as the Civic Leader of Cambridge City Council. The council chief executive said "the only thing that really matters is the person's ability to carry out the duties & functions of the post, their past should not be a consideration & was not in this case" Jenny Baileys girlfriend, a transsexual & former councillor herself has been sworn in as mayoress.

HIV Testing in A&E

An HIV consultant working in Birmingham's Selly Oak hospital is calling for all patients attending any A&E dept in the UK to be tested for the HIV virus unless they specifically opt out of the idea instead of the current method of just testing high risk groups such as drug addicts & men who have sex with other men. Dr Kaveh Manvi said that "far too many HIV+ people were being missed using the current testing methods of only testing a small fraction of the community who are in the most at risk groups. By testing everyone who attends an A&E dept for the HIV virus would

not only identify more people with the virus but it would be at a much less advanced stage so effective treatment could begin sooner & it would also help to remove the stigma associated with having the test if it was given as a routine part of any A&E treatment. The current system is not working so we must think of doing things in a different way if we are to identify people outside the usual high risk groups which is the main reason more people do not get tested in the first place, they think that they will be thought of as belonging to one of these groups. After doing testing in the same way for the last 15 years or more it is time we stood back from the situation & had a careful look at what else we can do in order to identify those people who do not know they are HIV+ & so could potentially infect someone without realising" Many AIDS charities fully support the idea such as the THT saying it would be a far more cost effective way of testing than the system we use currently.

GROUP NEWS:

Don't forget that if your group wants to advertise anything then please just get in touch and I can chisel it into the next edition ☺.

GROUP AGM'S

There are a couple of AGM's coming up for a couple of groups next week so I thought I would keep you informed in case you wanted to get involved!!!

Plymouth Pride Forum—Wednesday 6th June. For more info contact 07910154813

X-Plore Youth Group—Thursday 7th June, held at Intercom, 5b New Bridge Street, Exeter, EX4 3JW. Contact 07867 570944 or email info@x-plore.org.uk for more info.

PRIDE SEASON

As I write this Plymouth Pride Event weekend is upon us and a huge good luck (and post event well done) to them all!! They have been working so so so hard to set this event up for everyone so hope people noticed the dates last month and hopped along! If you miss it for any reason, then don't forget Bourne Free in Bournemouth next month! This promises to be another very exciting day so check out their website for up to date info on what's going to be happening there!

Plymouth Pride Event: June 2nd/3rd 2007

Take a look at their website for information on what is happening over the weekend. www.plymouthprideevent.co.uk.

Bourne Free in Bournemouth: July 14th

Go to www.bournefree.co.uk for more information about events taking place.

LGCM DEVON

For anyone interested in the activities of the Lesbian and Gay Christian Movement, which is very active across Devon, you should go and visit their lovely website, www.lgbt.me.uk.

Devon LGCM is not a church but offers support and social events to anyone affected by Religious homophobia. Regular events are held across Devon.

Check out the website or telephone 07805 254996

DANCING DYKES

The following dates are for the activities of Dancing Dykes. Please get in touch if you would like more info.

Saturday June 16. Disco at City Gate

Saturday Sept 15. Disco at City Gate

Saturday Oct 13. Social Evening at Globe Inn, Newtown

Saturday Nov 17. Gala Ball, Thistle Hotel.

All events except the Gala Ball start at 8.00pm , entrance fees are five pounds, again except for the Ball.

Please contact Dancing Dykes on dancingdykes@blueyonder.co.uk or 07758 822115 for more information.

MID DEVON ACTIVITIES:

Some diary dates from www.number3.co.uk.

13th NEW GAY NATURIST DAY - NUMBER 3.

Entry Fee £3 to cover costs. 10.30am onwards. Hot Tub.

Please bring along a plate of food to share at the buffet, towel, flip flops. Games, chat, background music, a nice relaxing day. Call Shaun on 01884 253823 for further information.

26th NEW CAFFMOS BAR AT TJ'S - 7.30pm till late. Background music. Come and make new friends at TJ's Bar, Fore St, Tiverton. (opposite Angels Fly South - small alleyway leading down to TJ's in the basement).

30th COFFEE MORNING AT NUMBER 3 - 10.30am onwards. These Coffee Mornings are really well attended please bring along a plate of food to share at the buffet. Your chance to relax and unwind, be yourself in the company of other men, and make new friends, perhaps even find that someone special. Small donation towards tea/coffee appreciated. Raffle with prizes, all donations towards events throughout the year.

Zooooooooom.....zooooom.....zooooooooooooooooooooooooooooooooommmmm

Paul zips around again on the scooter

Weeeeeee....what fun this is! Hee hee.

Alright....i'll stop....just for you! ☺

Hope you all enjoyed that little run of updates above.....a lot going on!

Hope you all join me once more as we zip around on the LGBT track of life for the South West.....weeeeeeeeeeeeeee *Paul zooms off again*

As he disappears in to the distance

Byyyyyyiiiiiieeeeeeeeeeeeeee