



**LGBT '09**  
**Let's Get Back Together**  
lesbian, gay, bisexual & trans communities in the  
South West peninsula networking together

## **Let's Get Back Together 2009 Conference Update and Feedback**

Thanks to everyone who attended this year's LGBT community conference. It was an amazing weekend and already we are planning for 2010...but how do we top it I hear you say....watch this space!

This year, rather than producing a standard rather boring report, we thought we would be a little different and produce a conference newsletter. This way, we can highlight the key points from the weekend without sending you to sleep!

Let us know what you think of this format.

Just so you can plan ahead, get your diaries out and stick Sat 11th and Sunday 12th September in for Let's Get Back Together 2010. Venue is yet to be confirmed!!



Everyone gathered in the Courtyard at Dartington Hall



## Attendance

We had a total of 81 people attending LGBT' 09, the highest attendance we have had!

Through this, we had 50 frontline LGBT groups and projects represented at the conference!



## Campaigns

We took the opportunity to get a sense of what groups wanted us to be campaigning on through the Collective over the next year. We will be taking the list to the next round of meetings during December so pop along and give your views. They are closely mirrored to last year's ideas, some of which are already being worked on. These include homophobia in schools, same-sex domestic abuse awareness and older people's issues.



*An unparalleled weekend!*

*Great partnerships and networking helps to strengthen our project*

*An eye opening weekend.  
Am more motivated to become active in LGBT issues again*

## Evening Entertainment

Thanks to the constructive feedback from LGBT'08 we organised a better variety of activities on the Sat evening, including sumo suits (very funny and well received!), mini golf, dj, movie and gay bingo! This everyone the opportunity to get to know each other in a very informal environment and thanks to the resoundingly positive comments, we will mirror this for 2010.

## Key Note Speakers

We were very fortunate this year to have some brilliant speakers for the event. These included:

### Brendan Brookshaw--Devon & Cornwall Police



Brendan heads up the Diversity team at D&C Police and have us a very sound (as well as extremely amusing!) account of why there is a need for a diversity unit and some of the work they have been achieving over the last couple of years.

### Mark Goodman--LGBT Consortium



Mark is the Chief Executive of Consortium, who kind of do what Paul and Vicky do but on a national level. They are what is known as a National Infrastructure Organisation (nice big words!). Mark spoke about the work of Consortium and what is happening nationally that is relevant to us on a regional basis.

### Chris Gidden--Trans Campaigner



Chris is also the editor of TV/TS News, a national newsletter for TV/TS people. Chris gave a great account of current Trans issues and more work that continues to need to be done.

### Jenny Broughton--FFLAG Trustee



Jenny was also one of Intercom's longest standing Trustees and has been instrumental in campaigning work for LGB issues and gave us a lovely talk about some of this work. During the weekend we also took the opportunity to give Jenny a very special award for everything she has done for LGBT rights over the years.

*Great networking...am reinvigorated*



## Workshops

This year we gave more time over to workshops, responding to comments from LGBT '08 and this worked really well. We had a much broader range of workshops available--some serious, some fun--giving people the opportunity to engage in a variety of subjects such as gay writing, the bible, salsa, homophobia in schools and even tantric sex!

Previously, the format of the workshops was about creating outcomes to be worked on but we decided this year to allow the workshops to be more around building on knowledge as the Collective discusses outcomes throughout the year that everyone is working on.



## LGBT Collective

To mark the first anniversary of the Collective's existence we thought we would make the peninsula meeting a key part of the weekend. We invited all attenders to observe the lead officers discussions and to feed in their points.

The meeting gave each County an excellent opportunity to discuss what has been achieved over the 12 months and what their current plans are, as well as the plans of the whole Collective.

Notably, we were able to highlight the re-branding of the Collective (formerly the Standing Council...very dull!) and the publicity campaign we were about to undergo.

We also managed to fill a few more of the vacant positions on the Collective, which is fantastic.



After just a year, we are seeing much more networking of groups and everyone working together. As they say, together we are stronger....and right we are proving that...keep it up!

## Inspiration

As well as our key note speakers we were delighted to have some local inspirational people talking to us on Sunday morning (just to wake everyone up after a heavy night!).

We wanted to re-enthuse and re-inspire people about why we do LGBT community work and what it is needed for.

Their speeches were fantastic and hit exactly the right note and we thank them very much for agreeing to be our spokespeople for their County!



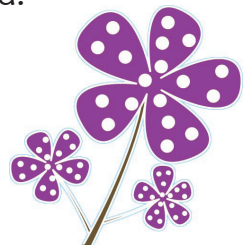
My batteries are recharged  
being among such lovely and  
inspiring people

I am inspired by the  
integrity, compassion,  
respect and courage  
shown by all of us,  
especially the speakers



## Next Year

So how do we better the event for next year?!  
Good question....but trust me, we will! You  
will just have to watch this space whilst we  
plan away in the background!



## Where Next?

2010 sees the last year of our BASIS funded Community Development so we are now thinking beyond this period and how we continue to fund our Lynx South West services.

We will be using all the information we have gathered from the various conferences, the Collective, group comments, etc to work on cross-border commissioning of our services by Public Authorities. Basically, that means we want Councils, etc to work together across the peninsula to put resources into funding LGBT specialist community development.

A much needed kick in the pants. I hurt my cheeks from laughing so much.



## External Evaluation

In order to ensure that we remain community-led and community responsive we are taking this opportunity to externally evaluate our community development services. Our independent consultant will be contacting groups over the next month with to get your views (this can be done anonymously) so please help us with this. It will help us to refine the service we provide you with and improve the work that we do.



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