



DROP-IN

Lancashire LGBT Centre runs a drop-in on the 1st Thursday of the month

6.30pm—8.30pm, at Disability Equality North West, 103 Church St, Preston, PR1 3BS.

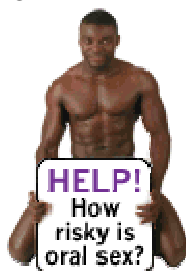
This is a safe space for LGBT people to be themselves, make new friends, talk confidentially about matters of concern, and find out about other LGBT events and activities in Lancashire.

For further information please call 07966 373 110, email lanca-shirelgbt@yahoo.co.uk or check www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=106643469083

The group is also launching its Business Plan at an event in September, please phone the above number to check the date, time and venue.

CONFIDENT CRUISING

GMFA is running its 'Confident Cruising' course for gay men on Saturday 18th September in Manchester. This course helps develop the confidence and skills to negotiate the sex you want, and enable you to say no when you want to. Book now at www.gmfa.org.uk/national/manchester or call 020 7738 3712.



Following that the next GMFA course will be "The Sex Course" in November, and places on that can also be booked now.

GAY GAMES SUCCESS

Oscar worker John returned from the Gay Games in Cologne having made the final of a tennis consolation event for first round losers—and came 5th in his age group in the shot putt! Next stop Rotterdam next summer, for the Eurogames.

PCT AGM

NHS Central Lancashire is holding its AGM on 30 September at the Civic Centre in Leyland, starting at 5.30pm but with time to browse round the information stalls from 4.30pm. Please contact Jill Truby if you would like to attend, on 01772 644406, to enable catering to be arranged.

LARGE PRINT VERSION OF THIS NEWSLETTER AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

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PROJECT OSCAR

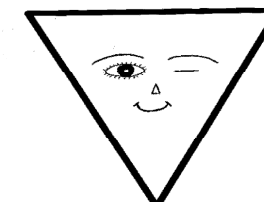
LESBIAN GAY BISEXUAL & TRANS SUPPORT SERVICE

NEWS FROM OSCAR

0800 783 5345

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AUG—SEPT 2010



TRANS LISTINGS

Here at Project Oscar we are very impressed with the North-West Trans Listings which we recently saw for the first time. They include good links to trans groups and events, commercial services, hate crime reporting and Victim Support.

If you would like to see the listings you can access them via www.transforum.org.uk If you don't have internet access Project Oscar will happily print and send you a copy.

Well done to Heather who compiles them!

NEW PRESTON GAY NIGHT

The launch of "Zen" will take place at "The Mill" on Aqueduct Street in Preston on Thursday 16th September. The music, described as Chunky

Funky Vocal House, will provide the foundations for what should be "a night of fun and laughter." A big named DJ on the gay scene in Manchester is already confirmed.

If successful the night will become a monthly event

See Facebook link:
<http://www.facebook.com/?sk=2361831622#!/group.php?gid=128531817184456&ref=search>

LGF COMMUNITY MEETING

The LGF are staging the postponed community meeting for LGBT community groups and individuals on Saturday 21st August, from 10.30 am — 5.00 pm. Travel bursaries available to individuals from voluntary & community organisations.

Contact Darren Knight at the LGF in Manchester for more information, on 0161 235 8035.



Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Trans Friendly Service

MANCHESTER PRIDE

Manchester Pride is almost here! The Big Weekend is **August 27th—30th** and the Pride Parade will begin

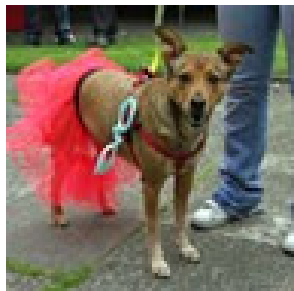
at 1pm on Saturday August 28th. Watch out for young people from Lancashire's Rainbow Generation, including some from



the Pout group in Chorley, and give them a special cheer! The HIV Candlelit Vigil will as usual close the weekend on the Monday night from 9pm in Sackville Gardens.

Acts confirmed for the main stage now include Kelis, Chicane, Dragonette and Same Difference as well as Belinda Carlisle, Heaven 17 and Beverley Knight.

But Manchester Pride lasts 11 days not just for the Big Weekend, and other LGBT community events on offer include a ceilidh at the Quaker Meeting House on Friday 20th, an easy hill walking expedition to Edale on Sunday 22nd, a Pride Pool Party



for trans people and their friends, on Monday 23rd, a Salsa class on Thursday 26th (6pm) at New York

New York, a Pride Canal Run with Manchester Frontrunners starting from the Sugden Sports Centre, also on Thursday 26th (7pm) and It's A Gay Knockout the same evening from 9pm at Taurus bar.

There are also taster sessions in scuba diving and indoor climbing, a gay film season at the Cornerhouse cinema, camp classics throughout the month at the Odeon Printworks, plus women's events, performance and exhibitions. Check it all out on the Fringe section of the website: www.manchesterpride.com.

RESEARCH REQUEST

A researcher at the University of Sussex is seeking to build a comprehensive picture of the older lesbian community in Britain. The aims of the project are to challenge the social attitudes which have made older lesbians invisible, and to make their voices heard. More details can be found at www.womenlikethat.co.uk.

If you know any lesbian or bisexual women aged 60+ please encourage them to take part in the anonymous and confidential survey. The questionnaire can be completed online - there's a link at www.womenlikethat.co.uk - or printed off and posted to the address on the form; or, if for those who do not use computers, a printed copy can be sent by post (a large print version is also available).

LGV WARNING

The Terrence Higgins Trust is warning the gay community of an aggressive form of chlamydia that's becoming increasingly widespread.

According to the organisation, LGV (lymphogranuloma venereum) is a "serious sexually transmitted infection that attacks the lymph nodes". It has been spreading among gay and bisexual men since arriving in the UK around 2004. In 2009, 193 men were diagnosed with the infection and, in the first six months of 2010 alone, 190 men have been diagnosed, many of whom also have HIV.

The majority of men infected with LGV develop symptoms within a few weeks, and nearly all have been infected rectally. Symptoms can include bleeding and discharge from the rectum, painful inflammation (called 'proctitis'), and painful anal abscesses or ulcers.

Left untreated, LGV can cause lasting damage. The inside of the rectum can become so seriously affected it might require surgery.

Alan Wardle, Head of Health Promotion at THT said: "LGV is a newcomer to the gay scene, and a particularly nasty one. Not only are its symptoms pretty unpleasant, having LGV means it's much easier to pick up or pass on other STIs, including HIV, Hep C, and syphilis.



Early warning signs that you may have LGV include constipation, inflammation, pain or bleeding from the rectum. If you start showing these symptoms, the best thing to do is quickly get yourself to the nearest GUM clinic for a test. When going for a check-up, make sure you get checked for rectal be checked for chlamydia. And don't have any kind of sex until you've been checked and treated.