

PRESTON LGBT CENTRE GROUP

Meets at Preston DISC (Disability Information Service Centre), 103 Church St, Preston, from 6.30pm on the 1st Wednesday every month. All LGBT people welcome.

For more information about the group or to get involved, please telephone 07936 712478. And look out for the group now on Facebook!

TEL AVIV SHOOTING

A masked gunman entered a venue in Tel Aviv, Israel on August 1st during a meeting of LGBT young people, and sprayed the room with bullets, killing a youth counsellor and 17-year-old young person, injuring 15 other people and sparking worldwide outrage.

THE CROWN, SOUTHPORT

Southport now has a proper gay bar, not a gay friendly bar, or a gay tolerant night but it's own gay bar where people can come and relax, flirt and have fun.

There is a very mixed crowd of all ages at **The Crown**, the music is fun and eclectic according to manager Mark, and the crowd welcoming and friendly. Drag queens on most Fridays and almost all Saturdays and other entertainments on a Thursday and Sunday

CIVIL PARTNERSHIPS FALL

In the UK, 7,169 civil partnerships

(3,824 male and 3,345 female) were held in the UK in 2008, bringing the total number of partnerships formed since the Civil Partnership Act came into force until the end of 2008 to 33,956.

As in 2007, the London Borough of Westminster and Brighton and Hove Unitary Authority had the highest number of gay partnerships.

WATSON & HOLMES GO GAY?

Guy Richie's new Sherlock Holmes film will see strong homoerotic undertones with Holmes and Watson played by Robert Downey Jr and Jude Law sharing a bed and wrestling. In an interview Downey said: "We're two men who happen to be roommates, wrestle a lot and share a bed. It's bad-ass." Sir Arthur Conan Doyle was not available for comment.

LARGE PRINT VERSION OF THIS NEWSLETTER AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

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PROJECT OSCAR

SUPPORT SERVICE FOR LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL & TRANS PEOPLE

NEWS FROM OSCAR

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AUG—SEP 2009

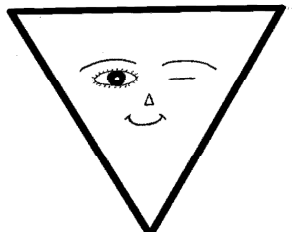


GMFA's popular Sex Course is being put on in the north-west this month, with dates in Liverpool on Saturday August 15th and in Manchester on August 22nd.

The free one-day course aims to help gay and bisexual men improve their sex life and gain a better understanding of how their body works.

The course includes hints and tips on making sex both safer and more enjoyable, and helps participants explore what they want from their sex life in a non-threatening, non-judgmental and fun way.

Places were filling up fast as we went to press but you may still be



Central Lancashire

able to get a place by phoning GMFA on 020 7738 3712 or going to www.gmfa.org.uk/national.

GMFA was established in 1992 and is the UK's leading charity dedicated to gay men's health. GMFA's mission is to improve gay men's health by increasing the control they have over their own lives.

PREGNANT PAUSE

Stonewall have just produced the above-named guide for lesbians on how to get pregnant. If you would like a copy yourself, please contact Stonewall on 08000 502020 or email info@stonewall.org.uk



Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Trans Friendly Service

SYPHILIS & LGV RISING

A new report published by the Health Protection Agency says that epidemics of syphilis and Lymphogranuloma venereum (LGV) are continuing, especially among HIV+ gay and bisexual men. A total of 3762 diagnoses of infectious syphilis were made in 2007, more than in any other year since 1950.

Men who have sex with men account for 73% of infectious syphilis and 99% of LGV cases.

To people at risk, the HPA recommends:

- Use a condom during sexual intercourse. Be aware that syphilis can be transmitted through oral sex.
- Have fewer sexual partners and avoid over-lapping sexual relationships. This reduces the risk of becoming infected with an STI.
- Be aware of the symptoms of infection and seek early medical advice.
- Get tested regularly. Consulting clinical services regularly increases the chances that infection can be identified, even if there are no symptoms.

TRANS COMMUNITY CONFERENCE 2009

This will be held on Saturday 12th September at The Central School of Speech and Drama Embassy Theatre, Eton Avenue, London. NW3 3HY from 9am—6pm. Followed by an optional evening in the Embassy

Theatre from 7pm – 9pm

The Trans Community Conference 2009 is a one-day gathering featuring a series of workshops for members of the trans community from across the UK, as well as professionals who work with the trans community. The trans community includes family members, partners and lovers and friends and allies. The conference will celebrate our diversity of identities and knowledge, as well as the different groups, organisations and projects that the community offers.

This year's conference will take a more creative approach to the themes of education, equalities and diversities, policy and practice, political activism and work carried out in the voluntary and community sector. It will look at various projects that have used art, drama, applied theatre, voice work, and creative writing as practical measures that educate and work towards equality, including encouraging body positivity for trans people and their loved ones, and finding ways of getting trans voices and stories heard.

Application forms available from transcommunityconference@googlemail.com.

Cost to individuals £45, or £25 unemployed students/senior citizens.

A report on last year's conference is available at:

<http://www.genderedintelligence.co.uk/downloads/Trans-Community-Conference-Report.pdf>

LOCAL ROUND-UP

A new LGBT youth group has been set up in Preston, called VIBE. It meets on Thursday evenings 6pm-8pm. For further info contact Rachel on 07814 493750 or Steven on 07816 146709. Some members of VIBE will be joining POUT members from Chorley together with a youth group in Pendle to walk in the Manchester Pride Parade at the end of August.

Talks are also happening about a possible LGBT youth group in West Lancashire.

The Preston LGBT Centre group is working towards becoming a charity and renaming itself as Lancashire LGBT Centre. Watch this space for more details. Meanwhile members are already hard at work rehearsing for this year's Red Ribbon Cabaret, to be staged in Blackburn on Nov 25th and in Preston on Nov 27th.

SWINE FLU UPDATE

On 23 July 2009 the National Pandemic Flu Service was launched.

HOW IT WORKS

The National Pandemic Flu Service is a new self-care service which will give people with pandemic swine flu symptoms fast access to antivirals.

It is a new dedicated website (www.direct.gov.uk/pandemicflu) and phoneline (0800 1 513100 or 0800 1 513200 (Textphone) for

people to check their symptoms and get a unique number which will give them access to antivirals if necessary.

- If you don't have symptoms but want info, call 0800 1 513 513.
- People who have swine flu symptoms will be given a unique access number and told where their nearest antiviral collection point is.
- They should then ask a flu friend – a friend or relative who doesn't have swine flu – to go and pick up their antiviral.

- The flu friend must show their own ID as well as that of the patient. That ID could be

- a recent utility bill
- passport
- credit or debit card
- driving licence
- NHS card.

- Anyone who suspects they have swine flu should not go to their GP or A&E.

- People should contact their doctor direct rather than using the National Pandemic Flu Service if:

- they have a serious underlying illness;
- they are pregnant;
- they have a sick child under one year old;
- their condition suddenly gets much worse;
- if their condition is still getting worse after 7 days (5 for a child).

