



The Manchester Lesbian Newsletter

Produced by the Lesbian Community Project
Issue 14 – August 2002

WOMEN'S SPACE CANCELLED!

Due to circumstances largely outside of their control, the Amazonia group have regrettably made the decision to cancel this year's Women's Space at Manchester Mardi Gras.

Last year, Amazonia were responsible for the hugely successful Women's Area in Sackville Park, a success that they hoped to repeat this year. Unfortunately, the new Mardi Gras Committee has focused particularly on business interests and the Amazonia group believe that this has led to the exclusion of community and women's groups, such as themselves. The group feel that this has resulted in an unprecedented lack of support and information as they have tried to organise the Women's Space.

"We felt excluded from the beginning of the process, which in itself started far too late for us to organise the successful and inclusive event which we had envisaged" stated one volunteer.

The group will now begin planning for Euro pride, which will be held in Manchester next year. The volunteers would like to use this opportunity to thank the people that have helped and supported them this year and acknowledge the hard work that has been done.

What do you think? Should there be a Women's Space at Mardi Gras? Did you attend last year? Is there still the need for a Women's Space? E-mail or write to us with your comments.

MARDI GRAS EVENTS FOR WOMEN

So, there's no Women's Space this year but there's still events for women over the Bank Holiday weekend:

FRIDAY 23RD AUGUST

- **Pussy Galore @ Sub 101 (Major St)** – Vanilla kick of the weekend with dance and a fashion show (£6)

SATURDAY 24TH AUGUST

- **Fish Tank @ Mutz Nutz (Princess St)** – More house tunes from Vanilla and all drinks are £1.20 (tickets £10)
- **Black Angel @ Green Room (Whitworth St)** – The best in R'n'B plus a live set and a guest appearance from an exotic belly dancer! (£7/£5 conc)
- **Jodies @ Thompson's Arms (Sackville St)** – Pop music from the past to the present (£3.50)

SUNDAY 25TH AUGUST

- **Sapphos @ Cruz 101 (Major St)** – Dance in a themed 'white wonderland', courtesy of Vanilla (£7)
- **Desire @ Basement Club – Retro Bar (Sackville St)** – 70's to the present, with DJ Funky Monkey and a appearance from Claire Mooney (£5/£4 conc)

MONDAY 26TH AUGUST

- **Vanillapop @ Mutz Nutz (Princess St)** – Finish off the weekend with more drinks at £1.20 (tickets £4)

Lesbian Community Project, PO Box 153, Manchester, M60 1LP Tel/Fax: 0161 273 7128
E-mail: mail@manchesterlcp.org.uk Web: www.manchesterlcp.org.uk

DIRECTORY OF GROUPS & SERVICES

Albert Kennedy Trust

Works with homeless and vulnerable young LGB people. For more information, phone 0161 228 3308 or e-mail: enquiries@akt.org.uk

Badminton Group

For LGB badminton players, playing every Wednesday night. Mixed abilities welcome. Phone Rebecca at GHAP on 01925 631101 for more information.

Black Health Agency (BHA)

Provides health services for the Black community. For more information, call 0161 226 9145 or e-mail: info@blackhealthagency.org.uk.

Breast Cancer Care

National helpline for anyone affected by breast cancer. Can put you in touch with a trained lesbian or bisexual volunteer. Call 0808 800 6000.

Disabled Lesbians Social Group

A safe space for all lesbian and bisexual women who identify as having a disability. Meetings the 2nd Sunday of the Month at Bar 38, Canal St. Contact Mel at the LCP for more information.

Dorothy's Drop In, Bolton

For lesbians and bisexual women in the Bolton area. The group meets every last Saturday of the month, from 1pm-4pm at 'The Friends Meeting House', Silverwell St, Bolton. For more information phone 07818 046656 or 01204 360054.

Dykes on Bikes

Interested in motorbikes? Contact Mel at the LCP to be put on the contact list.

GHAP (Gay Healthy Alliance Project)

GHAP organise a number of activities weekends and holistic health days throughout the year. For more information contact 01925 631101 or e-mail: ghap@btinternet.com

Good As You 2 (learning difficulties)

A new support group for LGB's who have learning difficulties. Meetings once a month at the Lesbian and Gay Centre, Sidney Street. Call Daniel or Patricia on 0161 273 1221 for more information.

The Jessies (walking group)

The group meets for walks the last Sunday of every month and also organises occasional cycle-rides. Contact Mel at the LCP for more details.

Lesbian and Gay Chorus

Community-based chorus for Manchester's LGBT people. Rehearsals every 2nd and 4th Monday of the Month, 7.30pm at Taurus Bar, Canal St. For more information e-mail: mlgcUK@yahoo.com.

Lesbian And Gay Salsa

Salsa classes are now held at 49-51 Sidney Street every Wednesday evening from 8.00pm – 10.00pm. £4/£3. For more information, contact Mel at the Lesbian Community Project, on 0161 273 7128.

Lesbian and Gay Youth Manchester (LGYM)

Youth group for 14-25 yr old LGB's in Manchester. Meetings every Tuesday evening and Saturday afternoon in the Lesbian and Gay Centre, Sidney Street. For more info, write to: LGYM, PO Box 153, Manchester, M60 1LP.

Loving Me! (same-sex domestic violence)

A free support group is to be developed in the Greater Manchester Area. For more information, please call Amanda at the Lesbian Community Project in complete confidence.

Manchester Older Lesbian Group (MOL's)

MOL's is an open-aged alternative to the 'scene', providing social activities, discussion groups and trips. If you want to be on the mailing list, please ring the Pankhurst Centre on 0161 273 5673.

Manchester Stingers Women's FC

Lesbian football team. Contact Gwen on 07789 438908 or Wendy on 07787 574076 for more information.

Rainbow Families

A support and social group for lesbian parents and significant others. Contact Amanda at the LCP or Cath on 01204 493714 for more information.

Stepping Stones

A support group for lesbians and bisexual women. The group meets every 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month, at the LGF building. For further information contact the LGF switchboard on 0161 235 8000.

VADA

VADA is a Manchester based theatre company run by and for the LGB community. Contact Rose on 0161 881 0886 (daytime).

Women out in Wigan (WoW)

For lesbians and bisexual women in the Wigan area. The group meets once a month at Sunshine House. For details, contact 07812 517543 (answerphone), write to: PO Box 287, Wigan, WN5 9EG, or e-mail: wowmail@mac.com.

Wythenshawe – oUT 'n' aBOUT

A project specifically for LGB young people aged between 14-25 from Wythenshawe. For more information, contact Marie at Signpost on 0161 436 5433/32.

Check the LCP website for complete listings at www.manchesterlcp.org.uk

LESBIAN COMMUNITY PROJECT NEWS

It has been a challenging time for the Project over the past few months. We have been one worker down which has meant less support has been available to the different groups and the Women's Space had to be cancelled due to lack of support and financial limitations. A big thank you to the Amazonia group for all their hard work and commitment to the struggle of making Lesbians more visible at the August Bank Holiday Event. Lets hope the community space returns for euro pride 2003. On a more positive note, a successful LCP away day was had which identified development needs within the LCP – thanks to Michelle Walmsley for facilitating the event.

Since the move to the Lesbian and Gay Centre on Sidney Street more and more people have been getting involved with the different projects, groups and networks, which has been very exciting and energising for the project. Plans are currently being made to develop the capacity of the project and it is anticipated that a new post will be created and filled by the beginning of 2003. This will enable us to meet the growing needs of the lesbian community.

The volunteers, staff and management committee members would like to say a big thank you to Colette Johnson who has been the treasurer for the LCP and a committed member of the Management Committee over the past 3 years, we wish her all the best for the future. We would also like to welcome Angela Bezer as the new treasurer and hope that she enjoys her time with the project.

Here for You!

Do you need information on activities and events happening around the Manchester area for Lesbians? Want to become more active in the lesbian community? Do you have difficulty in meeting other Lesbians and Lesbian groups? Need support or information about services in the area? Are you part of a minority group and feel like there is nothing out there for you? Do you want to challenge different areas of discrimination? Want to participate/volunteer in an innovative project that works directly with Lesbians? Want to join a group but cant find the right one? Want to feel positive about being a lesbian? Want to celebrate?

If yes to any of the above or you have any other queries / suggestions then get in touch:

- **Information** - Contact Mel at the LCP.
- **Groups and Networks** – Want to start your own group or network? Want to find out more about existing ones? Want to become a volunteer for the project? Contact Amanda at the LCP.

LCP E-NEWS SERVICE LAUNCHED

Want to join a new group? Want to know where to go out at the weekend. Looking for a job in the LGB sector?

If you want to keep in touch with what's going on for lesbians in Manchester, you can now subscribe to the LCP e-news service via our website at **www.manchesterlcp.org.uk**.

Once you've subscribed, we'll send an update of news and events directly to your inbox, approximately once a month.

THE PANKHURST WOMEN'S CENTRE FEMALE ADMINISTRATION WORKER

35 hours per week £13,764-£15,342

To organise the administrative and financial systems in a busy women's centre. Must be an experienced user of MS Office applications.

Closing date: 4.00pm, Monday 2nd September

For an application pack, please send an A4 addressed envelope with 44p stamp to: The Pankhurst Centre, 60-62 Nelson St, Chorlton-on-Medlock, Manchester, M13 9WP

LCP NEEDS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEMBERS!!!

We need enthusiastic, committed women to join the LCP management Committee. LCP is entering a new and exciting phase of its development and is on the verge of expanding its services and activities. We're looking for women with some experience of working with voluntary or community groups, a belief in strengthening communities and collective working and most of all a little bit of time and energy!! If you think you might be interested and want to know some more about what might be involved then call Amanda at the LCP on 0161 273 7128.

LESBIAN & BISEXUAL WOMEN'S HEALTH NETWORK

This group has recently started meeting with the general aims of:

- sharing information about lesbian and bisexual women's health
- creating a supportive space for those of us whose work includes lesbian and bisexual women's health issues

There are few, if any (!) lesbian health jobs but there are workers, locally and nationally who are doing pieces of work, which aim to improve lesbian and bisexual women's health and awareness of lesbian and bisexual women's health issues. Some of us are sexual health workers who are interested in lesbian sexual health, others are working in lesbian projects that are interested in health issues. So far we have had a couple of meetings and they have proved useful for finding out what's going on and for getting a bit of support for work in an area which can be hard going!. People generally are a bit wary of talking about sexual health and lesbian sexual health seems to be unheard of!

One common question I get asked is why lesbian health should be any different from women's health. Mostly it is because of the social pressures and discrimination, which we face as lesbians and bisexual women. A biggie is smear tests – a lot of lesbians and health workers believe that lesbians don't need smear tests when in fact we do. Another issue is conception and pregnancy – for lesbians wishing to become pregnant the choices are limited and complex and health services offer little or no support.

Next Meeting:

Friday 27th September from 3.30pm until about 4.30pm, at the Lesbian and Gay Centre on Sidney Street, Manchester – contact Amanda at LCP for more details.

MANCHESTER STINGERS WOMEN'S FC

Manchester Stingers was set up in 1998 through an initiative with the Lesbian Community Project and its aim was to encourage women, especially lesbians, into sport.

Whatever your ability or experience the club provides a safe and welcoming environment for women to get fit and increase their enjoyment in sport. Our coaching takes into account individuals different levels of experience and ability so that the team can improve as a whole. Whether you decide that you want to take part in matches or just come along to train it will definitely allow you to meet new people. There are plenty of informal social activities and we have taken part in a few football tournaments, which have allowed us to spend a weekend away, enjoying football and of course enjoying the social side! Even if you don't want to play you can come along and support us.

We are currently train every Wednesday night in South Manchester and play matches on most Sundays but please contact one of the following people who will let you know the time and location:

- **Gwen Davies** **Tel. 07789 438908** **gwendavies@hotmail.com**
- **Wendy Priscott** **Tel. 07787 574076**

EQUALITY AND MANCHESTER CITY COUNCIL

The Council's Best Value Team includes an officer for lesbians' issues, who work closely with the lead councillor for lesbian's issues on a range of initiatives. For 2002 / 2003 this includes the following: housing needs of young lesbians and gay men, domestic violence strategy for heterosexuals, lesbians and gay men experiencing domestic violence, and 'Women's Voices' – giving women the power to influence changes where they matter

For more information contact:

- **Councillor Mary Murphy, Lead Member for Lesbians Issues, on 0161 2345000 or email cllr.m.murphy@notes.manchester.gov.uk**
- **Clare O'Regan, Best Value Policy Officer for Lesbians Issues, on 0161 2344309 or email c.o'regan@notes.manchester.gov.uk Textphone: 0161 2343036**

LGBT NETWORK

The Network exists to improve the lives of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans communities in Manchester by:

- linking groups within these communities;
- facilitating communication and joint working;
- influencing public policy; and by
- identifying community needs and ways of addressing them.

It is important for the success of the network that as many different organisations, groups and individuals get involved at this stage. It is a unique opportunity to influence the public policy agendas.

If you are interested or would like to get involved with the network then contact **Jonathon Mayor at the Lesbian and Gay Foundation on 0161 235 8035**

FUNDRAISING WORKSHOP

LINX, the Lesbian and Bisexual Women's Networking Group, are holding a fundraising workshop for small lesbian groups and organisations. The workshop will take place on **Thursday 12th September, 6pm-9pm at the Lesbian and Gay Centre, 49-51 Sidney Street.**

Representatives from Community Chest and Comic Relief will be attending and a free buffet will be provided. For more information contact Amanda on 0161 273 7128.

GAY BIKERS

Gay bikers MCC was started in 1977. Gay bikers MCC has a non-discriminatory policy and any motorcyclist who feels at ease with gay men and women can join. Members must own and ride to events on a motorcycle. Membership is currently around 500 with 45% being women. We are the biggest club for gay men and women motorcyclists in Europe.

This year the club appointed its first woman chairperson, which goes to show the motorcycling bug has caught on with us gay girls. We try to encourage more girls to join so that they can enjoy the experience of riding their bikes with other gay folk. It doesn't matter whether you own a 125cc or a 1000cc supersports bike, the club caters for all levels of riding experience. We always try to encourage safe road riding skills.

It's great socially, the first Sunday of the month we meet near Chester and often meet up with other areas. The weekend events are great fun as it gives you a chance to meet national and local members. So far this year we have stayed in a converted barn in Yorkshire, a youth hostel in Shropshire and camped in Snowdonia. Last year was our first track, which was very popular with all levels of ability, and demand is high for the same thing next year. We also organise winter socials in Liverpool, Manchester and Blackpool. Next year we are thinking of doing some 'off road' trials bike riding, which teaches you, basic riding techniques and a chance to get very mucky!

We would like to see more women out on bikes, so girls if you are thinking of learning to ride a bike or want to ride with other gay bikers to join is easy. You can find an online booking form at www.gaybikers.co.uk or write to **PO Box 33, Long Eaton, Nottingham NG10 2BF**. For more information, please contact: wr748@hotmail.com

DYKES ON BIKES

If you like having a piece of throbbing metal between your legs, don't forget that the Lesbian Community Project supports a lesbian motorcycle group called Dykes on Bikes. The group has been inactive recently but we are keen to get the Dykes back on their Bikes! If you are interested in joining for rides, socials etc... please get in touch or come to the meeting on **Monday 14th October, from 6.30pm** at the Lesbian and Gay Centre, Sidney Street.

We particularly need people to move the group forward by supporting with administration for the group and organising events, rides out, socials etc... Could this be you? If so, get in touch.

NEWS

SAPPHOS EVENTS

Sapphos (an LGF project for older lesbians) have got a number of events planned for September:

- Tuesday 3rd September: Quiz night, 7-9pm
- Saturday 7th September: Drop-in, 1-4pm
- Tuesday 17th September: Games night, 7-9pm (and then on to the Thompson's Arms for drinks)

All events take place at the LGF building (Unity House) on Pritchard Street (off Charles Street). For more information, please contact Molly on 0161 235 8002.

LGBT DISABILITY CONFERENCE

The Greater London Action on Disability (GLAD) are organising the first national conference for disabled lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people on the 10th October. For full details contact Janet Nixon on 020 7346 5816 or e-mail: j.Nixon@glad.org.uk

MAN NOT INCLUDED

Earlier this year, an online sperm donor service was launched – ManNotIncluded.com. This website aims to make it easier for lesbian couples to anonymously access sperm donors and was overwhelmed with 8,000 registrations in the first week of operation.

The website operates as an introduction service, allowing lesbian couples to be matched to suitable sperm donors. Donation and medical screening takes place at established clinics.

Pink Parents (an organisation of lesbian, gay and bisexual parents and parents-to-be) have urged women to think carefully before using the service: *"The main disadvantage to using fresh sperm is the health risks. It is impossible to fully screen fresh sperm. A man may become infected with HIV or other sexually transmitted diseases the day after screening"* Pink Parents Press Release, July 2002.

However, it should be noted that although Man not Included do not have the facilities to freeze and quarantine sperm for extended screening, their website states that they can offer this service through Cryobanks, for an extra fee.

FUNDRAISING SOCIAL

The Women's Drop-in at the Pankhurst Centre is having a fundraising social on Saturday 31st Aug, from 7.30pm 'til midnight. Tickets on the door are £3/£2.50 unwaged, and food is included in the price of ticket. The evening's entertainments will include music, dancing and tombola. Bring a bottle. Limited free parking is available outside the centre, which is a non-smoking building. For more info, contact Pauline or Lisa at the Pankhurst Centre on 0161 273 5673

ADOPTION EVENING

Families That Last is a project which aims to find adoptive parents for children who local authorities have had difficulty placing.

They regularly hold information evenings to allow people to find out more about adoption and will be holding an adoption evening for lesbian and bisexual women on Monday 23rd September from 7pm, at the Lesbian and Gay Centre, 49-51 Sidney Street. Refreshments will be provided.

As places are limited, please contact the Lesbian Community Project beforehand if you wish to attend.

RESEARCH REQUESTS

Gay History

I am a student from Manchester Metropolitan University History Department, looking to do a research project on the development of the gay community in Manchester. I am looking for anyone who has been a part of this community or involved with the community for the past 20-30 years, to partake in this research. The research will take the form of informal interviews and all research collected will be completely confidential and adhere to the university's regulations and code of conduct.

If you are interested in being involved in this research, please contact Jayne on 07736 467080 or e-mail: jaynepumford@hotmail.com

Working- Class Lesbians

I am a white working-class lesbian from Glasgow. I am also a PhD student at the University of York, researching a thesis on working-class lesbians. My research will explore the relationship between class, sexual identity and social exclusion by looking at the life experiences of working-class lesbians. I am looking for self-identified working-class lesbians to interview. I am keen to connect 'objective' class position with 'subjective' feelings. Interviews will hopefully cover a range of themes from family background, schooling to work experiences and leisure activities. I would be really grateful to hear from anyone interested. Confidentiality is ensured.

If you are interested in being involved in this research, or if you would like to find out more please contact Yvette Taylor, Centre for Women's Studies, University of York, York., YO1 5DD tel. 07985 239566, or e-mail: wclesbianstudy@hotmail.com,

GROUP NEWS

RAINBOW FAMILIES

Rainbow Families is a Manchester based group for lesbians and their children. We have a drop-in on the first Sunday in every month 1-4pm, at the Lesbian and Gay Centre, Sidney Street. The Drop-in has been up and running for six months now and is proving to be successful, with an average of twenty women and children visiting us each time.

We are looking for lesbians who have experience of work in the voluntary sector and have an interest in developing provisions for lesbian parents and their children to join Rainbow Families Management Committee. The MC meets on the first Monday of the month 6.30-8.30pm.

Please feel free to contact me, Cath, on 01204 493714.

DISABLED LESBIANS GROUP

The group now meets on the **second Sunday** of the month at **Bar 38, Canal Street**, from **2.30pm onwards**. The group has decided to change the date and venue to make it more relaxed and accessible.

If you would like to know more, please contact the Lesbian Community Project.

LESBIANS NEEDED FOR BAND!

We received an overwhelming response to the advert for a lesbian band in the last newsletter. A date has now been set for the first meeting, which will be open to all. This will provide an opportunity for anyone interested to discuss ideas and talk about what they can offer the band. Leave the instruments at home this time but bring plenty of ideas!

The meeting will be held on **Monday 30th September**, from **7pm – 9pm**, at the Lesbian and Gay Centre, Sidney Street. For more information, contact the Lesbian Community Project.

RUGBY

The Village Amazons Women's Rugby team ceased to train a year ago. Now we would like to get it started again but to do that we need your input.

To get involved with the new team, come along to an informal meeting on **Monday 16th September**, from **7pm - 9pm** at the Lesbian and Gay Centre, Sidney Street. Age and ability are unimportant - all you need is the desire and commitment to get involved, at whatever level you wish.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

(All events are held at the Lesbian and Gay Centre, 49-51 Sidney Street, Manchester, unless otherwise stated)

- **SUN 1ST SEPT:** *Rainbow Families Drop-In: picnic in All Saints Park and Art and Crafts activities, 1pm-4pm meet at LCP*
- **SUN 8TH SEPT:** *Disabled Lesbians Group. 2.30pm (at Bar 38)*
- **THURS 12TH SEPT:** *LINX Funding Workshop, 6pm-9pm*
- **MON 16TH SEPT:** *Village Amazons Rugby Meeting, 7pm-9pm*
- **MON 23RD SEPT:** *Adoption Evening, 7pm-9pm*
- **FRI 27TH SEPT:** *Lesbian Health Network, 3.30pm-4.30pm*
- **SUN 29TH SEPT:** *Jessies Walk: Lancashire*
- **MON 30TH SEPT:** *Lesbian Band Meeting, 7pm-9pm*
- **SUN 6TH OCT:** *Rainbow Families Drop-In, 1pm-4pm*
- **SUN 13TH OCT:** *Disabled Lesbians Group, 2.30pm (at Bar 38)*
- **MON 14TH OCT:** *Dykes on Bikes meeting, 6.30pm-8pm*
- **SUN 27TH OCT:** *Jessies Walk: Yorkshire*
- **SUN 3RD NOV:** *Rainbow Families: Drop-In, 1pm-4pm*
- **SUN 10TH NOV:** *Disabled Lesbians Group, 2.30pm (at Bar 38)*
- **SUN 24TH NOV:** *Jessies Walk: Peak District*

CLASSIFIEDS



PinkParents is a UK-wide organisation of lesbian, gay and bisexual parents, parents-to-be and their children offering information, advice and support on all aspects of LGB parenting, including coming out to children, self insemination, lesbian-friendly donor insemination clinics, local support groups, legal issues, adoption, fostering, and helping our children deal with homophobia. PinkParents provides:

THE book on lesbian parenting in the UK

It's a Family Affair - the complete lesbian-parenting book by Lisa Saffron

Available at a discount to PinkParents members

£15 in bookshops

Helpline 0117 377 5794 Thursday 7-10pm

Quarterly magazine by subscription

Website www.pinkparents.org.uk

Self Insemination Kit

Join PinkParents!

PinkParents UK, Box 55, Green Leaf Bookshop

82 Colston St, Bristol BS1 5BB

Email enquiries@pinkparents.org.uk

Phone 0117 904 4500



Manchester Parents Group

*Support for Parents of Lesbian, Gay and
Bisexual sons and daughters*

Web: www.manpg.freeseve.co.uk

Email: info@manpg.freeseve.co.uk

Phone: 01565 733891

HORTON WOMEN'S HOLIDAY CENTRE

- For women and children
- Situated in the beautiful Yorkshire Dales
- 2 double rooms, 2 dormitories
- Self catering – basic vegetarian/vegan food provided
- Sliding scale costs
- Relaxed atmosphere

Telephone 01729 860207 (10am-8pm)

NEXT ISSUE (DECEMBER): OUT MID NOVEMBER
PLEASE SEND ARTICLES / ADVERTS FOR INCLUSION BY 1ST NOVEMBER

LCP, PO Box 153, Manchester, M60 1LP Tel. 0161 273 7128
mail@manchesterlcp.org.uk www.manchesterlcp.org.uk



**MANCHESTER
CITY COUNCIL**

IF YOU REQUIRE THIS NEWSLETTER IN A DIFFERENT LANGUAGE, BRAILLE, LARGE PRINT, TAPE OR IF THERE IS ANY OTHER WAY WE CAN MAKE THE NEWSLETTER MORE ACCESSIBLE THEN PLEASE CONTACT AMANDA AT THE PROJECT.