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THE MANCHESTER LESBIAN NEWSLETTER

Produced by the Manchester Lesbian Community Project

February 2005

Lesbian Community Project Open Day, Annual General Meeting and Social Friday March 11th 2005

One year on, come and find out what the LCP is doing now!

From 1.30 there will be stalls and a presentation, or just come along and have lunch and talk to us. This is open to all.

In the evening there will be a buffet, a presentation and AGM, including voting on proposals and election of Board members, followed by a social.

This is open to lesbians and bisexual women.

Open Day 1.30 Lunch

2.00 Presentation and questions

Stalls and information.

5.30 Buffet

AGM 6.00 Presentation and questions

Annual Report

Proposals

Voting

Election of Board members

Social 8.00-11.30 Donation at door, soft drinks available, bring own alcohol

Live performances: *Claire Mooney, Pink Houses band*

Disco

There will be a BSL interpreter from 2.00-3.00 and 6.00-9.00pm.

Voting is restricted to LCP members; you can join on the day or send for a membership form. Proposals should be no more than 500 words (one typed side of A4) and should reach the LCP by 4th March. If you wish to be nominated as a Board member (trustee) please ensure you have filled in a trustee application form and have a proposer and seconder. Trustee application forms are available from the LCP. Copies of proposals, Annual Report, Memorandum and Articles and trustee application forms will be available from 5.30 on the day.

LCP News

The Lesbian Community Project provides advice, support and information to lesbian and bisexual women in Manchester and surrounding areas. We support various groups and networks and can offer help in setting up new groups.

The following groups and networks are currently supported by the Lesbian Community Project. Further information is available from the groups directly (where contact details are provided) or you can contact Lisa at LCP.

Disabled Lesbians Group

Meets twice monthly on the last Friday afternoon (1.30pm - 3.30pm) and the last Monday evening (6pm – 8pm) of each month. Social events, workshops, discussions. The group takes its direction from its members. All self-identified disabled lesbian and bisexual women welcome. Please let us know in advance if you have specific access requirements and we will do our utmost to meet your needs. Contact Lisa or Kay at the LCP for further information.

Rainbow Families

Group for lesbian families and families to be. Events, fundays and trips. Meet monthly at Martenscroft Early Excellence Centre, 33 Epping Street, Hulme. For further details e-mail: rainbow_families@hotmail.com or see their website: www.rainbowfamilies.co.uk

Manchester Stingers Football Team

Lesbian football team welcomes both beginners and experienced players. More information is available at www.manchesterstingers.net or contact Lisa at LCP.

Jessies

Walking and cycling group for all levels of ability. Contact Carol Murray by e-mail: carolyn.murray2@ntlworld.com

North West Older Lesbians Network

A social and networking group for older lesbians (older is self-defined) who are interested in pursuing women's issues. Meet on the first Saturday of each month from 1pm - 4pm at various accessible venues in Manchester. Contact Lisa at the LCP for further information.

Lesbian Service Providers' Network

An information-sharing network open to all providers of services to lesbians. Meet quarterly at various accessible locations in Manchester. Contact Lisa at LCP for more details.

LCP Drop-in

A social space for all lesbian and bisexual women every 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month from 7pm – 9pm at the LCP. The group takes its direction from the women who come along. The group have chosen a programme of activities but there is also a space to socialise at the same time for those who don't want to do them.

February 24th – Assertiveness workshop, March 10th - International Women's week celebration, bring international food to share, March 24th - Alternative Therapies available, April 14th – Poetry/song writing workshop, April 28th self-defence workshop.

Discussion Evening

Are you interested in lesbian politics? Do you feel there is no longer a sense of 'lesbian community'? If so, come along and share your views with like-minded women. Monday 28th February at 7pm – 8.30pm at the LCP. All lesbian and bisexual women welcome. Please let us know in advanced if you have any specific assess requirements and we will do our best to meet your needs.

NEWS & EVENTS

February 2005 will be the first LGBT History Month, instigated by Schools OUT! Co-chair Paul Patrick explained: "This event will give us the opportunity to reveal and explore the vast wealth of LGBT experience; nationally and internationally. As we work in schools, we are only too aware of the ignorance that exists about LGBT people...."

Manchester

LGBT History Exhibition, entrance foyer, Central Library. All month.

LGBT archive set up by the Lesbian and Gay foundation, Contact Andrew: 235 8001 Andrew@lgf.org.uk

York

Resources for LGBT History
The University of York's Equality in the Curriculum project has funded the creation of a set of webpages to be launched in LGBT History month.

Website:

<http://www.york.ac.uk/inst/bihr/guidefeaflets/lgbwebsite/index.htm>

Chorley - Feb 27th

Free-admission screening of the movie version of the acclaimed play "The Laramie Project", a dramatised documentary about the reactions of the people of Laramie, Wyoming, to the brutal hate crime murder of Matthew Shepard in 1998.

Jointly organised by Project Oscar, Chorley & South Ribble Primary Care Trust. and Chorley Film Society. Chorley Little Theatre, Dole Lane, Chorley, Lancashire, 7.30pm (doors open 7pm)
Tel: 01772 644470

<http://www.chorley-pct.nhs.uk/projectoscar.html>

Feb 28th - Pride NOT Prejudice

Doncaster Partnership Against Homophobia / Transphobia Interactive day raising awareness of discrimination, prejudice, LGBT His/herstory

and assumptions made of LGBT people through drama, poetry, RAP, silent theatre and music by young women's, disabled, BME and LGBT groups. Displays and information stalls. Free refreshment throughout the day. Doncaster Mansion House, High Street Doncaster South Yorkshire, 10am - 3pm
Tel: 01142963254 www.safeinsouthyorks.co.uk

Media

21st Feb -BBC1, 7.30pm

Inside Outside will have a piece on homophobia with a slot on the work Schools Out is doing in schools

LGBT Housing Survey

Manchester City Council are asking people to tell them what we think of housing services for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people in Manchester. Fill out the survey on:

<http://www.manchester.gov.uk/housing/strategy/igtb/index.htm>

Make sure you register to vote!

The British National Party (BNP) has already announced that it will be standing in 100 constituencies at the forthcoming general election.

Unite Against Fascism has called a one-day conference to discuss strategies for campaigning against the BNP. Saturday 26 February 05, TUC, Congress House, Great Russell Street, London WC1, 9.30am–5.30pm

Email: unite@natfhe.org.uk

Website: <http://www.uaf.org.uk>

This conference is sponsored by CWU and SERTUC

Support Lesbian & Bisexual Asylum Seekers and Refugees

Whilst in the UK many lesbian and bisexual women experience homophobia and sexism to a certain degree, in many countries around the

world homosexuality is still illegal and in many more countries extreme homophobia is quietly sanctioned by the state. Consequently, many LGB people are forced to flee torture, rape and threats of long prison sentences or even death, and seek asylum in the UK and other 'safe' countries. Unfortunately their official welcome here is often far from warm. A new community organisation of LGB people is setting up in Manchester to offer practical, emotional, social, political and financial support for Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Refugees and Asylum Seekers in Greater Manchester and across the North of England. Part of this will include the pre-exciting asylum seekers' solidarity social group, as well as supporting anti deportation campaigns, providing welfare support for people who are destitute, and campaigning for human rights worldwide. To get involved in individual anti deportation campaigns, help organise social support, make donations, or for more information phone 07816 992218 or email moseslgb@yahoo.co.uk

Horton Women's Centre events

Drumming. 11th – 13th March

A weekend for beginners and those with drumming experience! Two members of Lancaster's women's drumming band "Sista Slap" will be facilitating the weekend. There will be an option for separate space for beginners working towards a joint ending session! Please bring your own drums, although we'll have some spares and other percussion instruments!!

Salsa. 15th – 17th April

Do you want to learn how to mambo, cucaracha & do cross-body leads? This is an introduction to Salsa. Learn the moves in the day, and dress up in your most outrageous dresses and suits to show off what you have learnt on Saturday night!

Drumming. 27th- 29th May

Another chance to do this popular themed weekend. Facilitator TBC

Pamper weekend. Dates TBC

We're planning a relaxing weekend for women to share and learn different ways to relax using holistic therapies. Please let us know if you are

interested. Sliding scale cost
Contact Horton, Tel: 01729 860207.
<http://www.hortonwhc.org.uk/>

Frances Gapper creative writing workshops

The YHA are running two creative writing workshops running in Alston, North Pennines in May and August, led by author Frances Gapper, author of 'Absent Kisses' and 'Saints and Adventurers', and who has also written for Diva.

More information from: Alston YHA, The Firs, Alston, Cumbria. CA9 3RW

Tel: 0870 770 5668 Fax: 0870 770 5669

e-mail: alston@yha.org.uk www.yha.org.uk

Events:

Todmorden Women's disco at Todmorden cricket club, 2nd Saturday of the month 9pm - 1am

Black Angel Saturday 20 May, @ Contact, Oxford Road, Manchester.

Groups:

Sapphos

Social group for older lesbians. Meets 1st and 3rd Tuesday of every month from 7pm – 9pm at the Lesbian and Gay Foundation, Manchester. Call 0161 235 8035 or 0161 235 8000 for further details.

Stepping Stones

Lesbian and bisexual women's group. Meets every 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month from 7pm – 9pm. Details as for Sapphos above.

Counselling Service

The Lesbian and Gay Foundation provide a counselling service to members of the LGBT communities. For further information or to arrange an appointment contact the LGF on the above numbers or contact the Therapeutic Services Manager on 0161 235 8002.



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