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Beth Ditto



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My weight is a political issue and I love talking about it.

highlights



lars gspot

Fashion faves and groovy gadgets, plus music, film and event previews. Julie Bindel's lesbian clone couples.

38_{voice} Gay tax advice: has diversity gone too far?

scene

We check out Vanilla's Miss Gay UK, WiSH and Furburger and preview Uni Challenge and Girls on Top parties. Plus a run down of all the latest bar and club listings.



Fashion in tha unpredictable **British weather**

news All the latest news and views, nationally and internationally.

community

ligsaw launches, shaving your hair for charity, plus we profile SexYÓUality.

recruitment

How to score points and win that job at interview. Woman on Top and club gueen, Nikki Chubb. Plus, starting your own business.

9 home&living Batteries included: we look at eco-friendly cars. Kizz tells us about her Girl's Night In.

03travel We find out how to organise your gap year.

health& beauty Have two wheels, will travel: cycling, the new way to go.

relationships Lesbian spotting: How to tell if your best friend is gay.

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mailbag

STAR LETTER! butch in business



Dear g3, I have written a poem in response to 'Ding Dong... The Butch Is Dead?' [issue 98]. Hope you like it...

Ding Dong... The Butch is not dead or only a fantasy in my head. I hope the butch is here to stay and not now a whim that will go away. How dull it would be if all lesbians were femme. Some of us would have no one to fancy then! Because sexual variety is the spice of life, we don't all want to have a lesbian wife. So give us a break and enjoy whoever you are. then we can enjoy you not just from afar.

JULIE TANT, LONDON

ED: Wow! Thanks for viewing your opinion in rhyme, either you're on drugs or have far too much time. Of course we think that some so-called butches are fit, it's just that times have changed them a bit.

love letter

Dear g3, Thanks for your interviews with famous lesbian writers in 'Sapphic Scribes' [issue 98]. Sarah Waters is my favourite author. and it's great to hear from the women behind the books. SAMANTHA, VIA EMAIL

single ladies

Dear g3, Can we have an article and some advice about how to find a decent girlfriend? I have been single for too long. Without being big headed, I'm quite a catch, but can't find anyone without baggage. **ALEX, OXFORD**

ED: Unfortunately, there are no guarantees that anyone is issue-free. But check our relationships section each month for advice.

send us your letters:

Just send your letters to the usual address or email: sarah@g3magazine.co.uk

Two VIP tickets to Machester Pride

Want to join the most exclusive club at Pride and enjoy Manchester Pride's Big Weekend? Win tickets worth £150 and join celebrities and VIPs in Pride's exclusive lounge. Just answer the following question: Which Little Pop Princess is New in Town at Manchester Pride 09?

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are men from Mars?

This month, news hit our inbox concerning a lesbian couple who were turned away from Tom's Cruise Bar in Torquay. This may seem unusual but here at g3 HQ we often get letters from women who have been refused entry to well-known gay men's bars throughout the country. It raises the question: Do gay men and lesbians mix? Or do we even want to? There's a point to be made about whether, in the name of inclusion, turning away women should be covered by anti-discrimination laws. Don't forget, the arrival of Sexual Orientation Regulations laws in 2007 have made it illegal for gay people to be refused goods or services

This also raises the question: Why should these two unique groups of people want to mix? Just because we are homosexual, it doesn't mean gay women and men have anything more in common. Of course there are exceptions, but in general, there is no reason that gay men and women should automatically want to hang out. The summer's Pride events are the biggest indicator that gay women and men *can* mingle and have fun. With over 100,000 men and women flocking to Brighton and Manchester Prides this month alone, there is recognition that these types of event are about celebrating being out and championing all that gay people have accomplished. . . *together*. But, this is where the common ground ends. Is it a case that gay women really want to hang out in male-dominated gay places where they are not always wanted, or is it more of a case that in smaller, not-so-friendly gay towns there are fewer options

Sarah



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hitting your spot again and again!

Babe of the month

We love the androgynous female half of electro-pop duo La Roux. She shot to fame when their single *Bulletproof* hit number one in June, and now she seems to be everywhere. Ms Jackson really is hot stuff – and we can't help wondering if she just might be 'in the club'...

oux's self-titled debut album is out oux will be playing London's S eptember, with the rest of the r UK our taking place in November. For information visit www.laroux.co.uk

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music//film//girls//toys//fashion//reviews **Spot Gadgets**/girl



the fun The L Word Board Game

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Palm Pre Mobile Phone The mighty iPhone is all set to face a

serious rival in the form of the Palm Pre Designed by a group of ex-Apple employees, this all singing all dancing smartphone has a 3.1 inch touch screen slide out Qwerty keyboard, WiFi and 3g connectivity, 8GB memory, and a 3MP camera with flash. Currently flying off the shelves in the US, we excitedly await its release here

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WORDS BY CHLOE MARSHALL

Dot Gear toys//fashion//reviews//news//music//film//gir

the shoulder pads River Island

Give yourself a retro-fit at *River Island*. The fashion outlet is becoming one to watch for affordable and unique clothing designs. The 80s were responsible for many crimes against fashion, but some of the themes can work if brought up to date – yes, even rolled up sleeves and big shoulder pads! The Autumn/ Winter season shows that tight pants are following on from being one of last year's favourites, but add on their *Tilly* waistcoat and *Ondine* sequinned blazer combo to give a retro feel that'll see you 'dancing in the street.' **Necklace £39.99, waistcoat £24.99, blazer £69.99,** grey marl shoulder pad T-shirt £16.99, boots £59.99 **River Island** 020 8991 4759 www.riverisland.com

the sparke Freedom

Big dangly earrings in acidic colours to match the tasteless beaded necklaces were a must to finish off your 80s ensemble. Accessorising was everything in 80s fashion and your ears did not get off lightly. For a more up-to-date, less offensive look, try these Rhinestone tiered hoop earrings, which come in a range of colours. Earrings £35

Topshop www.topshop.com





Although generally dwarfed by more pressing concerns, such as the battle to wear the biggest shoulder pads, 80s footwear was nevertheless noteworthy. Schuh have launched Milito, their own 'blast from the past' lace up boot in both patent and matt black leather: A cross between military boots and lesbian favourites, Doctor Martens, these are sure to be a real hit. Milito boot £74.99

Schuh 0845 30 72484 www.schuhstore.co.uk

the blazer

After Punk came Futurist and New Romantic pop music, initiated by artists such as Toyah, Gary Numan, Human League and Spandau Ballet, and no wardrobe was complete without the black blazer. *New Look* have come up with their own version to stick on top of your favourite fluorescent Ts – just don't forget your big bead necklaces and leg warmers!

New Look 0500 454094 www.newlook.co.uk

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Are you Maintenance? Is your life one big, expensive melodrama, or do you just shrug your shoulders and move on?

You've got a date. How do you prepare?

- a) I apply a bit of lippy and put my favourite dress on. b) I glance at myself in the window of a parked car.
- c) I book a manicure, a pedicure and a waxing session.

The phone rings at 2am. What is your first thought?

- a) I order another drink. She'll get here when she gets here.
- b) I text to ask if she's still coming. c) I leave her a voicemail telling her I hate her, and storm out of the club

Your best friend tells you she can't afford to get you a birthday present. How do you respond?

a) Isend her to Coventry. (b) I'm absolutely shocked that she thought I expected one, and shower her with hugs and kisses c) I just tell her not to worry





ores:	7-12: Low maintena
a) 3 b) 1 c) 5	You're completely self-
a)1b)3c)5	13-21: Average mai
a)5 b)1c)3	You like some attention
a)5 b)3 c)1	never over-do it.
a)1b)3c)5	22-35: High mainte
a)5 b)1 c)3	You're a total screamin
a)1 b)5 c)3	diamond-dripping diva

Sco

I) a

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3)

4)

5)

6)

7)

ance: -reliant and easy to please. intenance: n and indulgence, but nance:w g, stomping,

Your boss asks you to work late on a Friday.What do you do? a) I point blank refuse, and call a cab to take me into town. b) I make a compromise, and just

do an extra hour. c) Istay in the office until midnight.



What's your favourite meal?

a) A bag of chips. b) Pasta with a nice tomato sauce. c) Russian Coulibiac.

How do you like to occupy your spare time

a) Riding my racehorses b) Walking round town.

c) At the cinema, clubbing and reading.

You're off work sick. Do you:

- a) Hide yourself away and sleep.
- b) Make your girlfriend wait on you
- hand and foot
- c) Text a few mates to moan about how ill you feel,



12

Good news for all you Heroes fans... It looks like Hayden Panettiere's character, Claire, is going to be trying it out with the ladies.The fourth serious of the popular BBC 2 sci-fi programme will apparently see Claire getting up close and personal with her college roommate.

After complaining last year that she keeps being mistaken for a lesbian, even though she says she isn't, Rumer Willis has obviously decided to cut her losses and go with it. She is now all set to play 'punk lesbian' Gia in the second series of US teen drama 90210.



Li-Lo watch:

We can't keep up with these two. Just when we get used to the idea that they've parted company, it seems they're back together. And then just when we get used to that... Yes. One minute they're spotted having a cosy lunch and the next minute they're furiously dumping bags of clothes outside one another's houses.

There are also strange rumours to the effect that Lindsay has been trying to get into infamous lothario Russell Brand's skin-tight togs – and, by all accounts, she's the first woman in history he's ever turned down!

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Kate Moennig [SHANE]

/music//film//girls//toys/books//news//revie





... film you saw Up (new film from Pixar)

... album you bought Music for Men – Gossip

... club you visited CODE London

... book you read The Queen of Whale Cay-Kate Summerscale

... magazine you bought Wired ŪK

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Edinburgh Fringe Festival blonde. www.edfringe.co.uk

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way, and the first hint of autumn is teasing the air. Sigh.



Saachi Green/ girl crazy – coming out erotica Published by Cleis Press £10.99 ******

From the college students w<mark>hose first</mark> girl-on-girl forays are captured on camera, to the 'straight' woman who is shocked to find herself attracted to her young colleague, this cheeky collection of tales will have you blushing all over.





pot TitBits girl

I. Bring your suitcase fes, that classic lesbian mistake.

2. Turn up an hour late

he won't care that the goldfish ate your hoes, she'll just be annoyed.

3. Talk about your counselling sessions Show off your legs, not your disturbed syche.

4.Get plastered

There's Dutch courage... then there's ager-fuelled insanity from outer space.



5.Show her that wicked party trick with the talking buttocks ust...No!

6.Try and pull the waitress

ocus on your date, not on possibilities for threesome.

7. Take her away for the weekend

fou really don't want to be halfway to Cumbria when you decide there's no chemistry.

8. Text under the table

Fell your mates about the date afterwar - otherwise you may find yourself without a date to tell them about.

9. Start planning your wedding

Asking a girl ou only me tone is will only terrify iot impre

0.Bring your best mate



The only place for gooseberries on a date is in a flirtatiously shared

music//film//girls//toys//fashion//reviews//news//music//film//girl

Beth Ditco On breaking into fashion, living it large and ten years of fronting Gossip

Her band have just released a new album, *Music for Men*, and she recently launched her own fashion range for plus-size clothing chain, Evans. Feisty, fat and fabulous femme, Beth Ditto, has definitely been firing on all cylinders...

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Spot Interview fashion//reviews//news//music//film//gir

I never read what's written about me. It's a bad idea.

Beth Ditto, lead singer of accclaimed alternative band Gossip, truly is a wonderful creature: an outspoken beacon of hope for everyone a little... different. The sight of her abundant figure gracing magazine covers usually reserved for a series of identical straight, skinny stars is starting to look as if it signifies a real shift in public opinion. It's no longer uncool to be a big fat lesbian. Hallelujah! So what's the lovely lady been up to?

Music for Men, Gossip's fourth album, was released on 22 June this year. It marks something of a departure from Gossip's trademark rocky sound, with its slicker, more electro-based tunes. Beth explains: "Our approach was to keep it really simple, to make it sound like a Gossip record but make it sound a little more adult – grown-up." The band are now working with a new producer, Rick

Rubin, which may have helped contribute to this change of direction. Rubin is co-head of Columbia Records, and has previously worked with stars such as Johnny Cash. So why did they choose to work with him in particular? "He picked us, actually!" Beth enthuses. "I don't really know why. I think he just likes new things. He likes to have his hand in a lot of different pots. He's one of the most gentle people of all time. He's genuinely a music lover."

It's been a decade since Gossip recorded their first album. So what has hindsight taught Beth? She says: "I learned a lot over the years... The last album I learned that anything can happen. You never know how many people are going to listen to your album and it never hurts to try your best." How does it feel to be the figurehead in all this? Beth says of her role in the band: "I would compare it to the mother in a family and how a mom isn't supposed to leave her maternal duty. They should stay at home and not want anything for themselves. They should always be selfless and giving away everything that they've ever wanted for themselves to their children and husband." Unfortunately, Beth sees this as being inextricably linked to her position as a female in the music industry: "I always felt that's expected of you in a professional environment as a woman. You're supposed to be really selfless and giving, and if you're not, then you're a bitch or you're selfish."

However, Beth doesn't seem to agree that, among the members of the band it is she who is absorbing all the attention. "That's really absurd," Beth splutters. "Nathan DJs four days a week and he gets a lot of attention for that. People tell me, 'Aren't you afraid he'll become this big DJ and get all the attention?" Hmm. Forgive the rest of us if we're still not convinced. Beth is a long way from being dwarfed by anyone – indeed, she seems to be going from strength to strength when it comes to gaining exposure. One of her latest ventures has been to exploit a gaping hole in the market for stylish plus-size clothing. She has done this in collaboration with high street retailers Evans and the results are really



stunning – a colourful whirl of funky patterns and way-out designs. In short, not the kind of thing that most fashion designers would dare to suggest curvier women should wear. "It's called *Beth Ditto for Evans*," Beth tells us. "Very creative! I really went on a limb for that one! I felt like calling it 'Beth Row', but I felt no one was ready for that. Too wild!" As with her music, her fashion inspirations are many and varied: "I love Jererny Scott and I love Jean-Charles de Castelbajac. There are some new designers that I just fell in love with recently. There's Frédéric and he does a line called *Nuit N°12*. It's amazing. I wear a lot of his accessories."

This body positive gesture is yet another middle finger to her (mostly tabloid) detractors, who frequently feel the need to poke fun at her weight. How does it feel to have her size under constant scrutiny? Beth responds: "I never read what's written about me. It's a bad idea. I think if I read stuff I would get upset. But my weight is a political issue and I love talking about it." Beth has always maintained that she will never slim down, and she tells us: "I really don't care what people think."

Fortunately for those of us who think Ms Ditto is damned fabulous, Gossip will be playing at Reading and Leeds Festivals at the end of August. And the good news doesn't end there. *Beth Ditto for Evans* is available now at selected branches nationwide – and if your local branch isn't one of them, you only need to hop online to attempt the agonising choice between black and white domino print leggings and geometric sequinned prom dress (hint: we think you should get both). Our guess is, Beth Ditto isn't going anywhere. Thank God.

> For more information visit www.gossipyouth.com and www.bethdittoatevans.co.uk



mu **Spot Opinion** //fashion//reviews//news//music//film//gir

Is looking at your girlfriend like looking in the mirror? Julie Bindel explores 'Lesbian Merging Syndrome.

Lesbian Merging Syndrome (LMS) is a common affliction in our community. Couples who merge, or are 'joined at the hip', can be seen in lesbian enclaves all over the world. These couples, who automatically spend every weekend together; finish each others' sentences and have the exact same hairstyles can be spotted from Hebden Bridge to Hackney.

Let me set out my stall. I have been with my partner Hamiet for 23 years. We choose to be monogamous, but have many separate friends, interests and opinions. We share a core value system, but disagree on many issues. We neither need to keep tabs on each other; nor feel insecure if one of us chooses to take a holiday with a friend as opposed to with one another.

My partner and I have separate bedrooms. No, this does not mean we have experienced 'lesbian bed death' and no longer sleep together.'It means that I can watch TV in the middle of the night (I am an insomniac), pile my dothes on the chair rather than hang them in the wardrobe, and have the odd illicit fag without upsetting anyone. But the reaction of some ultra-merged lezzers to our separate rooms has been extraordinary. One woman actually called us 'freaks'' whereas another said''Isn't it nice when you can carry on sharing a house with an ex?''

Inviting friends for dinner can be embarrassing if they suffer from LMS.What if they assume the girlfriend is invited too, and two of them turn up at the door when you are only expecting one? Have you ever dared invite only one half of a couple when you happen to know them both?

Lesbians can be so badly behaved as couples that a whole raft of jokes have emerged about LMS. 'What does a lesbian take with her on the first date? Her suitcase.'' Perhaps heterosexuals are as bad, but because they tend to have distinct



characteristics or gender stereotypes to follow, they can get away with it. Lezzers, on the other hand, often appear to have only one lifestyle or the other. The more conventional we lesbians become – with our pets, kids, mortgages and timeshare apartments in Spain – the more impossible it seems to be able to live differently to straight society.

Sasha Roseneil, Professor of Sociology and Social Theory at the Birkbeck Institute for Social Research has argued that while heterosexuals are becoming more 'queer', lesbians and gay men are moving towards the conventional. This is worrying. Those of you in your forties and older will remember the time when lesbianism was challenging to heterosexuals rather than a reassurance that we are the same as them, but differently wired. Whilst the straights were seen washing the car and trimming the hedge on a Sunday moming, we were organising pickets of the Ideal Home Exhibition to protest against something such as Section 28. When the hets were glued to the TV on a Saturday evening whilst their babies were asleep upstairs, we were having fun-filled nights copping off, breaking up, getting pissed and being generally outrageous. How times change. We are now as guilty of washing cars and feeding babies as the rest of them.

You could argue that this is more to do with age than sexuality or outlaw status, but I would beg to differ. As we have fallen into the habit of asking for'rights' and 'equality' we have lost our radical edge. Whilst gay male campaigners tend to ask for sympathy, and argue that we 'can't help what we are'', radical lesbian feminists of my generation are more inclined to view lesbianism as a positive alternative to heterosexuality, and demand an end to discrimination.

The more we appear to be just like them, the less society will view us as proudly different. As more and more of us acquire LMS, the likelihood is that heteros will appear more radical then we are. Is that what we really want?

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/music//film//girls//toys/books//news//reviews **Spot Live** girl



Arts & Culture for girls who like to be out



the movies

Prepare to be scared as Frightfest, the biggest annual horror film festival in the country, kicks offat the end of August. The five-day flickathon features the best in new world horror, including premieres and previews. There will be some exciting special guest speakers, with directors and stars amongst those attending. Thousands of horror fans flock to this one, so you'll be in good company. It's the festival's tenth anniversary this year, too, meaning you can expect an extra helping of the unexpected!

27-31 August. Prices from £10. Empire Cinema, Leicester Square, London, WC2. www.frightfest.co.uk

San Charles

Edinburgh International Book Festival

Iconic lesbian writers Carol Ann Duffy and Sarah Waters are among those scheduled to appear at this unmissable literary festival, running over two weeks in Edinburgh. Established authors will be unveiling new books, and there will be storytelling from around the world as well as a chance to experience other elements of Scotland's thriving creative scene. With authors from over 45 countries in attendance, as well as around 200 Scottish authors, look forward to lots of debates and discussions. 15-31 August. Various prices. Charlotte Square

Gardens, Edinburgh. www.edbookfest.co.uk

don't

festival favourites:

summer sundae



The Charlatans, Imelda May, Saint Etienne and The Streets are among those announced to perform at this year's Weekender, described by The Independent as an "unfailingly hip festival". There will also be poetry, a comedy tent, amily area and cinema tent.

4-16 August. From £92. De Montfort lall, Granville Road, Leicester LEI 7RU ww.summersundae.com



The 14th V Festival boasts a talented and eclectic line up. Those appearing include Lady Gaga, Snow Patrol, Lily Allen, The Killers and Oasis. Artists are placed on rotation, so that the festival can take place simultaneously in two different parts of the country. 22-23 August. Various prices. Hylands Park, Chelmsford and Weston Park, tafford. www.vfestival.com

ading & leeds



awaits you at this electric annual festival. As at V Fest, bands are on rotation so that the event can reach music fans in both the North and South of the country. Acts appearing include Kings of Leon, Placebo, Gossip, Arctic Monkeys and Radiohead. 28-30 August. Various prices. Richfield Avenue, Reading and Bramham Park, Leeds www.readingfestival.com www.leedsfestival.com

he ing Hil Carnival

Get ready for Europe's largest annual street festival, as camival fevertakes over this month. Don your most outrageous outfit and get into the party spirit as you join over a million other revellers on this legendary day out Main attractions include flamboyantly-costumed dancers colourful floats, lively bands and over 40 static sound systems playing a host of carnival music 29-31 August. Free. Notting Hill, London, W2. www.thenottinghillcarnival.com WORDS BY ANNA NATAHANSON

mu **Spot Reviews**/books//news//reviews//music//film//girls/

music/keep on track for girls who want to stay in tune



Whenever a great artist dies, there is a strange period of time during which we all have to get used to speaking about them in the past tense.Yet their work is all around us, as vibrant as it always was. When that artist is Michael Jackson, we all have to go through the tidal wave of opinions on his life, his history, his mental health, and everything else that made him almost unreal. So it is hard to remember that a man born in 1958, won a talent contest in Harlem and by the age of eight was singing lead vocals, fronting the Jackson 5. I cannot imagine losing my experience of childhood, or a relatively normal teenage existence, and I shudder to think of the person I would've become had I lived Michael Jackson's secluded yet scrutinised life./ Want You Back was recorded when Jackson was 10 years-old, and captures the very essence of a young boy with more talent in his left thumb than most people dream of. I listen frequently to this recording, and it is this that I shall remember: the keen and excited young boy, about to change the world, not the confused and troubled adult.

24



Nell Bryden releases her second studio album this month What Does It Take? (157 Records). She originally funded her career by selling a painting she found in her loft, and continued to fund it by simply having a tremendously soulful and beautiful voice. Think bluegrass, retro soul, with a country lilt.



Staying with country-tinged pop, but this time with a darker edge, Gemma Ray gives us Lights Out Zoltar (Bronzerat Records). Fans of Ms Ray include Seasick Steve and Jimmy Page-oh, and me too.

It has an edge that recalls Mazzy Star, and a strangeness that is all her own. She is definitely not singing about the joys of spring here, and it would be a poorer album if she were. It is hard to believe this album was entirely made at home as it is so multi-layered and unearthly in its beauty.



Moving on to something far more energetic Shir Khan presents Exploited (Exploited), which is a collection of his label's finest achievements to date. Loosely described as electro house, but in fact far more interesting than other exponents of the genre, this double CD is absolutely brilliant. The highlights for me include an amazing remix of Soho's Hippychick, and Gipsy Kings by Malente & Dex feat. Analogik. Worth the money, however you get hold of it.

Super club mega brand Cream are back with the latest edition of their award winning compilation Cream Ibiza. You can't really argue with the quality of this product, and there will always be an audience for this shiny techno trance and house collection, no matter who the mix is by. This year, following on from the success of Paul van Dyk, we are treated to Eddie Halliwell and Saunder Van Doorn. It's polished, it's funky, and it does exactly what is says on the tin... Handy for shoe shops and embarrassing souped-up ford KAs too.

See you next month, try to stay alive!



KELLY PEPPER. g3 talks to the burgeoning pop princess.



low did you start out? started singing when I was about five and started writing songs when I was in my early eens. I did a couple of courses o help my stage persona and song writing, and these led to me being signed by Baby Girl Music.

What do you sound like? ve heard different comments about what my music sounds like over the years. My music is pop/dance, tracks that will get people on the floor dancing both now, and hopefully for years to come.

Who/what are your influences? love a wide spectrum of music and I believe you can take a little something from every track you hear and love and use it. Vocally I've always aspired to the greats such as Whitney and Celine. I think what Lady Gaga's doing is amazing, and Britney in her heyday was pretty inspirational too.

Where/when can we see you play? 'm currently doing a Gay Pride tour, the final date of which will be Cornwall Pride on 8 August. I'm also doing lots of other summer festivals and club PAs before the release of my forthcoming single, Miracle Man, so look out for those dates online.

ww.kellypepper.co.uk

WORDS BY LEA ANDREWS/CHARLOT

WWW.BRIGHTONPRIDE.ORG



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attitude



screen/what to watch for girls who like a good flick

Must see! cinema/ coco before chanel out Now ★★★★☆

From the writer of the excellent *Natalie*, Anne Fontaine, comes *Coco Before Chanel*, a biopic following the story of Coco Chanel's rise from obscure beginnings to become a fashion industry icon. Audrey '*Amelie*' Tautou takes on the title role and there is already talk of Oscars. As you would expect, the sets are lavish and the costumes stunning. Tautou shows off her acting chops and I am happy to once again be able to say that I enjoyed a French film! It's both a sad story and a fascinating one which will make you want to run out and get a little black dress...





dvd/treading water out 31 August

Out 31 August ★★★☆☆ Of all the lesbian movies out there – and granted there aren't enough – I'm just not sure *Treading Water* was the right one to pick for release. It's a classic for anyone who isn't in their twenties or younger. It frankly hasn't aged well, and I am unfortunately in a mood that leads me to say "just because it has lesbians in it, does not make it a good lesbian movie!"... It's your classic story: girls have a beautiful life together but one is haunted by her mother's inability to

accept her daughter's sexuality. Is it a



could not be more excited about Damages Season 2. Season I was already, frankly, one of the bestTV series around, and the second season has gone a further step closer to sainthood. First of all it stars the awesome Glenn Close, who is as sharp as a steak knife. But second of all, the incredibly talented and beautiful Rose Byrne is back with equal sharpness and slyness. To talk about the plot would be to give too much away.It's Season I but darker meaner and colder:Watch t or miss out.

VORDS BY JENNIFER KILCHENMANN

dvd/**the burning plain** Out 24 August ★★★★☆

Kim Basinger and Charlize Theron finally return to the screen in this dark, character-driven little gem. *The Burning Plain* follows the story of a young girl, Sylvia, and the tragedy that haunts her into adulthood. As ever, Theron gives a riveting performance as the older Sylvia, full of pathos and truth. Basinger is also on top form and completes an outstanding cast. If you haven't got much patience with a slow plot where not much happens, this is probably not for you. But if you're a fan of a well-written, sharp narrative, acted well, you could be in for a treat.

happy ending? Find out for yourself.

/music//film//girls//toys/books//news//reviews//music//film//girls/

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★★★★★★ The Sunday Telegraph *****

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27



In association with Stonewall

ANBITION Lesbians in Business 2009

Businesswomen are pushing harder against the pink ceiling, with out and proud lesbians working in senior positions across many professional backgrounds. Chloe Marshall talks to 10 of the most successful lesbians in business, politics and activism

I joined the media industry in 1995 and I've worked for some of the biggest media agencies on some of the biggest brands. I was Director of Planning & Strategy at Universal McCann, responsible for redeveloping global planning process and leading the agency's strategic and creative output. At News International, I work across *The Sun, The Newsof The World, The Times* and *The London Paper,* my job remit is literally "anything different". My team do anything from sponsoring conferences in Richard Branson's back garden, giving away *Mars* branded footballs with *The Sun,* and local community makeovers with *Dulux*. I've moved jobs for a breadth of experience, and have not been afraid to take risks. My best advice is to create a strong identity and skill set for yourself, so you stand out. The media industry is young and open-minded and I've never encountered any real prejudice. But it's still a man's world, with the usual hard drinking and golf playing dominating business entertainment. As the economic climate impacts the advertising industry. I only hope that, as businesses look to make savings, we are able to retain flexible working practices, allowing women with children to manage kids and careers.





I started my career as a lecturer in English Literature, then worked for Capita as IT project manager and technical writer, moving on to Deutshe Bank as a financial writer. During my redundancy, I set up a company making hula hoops for professional circus performers and started my role at Herbert Smith in 2006.

At university I had very strong, out lesbian role models, and have been out since my early twenties. When I started work, I didn't hide my sexuality and came out at interview. With hindsight, I may have been lucky it didn't affect my career, but being out means there are fewer places for prejudice to lurk. My career path has evolved unexpectedly over the years, and having the confidence to be myself has been essential.

Position: Director of

Company: News International

Creative Solutions





As a woman, don't be frightened of being opinionated.

I completed my degree at Oxford University in Politics, Philosophy and Economics, then worked for the CBI and the Confederation of Health Service for Employees. From there I ran in the 1992 election, ousted a long -standing Conservative MP to become the first Labour MP for the constituency. While Labour have been in power, I've done four different jobs in three different departments. I'm currently the Minister of Pensions, and the Ageing Society at the DWP. As a woman, don't be frightened of being opinionated. You need passion and political opinion, and be upfront and able to articulate arguments. When I first became interested in politics, my heroine was Barbara Castle, a very feisty Labour Cabinet Minister in the 1970s who was the highest level female politician of her day. The shape and structure of politics was formed by men, and I'm constantly trying to re-engineer it to involve women. I'm the only lesbian in Parliament, as far as I know. Times are changing, partially because of the changes in Equality Law and the Civil Partnership Act. The only other woman I know of who was outed in Parliamentary history was Labour MP, Maureen Colquhoun, who lost her seat at the subsequent election in 1979. My experience has been very different, thank goodness.







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Pink AMBITION Femi OTITOJU Position: Managing Director

Company: Challenge Consultancy Ltd.

I have a background in sales with companies such as Adecco, *The Voice* and *The Observer*, and progressed to being an Outreach Officer for the Greater London Council and working at Haringey Council Lesbian and Gay Unit. In the late eighties, I founded Challenge Consultancy in order to provide an integrated approach to equalities, while most others were addressing single strands such as race, disability or sexuality.

I leapt upon every opportunity, and approached everyone who could help me build my business. I worked six or seven days a week for several years, and learned to embrace change. I came out and stayed out. If anyone had a problem with my sexuality, they had to deal with it. Nowadays, equality issues are firmly on the agenda and many of the battles have been won. There are out lesbians and gay men everywhere, and the Pink Mafia is stronger than ever! However the current economic climate is often used as an excuse to avoid taking diversity issues seriously, and as a shield for discrimination against certain people – such as the request I recently received: "Just show us how to avoid getting sued without spending too much money."



l left school at 15 with no qualifications and became involved in unpaid feminist activism. I then got involved in the 'grey economy' and ran a catering company for lesbian events in London. I went to university at age 27, studying Film and Discourse. After graduating I got my first research job and progressed to become a writer and journalist. I'm currently researching sexual violence for a voluntary organisation in London and writing for *The Guardian, g3* and Channel 4.

The main difficulties arise from men and anti-lesbian women thinking they're superior. I've received accusations of being a man-hater simply for criticising men who abuse women and children, or because I won't sleep with men. It is easier nowadays, we have made improvements by campaigning and refusing to be labelled as second-class citizens.

I came out and stayed out. If anyone had a problem with my sexuality, they had to deal with it

Greta SCHILLER Position: Freelance Director/Producer

As a director/producer of

documentaries, I discover interesting stories with compelling characters. The main challenge is convincing TV editors that serious documentaries can also be entertaining. Once I get the money, I have to make the film I promised, no matter what. I have worked around the world for 25 years, and my most memorable faux-pas was on my first interview for *Before Stonewall* when I walked across a soft topped outdoor Jacuzzi and fell into it!

My advice is to save money for hard times, stick to your dreams and work hard. Watch a lot of documentaries, not just those on TV. It is harder for women to get ahead in this career, especially if you have a family, as the job always takes precedence.







Wanda GOLDWAG

Position & Company: Adviser to Smedvig Venture Capital, Non-Executive Director of the Performing Right Society, Non-Executive Chair of You at Work Holdings Ltd and True North Human Capital Ltd, Director of Challenge Consultancy and a Postcomm commissioner by government appointment.

I graduated in economics at the London School of Economics (LSE), and had a 25-year career in marketing in a diverse range of industries from cosmetics to unit trusts and travel. I am a tough negotiator, clear about what I need professionally and personally and determined not to compromise when people suggest "as a woman I'd got as far as was possible".

I've always been out at work and if anything, I've benefited because I was offered one senior job after another, as people thought that unlike other women, I wouldn't get pregnant. I saw many other senior women losing out on salary and promotion, because of sexism in business. Everyone who has ever hired me must have thought "Wanda is obviously a lesbian but her talents and skills are such that we aren't letting that get in the way" so they've accepted the real me before they've offered me the job. lesbian gay bisexua trans histor

Position: LGBT Rights Activist and Co-Chair of Schools OUT and LGBT History Month

Before I went to Drama College, I sold things door-todoor, such as encyclopaedias and even wigs and fire extinguishers. I then trained as a teacher and spent four years teaching. I went to Australia and did a variety of jobs, including working in a women's prison. I returned to work in a London school, looking at the issue of sexism, and coming up with strategies to tackle it. I helped to start Schools OO in 1974, and became a trainer on gender and sexual orientation to the Crime Prosecution Service, the Essex Police and the Criminal Justice Service. I'm now on a variety of advisory groups including the Home Office Advisory Board, the Metropolitan Police LGBT Advisory Group, Suffolk County Homophobic Forum and the NUT Working Party, as well as running Schools Out and LGBT History Month.

You need to be able to do about 10 things at once, with good organisation and networking skills. You should make and maintain connections because someone you meet now could be very senior in the future. If you want to make changes, you need to get into where you can make a difference and work outside the institutions but also make effective links with them. As a political woman who is lesbian and works for feminism, I want to challenge patriarchy and oppression.

Louise HOWSE

Position: Managing Director Company: Aventis Coltman Media

Pink AMBITION

I started my media planning and buying career in one of the UK's largest media independents, Mediaedge: CIA. I'm now the Managing Director and one of the founding members of Adventis Coltman. I run the company and its staff, and work closely with some clients to plan the best media strategy. I got where I am today by learning quickly on the job, having strong mentors and understanding that media is more than just numbers and costs.

Luckily, I haven't had any real difficulties, perhaps because I was already well-established in my business before coming out. I still find it tedious outing myself when I meet a new contact – the conversation can be overridden by their curiosity! Organisations like Stonewall have helped in driving out prejudice in the workplace and acting as a great support.



I've been qualified as a solicitor for four years. I trained in a 'magic circle' law firm, but have since moved to a smaller firm with more personality. I grew up on a council estate and went to a comprehensive, but worked hard to earn a place to read law at Cambridge before training as a solicitor. I stayed focused on the bigger picture, and surrounded myself with people I like and look up to.

I was told my career would be hindered if I was out, so at the start of my career I played

the 'pronoun game' when discussing my personal life. Fortunately, times have changed, and no one batted an eyelid when I came out at my current firm. If anything, it gives me an advantage. Law firms and the City have accepted that women want to, and can, have it all; an engaging and rewarding career and a real and fulfilling family life. It takes a lot of energy, but I believe that it is possible.



Manchester Dogs' Home supports g3 magazine

Manchester Dogs' Home is proud to be supported by Greater Manchester's lesbian and bisexual community and is pleased to announce its support for the April edition of g3 magazine.

Manchester Dogs Home has a long history of caring for the stray and abandoned dogs of the Greater Manchester area, we can receive over 6,000 unwanted dogs each year, many of which are never reclaimed by their owners and arrive suffering from various physical and emotional conditions.

Our veterinary team restores these dogs back to good health prior to our dedicated staff helping to find them loving and caring homes.

We are also heavily involved with assisting the unfortunate, under privileged dog owners in the Greater Manchester area. We help them by providing subsidised veterinary care and treatment along with basic care items such as food and bedding.

The Home is also involved in teaching children how to be safe around dogs and about responsible dog ownership. A task which will bear through to future generations,

Our overall commitment is a promise to accept and care for all stray dogs; no matter what physical or emotional state they are in, to care for these dogs and find them new, devoted families. A circumstance they may never have previously enjoyed.

Proud of its work with local communities, each year at Manchester's Pride Festival, the home organises a PINK DOG SHOW. This year Manchester Pride takes place from 21 until 31 August 2009. The festival will play host to various other events including film screenings, conferences, sports activities, music and of course the main Pride Parade during the event.

Manchester Dogs' Homes Pink Dog Show is the perfect opportunity to showcase preened pooches and provides a fun opportunity to become crowned doggy King or Queen of the day, and of course proceeds go to Manchester Dogs Home. This year there will be a celebrity judge, various prizes up for grabs and plenty of original categories for dogs to enter including Campest Dog, Most Handsome Butch and Best Dressed and Sassiest Walk! Do come down and join the fun on Sunday 23rd August in Sackville Park from 2pm until 6pm (registration between 1 -2pm).



For more information please contact *Manchester Dogs' Home* on 0871 918 1212 or visit www.dogshome.net

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A 'gold star' lesbian is a lesbian who has never slept with a man. Chloe Marshall takes a look at the pure and the less pure among us...

QUALI

Gold star lesbian status is awarded to those who've never done the deed with a member of the opposite sex – and don't ever plan to either, thank you very much. Does this make them in any way a superior or more credible lesbian? How many true gold star girls exist, and what do they think of the rest of us?

As one gold star lesbian quite simply puts it: "If you really know you're a lesbian, you've got no reason to sleep with a man". Fiona feels that if you're sure about what you do like, there's no point in trying something that you don't. She adds that by refraining from sex with a man, she is taken more seriously as a lesbian, and feels a greater sense of solidarity with those who share her status.

The status of being "unsullied by male hands" as described by one gold star lesbian, is something to be proud of because it proves a true understanding of her sexuality. "My sexuality is concrete" Fiona adds "It's not a lifestyle choice or the result of a drunken experiment. It's something that I've always known and always will." If being assured of your sexuality is something to be proud of, then it is clear how 'gold star girls' see themselves as that bit more credible.

But how many of us are that clear about our sexuality from day one? Many lesbian and bi women follow a jagged path towards discovering their sexual preference, having had a variety of experiences with both sexes, before getting a clear idea of their true orientation. 'To be honest, I don't think most of us would say that our previous relations really count as sex at all' explains Anna, who had experience with males in her younger years. 'The first time I was with a girl, I finally realised what all the fuss was about! I wasn't sure what all that stuff was about before!''

Perhaps it's just a part of growing up that many of us kiss a few frogs before we find our prince – or princess. "Most gay girls have had het sex at least once," Fiona admits, and she is well aware that she is very much in the minority. So are gold star lesbians a dying breed? Or is it just that gay women are now more open to talk about their prior heterosexual experiences? As gay women are becoming increasingly accepted and open in wider society, perhaps they feel less of a need to assert their sexuality.

Self-confessed lipstick lesbian Emma is the first to admit."I love being glamorous and girly, so of course I've always attracted more males than females. It should come as no surprise that I experimented a little with the opposite sex as a confused teenager...Who hasn't?"

Even some women of the more butch variety have dabbled in straight sex. Patricia says: "My girlfriend is a 'full on' dyke, and she is very sexually aggressive. But occasionally she likes to have sex with a man to indulge in her more submissive or feminine side." Patricia explains that her girlfriend's hetero indulgences are "no threat whatsoever, it honestly doesn't affect our relationship." As unusual as Patricia's attitude may seem, she is clear that men pose no threat or cause for concern in her life. They are actually just toys for her in a way – making her attitude quite assertively lesbian.

And just as some gold star lesbians





view the less 'pure' as less credibly lesbian, many lesbians view bisexual women as inferior in a similar way. The sexual fluidity of a bi or bi-curious woman is often looked down upon by lesbians, who see their behaviour as a slap in the face, hurting the lesbian cause. Anna says:"I'm tired of being messed around. A woman has to know what she wants to get me. I'm a person, not an experiment.

Gay or straight, some women prefer to keep their sex lives to themselves, and don't see it as something that should play a big part in their identity. Others don't agree with the assumed superiority of the gold star lesbians, because they don't want to be pigeon-holed into any one type of sexual orientation in the first place. Zoe, who is in a relationship with a

male-to-female transexual, says:"Gender doesn't matter to me, personality is the most important thing, you never know who you're going to fall for. Overall I'm attracted to femininity more than masculinity. If I have to say, I guess I'm more lesbian than anything else." And yet, Zoe's orientation as"more lesbian" while sleeping with a transsexual is probably unlikely to be approved of by the gold star group.

In an interview with NewYorkTimes Magazine, American financial adviser and television personality Suze Orman identified herself as a gold star lesbian by saying:"I have never been with a man in my life... I am a 55-year-old virgin.' Unfortunately, although she was merely being playful, she actually touched on a common attitude to lesbian sex – that it doesn't count as real sex. The idea of all gold star lesbians being 'virgins' seems laughable to us, but there are many

people to whom that is exactly what it means

Sometimes, what one lesbian sees as a sign of purity or pride can be seen as derogatory by another. Perhaps all of these contradictions arise because women are made to feel guilty about their sexual past, as a result of judgements that most often seem to come from male mysogynists. As women, especially those who identify as 'gold star' or feminist, we should be careful not to contribute to this.

Whether lesbian and bi women feel less of a need to define their orientation than they have previously, or feel more open to try (or admit to trying) sex with a man, the gold stars are definitely on the decrease. There are many colours in the rainbow, and just as the gold stars can be proud of their status, so can every other woman. As a community of women who love women, we are stronger if we accept our differences, and come together to celebrate our lady-loving similarities.

Gender doesn't matter to me, personality is the most important thing, you never know who you're going to fall for.
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Taxes and benefits

HIM REVETU

strength of the balance, pro-

A Taxing ISSUE

Do you think **HMRC** was iustified in releasing a special booklet of tax advice for LGBT people? of you say yes, its helpful to have all the information in one place, 25% of you say no, the information is all available elsewhere and 25% of you don't now. To vote on next month's poll, visit www.g3mag.co.uk

g3 Readers' Poll:

HM Revenue and Customs recently published a booklet of advice for the LGBT community. Charlotte Dingle wonders if it's a much-needed resource or an empty token gesture.

On the cover, a rainbow flag flutters invitingly against a blue sky. Turn to the first page and there is a robust endorsement from Stonewall. So far, so good. But just how useful is this new 20-page publication? While many herald it as a victory for gay rights, others are calling it a waste of taxpayers' money.

So what's the difference between tax advice for LGBT people and tax advice for everyone else? The first line of the booklet says: "From 5 December 2005 when the Civil Partnership Act came into force, same sex couples in civil partnerships have the same legal status as married couples for tax purposes." Much of the booklet merely goes on to reiterate this principle in more detail. Indeed, the advice for transsexuals is based on a similar concept once you've changed gender, you are governed by the laws which apply to your acquired gender. But should tax payers simply be expected to find this information elsewhere, or is having it all in one place useful enough to justify printing the booklets? Do these laws even need to be explained in such depth, or are they self-explanatory? Opinions seem to be divided...

The booklet's detractors have criticised HMRC for spending money on a separate publication for a minority of the population rather than incorporating it into guidance which everyone can follow. The print run was only 5,000, however, at a not exactly extortionate cost of £1,356. It is perhaps churlish to object to what is a relatively modest expenditure, even if it may not be an entirely necessary one. HMRC's gesture cannot be viewed as anything other than a step in the right direction for inclusiveness.

Derek Munn, Stonewall's Director of Public Affairs says: "Lesbian and gay taxpayers deserve and expect value for money, just like anyone else. HMRC are to be commended for adopting a proactive approach to equality. If passed, the Equality Bill currently being



Angela, 33 **Logistics** "Any kind of recognition is positive. To look at this kind of progress as negative is missing the point."





"I think the government already focuses a lot on other minority groups, so why not gay people too?"



Natasha, 27 Marketing Executive "Why should there be a different publication for LGBT people if a lot of the laws are essentially the same?"





debated by Parliament would require all publicly funded services to adopt a similarly proactive approach – something that Stonewall strongly welcomes."

Matthew Elliott, Chief Executive of the TaxPayers' Alliance, disagrees. He says: 'This is a gimmick, not a real aid. HMRC already produces tax advice for people with civil partnerships and it's right that it does that, but there's no need and no demand for a special booklet for Pride events. Who goes to Pride to pick up tax and accountancy tips? Everyone would be better off if the tax man focused more time on doing the job and keeping our personal data secure, and less time trying to be politically correct.''

The booklet was originally created after HMRC representatives asked people at a Pride celebration what kind of tax help the LGBT community needed. It was then handed out at London Pride in July. It is true that, in some ways, Pride seems a strange choice of event at which to quiz people about, and then give out, tax advice. The last thing you're concerned with when you're half cut on lager and cruising all the hot girls is how much ChildTax Credit you might get if one of the hot girls decides to shack up with you and start a family. On the other hand, Pride is probably the best place to be sure of making face-to-face contact with the maximum number of LGBT individuals.

The last part of the booklet is devoted to outlining HMRC's equal opportunities recruitment policies and urging LGBT individuals to consider a career with them. Critics have said that this, too, didn't really need to be published. However, it's difficult to find room to criticise a government body which is attempting to diversify its staff force in this way. The booklet may be full of information readily available elsewhere, but the fact remains that it is an important symbol of the government's attempts to reach out to the LGBT community.

PENGUINS:

Hi, it's your friendly g3 Art Director here... ... and I have always had big dreams. Namely two: To see polar bears in the wild and to visit Antarctica. Last year I did the first and it made me cry. The second however, well, short of robbing a bank or selling an organ, is somewhat harder to achieve.

WHIGH IS WHERE YOU COME IN, LOVELY READERS

I've entered a competition to win a chance to realise my second dream. All YOU have to do is vote for me at: http://www.blogyourwaytoantarctica.com/blogs/view/385 All I have to do is beat the guy that has 1900 votes!

AND, IF I WIN... YOU'LL BE READING ALL ABOUT IT!



Support Peter Tatchell

Peter Tatchell has been campaigning for LGBT human rights for 40 years. He works seven days a week. Peter desperately needs paid staff to help his campaigns.

THANKS LOADS GIRLS.

The Peter Tatchell Human Rights Fund (PTHRF) is asking 1,000 people to take out a standing order for £5 a month to generate an annual income of £50,000 – enough to pay for two full-time staff to help Peter's vital work. More info -



Peter's website: www.petertatchell.net PTHRF website: www.tatchellrightsfund.org

Wanted - £5 a month If you would like to help Peter make a difference,

please fill in this standing order.

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PHOTOGRAPHYBY NadiaAttura FASHION DIRECTION Mercury MODEL: Lauren

Come Rain.

What to wear in the unpredictable British summer.

> Dressed for rain, but got sun...

Lauren wears: Jacket by Gant, T-shirt by Religion, trousers by Gant, shoes by Viva La Diva.

Dressed for sun but got rain...

Lauren wears: Dress by Religion, bag by Simply Be, shoes by Viva La Diva.

41

orshine!

Shining bright at night...

Lauren wears... Left: dress by Religion, bag by Red or Dead. Right: Hood by H&M, top and shorts by Religion.



STOCKIST DETAILS: GANT: WWW.GANT.COM/0845 1111010 H&M: WWW.HM.COM/020 7323 2211 PORTOBELLO MARKET: FORTOBELLO MARKET: FRITO SUN, PORTOBELLO RD, LONDON WIT WWW.PORTOBELLOMARKET.ORG RED OR DEAD BAGS: WWW.REDORDEAD.COM / 0161 764 3322 **RELIGION:** WWW.RELIGIONCLOTHING.CO.UK SIMPLY BE: WWW.SIMPLYBECO.UK VIVA LA DIVA: WWW.VIVALADIVA.CO.UK

She gave up...

Lauren wears... Dress by Simply Be, belt from Portobello Market, shoes by Viva La Diva, bag by Simply Be.

44

.



Wired

MEMBER



EXCLUSIVELY THE BEST HAND PICKED SUPPLIERS SELECTED FROM BRICHTON & HOVE Sunday, 20th September 2009

11am-5pm @ The Queen's Hotel, Brighton

VISIT OUR WEISITE FOR MORE INFOMATION AND TO PRE BOOK YOUR TICKETS

www.weddings-brighton-hove.com

As you enter the reception-style show, you will be greeted by a collaboration of the City's independent gay and gay friendly wedding service specialists including photography, florists, bespoke wedding dresses, cakes, jewellery, and much more!

And of course a complementary glass of bubbles and canopies for each guest.

Shows and entertainment will be going on throughout the day. Plus you can enter into our free draw for some absolutely fantastic prizes and take a great goody bag away with you too. £3 entry / children free

contact@weddings-brighton-hove.com | 01273 900356



Wedding

Show

FOR ONE NIGHT ONLY, WE RETURN TO OUR EX-HOME, THE SCALA, FOR A SPECIAL LIVE PERFORMANCE FROM A MASSIVE NUMBER ONE SELLING ARTIST. THIS ARTIST IS SO HUGE WE AREN'T ALLOWED TO REVEAL WHO IT IS YET BUT THEIR SONGS ARE PLAYED IN THE INDIE ROOM & POP ROOM, & ARE A MASSIVE POPSTARZ FAVOURITE. BUY YOUR TICKET NOW AT WWW.POPSTARZ.ORG, OR FROM TRASH PALACE/GHETTO OLD STREET. TO AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT. TICKETS ARE JUST £10 IN ADVANCE AND ARE WORTH A LOT MOREI PLEASE NOTE THERE IS NO POPSTARZ AT THE DEN ON THIS NIGHT BUT WE WILL BE THERE EVERY OTHER FRIDAY.

//girls//bars//clubs//girl<mark>s/</mark>

ars//clubs//g

You've got to be scene to be seen

//bars//clubs//girls//ba

This month: g3 checks out Nightingales, Escape and Taboo.

Revenge 32-34 Old Steine, Brighton, BNI

dub of the

It was Thursday – or, as it's called in Brighton 'Thursgay' – and all around the city gay girls were getting ready for the highlight of their clubbing week. As night drew closer, the town was buzzing and the R-bar was packed to the rafters with an excitable crowd all grabbing their £1.50 drinks before hitting the south's biggest girls night, Girls on Top at the infamous Club Revenge.

Girls on Top has revolutionised the lesbian scene in Brighton over the past two years, helping to turn the city in to a lesbian mecca. Whether fresh out of the closet or seasoned lady lovers, girls from all walks of life congregate on the GoT dancefloor, to a soundtrack of crowd-friendly tunes.

> Girls on Top takes place every Thursday For tickets and full information go to www.revenge.co.ul August truly is a great month for girls as this month also ends with a spectacular GOT party at Revenge on Sunday 30th

WORDS BY DULCIE DANGER | PHOTOGRAPHS © WWW/35IX TYMAG.CO.UK

bars@scene Stylers//clubs//girls//bars//clubs//girls//bars//clu

This month's Style photos were taken in popular Soho lesbian haunt Candy Bar, at 4 Carlisle Street. For more information visit www.candybarsoho.com

Joanna 23, Student Trousers H&M, £12

bs//girls//bars//clubs//girls//bars//clubs//gir@scene Style[.]ls//



Andi, 28, Bar Manager Boots Camden, London, £180



Lola, 21, PA Ring Pride, £25



Lianne, 22, Bar Supervisor Hat Berwick Street, London, £10



Lara, 20, Student Bag Camden, London, £20



Tina, 34, Designer T-shirt Mentalwear, £25





Saturday 5th September 2009 Kings Meadow Park, Reading from 12-8pm



PARADE MARKET STALLS CABARET SINGERS FUNFAIR VIP AREA

images supplied by Jamie Wake Photography



UNISON the public service union



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Sth September Kings Meadow Park, Reading 2 main stages 2 VIP areas, shopping, fun fair, free massages, youth zone and picnic area direct from the Britney and after shore

Dance Performance and Chill Out area by Pyrokenesis, Hot Vintage Cabaret and Berkshire Alternative Dance look out for their marquee

see the website for more information as there's more to come

twitter

Google Maps for RG1 8BN

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find us on

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FEATURING: P) Δ Δ 4 . . 1 6 UV. 4 • SET D. AND MANY R MO RPRIDE.COM E *

MANCHESTER PRIDEO9 THE BIG WEEKEND 28-31 AUGUST

A celebration of lesbian, gay, bisexual & transgender life



Company no: 4671318 Registered Chartly no: 1117648 Rating manufacture to HK LGBT chartles and organisations in Greater Manchester







bs//girls//bars//clubs//girls//bars//clubs//

aturday 4 July

Kate Lawler & Kath Harding



The place to party after parading at Pride this year was well east of Soho, in Gramaphone on Commercial Street, where WiSH hosted their monthly event. Pub prices made sure that everybody was able to keep the party swinging and the house and guest DJs kept the dancefloors packed all night. Upstairs was the domain of John Sizzle, Sean Hewson and La Coop, playing dancefloor classics from every era, while downstairs Kate Lawler, Kath Harding and VJ Hobbyboy made sure everyone was well entertained with bangin' beats and awesome visuals. Big Brother winner Kate certainly drew in the crowds, with the DJ box mobbed for most of her set!

> No London WiSH in August, as the crew will be helping celebrate Pride down south. Brighton ladies, look out for them hosting the Main room at the Ocean Rooms!The next London WiSH will be on 5 September.

> > lub-wish.co



In May this year, 23-year-old Charlie Lloyd was crowned Miss Gay UK 2009 at Manchester's Alter Ego club.g3 stopped her for a chat...

g3:Charlie, what do you do for a living?

CL: I work in retail which I absolutely HATE! I also do photography at uni, so hopefully, one day, I will have my dream job as a photographer:

g3: How do you feel about winning the Vanilla competition? CL: I am absolutely made up! I Can't believe I actually won!



g3: Other than this fabulous g3 photoshoot, what else did you win as a prize?

CL: I won free Manchester Pride tickets, Paul Mitchell hair products, an i-Pod, a free meal for two at Taurus restaurant in Manchester... Oh, and a lovely pink 'MISS GAY UK' sash! g3: What was the evening of the competition like? What happened?

CL: It was a bank holiday, so it was an early start on the drinking for me. We were outside Vanilla and that's when I signed up for the competition. I wasn't sure at first but my mates bet me, and I'm always up for a bet. So it all went from there really. Next thing I knew I was up on the stage against the other contestants answering questions and dancing!! I didn't think I had a chance of winning because a lot of the other contestants had been preparing for weeks and had large followings in the audience. I only had two mates with me! They shouted out the winners third, second then first... the third place winner was CHARLIE! I walked up to the stage to win third prize and was told to get down, it was a different Charlie. I was fuming because I was made up with third place. I was on my way to the bar when I heard CHARLIE LLOYD.... FIRST PLACE! So I shimmied on up to the stage to collect my sash! Good times!

g3: Are you planning to do any modelling work in future? CL: I had never really thought about it before but after doing my photo shoot with Lulu for g3 yesterday I really enjoyed it. I would consider it... Any offers? Ha!

For more information on upcoming Vanilla events, visit www.vanillagirls.co.uk





bars & Cene Review/clubs//girls//bars//clubs//girls//bars//cl

















In the attractive surroundings of the back room of GHQ in Edinburgh, a stylish crowd of up-for-it lasses partied the night away. The folks at Furburger ask their customers to: "Wear good shoes and bring beautiful people," and it looked to us like most of them had obeyed.

Furburger also calls itself the club "for girls who like girls who like music." So what did DJs Funki Diva, Dejaybird, Boy Toy and DebiT offer up? Well, it said 'eclectic' on the tin, and it didn't lie! Everything from old school indie faves to a dash of sultry R'n'B had us riveted to the dancefloor for most of the evening.

The next Furburger is on Friday 14 August - be there or be kicking yourself later!

For more information visit com/clubfurburg







THE BIGGEST GIRLS PARTIES OVER BRIGHTON & HOVE PRIDE WEEKEND

1) gaydargirls.com

THURSDAY 30TH JULY AT REVENCE

GIRLS ON TOP MEETS VANILLA

FRIDAY 31ST JULY AT R-BAR

THE LADY BEX LOUNGE PARTY NOW IN ITS 3RD YEAR ! IPM - LATE C3 ENTRY

SATURDAY 1ST AUGUST AT THE OCEAN ROOMS

THE OFFICIAL GIRLS PARTY OF PRIDE IN BRIGHTON & HOVE THE ULTIMATE GIRLS PARTY NOW ITS SECOND YEAR IS SET OVER 3 FLOORS SHOWCASING THE BIGGEST NAMES FROM THE LESBIAN DJ CIRCUIT. EACH FLOOR WITH ITS OWN UNIQUE SOUND

WITH DJS DONNA BEATZ, KATH HARDING, LISA GERMAN, DJ PHILLY, LADY BEX, SMIFFY & MISS BAILEY COVERING EVERY SPECTRUM OF CLUB MUSIC FROM URBAN, POP, PARTY FUNKY ELECTRO RIGHT THROUGH TO MINIMAL TECHNO

FEATURING HEAVYWEIGHT GIRL BRANDS GIRLS ON TOP & WISH 9.30PM-3.30AM PERCENTAGE OF DOOR TAKE GOES TO PRIDE

SUNDAY 2ND AUGUST AT REVENCE

GIRLS ON TOP VS FRENCH KISS END OF PRIDE FOAM PARTY LETS GET WET

DJS SMIFFY, LADY BEX, VERITY MAYES & KING-K ENTRY £5 ALL DRINKS £2" DONATIONS TO PRIDE, 10PM-4AM

Marine Contraction

FOR FULL TICKET INFO MAPS ETC PLEASE VISIT WWW.revenge.co.uk ALL SATURDAY NIGHT TICKET HOLDERS GET A FREE PASS FOR THE FOAM PARTY ON SUNDAY

THE BIGGEST GIRLS PARTIES OVER 1



THE OFFICIAL GIRLS

BIGGEST NAMES FROM THE LES

WITH DJS DONNA BEATZ, KATH MISS BAILEY COVERING EVE

FEATURING HE

DJS SMIFFY, LADY BEX, VEF

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FOR FULL

TICKET INFO MAPS ETC PLEASE VISIT www.revenge.co.uk ALL SATURDAY NIGHT TICKET HOLDERS GET A FREE PASS FOR THE FOAM PARTY ON SUNDAY

BRIGHTON&HOVEPRIDEWEEKEND

THURSDAY 30TH JULY AT REVENCE

GIRLS ON TOP MEETS VANILLA

DJ SARA FUREY, LADY BEX & SMIFFY 10PM -4AM £5 ENTRY ALL DRINKS £1.50 & £2

FRIDAY 31ST JULY AT R-BAR

THE LADY BEX LOUNGE PARTY NOW IN ITS 3RD YEAR ! 8PM - LATE £3 ENTRY

SATURDAY 1ST AUGUST AT THE OCEAN ROOMS

AYDARGIRLS.COM GIRLSWORLD: S PARTY OF PRIDE IN BRIGHTON & HOVE

OW ITS SECOND YEAR IS SET OVER 3 FLOORS SHOWCASING THE ESBIAN DJ CIRCUIT. EACH FLOOR WITH ITS OWN UNIQUE SOUND

ATH HARDING, LISA GERMAN, DJ PHILLY, LADY BEX, SMIFFY & EVERY SPECTRUM OF CLUB MUSIC FROM URBAN, POP, PARTY FUNKY ELECTRO RIGHT THROUGH TO MINIMAL TECHNO

HEAVYWEIGHT GIRL BRANDS GIRLS ON TOP & WISH 9.30PM-3.30AM PERCENTAGE OF DOOR TAKE GOES TO PRIDE

SUNDAY 2ND AUGUST AT REVENGE

S ON TOP VS FRENCH KISS END PRIDE FOAM PARTY LETS GET WET!

VERITY MAYES & KING-K ENTRY £5 ALL DRINKS £2* DONATIONS TO PRIDE. 10PM-4AM



bars **CenePreview**clubs//girls//bars//clubs//girls//bars//clu

Uni Challenge @ Manchester Student Union and Academy Oxford Road, Manchester, M1

Saturday 29 August

The ultimate Manchester Pride party, this is one you really can't afford to miss. A red hot collaboration between some top gay promoters, this event sees the likes of Federation, Evolved Events, Organic and Gaydio joining forces to make sure you have the night of your life.

This will mark the 10th anniversary of this huge event, so it will be even more of a special occasion than ever before. We guarantee you'll be on your feet from 10pm till 5am, with a host of top name DJs making sure you party till you drop! If you've still got any energy left after all this, Federation will also be holding a Wild West event at the Ritz on Sunday 30 August!Yee haw!

For more info visit www.uni-challenge.com





DERATIN



WORDS BY SCHARLOTTE DINGLE | PHOTOS © CLUB FEDERATION



Coming soon...

our late summer New look

Same flavour, even better taste!

club line: 0207 287 5041 fax line: 0871 900 4779 email: manager@candybarsoho.co.uk

OPEN 7 NIGHTS A WEEK Friday and Saturday til 2am

WATCH OUR EXOTIC POLE DANCERS ON THURSDAYS, FRIDAYS AND SATURDAYS WE'RE STILL CONTINUING TO LUBRICATE THE LESBIAN SOCIAL SCENE AS THE NUMBER 1 MEETING SPOT FOR GAYGIRLS IN LONDON

EACH NIGHT OF THE WEEK GIRLS ARE HERE MEETING GIRLS!

www.candybarsoho.com

plymouth prideevent 2009

- Pub and Club Entertainment
- Queer Question Time
- Pride Picnic and Walk
- Diversity Football Tournament

Lesbian & Gay Film Festival

-23RD

- Health Workshops
- LGBT Book Month
- 'Carry on Cruising' Boat Trip

MAIN EVENT - SATURDAY 22nd AUGUST

RIDE FESTIVAL

A RAINBOW FLAG PARADE WILL BE LEAVING THE PIAZZA AT 11.30am

PLYMOUTH PRIDE AT PLYMOUTH GUILDHALL - FREE ENTRY 12.00 noon to 7.00pm

NEW FOR 2009 'OUTDOOR STAGE' Entertainment, Stalls, Exhibitions and lots more...











www.plymouthprideevent.org.uk Tel: 07753 339965 (mobile)

/clubs//girls//bars//clubs//girls//bars//clu<mark>25CeneListings</mark>//ba

bars/dubs/events

for girls who just can't stay in

Readers ONDON

OUTH NORTH MIDLAND

SCOTLAND

WALES

Listings are ordered by region and then by day. If you can't find the address, it may be in our Boozer Guide. If you've been to a listed vent and it's advertised incorrectly in our listings, please let us know.

g3 recommended events new entry events transport links girl ratio (out of 5)

Promoters

Listings info and large, high res photos must be sent by 15th of the previous month Listings not guaranteed.

Club/night name. venue and address, frequency and day/ date, description of DJs/music policy, opening times, contact details and percentage female attendance expected Send all listings to: (

MONDAY

Frat Party @ Ghetto, 58

£2/FREE before midnight

with Q-Jump. 🎔 🎔

TUESDAY

Station. Wharfdale St.

co.uk. 6pm-12am, FREE.

Archer Street, Soho W1

Old Street EC1. www.ghetto-london.co.uk. 10pm-late,

🕷 Bar Wotever @ Central

Kings Cross N1. Queer talent

Comedy Camp @ Barcode,

www.comedycamp.co.uk. £8

members (£2 membership).

>> Fish Market @ Belushi's,

Camden Town. New weekly

girls' night! www.myspace.

com/friedafishmarket 🎔 🎙

58 Old Street FC1 Post-

punk/Electro-noir/Wonky

london couk 10pm-late

Q-Jump. 🎔 🎔 Games Night @ Blush,

Cazenove Rd, Stoke

£2/FREE B4 midnight with

Meat Whiplash @ Ghetto,

Freakzone-pop. www.ghetto

meet.www.centralstation.

guide 1st Mon: 3 August 2nd Mon: 10 August 3rd Mon: 17 August 4th Mon: 24 August Last Mon: 31 August

Date

1st Tues: 4 August 2nd Tues: 11 August 3rd Tues: 18 August Last Tues: 25 August

1st Weds : 5 August 2nd Weds: 12 August 3rd Weds: 19 August Last Weds: 26 August

1st Thur: 6 August 2nd Thur: 13 August 3rd Thur: 20 August Last Thur: 27 August

1st Fri: 7 August 2nd Fri: 14 August 3rd Fri: 21 August Last Fri: 28 August

1st Sat: 1 August 2nd Sat: 8 August 3rd Sat: 15 August 4th Sat: 22 August Last Sat: 29 August

1st Sun: 2 August 2nd Sun: 9 August 3rd Sun : 14 August 4th Sat: 23 August Last Sun: 30 August

lewington N16

FREE. 🎔 🎔 🎔

www.blushbar.moonfruit.

com/ 02079239202. 8pm,

Ruby Tuesdays @ Ku Bar

50 Lisle Street, London WC2

www.ku-bar.co.uk. Low-lit

basement venue for girls.

FREE, 9pm-3am. 🎔 🎔 🎔

WEDNESDAY

Disco Value @ Ghetto. 58

Old Street EC1. [2nd Weds]

www.ghetto-london.co.uk.

Glitterati @ Ghetto, 58

Old Street EC1. [1st Weds]

www.ghetto-london.co.uk

Laura Steel @ Sh!, Hoxton

Weds]. Acoustic set. www.sh

womenstore.com. 🎔 🎔 🎔

Miss Basin's Jarmy Bingo

Bath Rd, Hounslow TW3.

www.windsorcastle

hounslow.co.uk. 🎔 🥊

prize! 9.30pm-12am, £1.

@ The Windsor Castle, 152

Quiz @ Blush, Cazenove Rd,

ton SE11. Cash

Square, Hoxton N1. [2nd

-

<u>ondon</u>



Soul Wednesday @ The Edge, 11 Soho Square, Soho W1. Live acts. 9pm till late. www.edgesoho.co.uk. 🎔

THURSDAY

Bitch Slap @ The Green Carnation, 5 Greek Street oho W1. [2nd Thurs] bitchslap@ferofero.com

Bird Club @ Bethnal Green Working Men's Club, Pollard Row Bethnal Freen E2. www.myspace com/birdclubcabaret. [2nd Thurs] £6/5. 🎔 🎔

Blush Acoustic @ Blush Cazenove Rd, Sto vington SE11. Live music and comedy. 8pm-12am. £3.

Chicks Rock! @ Zenith Bar, 125 Packington Street, Islington N1. [2nd Thurs & 4th Thurs]. www.zenithbar. co.uk. 7pm-2am. Free entry ~~~

Chocolate @ Ghetto, 58 Old Street EC1. Indie-pop mash up. [1st Thurs] www. ghetto-london.co.uk. £2/FREE B4 midnight with Q-Jump.

Gay Girlz@ Heaven, Embankment, W2 11pm-4am. Free with flyer. Facebook: Gay Girlz

. . . . Laughing Cows Comedy Night @ Private Eye's Private Dining Room The Coach and Horses, 29 Greek Street, Soho W1. [1st Thurs]. Female stand-up night.

www.laughingcowscomedv co.uk. 7.30pm. £7/£5 concs. Ladies Night@ Load of Hay

207 Pinner Rd, Watford H WD19. [Last Weds].. www. loadofhay.co.uk. 9-11pm, FREE. ♥♥♥

🕷 Lounge @ Vertigo 1 Leicester Square oho WC2. [2nd Thur] Stylish

girls' night. www.lounge.uk.net Miss-Shapes @ Ghetto, 58 Old Street EC1. [1st Thurs] 10pm-late. www. hetto-london.co.uk. £2/FREE B4 midnight with Q-Jump. ~ ~ ~

Dave's drop-in centre RVT, Kennington Lane, auxhall SE11. www.

Angel (The): Cabaret bar. 21 Church St, Stratford E15. (T): 020 8555 1148 Bar 68: Friendly bar, 68 Brigstock Rd, Thornton Heath, CR7. 020 8665 0683. **Black Cap**: Mixed bar + club. 171 Camden High St, NW1. 020 7428 2721. (T): Camden rd in Hand: 291 Sydenham Rd. Crovdon. 020 8683 3104. Pool, darts, function room. www.birdinhand.info. ush: Intimate, friendly bar. 8 Cazenove Rd, Stoke Newington, N16.

y Tap: Community pub for South Londoners. 78 Lingham St, SW9. Stockwell

ox (The): Café bar. 32-34 Monmouth St, WC2. 🛱 Cov. Gdn

Catch 22: DJs, pool and cocktails. Wellington Terrace, Tumpike Ln, N8. 020 8881 1900. 🚍 Turnpike Ln Charlie's Bar: Stylish, cosy cocktail bar. 124 Globe Rd, E1. 020 7790 1007. 🛱 Stepney Green

Duke Of Wellington: Soho's traditional pub. 'til 11pm. 77 Wardour St, Soho. 020 7439 1274. # Piccadily. Edge (The): 3 floors of tasteful décor. 11 Soho Sqare, W1.02074391313. go @ Southern Pride



4 Carlisle Street, Soho, London

There's lots to look forward to at the top West End lesbian venue this month! If you want hot girls, sexy dancers, fab DJs and a stylish venue, look no further. Candy Bar is open for girls and their guests every evening. Why not head there tonight?

www.candybarsoho.com

theroyalvauxhalltavern.co.uk 7pm-12am (show 8.30pm-10.30pm). £5. 🎔 Holse @ Lo-Profile 84-86 Wardour Street, Soho. www. profilebar.co.uk. 🎔 🎔 🎔 🎔 Oueen Bees @ 66 Stoke Newington Rd, St igton N1. [3rd Fri]. Avant garde women's night. www. nyspace.com/stavb. 10pm-

4am, £4, 🎔 🤎 Usual Suspects@ First Out, 52 St Giles Street Soho WC2 www.firstoutcafebar.com. ****

Wotever Extravaganza @ RVT 372 Kennington Lane, /auxhall: [13 Aug] Showcase of queer talent!. www. theroyalvauxhalltavern.co.uk



82 Norwood High Street West Norwood SE28 020 8761 5200. www.egosouthernpride.com. Bar, club, cabaret experience 🚍 West Norwood BR

Escape (The): Cosy venue, fun atmosphere 8 Brewer St, Soho. 020 7734 2626. Enclave: 25-27 Brewer Street W1. Private members' bar.

020 7434 2911. Flag (The): Traditional boozer. 29 Crouch Hill, N4. 🛱 Finsbury Park First Out Cafe/bar 52 St

Giles High Street, Soho 🛱 Tottenham Ct Rd Friendly Society: Bringing out the London-cool. Tilman Cr, Soho, W1 (adjacent to Ann

Summers), 020 7434 3804, ELeicester Square G-A-Y Bar: Women's bar in 63

the basement. 7pm-12am/ 10.30pm on Fridays. 30 Old

Compton St, Soho. 020 7494 2756 Leicester Square sh Palace/Ghetto: 58 Old Street. EC1. Popular

alternative venue. www ghetto-london.co.uk. Green (The): 74 Upper St, Angel. 020 7226 8895. 🛱 Angel

Joiners Arms (The): Up for it mixed crowd. Open 'til 2am. 116 Hackney Rd, Shoreditch. 020 7739 9854. r: 50 High St, Clapham SW4.02076220070.

🛱 Clapham King Edward VI: Friendly mixed bar, 25 Bromfield St, N1. 'til 12am. 🚍 Angel





DJ Kate Wildblood

Music? All things house! Fave song? Superstition by Stevie Wonder

Philosophy? Honesty and decent bassline will get you through anything.

Where do you DJ? Wild Fruit, Sunday Sundae @ Audio, Electronic Disco and Rebel. Plus I'll be DJing at Brighton Pride 2009! www.katewildblood. com

FRIDAY

Calling All Tribes @ The Macbeth 70 Hoxton Street Hoxton www.myspace. com/themacbethuk. FREE B4 10.30/£5 after.♥ # Club Kali @ The Dome, 1 Dartmouth Park Hill, Tufnell Park N19 [3rd Fri].

www.clubkali.com. Asian LGB club night. 10pm-3am, £8/£5 conc. ♥♥♥ Club Fukk@ Central

Station, 37 Wharddale Road, Kings Cross N1 [2nd Fri]. Queer fetish night. www. woteverworld.com. 7pm - midnight. No entry after 10.30pm. ♥♥♥♥ **# CODE @ The Enclave,** 25-27 Brewer St, Soho W1 [1st & 3rd Fri]. www.

club-code.net. Email info@ club-code.net to attend.

* Dirty Converse @ Boston Music Rooms, 178 Junction Road, Tufnell Park [2nd Fri], www.dirtyconverse. con. • • • • • • • GAY Camp Attack @ Heaven, 9 Villiers St, Charin Cross WC2. • • • • • • • • Girl Action @ Chetto 58

Girl Action @ Ghetto 58 Old Street EC1. [4th Fri]. 10pm til late. # Girl Friday @ First Out, Soho 52 GilesStreet W1. www.firstoutcafebar.com. 5-11pm, FREE. * * * * * Girls and their friendz night @ The Windsor Castle, 152 Bath Rd, Hounslow TW3. www.windsorcastle hounslow.co.uk. * * * * Launch night @ G-Spot, 10 Adelaide Street, Charing Cross WC2. New girl bar!

www.gspotgirlbar.com

y y y y Karaoke @ Blush, Cazenove Rd, Stoke Newington SE11. www.blushbar.moonfruit.com. 8pm-12am. 🎔 🎔 🎔 Kill Your Pets @ Ghetto, 58 Old Street EC1, Electro www.ghetto-london.co.uk. 10pm-late. £2/FREE B4 midnight with O-lump. 🎔 🕊 Kimono Krush @ RVT, 372 Kennington Lane, Vauxhall [2nd Fri]. www.myspace. com/kimono_krush. £4. 9pm-3am. 🕊 Kunst @ RVT, 372 Kennington Lane, Vauxhall [4th Fri] £5. 8.30pm-2am ...

Cook Bar, 79 Green Lanes, Stoke Newington [last Fri]. Infamous kitsch party. 9pm-Bam, www.oakbar.co.uk. £6.

>Play@The Enclave 25 Brewer St Soho. (2nd/5th Fri) www.mvspace.com/ clubplay. 🎔 🎔 🎔 Popstarz@The End 58 Old St Old Street FC1 Indie Rave and Pop. www.popstarz.org. Free B4 11 , £4 after. 🎔 🎙 Popcentral @ Central Station, 37 Wharfdale Road, Cings Cross N1. www. centralstation couk Something for the Weekend @ Vertigo 1 Leicester Square, Soho WC2. [Last Fri] Stylish girls' night. www.lounge.uk.net

Soup @ The Star of Bethnal Green 359 Bethnal Green Road Bethnal Green E2. Italo and Hi-NRG. www. starofbethnalgreen.com. ♥ Stiletto @ The Chapel Bar, Penton St, Islington. N1. [Last Fri]. For bad girls who love good music. www. stilettoparty.co.uk. ♥ ♥ ♥ Trailer Trash@ On The Rocks, 25 Kingsland Rd Shoreditch, E2. www.myspace.com/ trailertrashin. ♥ ♥ ♥ Via @ RVT, Kennington Lane, Vauxhall SE11 [2nd Fri]. Spanish night. www. heroyalvauxhalltavern.co.uk. Bpm-2am. ♥

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Wino @ Oak Bar, 79 Green Lanes, Stoke Newington. [2nd Fri]. www.oakbar.co.uk. 9pm-2am. £6. ♥♥♥

SATURDAY

26 Taboo @ 26 Smithfield, 26 Smithfield St, City of London EC1. [2nd Sat] www.26 taboo.com. £5 B4 10/£7 after. ♥ ♥ ♥ ♥ A Taste of Honey @ The Cape Bar, 10 Aldermanbury, Moorgate EC2. [3rd Sat] www.tasteofhoneyclubnight. co.uk. 70s and 80s music. 8pm-2am. £5 B4 9.30pm/£7 after. ♥ ♥ ♥ So What! @ First Out, 52 Giles Street Soho. ♥ ♥ ® Bootylicious @

Bootylicious @ Colosseum, 1 Nine Elms Lane Vauxhall [3rd Sat]. www. bootylicious-club.co.uk11pm-Sam. £10/£7 b412am/£5 NUS.

Cabaret @ The Windsor Castle, 152 Bath Rd, Hounslow TW3.www. windsorcastlehounslow.co.uk.

Cabaret @ Central Station, 37 Wharfdale Road, Kings Cross N1. ♥

Club K @ The Livery, 130 Wood St, City of London EC2. [1st Sat] www.clubk. co.uk. £6 B4 10/£8 after.

Club Wotever @ The Masters Club, 12 Denman St, Piccadilly, W1. [4 Oct].www.woteverworld. com. 9pm-3am, £8/£5 in beachwear or with flyer.

*** Duckie @ RVT** 372 Kennington Lane, Vauxhall: Cabaret with Amy Lamé. www.theroyalvauxhalltavem. co.uk. 9pm-2pm, £5. ♥ ♥ Exilio @ Rez Bar, 1 Nine Elms St, Vauxhall. LGB latino dub. www.exilio.co.uk £8 b4 11pm/£9 after, 10pm-3am, ♥ ♥ ♥ **% Fun for Females @ a** secret location. Erotic party. www.funforfemales.co.uk. ♥ ♥ ♥ G-A-Y @ Heaven, The

Arches (off The Strand), Villers St, **Charing X** WC2N. 020 7930 2020: www.heavenlondon.com.10pm-5am. £12.

Hustle @ The Oak Bar, Green Lanes, Stoke



00% Babe 7 The Roxy

There's a Bank Holiday at the end of August, and you know what that means – another 100% Babe! The ever-popular event has been going from strength to strength in the ten years it's been running. Join DJs Suze E-T and Ms Justine for a night of unbridled girlie fun!

ww.myspace.com/hundredpercentbabe



25 FRITH STREET

SUNDAY - THURSDAY 11AM-MIDNIGHT FRIDAY + SATURDAY

www.ku-bar.com

lubs//girls//bars//clubs//girls//bars//club 25 ceneListings //ba



Newington [2nd Sat]. www.

Killer Queen @ The Royal

Lounge @ Vertigo 1 Leicester

Soho WC2. www.lounge.

Mannequin @ Shoreditch

treet/Moorgate EC1. [2nd

girlsoutloud.co.uk. £5

9pm-3am. 🎔 🎔 🖤

George, 133 Charing Cross Road Soho WC2.

www.myspace.com/

clubkq 🎔 🎔 🎔 🎔

uk.net. 🎔 🎔 🎔 🎔

Sat] 🎔 🎔 🎔 🗳

Members Club, 2a

Tabernacle Street Old

MooMaa @ Jerusalem

33-34 Rathbone Street

after. moomaaclub@

googlemail.com 🎔 🎔

Ovsters @ Oak Bar.

79 Green Lanes, Sto

, , , , ,

Bloomsbury W1. Electro

rave and pop. £5 B4 10.30/£8

Newington [3rd Sat]. R'n'B, Reggae, Old Skool Classics,

Garage and Soul. £7/ £5 with

flyer. www.oystersuk.com

Camberwell Rd, Camber

Queer Complex @

The Red Star, 319

Square,

Spotted! We saw this cutie at CODE. If it's you, email us

and get in free to the next CODE!

SE5. www.woteverworld.com RuMoUrS @ Minories, 64-73 Minories, Tower Hill EC3.

(last Sat): www.girl-rumours. co.uk ~~~ Salla! @ Oak Bar, 79 Green Lanes, Stoke Ne

[Last Sat]. www.oakbar.co.uk. 9pm-late. £7. ♥♥♥♥ Soul Naturelle @The Oak Bar, 79 Green Lanes St

Newington. N16. [1st Sat] ~~~~ Smack @ Hidden, 100 Tinworth St, Vauxhall, SE11. www.mvspace.com/ smackclub. £11 b4 11pm/£14 after. 🎔 🎔 🎔 🎔 So What @ First Out, Soho Indie, Electro, Trash. www.firstoutcafebar.com FREE, 7-11pm. 🖤 🎔 🖤 Sweet Satisfaction @ Selected venues. www.myspace.com/ sweetassoho. 🎔 🎔 🎔 🕈 T Tease @ The Black

Gardenia, 93 Dean St. oho:. [Last Fri]. www. myspace.com/t_tease.7pm-10am. £10. 🎔 🎔 🎔

Unskinny Bop @ Pleasure Unit. 359 Bethnal Green Rd. Bethnal Green E2 6LG. [3rd Sat]. www.myspace. com/ubop 9pm-2am, FREE b4 9.30pm/£4 after.

Wigout @ Ghetto, 58 Old Street EC1, Pop , madness. www.ghettolondon.co.uk. 10pm-late £2/FREE B4 midnight with

Q-Jump. 🎔 🎔 Wish @ Gramaphone. 60-62 Commercial St, Aldgate East [1st Sat]. www.club-wish.co.uk. 9pm-4am, £5 b4 11pm/£10 after. -

SUNDAY

100% Babe @ The Roxy Club 3 Rathbone Place, <mark>Soho</mark> W1. Bank

Cing William IV: Traditional mixed pub near the Heath. . 77 Hampstead High St. NW3. 020 7435 5747 🖶 Hampstead ittle Apple (The): 98 Kennington Ln, SE11. 🛱 Vauxhall Oak Bar: Late night club/bar. 79 Green Lns N16. 020 7354 2791. 🚍 Manor Hs./Bus73/141/341 Profile Bar: Brings to life the world of Gaydar. 4pm to 1am, 56-57 Frith Street, Soho, W1D 3IN.T: 020 7734 8300. ex: Fri + Sat, 10pm-3am. 184 London Rd, Kingston. 020 8549 9911. 🚍 Norbiton

Holiday Sunday 30 August. www.mvspace.com/ onehundredpercentbabe **** Bloody Sundae @ Ghetto. 58 Old Stre et EC1. www.ghetto-london.co.uk.

... Exquisite @ The Shadow Lounge 5 Brewer Street, Soho W1. [4th Sunday]. www.theshadowlounge.com 11pm-4am. ♥♥♥ Fozzie's Classic Karaoke Disco @ Central Station, 37 Wharfdale Road, Kings C N1. www.centralstation. co.uk. 🎔 🎔 Future Fusion @ The Greer Carnation 5 Greek Street, **Soho** W1. www.myspace.com/nikki_ lucas. 🎔 🎔 🎔

Karaoke with Mags @ Oak **Retro Bar**: Old style gay bar. 2 George Ct. WC2 (off the Strand). 020 7321 2811. 🛱 Charing X Roebuck (The): 25 Rennell St, Lewisham, SE13. 020 8852 1705. 🚝 Lewisham BR Royal Vauxhall Tave Cabaret come clubbers bar. 372 Kennington Lane, SE11. 🛱 Vauxhall Star at Night: 22 Gt Chapel Street, Soho. www.

thestaratnight.com. Star of Bethnal Green 359 Bethnal Gn Rd, E2. www. starofbethnalgreen.com Yard (The): 57 Rupert St, Soho. 020 7437 2652. 🛱 Piccadilly Circus

Bar, 79 Green Lanes, Stoke wington. www.oakbar. co uk 👾 🖤 Market EC1/Wet Yourself @ Fabric London. 77A Charterhouse St, City of London EC1. (2nd Sun). www fabriclondon.com 🎔 🎔 Rock Society @

The Black Gardenia 93 Dean St. Soho W1. www.myspace.com/ rocksocietylondon. 7pm-11pm, £3, 🖤 🎔 🎔 .L.A.G.S/chill-out@ RVT 372 Kennington Lane, Vauxhall, Huge dance anthems. www. theroyalvauxhalltavern.co.uk 2pm-12am, £7, 🎔 🎔

Sunday Games @ First Out, 52 St Giles Street Soho WC2 www.firstoutcafebar.com.

Sunday Happy Day @ Century, 61-63 Shaftesbury Ave, Soho WC1. [last Sun] Sunday_happyday@hotmail co.uk. 🎔 🎔 🎔 Sunday Jukebox @ Blush, Cazenove Rd, Stoke lewington N16. [2nd Sun]. DJ and music quiz. www.blushbar.moonfruit. com. 7pm. 🎔 🎔 🎔





ast Room Where Soho chic neets Shoreditch itsch.

aturday I Augus pstarz tent Brighton Pride With special guests Alphabeat!

ed Un e's Wine B Eclectic music and free entry



A great place to start your night off, or party till the end!

TUESDAY

Bring you own tunes, open DJ night

Sounds of the underground. Classic house, deep funky house and sexy electro by DJ Terry

Every Friday we're kicking the weekend off in style FREE ENTRY!!!!!! 9pm-2am All types of uplifting house music, funky, soulful, classics, electro, tech house, tribal Brought to you by DJ Bambs & DJ Carlos Santiago Any gueries email iwannabapenguin@hotmail.com

All the pop-tastic hits you can think of! Brought to you by DJ Fresh

Bob Marley, Jimmy Cliff, Bunny Wailer, Jacob Miller and much, much more Brought to you by DJ G.E.T.O



n 7 days a week Mon 12-11.30, Tues-Thurs 12-1, Fri & Sat 12-2.30, Sun 12-12.30 y Bookings Welcome Tel; 0208 881 0311 Party Bookings Welco w tenewinehas com

Tee's Wine Bar (old catch 22), Wellington Terrace, **Opposite Turnpike Lane Station**

Forthcoming events are under new management

barsesceneListings//clubs//girls//bars//clubs//girls//bars//c

don't Miss!

Torture Garden Summer Ball @ Club Coloseum

The world famous fetish club is celebrating its London Summer Ball with a theme of Underwater Love. It's time to get those imaginations in gear. Will you be a saucy rubber-clad sailor girl, or is a scanty atex mermaid costume more your style? Whatever you do, make sure you get your tickets right now, as this one will sell out ast!

vww.torturegarden. om



South

ONDA

Frat Party @ Ghetto, 129 St

James's Street, Brighton BN1

Student night. www.popstarz

org/ghettobrighton. 👾

I Don't Like Mondays @

PV at The Jury's Out 161

BN2, 01273 687090.

Studio 150 Warm Up@

BN1. www.charles-street.

nton

Charles St Club Brig

TUESDA

Karaoke with Lucinda

Lashes @ Edge Nightclub,

on www

Edward Street,

com. 🎔 🛡

theedgesouthampton.com.

Is it Only Tuesday? @ PV at The Jury's Out 161 Edward Street, Brighton BN2. 01273 687090. ● Twisted Karaoke @ Chetto, 129 St James's St, Brighton BN1. www.popstarz.org/ Ghill Out Tuesdays @ Chail Out Tuesdays @ Chailes St Club, Brighton BN1. www.charles-street. com. ●

WEDNESDAY Chatterbox @ Riverside

Tavern, West Bank of River

Medway, <mark>Kent</mark>: www. riversidetavern.co.uk. 🎔 🎔 ۹ Midweek Social @ Charles St Club, Brighton BN1. www.charles-street.com Colours Karaoke @ Beehive Pub [upstairs], Kingswood Suites. Southernhay, Basildon, Essex CM2.FREE. Lush @ Bent, 36-40 Poole Hill, Bournemouth, BH2. www.bent-club.co.uk R 'n' B Night @ Magnum, St Mark's St, South ampton S014. 9pm-2am, F:45% Theme Nights @ Riverside Tavern, West Bank of River Medway, Kent: www. riversidetavern.co.uk. 🎔 🎔 The Infamous PV Quiz@ PV at The Jury's Out 161 Edward Street, Brighton BN2. 01273687090 🎔 🎔 Transition@ Ghetto, 129 St lames's St. Brighton BN1. www.popstarz.org/ ghettobrighton 🎔 🎔 THURSDA

Boozer Guide

Bar 11: 11 Burgate, Canterbury, Kent, CT1. 01272 478 707. Charles Street. 8 Marine Parade, Brighton. 01273 624091. Coopers Arms: TV. 55 Bute, St, Luton, Beds. www. thecoopers-arms.co.uk Colors: Beehive Pub (upstairs), Kingswood Suites, Southernhay, Basildon. 01268 242031. www.colorsessex. co.uk Booty Call Monthly @ Ghetto, 129 St James's St, Brighton BN1. [1st Thurs] www.popstarz. org/ghettobrighton ♥ ♥ HDSM @ Ghetto 129 St James's St, Brighton, BN1. www.ghettobrighton.com.

Fresher than Fresh@ Bang Bar. 5 The Parade. www.bang-bar.com.. 9pm-2am. £4 B4 12/£5 after. Girls on Top @ Revenge, Old Steine, Brighton, BN1. Pride specia! www.revenge. co.uk 🛉 🎔 🎔 🎔 Leader of the Pack @ Ghetto, 129 St lames's St, Brighton BN1. [Last Thurs] www.popstarz. org/ghettobrighton 🎔 🎔 Mad Cow @ Charles St Club, Brighton BN1. www. charles-street.com 🎔 🎔 Rack Em Up @ Ghetto, 129 St James's St, Bright BN1. [2nd Thurs]. Blues. Rock and Country. www.popstarz.

Edge (The): 58 St Mary's Road, Southampton, SO14. www.theedgesouthampton.

com Fudge: Redbourn Rd, St Albans, Herts AL3. 01582 794053. Ghetto Brighton. 129 St James's St, Brighton. 01273 622424.: 10.30pm The Crosvenor Bar: 16 Western St, Brighton, BN1. www.thegrosvenorbar.com Load of Hay: 207 Pinner Road, Watford Heath WD19. 01923 441113. (T): Bushey BR London Hotel: org/ghettobrighton Spot the Dot @ Riverside Tavern, West Bank of River Medway, Kent: www. riversidetavern.co.uk. ♥ ♥ Tits Up @ Chetto, 129 St James's St, Brighton BN1. [3rd Thurs]. www.popstarz. org/ghettobrighton ♥ ♥ ♥

FRIDAY

Fairylea @ Charles St Club, Brighton BN1. www.charlesstreet.com, ♥ Girls Connect @ Edge Nightclub, Southampton. [1st Fri]. www.

theedgesouthampton.com. G Spot @ The Bizz and

Works 15 Station Road East Canterbury Kent [4th Fri] ♥♥♥♥♥ Lollipop @ Revenge, Old

Steine, Brighton, BN1. www.myspace.com/ clubrevenge. ♥♥ Popstarz@Ghetto, 129 St James's St, Brighton



21807 model factors (f): 30% The Lounge: 53 Old Market Street, Bristol. www.loungebristol.com Magnum Club: 113 St Mary's Road, Southampton SO14. 023 8033 5049.

EGO

evenoisreadyte.com

Run the FREE Tuesday nighter for girls and their guy guests the first state is the free treating of the free treating of the free treating of the free treating of the first state is the free treating of the free treatin

DJ Sandra D (Play, Killer Queen, ex-Miss-Shapes) on the decks

RUBY TUESDATS & Ro Bar's candle-Sit besement klob 30 Liste street, London WC2H 7BA (bebind VUE on Leicester Square) Teb07730 367720 for more decails www.myspace.com/ruby_tuesdayslive

lubs//girls//bars//clubs//girls//bars//club 25 ceneListings//ba

ugh (The): 4 Princes Street, Brighton, BN2.01273 570 028 ld Vic: . 104 St Paul's Rd, Southsea, Portsmouth, Hants 02392-297013 Bar (The 161 Edward Street, Brighton, BN2 0JB. 01273 687 090. **.t**: . 161 Edward St, Brighton. www. the-pv.co.uk n Anne: 11 Queen Anne Road, Maidstone, Kent, ME14. 01622753023

The Retreat West Street, Old Market, Bristol. e: 32-34 Old Steine, Brighton. 01273 606064. rn: Canal Road, Strood, Kent, ME2. 01634 719949 rets: 8-12 New Road. Chatham, Kent, ME4. 01634 832433 Ship Inn: 347 High Street, Rochester, Kent, ME1, 01634 844 264

UNDAY

Bent Double @ Komedia, hton, www.komedia co.uk. £9.50.

Big Gay Quiz @ The Marlborough, 4 Princes St righton BN2. 8pm. £5/4 Cabaret @ Old Vic,

ortsmouth. www oldvicportsmouth.co.uk ***

Ghetto, 129 St James's Street, Brighton BN1. [1st Sun]. www.popstarz. org/ghettobrighton

Fuck the Pain Away@ Ghetto, 129 St James's Street, Brighton BN1. [Last Sun]. www.popstarz. org/ghettobrighton 🎔 🎔 🎔

Western St, Brighton, BN1. Sunday 2 August] www. thegrosvenorbar.com 🎔 🎔 Sirens @ Ghetto. 129 St James's Street, Brig BN1. [3rd Sun]. Burlesque www.popstarz.org/ ghettobrighton 🎔 🎔 Sunday Sundae Double Floor Special @ Audio, Marine Parade, Brighton BN1 ~ ~ ~

The Grosvenor 16

Electronic Disco @ Charles St Club righton BN1 www.mvspace.com/ secretdisco

-----Wild Fruit @ Tru, West Street, Brighton BN1. [1st Sunl., www.aeonevents.co.uk 10pm-3am. £8/£12.

Chatterbox **@The Riverside** Tavern

Kent's largest midweek gay club night. Everyone has a number - if you like the look of someone, send a message and see what happens! www.riversidetavern ro uk



sther @ Chicks Rock!! How long has Chicks Rock!! been running? Chicks Rock!! started in November 2008. Where is Chicks Rock!! held? At the Zenith Bar in Angel, London. What can someone expect from a night at Chicks Rock!!? Expect anything! What do you enjoy most about running Chicks Rock!!? The fact that twice a month I have a party to go to that's completely different from

anything else on the scene. When is the next Chicks Rock!!? It's every 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month.

How can can people get hold of tickets? No ticket required...it's FREE entrance!

.ook for Chicks Rock!! on Facebook – and don't orget the exclamation marks!

BN1. www.popstarz.org/ queens-court.co.uk Electronic Disco @ Secret ghettobrighton. 🎔 🎔 🥨 Speed Dating @ The Amsterdam, Marine Parade, Brighton BN1. [1st Fri] www. amsterdam.uk.com/whatson Thank Funk It's Friday @ PV at The Jury's Out 161 Edward Street, Bri BN2.01273687090. Women's Night @ The Grosvenor 16 Western Street, Brighton BN1. [First Friday] www.grosvenorbar com 🐓 🎔 🎔 🎔 SATURDA

Club 52 @ Leonards, Wennington, Essex [last Sat]. Girlie night with DJ Jo. www.club52.com. Guest DJ Josephene @ The Marlborough, 4 Princes St Brighton BN2. 8pm. £5/4. DJ Amanda @ Queens Court. 167-168 Lower Briggate Leeds www

Location, Brighton BN1. www.electronicdisco.com Girlsworld @The Ocean Rooms, Morley Street hton BN1. Pride girls' party [1st Aug]. 🎔 🎔 🎔 Kinky Dangerous @ Charles Street Club Brighton BN1. Funky House www.myspace.com/kinky_ dangerous. 🎔 🎔 🎔 Theme Nights @ Riverside Tavern, West Bank of River Medway, <mark>Kent</mark>: www. riversidetavern.co.uk. 🎔 🐿 Viva la Divas/Booty Call @ PV at The Jury's Out 161 Edward Street, Brighton BN2. 🎔 🎔 🎔 Wigout @ Ghetto, 129 St James's St, Brighton BN1. Pop party night. www.popstarz. org/ghettobrighton Women's Disco@The Babylon Lounge, Hove BN3. [3rd Sat].

womensdisco@gmail.com

,,,,,



THE LIVERPOOL ARMS Northgate St. Chester CH1 2HQ



The Scene's Fave Live Event -07817989368 If U Wanna Play Zenith Bar, 125 Packington Street, Islington NI TEA

Every 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month ... 7pm-iom TO Group: Chicks Rock! Angel Tube Bus 73,38,56,34,167,94



Monday 12pm-12am Darts Nite

DNESDAY 12pm-12am GIRLS CO NITE WITH DJ LES

Thursday 12pm-12am Lady Wanda Bingo Karoke and prizes

day 12pm-Lam Betty Sparkles Disco/snacks available

day 12pm-Zam with the one and only Pussy Galore/snacks available

The Liverpool Arms is Chester's best gay and straightfriendly pub for music and entertainment, as well as being the perfect place to chill out in a friendly, welcoming nosphere. Its the fun place to be, great atmostphere and friendly staff.



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don't miss

Fussy Pussy @The New Overdraught The official women's Pride club event takes place on 29 August in The



New Overdraught, five mins walk from Vanilla… DJ Furey will be spinning top tunes for over 1000 women, with £1.50 drinks offers all night!! Miss it and you'll definitely be missing out!

/ww.vanillagirls.co.uk

North

MONDAY

Compassion @ LT nights, 47 Heathcoat St, Nottingham NG1 [1st Mon]. Ladies night. www.ltnights. co.uk. 9.30pm-3am, £3 b4 11 or NUS/£4. W Open Mic Night @ Bar du Fay, 25 Stanley St Liverpool L1: Live music from talented regulars. www. myspace.com/bardufay. From 9pm. 107 Ferensway, Hull, HU2. 9pm www.propagandabar.co.uk CU Next Tuesday Vanilla, Richmond St, Manchester M1. www. vanillagirls.co.uk. Indie Night @ Bar du Fay, 25 Stanley Street Liverpool L1. www.myspace.com/bardufay. Xaraoke @ Coyotes, 14

araoke @ Propaganda,

Chorlton St, Manchester M1. 01612364007.9-11.30pm, FREE. V V Poptastic @ Mutz Nutz, Princess St, Manchester M1. Retro & camp Pop. www. poptastic.co.uk110m-3am.

£4.50/3.50 members. ♥♥

Band Practice @ Bar du

Fay, 25 Stanley Street Liverpool L1. www.myspace. com/bardufay. DJ Angel Delight @ Kampus, 45 China St, Lancaster LA1. Music & drag. F:50% Sexier @ Vanilla, Richmond St, Mancs M1. [3rd Weds], www.vanillagirls.co.uk.

THURSDAY

Back 2 Back @ Cruz 101, Princess St, M ester M1 Retro & Camp Pop. www. cruz101.com 9pm-3am. £4/£2 students and Cruz members. 🎔 🤎 Cumasudare @ Route 69 Wine Bar, 1 Gas St, Jorthampton N1. R 'n' B. Hip Hop, Basement, Rare Grooves. 07826819016. www.route69.co.uk.10pm-3am. £5. 🎔 🎔 🎙 Fussy Pussy @ FG2, 5 Dickson Road, Black [Last Thurs]. 9pm. www. anillagirls.co.uk. 🎔 🎔 🎔 Student Night @ Bar du Fay, 25 Stanley St Liverp www.myspace.com/ bardufay. 🎔 🎔 🎔 The Lick @ Vanilla, Richmond St, anchester, M1, R'n'B, www

vanillagirls.co.uk. 5pm-late. £1

after 10pm. ♥ ♥ ♥ ♥ **@ Quiz night @ Coyotes**, 14 Chorlton St, Mancs M1. www.coyotesbar.co.uk. 9-11.30pm, FREE. ♥ ♥

FRIDAY

Clare Summerskill@ Metropolitan Community Church of Manchester, Anson Road, Manchester M14. Fri 21 Aug. www. claresummerskill.co.uk Climax@Sheffield Union, University of Sheffield Union, University of Sheffield Union, Sheffield. [3rd Fri]. www.shefi acuk. 10.30pm-3am (last admission 12.30). £4 adv/£5

admission 12.30). £4 adv/£5 on door. ♥ ♥ DJ Miss Candi @ Bar du Fay, 25 Stanley St Liverpool L1. www.myspace.com/bardufay. Dykes to Dine @ various, Calder Valley. 01706 373 D66 (last Fri): Fine food and

company. ♥♥♥♥♥ Girls on Top 2 @ Bar 24/7, Redbourne Rd, St Albans, Herts, AL2. (last Fri).

Boozer Guide

AXM Bar: Mixed bar. 10 Canal St, M1. 0161 236 6005. (F): 60%

Coyotes: Fun bar. 14 Chortton St, Manchester, M1. 0161 236 4007. F: 80% Lucy's Two: Gay bar with pool and darts. Abingdon St, Blackpool. 01253 753 598. (F): 50% Manto: 46 Canal St. Mancs. 0161 2362667 (F):40% www.xxpromotions.co.uk. Lez-B-Naughtier @ Flame, 58 Wellington Street, Luton. www.flame-nightclub. co.uk Pre-Fuel warm up @ Propaganda, 107 Ferensway, Hull, HU2. 9pm. www.propagandabar. co.uk DJs @ Fuel Sheffield, 6 Baker St, Sheffield S1. Dance, Chart and Pop. 10.30pm-3am.£5 with loyalty card. www.

fuelclubsuk.com. 🎔 🕻 Fridays @ Vanilla, Richmond St, Anchester, M1, www. vanillagirls.co.uk 🎔 🎔 🎔 The Twisted Wheel @ Legends, Whitworth St, ancs. £6. www.myspace com/fucktheelectro. F:60% Hanki Panki @ Coyotes, ancs, www.covotesbar co.uk. 9pm-4am. 🎔 🎔 🎔 Lash For Lasses@The Tunnel. 6 Whitworth St. ncs. BDSM [2nd Sunday]. www.clublash



Princess St. Manchester, 0161 2270341 Queer: 4 Canal St, Mancs. 0161 2281368 (F) 35% Taurus Bar: 1 Canal St, Manchester M1. 0161 236 4593. (F): 50% com. V V V V Big Gay Friday @ Cruz 101, Princess St, Mancs=, www. cruz101 com. members. V Rah Rah Rah @ Stardust Bar Cambridge St, Sheffield, [1st Fri], www. sheffieldgayscene.co.uk/12. 10pm-2am. V V

SATURDAY

DJs @ Fuel Sheffield, 6 Baker St, Sheffield S1. Dance, chart, pop. 9pm-3am. 25 b4 11pm/£5. Drama Queen @ Cruz 101, Princess St, Mancs. www.cruz101.com. 11pm-6am. Genesis @ Legends, Whitworth St, Mancs. .genesis_clubnight@ yahoo.co.uk.10.30pm. £4.

Glasshouse @ Mission, Heaton's Court, Leeds [2nd & 4th Sat]. House night.www.myspace. com/glasshouseuk.11pm-9am. ♥ ♥ Jukebox @ Coyotes,



Spirit: 63 Richmond St. Mancs. 0161 2379725 (F):40% Vanilla: Women's bar (men as guests). 39-41 Richmond St, Mancs M1. 0161 288 2727. (F): 95% Via Fossa: 28-30 Canal St, M1. Classy bar.(F): 30%

100% BABE The Biggest West End Event for girls On a Sunday Bank-Holiday now in our 10th year "hot party fab music gorgeous girls"

SUNDAY BANK-HOLIDAY 30 AUGUST 2009

FREE babelicious cocktail b4 10pm



www.facebook.com/sue_wade hundredpercentbabe@googlemail.com

Entry £5 b4 10pm then £7. Open 8.30pm-3am (no entry after 1am). DJ's spin house, r&b, pop, old skool 100% BABE @ THE ROXY 3 RATHBONE PLACE LONDON W1

Manchester. www. coyotesbar.co.uk. 9pm-4am. Karaoke @ Bar du Fay, 25 Stanlev Street Liverpool L1.

www.myspace.com/bardufay Lavender Lounge @ Gregson, 33 Moorgate Lancaster. www. lavenderlounge.

Nocturnal @ Propaganda, 107 Ferensway, Hull, HU2. 2.30-Gam, www. propagandabar.co.uk. ♥ ♥ Poptastic @ Mutz Nutz, Princess St, Manchester M1. www.poptastic.co.uk.

Pre-Fuel warm up @ Propaganda, 107 Ferensway, Hull, HU2. 9pm. www. propagandabar.co.uk. 🎔 🕊 Saturday ROCKS!@ Vanilla, Richmond St, ncs. . www.vanillagirls. co.uk.10pm-4am. FREE b4 9pm/£1. 🎔 🎔 🎔 🎔 Women's Disco @ B@r Place Crown Street, Hebden Bridge W.Yorkshire. [4th Sat]. www.lesbianhebdenbridge. co.uk. 🎔 🎔 🎔 🎔 🕷 Women's Disco @ Todmorden Cricket club Burnley Road, Todmord (2nd Sat): www.myspace com/tod disco. £2-£6.

SUNDAY

Girls Go Down @ Vinyl Basement Bar, Lark Lane, Liverpool [1st Sun]. F.87%. Laughing Cows @ The Frog and Bucket, 102 Oldham St, Manchester Sun 30 Aug. Comedy,

Midlands

TUESDAY

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Y Y Y

FRIDAY

DI Dean's Karaoke @

Nightingale Club, Kent

St. Birmingham B5, www.

nightingaleclub.co.uk. FREE.

WEDNESDAY

DJ Dean's Karaoke @

Nightingale Club, Kent

St. Birmingham B5, www.

nightingaleclub.co.uk. FREE.

Betty's Music Bar @ Betty's

swich, Suffolk IP1. 01473

288406. Top club tunes & ALL

drinks. www.bettysbar.co.uk.

£6/£4 members. 9pm-2am,

Club, Kent St, Birmingham

FREE b4 10pm. 🎔 🎔 🎔

Blast! @ Nightingale

www.nightingaleclub.

after. 🎔 🎔

~ ~ ~

....

co.uk.10pm-4am. Free b4

10pm/£2 till midnight/£5

Karaoke @The Fox, 17

co.uk. 9-11.30pm, FREE.

Fridays @ The Club 14

Lower Essex St, **Birmingham** 0121 622 1210: www.foxbar.

Hillcrest St Stoke-on-Trent.

ST1 2AA. www.theclub-stoke

Party night @ Rainbows 88

Short St Coventry, CV1 2LW

co.uk 01782 201829 🎔 🎔

www.rainbowscov.com

Nightclub, 10 Cornhill,

Poptastic @ NC176-80 Lower Parliament Street, Nottingham, NG1. www.ng1club.co.uk/. (0115) 958 8440 ♥♥

SATURDAY

 # Betty's Music Bar @ Betty's Nightclub, 10 Comhill, Ipswich, Suffolk IP1. www.bettysbar.plus.com. 9pm-2am, FREE b4 10pm/£4 members/£7. ♥ ♥ ♥ Big Saturday Night Out @ Nightingale Club, Kent St, Birningham: www.nightingaleclub.

co.uk.10pm-Gam. £4 b4 10pm/£8. ♥ ♥ Party Night @ The Fox, 17 Lower Essex St, Birmingham. 0121 622 1210: Friday 19 is the night of the Miss Gay Fox competition! Have you got what it takes? www.foxbar. co.uk. ♥ ♥ ♥

SUNDAY

Comedy Collective @ Nightingale Club, Kent St, Birmingham: www. nightingaleclub.co.uk. £3.

Sundays @ The Three Tuns 9 Bucknall New Rd, Stokeon-Trent karaoke and games. www.thethreetuns.net ♥♥ Funday Sunday @ NG176 80 Lower Parliament Street, Nottingham, NG11EH ♥♥ Guide Diversion: Busy gay venue.

lubs//girls//bars//clubs//girls//bars//club**25CeneListings**//ba

125-127 Railway Terrace, Rugby, Warwickshire CV21. ♥♥ DV8 Nightclub & Innov8

r: 16 Lower Essex St, Birmingham. 0121 6666366 🎔 🎔 🦊 The): Popular women's bar. 17 Lower Essex St, Birmingham B5 0121 6221210 🎔 🎔 🎔 nd:. 2am licence. 4 Bond St, Wolverhampton, WV2.01902420916. ♥♥♥ Kudos: 28 Horse Fair, Birmingham 🎔 s: 18 St Ann's St, Nottingham NG1. 0115 9580432.♥♥ G1: 76-80 Lower Parliament St. Nottingham, 0115 9588440 🎔 🎔 : Kent St Birmingham. 0121 6221718. ** oute Two: 139/147 Hurst

Street Birmingham, 0121 6223366: ♥♥ Rainbow & Dove: 185 Charles St.Leicester 0116 2547568 Sobar@ NG1: 7pm-late. 7 nights. 0151 9588440 ♥♥ Subway City: 27 Livery St. Birmingham, 0121 2330310 ♥♥ The Club: 14 Hillcrest St. Hanley 01782 201829 (F): 60% Village Inn: 152 Hurst St. Birmingham, 0121 6224742 profie

FEDERATION Manchester How long have you been going? Federation has been running for 7 and a half years Anything new & interesting? Federation is constantly evolving.

What is Foundation famous for?

We're famous for our entertainment from the spectacular to the truly bizarre.

What is the atmosphere like?

The atmosphere is electric and second to none.

Who are your clientele?

Federation appeals to a diverse crowd, hence our strap line 'United for Dance' What is the music policy?

Anything funky, fresh and upfront. Describe in 7 words

Spectacular, Adored, Party, Flamboyant, Evolving, Unique & Disco! www.clubfederation.com

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next events

Manchester Pride party. Friday 28th August tel: 07810 767 919 www.funforfemales.co.uk funforfemales@funforfemales.co.uk

don't mss

Ladies Night @ Planet Bar This is the place to meet your mates for pre-Furburger drinks, on the second Friday of every month. Don't even think about going anywhere else!

Baxter's Place, Edinburgh, EHI

Scotland TUESDAY THURSDAY

On Demand @ Cafe Habana Greenside Place Edinburgh EH1. www. cafehabanaeh1.com. ♥♥

Shagtag @ Foundation Nightclub Carnegies Brae Aberdeen[1. Drinks offers and shagtag board! www.bebo.com/ Foundationnightclub ♥ ♥ THURSDAY Cheesy Wotsits @ Cafe Habana Greenside Place, Edinburgh EH1. www. cafehabanaeh1.com

Karaoke @ Planet Bar 6 Baxter's Place Edinburgh EH1. www.bebo.com/ PLANETbar

FRIDAY Fridays @ Foundation

NightClub, Carnegies Brae, Aberdeen. Funky house, pop, disco, £4, open til late

barsesceneListings//clubs//girls//bars//clubs//girls//bars//c

com. ♥♥♥ Saturdays @ Foundation

Carnegies Brae, Aberdeen.

Foundationnightclub. 🎔 🎔 🎔

Sunday sessions @ Cafe

Habana Greenside Place

dinburgh EH1. .www.

cafehabanaeh1.com. 🎔 🎔

Foundationnightclub. 🎔 🎔 9

Sundays @Foundation

Nightclub,

www.bebo.com/

SUNDAY

Nightclub,

Carnegies Brae, Ab

www.bebo.com/

www.bebo.com/ Foundationnightclub.

Ladies night @ Planet Bar 6 Baxter's Place **Edinburgh** EH1. www.bebo.com/ PLANETbar

Fur Burger @ GHQ Picardy Place Edinburgh EH1. [2nd Fri]. Electro, hip hop and pop. www.myspace.com/

clubfurburger Kick Start @ Cafe Habana Greenside Place Edinburgh EH1. www.cafehabanaeh1. com.

SATURDAY

BHQ @ Cafe Habana Greenside Place <mark>Edinburgh</mark> EH1. www.cafehabanaeh1.

Boozer

The Polo Lounge: 84 Wilson St Glasgow, G1 1UZ 0141 553 1221 Dolls: 36 Broughton Street Edinburgh +44 0131 476 2699 Delmonicas: 68 Virginia St Glasgow, G1 1TX 0141 552 4803 Sala Cafe Bar: 58a Broughton Street, Edinburgh EH1 35A 01315 565758 **Pop Rokit:** Picardy Place,Edinburgh EH8 1JT 01315564272 **The Blue Moon Cafe Restaurant Bar:** 36 Broughton St Edinburgh, EH1 3SB. www.bluemooncafe. co.uk 0131 556 2788 **The Laughing Duck:** 24 Howe Street, Edinburgh, Midlothian, EH3 GTG Lesbian bar

Wales

TUESDAY SUI

Karaoke @ Kings Cross, 25 Caroline Street, Cardiff CF10 1FF www.kxcardiff.co.uk ♥♥♥♥

THURSDAY

Loud & proud @ Thru the Arch, Club Newport 33A Stow Hill Newport NP20 1JH www.thruthearch.com

Open all levels @ Exit Nightclub, 48 Charles St, Cardiff, CF10 www.exitclubcardiff.com

FRIDAY

Get the party started @ Club X, 35-37 Charles Street Cardiff, CF10 2GB www.club-x-cardiff.co.uk

SATURDAY

Absolute heaven @ Exit Nightclub, 48 Charles St, Cardiff, CF10 2GF www.exitclubcardiff.com

Big night out @ Thru the Arch Club Newport 33A Stow Hill Newport NP20 www. thuthearch.com ♥ ♥ Kings kitchen @ Kings Cross, 25 Caroline Street, Cardiff CF10 ♥ ♥ ♥ Exile @ Club X, 35-37 Charles Street Cardiff, CF10 2CB www.club-x-cardiff.co.uk

SUNDAY

For the angels @ Exit Nightclub, 48 Charles St, Cardiff, CF10 2GF www.exitclubcardiff.com

♥♥♥ Open mic@Thru the Arch Club, Newport 33A Stow Hill Newport NP20 1JH ♥♥♥ www.thruthearch.com

Boozer Guide

Minskys Show Bar: Cathedral Walk, St David's Centre Cardiff CF10 www. minskys-showbar.com The Offas Tavern: Prestatyn North Wales, LL19 (01745) 886 046. Three Crowns: Well Street, Bangor, LL57 Golden Cross: 283 Hayes

Bridge Road, Cardiff, CF10 1GH **Exit Nightclub**: 48 Charles Street, Cardiff, CF10 2GF

www.exitclubcardiff.com











USA/Lesbian parental rights



Lesbian parents in Washington DC have been granted the right to become the legal parent of a partner's artificially inseminated child, without having to adopt.

This makes Washington a leading force in gay adoption rights in the US, with various other states allowing same-sex couples to adopt jointly.

Australia/



Lesbian party company Pinkalicious has won a case allowing it to ban men from events, making it the sole women-only party in

Australia. Speaking to the Herald Sun, director Julie MacKenzie said women want "to be able to express themselves in a safe environment... free of intrusive attention from men".

Lithuania/



Lithuanian parliament has voted to pass a law that bans information on homosexuality in schools or in media accessible by young

people. The law states that "propaganda of homosexuality or bisexuality" has a detrimental effect on young people and is comparable to Section 28, the law that prohibited discussion of homosexuality in UK schools.

Venezuela/



The Venezuelan National Assembly has voted to pass a bill for gender equality through the first round of discussion. If passed, the 'Organic Law for

Gender Equity and Equality' would criminalise discrimination, as well recognising the rights of cohabiting same sex couples. It would also allow the introduction of civil partnerships.

Sweden/Gay and



Elderly gays and lesbians in Stockholm may soon be able to live in a special gay-friendly nursing home, called Regnbågen, which means 'Rainbow'. Project

leader Christer Fällman told The Local Newspaper: "We want to avoid the situation where a guy doesn't dare to tell nursing home staff that his boyfriend is coming to visit."

Cathy Turner, Barclays HR Director, speaks at an event celebrating 20 years of the Albert Kennedy Trust. The Trust was set up to help young LGBT homeless people.



BEN'S BITS

Ben Summerskill is

Chief Executive of

Stonewall.

To support

Stonewall's

campaign which

tackles homophobic

bullying, visit www.

stonewall.org.uk/

education_for all



Recent law changes - as a result of tireless Stonewall lobbying - have made it infinitely less complicated for lesbians to conceive. If you're planning to fill your household with the pitter patter of tiny feet, you can now finally approach fertility clinics without fear of discrimination. The requirement that clinics consider 'the need for a father' has been replaced with 'the need for supportive parenting.' Furthermore, when a lesbian couple have a child, the nonbirth mother no longer has to adopt the child in order to be named joint legal guardian on the birth certificate; if the couple are civilly partnered, this will now be automatic. And contrary to what some so-called 'family values' campaigners predicted, the roof of the moral universe has not caved in to

"The best sex I've had this year was probably with my vibrator."

- Desperate Housewives star Eva Longoria Parker tells Rolling Stone magazine about her preference for self pleasure.

undermine the 'traditional' family. Rather, the lesbian couples in Britain who have made a considered decision to start a loving family have been afforded equal access to services their taxpaying money helps fund. So life for lesbian families isn't only fairer it's also much easier.

A guide on 'how to get pregnant' may sound like a cringe-worthy sex education class exercise for school pupils. But Pregnant Pause is actually Stonewall's new guide for lesbians on how to conceive. It continues our commitment to communicating legal changes in helpful plain English guides so that lesbian and gay people completely understand where they now stand in the eyes of the law. As the law improves and provides further equality, knowing your rights will help you and your family enjoy the services you already pay for - and if discrimination occurs, the same knowledge can help you bring the perpetrators to justice.

For copies of Pregnant Pause call Stonewall's free Infoline on 08000 50 20 20 or download from www.stonewall.org.uk/ pregnant_pause'




Lesbian paedophile jailed



Sarah Wilson, 21, was sentenced to 20 months in prison for grooming a 15year-old girl over the internet, in what is believed to be the first case of its kind. She spent six months

grooming the girl, sending sexually graphic messages, and then arranged to meet her at King's Cross Station in London. The parents reported her missing, and British Transport Police picked up the teen, preventing any acts from taking place. Ms Wilson has now been put on the sex offenders' register.

Lesbian couple get IVF on NHS

Following a legal fight, an anonymous lesbian couple will now have their IVF treatment paid for by the NHS. The couple were denied treatment by their local primary care trust because they are both female. One of the women has polycystic ovary syndrome, which can lead to infertility. Trusts can decide whether to fund treatment for same sex couples, but from October the 'need for a father' will no longer be a stipulation.

RISE IN HOMOPHOBIC HATE CRIME



Despite an apparent fall in overall crime, figures recently released by the Metropolitan Police show a 13.5 per cent rise in homophobic hate crimes reported in London. Over the past year, 1,123 incidents were reported, compared to the 989 which were reported last year. Acting Detective Superintendent

before you

for the Met Gerry Campbell said.''Homophobia cannot be considered a thing of the past, it's on the increase.'' David Allison of OutRage! Agreed, telling The London Paper:'There's something wrong with society that people can't tolerate each other. However, it's partly down to a greater willingness of gay people to report crimes... Previously, they didn't trust the police to investigate them, and thought there was no point.''

Churches performing gay 'exorcisms'

A number of Christian churches have been found to be performing 'exorcisms' to cure lesbians and gays of their homosexuality. According to the Metro, a Pentecostal church in north west London is openly advertising the controversial 'cure'. It is one of hundreds of fundamentalist churches in the UK to offer the 'exorcism' of 'gay demons'. Gay rights activist Peter Tatchell is calling for a protest and police investigation: "There are claims that gay teens and adults are being subjected to exorcisms at the insistence of their parents and pastors. When they are under 18, it's a form of child abuse and the police should intervene."



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73







1 in 4 LGBT people experience domestic violence

8.30am: realising you've left your mobile phone at home 8.31am: realising your girlfriend has already read all of your text messages

8.32am - 4.59pm: knowing you will go home to accusations, arguments, name-calling, physical confrontations, screaming, broken belongings, spitting...

Domestic violence is a crime

Broken Rainbow LGBT Domestic Violence helpline

LGBT 9

Funded by:

Supported by:

wil charity m. 1103624. Company no. 5001858. 6001 calls cost the same as calls to landline numbers starting 2162; s Broken Rainbere in a roo included as part of any Nodel shown in for more clusive call minutes or discourt achemes for landline calls. sentative purposes only and is in no way connected to the samative above

Domestic violence is about power and control and leaves people feeling:

- * Responsible for arguments and abuse
- * Isolated
- Afraid
- * Threatened
- * Criticised and feeling put down

Helpline for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people

information

sign posting

listening

1

-

Broken Rainbow provides:

safety planning

74





PICK UP THE PIECES

Four charities specialising in LGBT issues have launched an initiative to reduce homelessness in our community. Chance Delgado looks at the good work Jigsaw is doing.

Jigsaw is an umbrella organisation that brings together legal advisers Stonewall Housing, homelessness charity Albert Kennedy Trust, mental health organisation PACE and Galop, which supports victims of homophobic crime.

Jigsaw's co-ordinator, Michael Nastari, comments: 'The effects of homophobia and transphobia on young people's lives can be devastating. As a result, they can fail to succeed in education, miss out on employment and training, and suffer a range of mental health issues. Young people who use Jigsaw gain access to a complete range of services, specially tailored to their individual needs.''

Jigsaw users will gain specialist advice to improve their housing and safety, as well as enjoying emotional support, education, employment or training opportunities and social networking skills. This means that no young gay person need remain in an environment that is dangerous or isolating.

Though the legal position of homosexuals has changed





in the last 10 years, many young LGBT people face violence, bullying and rejection by their family or communities. Often, they are victims of hate crime in their own neighbourhood. The statistics for suicide are higher among gay young people and this shows that there is a definite need for a mentoring organisation that directly deals with them when they are at their most vulnerable.

The Jigsaw project has come together to pick up the most vulnerable in our community and empower them to move away from the negative elements that they have encountered in their young lives. The project has the support of both celebrities and politicians who understand the real need for such an organisation. Amy Lamé, broadcaster and promoter, comments: "It is shocking that so many LGBT youth are forced out of homes onto the streets by their own families, simply for being who they are."

Deputy Mayor for London, Richard Barnes, stated:"It is inspiring to see voluntary

WORCESTER SAUCE

The National Bisexual Convention (BiCon) is an annual gathering for bisexuals, their friends, partners and supporters. This summer the University of Worcester will host the four day residential event from 20-23 August (accommodation is available on site in student flats). BiCon offers day tickets at £12 (unwaged) and a full event pass from £97 (unwaged) £162 (waged).

For more information visit www.bicon2009.org.uk

sector organisations join forces to help meet the needs of lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans (LGBT) young people. Jigsaw, by bringing together four organisations, each with their own specialism, creates a dynamic initiative which responds holistically to the needs of young people. I am proud to see London tackling the endemic issue of

LGBT youth homelessness head on, and am delighted to support the launch of Jigsaw. I look forward to seeing this pioneering initiative prosper."

> For more information visit www.lgbtjigsaw.net





Hooray! At last we have a new community centre in north east London offering a safe, alcoholfree space for all our community in which to access information, support and counselling.

The East London Out Project centre boasts comfy sofas, snacks, a library, pool table, music and games. ELOP rely on volunteers and are currently recruiting.

To learn more, please contact info@elop.org or check the website at www.elop.org . For direct access, contact our staff directly on 020 8509 3898.





You've probably sponsored a walk and maybe a friend who has stopped smoking, but a sponsored head shave is the wild new way to raise money for charity.

At Coyotes in Manchester on Sunday 19 July, two members of staff willingly submitted to the razor in front of a cheering crowd. Coyotes are supporters of Act 4 Africa, a Manchesterbased charity, whose aim is the prevention of HIV/AIDs through education, sporting activities and workshops.

The evening was a huge success having exceeded the modest target figure of £1700. The Coyotes staff were delighted to have raised a



massive £2639 in total - and they're still counting. The money will be put towards buying the charity a 4x4 vehicle which will take the message of AIDs prevention to outlying parts of Africa.

Some eschewed a short back and sides in favour of other ways to raise cash. Barmanager Emily Shenton kept her hair on but instead did a sponsored bungee jump for the charity. Emily, another Coyotes staff member, is jetting out to Kenya on Tuesday 28 July for a month where she will be working alongside some of the poorest communities in the urban slums of Kenya & Uganda. Coyotes would like to take this opportunity to send a very big thank you to everyone for their kind donations and support. They would also like to thank other businesses for donating raffle prizes to help raise more cash.



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For further information please call 020 7622 3626 or visit www.dogshome.org







WE NEED YOUR OPINION

Major LGB Drug and Alcohol research project across England.

We are surveying LGB people and communities across England. This research will help to provide evidence for better services for LGB people in England.

Look out for us at Leeds Pride on Sunday 2nd August

and Cornwall Pride on Saturday 8th August.

See us at more Pride events across England in 2009! or visit the website

www.partofthepicture.co.uk









TAKE supported by: The Opportunities for Volunteering Scheme in partnership with the Department of Health & Volunteering England



New Women's Health Project coming soon...

PACE will be seeking women volunteers to become:

- Group workers
- Advocates
- Health Trainers

Are you looking for a new challenge? Passionate about lesbian, bisexual & trans women's health issues? Want to make a difference in the LGBT community? Gain some valuable training, skills and qualifications?

If you're answering yes to these questions, why not come and visit us at our PRIDE stall in Trafalgar Square this year and sign up as a new recruit. To find out more information, you can contact us by email at **info@pacehealth.org.uk**, or for an informal chat phone us on **020 7700 1323**

PACE also delivers the following services to lesbian, bisexual & trans women:

- Advocacy
- Employment Services
- Couples Counselling
- Family Therapy
- Counselling for City & Hackney Residents
- National Helpline for Family & Relationship Issues
- Parenting Groups
- Domestic Violence Support Groups
- Young women's group Girl Diva
- Mixed under 16's group
- Anti Homophobic Bullying Work in Schools

For more information about PACE please visit our website:



community

GROUPS

LONDON

Camden Adoption: t: 0800 0281436 DASL: London drug/alcohol support. t: 020 8257 3068 Dykes On Bikes: Cycling. Dee: 020 8771 3285 ELOP: Youth, advice and support groups. Walthamstov t: 020 8509 3898 GayGordons (The): LGBT Scottish country dance club Unity Hall, 279 Upper St, Londor N1 2TZ Thurs 7-9.10pm www.thegaygordons.org GaySurrey Ladies' Nights: @ The Hautboy Inn, nr Ockham, Surrey. www.gaysurrey.org/ladies. LGBT Parents: Tower Hamlets Rosie 07779 288232 e: rosiegreen207@yahoo.co.uk OutWest LGBT: Advice and support. Contact Christ: 07834 483866 e: secretary@ OutWest.org.uk. t: 020 8892 5061 www.OutWest.org.uk UK Lesbian and Gav Immigration Group: t: 020 7922 7811 www.uklgig.org.uk Lesbian Gay Christian Movement: t: 020 7739 1249 e: lgcm@lgcm.org.uk www.lgcm.org.uk Kenric: Events /members grp for women. BM Kenric. London, WC1 3XX. t·01159663638 Lesbian Discussion Group @ Gay's The Word: 66 Marchmont Street. Even Wednesday. t: 020 7278 7654

LGBT Choir:

Michael: 07980 023578 LGB Youth Group @ Step Out: LGB Group for under 26s. Tue 5-7pm. Tower Hamlets. Scott: 020 7739 3082 London Bisexual & Lesbian Women's Group: Social/discussion group. Last Wed/month. 8-9.30pm. Upstairs Bar, The Blue Posts 81 Newman St, London, W1T BEU. www.facebook.com/ group.php?gid=11652761266 Metro50+: Social group for older people. 2-4pm. Metro Centre. Jackie: 020 8265 3311 One-Up: Youth group for LGBTs aged 18 and under. Mondays 4pm-7pm. Hendon NW London. t: 07504 226793 PACE Groups promoting lesbian and gay health and wellbeing. t: 020 7700 1323 Rainbow Parents: rainbowparents@googlemail com. t: 07506 012282 Regard: Disabled LGBT. Regard, BM REGARD, London WC1N 3XX. www.regard.org.uk e: secretary@regard.org.uk South London Lesbian Mums Group: East Dulwich Community Centre, 46-64 Darrell Road, London SE22 9NL. Tricia Durr: 07876 762 245. e: triciadurr@hotmail.com Step Out Tower Hamlets: Social & support group for LGBTQ young people. 5-8pm Tues. t: 07946 337160 Women's Voice: Friendly lesbian/bi group. £2/4Tues 7:30-9pm. Kairos t: 020 7437 6063 www.kairosinsoho.org.uk

Allsorts Youth Project: Drop-in for under 26s in Brighton, 8.30pm, Tues t: 01273 721211 Brighton Lesbian Link t: 07594 578035 Brightwaves MCC: Church inclusive of LGBTs. Sundays 6-7pm @ Clermont Church, Cumberland Road, (nr Preston Pk.), Brighton. 01273 681101 Freedom Youth: Bristol based LGB support group for ages 13 to 21. t: 01173 773677 www.freedomyouth.co.uk GLAM: Gay & Lesbian Media in Brighton. 44-46 Old Steine BN1. t: 01273 707963 Women's Social Group: (based in Kent). Poetry, walks golf, bowling and bi-monthly disco. t: 07960 627824

MIDLANDS Derbyshire Friend LGBT Youth Forum 'Love Knows No Gender': For young people aged 12-25. Sat 1.30–5pm Derby City Centre. 01332 207704 loveknowsnogender @hotmail.co.uk/www.loveknows-no-gender.piczo.com Derbyshire Friend Women's Zone: For LB&T women Tues 7–9.30pm at Derbyshire Friend LGBT Support Services, 2-3, Friary St, Derby. DE11JF. 01332 207704 info@gayderbyshire.co.uk www.gayderbyshire.co.uk Rainbow Voices Choir: Tues 8-10pm.Central Birmingham 07759 642410

Asian LGBT: Greater Mancs support grp. t: 07931 252874 rangmanchester@hotmail.com Lesbian & Gay Foundation Sexual health, meetings etc Helpline: 0161 235 8000 Manchester Lesbian Community Project: Drop In – 2nd & 4th Thurs 7-9pm; Discussion Group – 3rd Wed 7-8.30pm; OWLs (Olde Wiser Lesbians) Every Wed 1-4pm. 49-51 Sidney Street, M1 7HB t: 0161 273 7128 LIKT: For young lesbian and bi women in Mancs. t: 07813 981338 www.likt.org.uk e: co-ordinator@likt.org.uk LYSIS: Lesbian Youth Suppor & Info. t: 0161 274 4664 Mancs Parent's Group Taurus Bar, 1 Canal St Nicky: 01565 733891 Stepping Stones: Support gr in Mancs. LGF 0161 235 8000 HATECRIMES

NORTH

LONDON

True Vision: Homophobic and transphobic harassment advice. www.report-it.org.uk Galop Forums: Local LGBT forums. Sam 020 7704 2040 Gay Police Association: Action Line 07092 700 000 (24hrs) e: info@gpa.police.uk Galop: Help and advice for victims of hatecrime. t: 020 7704 2040 www.galop.org.uk MIDLANDS West Midlands Police:

Reporting LGBT crime. t: 0845 1135000

SPORTS

LONDON

RSP

Dynamo Dykes: esbian volleyball club. www.dynamodykes.org.uk Fit Women: Women's badminton group. Mondays 7-9pm. email: fitwomenfw@yahoo.co.uk Hackney Women's Football Club: t: 07941 561060 KB Fitness: London's largest gay owned/run Martial Arts Academy! www.e-kbfitness.com London Cruisers Basketball Women's Team: 07800 647

271 www.cruisers.org.uk S.wimmin: Social events for Surrey gay women. Age range 25-50. Contact Karen wimmin@yahoo.co.uk

NORTH

Manchester Stingers ootball Team: Lesbian football. 0161 273 7128 www.manchesterstingers.net

HELP LINES

Albert Kennedy Trust: (London): 020 7831 6562 (Mancs): 0161 228 3308. Housing advice for under 21's. Antidote LGBT drug and alcohol support group. 02074373523 **Brighton Lesbian and** Gay Switchboard: 01273 204050 Broken Rainbow: LGBT domestic violence helpline. Mon & Thu 2pm-8pm, Wed 10am-1pm. t: 08452 604460 www.broken-rainbow.org **Colchester Gay** Switchboard The Outhouse, 19 East Hill, Colchester. Helpline Mon-Fri 7-10pm 01206 869 191 www.gayessex.org.uk office@gayessex.org.uk Derbyshire Confidential LGB&T Switchboard: Advice, information and a listening ear. Derbyshire Friend LGB&T Support Services. Tues, Weds, &

Thurs 10am-1pm & 7.30-9.30pm 013 32 349333 London Lesbian & Gay Switchboard 020 7837 7324 www.llgs.org.uk London Friend: Counselling service. 020 7837 3337 www.londonfriend.org.uk Peer Support Project Mancs Youthline: 0800 1697384 Tel info/support on Sats, 1-3pm. **Quest LGB Catholics:** 0808 8080234 Stonewall Housing Advice: 020 7359 5767 Stone vall Campaign group for LGBT rights. 08000 502020 www.stonewall.org.uk UK Lesbian and Gay Immigration Group: 020 7922 7811 www.uklgig.org.uk Unison: Help with LGBT employment issues. 0845 3550845/ 0800 0967 968.

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SexYOUality is an independent charity whose sole purpose is to provide support to young lesbian, gay and bisexual people in Cambridgeshire.

So what exactly does the charity do? Miriam Lynn, Project Support Officer explains: 'We're a group of fully trained youth support workers and volunteers who offer safe and supportive activities for young lesbian, gay and bisexual people to take part in'

SexYOUality has been running for 15 years. The charity holds a weekly drop in, 2Byou, for young people aged 14-16 on Thursdays from 3-5pm and for 16-24-year-olds on Wednesday evenings from 6.30-8.30pm. Each week offers something different, from graffiti workshops and games nights to cinema trips.

One of SexYOUality's latest projects has been making a short documentary-style film. Perspectives – Challenging Homophobia brings together the experiences of young lesbian, gay and bisexual people in Cambridgeshire. It challenges stereotypes and provokes the audience to see the world from new and different perspectives.

The film is being launched at the Junction2, Cambridge on Wednesday 29th July. Jeff Leach, comedian and presenter on

BBC Switch, E4 and BBC3 will be the special guest. The evening will kick off with live music by talented singer, Emily Fraser, and up-and-coming local band, Newspeak, followed by a 'Fun Fundraising Auction'.

A SexYOUality volunteer sums it up: 'With Jeff Leach as our auctioneer, this is not going to be just another charity auction,

so get ready for plenty of cheek from this north London lad." The charity also

trains young LGB people to train other young

people and runs workshops in schools across Cambridgeshire to challenge homophobia. They have established a well-known,

trusted, consistent service and have built up an extensive knowledge of services for children and young people in the local area. They have also built strong links and partnerships with the local voluntary and community sector as well as other LGB organisations throughout the country.



For more info about the film: www.perspectivesfilm.webs.com For more info about SexYOUality and the groups: www.2byou.org.uk





Antidote

Antidote offers information and support exclusively to lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgendered people around drug and alcohol. Whether you want to cut down or stop using or drinking, or want information about keeping safe, Antidote can help.

We offer a weekly drop-in with ear acupuncture, complementary therapies, one-to-one counselling, key working and group work, and can help you find other help such as detox or rehab.

For further information call 020 7437 4669 or email antidote@turning-point.co.uk

Antidote is a confidential service.



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RCVS

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Unite striving for equality

Unite the Union is the largest trade union in the UK with over 2 million members in every kind of workplace from factories and offices to hospitals and universities. We are the premier union whether you work in the public, private or voluntary sector with membership extending to banks, local authorities, education, health, manufacturing and charities.



OUR STRENGTH COMES FROM OUR SIZE, THIS MEANS:

- We continue to negotiate better terms and conditions in workplaces;
- You will get advice and representation if you have a problem at work;
- · We have a powerful political voice;
- We campaign in the UK and internationally for greater equality and the strengthening of workers' rights.

Unite would like to see more LGBT people join and become active in the union. Those that join will have access to a wide range of information through our website, workplace representatives and offices throughout the country. They will have someone to turn to if they have an issue or need representation at work. They can be confident that where Unite is recognised for collective bargaining that we are negotiating the best terms and conditions at work. Those that become active as representatives will have access to training and guides that will ensure that they are competent and confident in their role.

There is still much work to be done to combat homophobia and transphobia and to achieve equality in the workplace for LGBT workers. Unite has highlighted that many employers and workers are not aware of LGBT legal rights. Despite the legal advances, prejudice still persists and LGBT workers still face harassment and discrimination in the workplace.

It is key that LGBT members have a voice and are active in the union. Unite has LGBT Committees in each region, a National Committee and a confidential network which helps to inform reps on issues affecting LGBT people at work. These play a vital role in ensuring that LGBT members are actively involved in developing union policy, campaigning and action in this area.

As a union, we exert a big influence at government level, with employers and campaign in communities for improvements to LGBT rights. We can and are making a difference and would like to see more LGBT members getting involved and take part in working towards equality in the workplace.



If you would like to join Unite please visit our website www.unitetheunion.com or call free on 0800 587 1222.

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buyer

Each month First Time Buyer brings you the inside track on buying your first home. Packed with top tips on beating the credit crunch plus a huge choice of available properties, First Time Buyer is a must-read for all would-be purchasers.







Aren't you sick of hearing how difficult it is to get a job nowadays, constantly being reminded that the competing applicants have never been of a higher calibre? Talk about pressure! But if you do some homework and learn to understand the game, interview technique will come naturally and you'll soon land that plum job.

Your CV is your calling card and should be spellchecked and looked over by a friend who has a high standard of English. Don't write lies, but you can exaggerate the truth. For example, there is nothing wrong with saying you have been involved in setting up three websites for friends, even if you have only been making the tea and doing a bit of light research. If you are questioned on any issue on your CV, state clearly what you did and how that relevant experience can help your potential employer. For example: "I was compiling all the pictures for the site and looking online for relevant links. I think these skills will be very useful to me in this job."

Remember that your employers want someone with the right attitude: proactive, polite, and a ready listener and learner. If you can show this in the short interview you will impress. In a job that requires you to be firm or slightly confrontational, eg: security guard, prison warden etc, you need to show that you are not a pushover. Asking direct questions to the interviewers is a way to do this. "Do you have a pension plan?" "Is your company a diversity champion?" It is a way of being assertive without aggression and shows your confidence: a prerequisite for such a job.

What you wear is also of paramount importance. Leaving your nose rings out may be necessary if you are going to be front of house in a retail outlet, but wearing them may be acceptable if your job is backroom. You may ask about this, but never in the first five minutes of your interview, and never as the first question you ask, or it will make you seem shallow and narcissistic. Clothes should be respectful,demure and not revealing any cleavage and your make-up should be subtle unless the job calls for a fashionista style. Often your interview will be cut short if you get this very wrong.

Each time you open your mouth in the interview room, you give yourself the opportunity to shine. Putting one joke in can be great for breaking the ice but be careful, don't be flippant. However, you should smile on at least three occasions during the interview. First when you enter, once during and again when you leave. This simple act can win you many points and help your potential employers warm to you. Have several phrases rehearsed to state exactly what your talents are: "I set up my own blog last year and from the social networking contacts now have a mailing list for my fortnightly newsletter on rare cat breeds, which is a favourite hobby." This shows that you do not stand still but are progressing your work experience.

combination of grit, wit and some crafty techniques. Chance Delgado guides you through the pitfalls and pratfalls of the modern interview

> Most importantly, do your research. Know about the company, their products, organisation and core beliefs. It is impressive if you can weave in a statement such as: "I see from your website that your company has a branch in France. Will there be opportunities to transfer there as I speak fluent French?" This flags up that you have done your homework and also reminds them of one of your skills. If you can, get a friend to rehearse an interview with you to raise your confidence

And lastly, don't forget your body. Don't eat beans the night before. Wear deodorant and avoid heavy perfume. If you are very hot, ask for a window to be opened rather than drip. Breathe deeply before you go in and keep your voice and breathing very even.

If you don't get the job, ring or write to the interviewer and ask them if they can point up any areas where you might improve. That way you'll be as sharp as a razor for the next interview.

BRecruitment

Nicola Chubb is an events

Nicola Chubb is an events manager/director for CODE club in London and Girl Action.

"You can't beat the feeling of seeing your guests enjoying what you've created." Working within the gay event industry allows me to take on many roles, keeping the job interesting and challenging. You can't beat the feeling of running a successful event, seeing all your hard work pay off and seeing your guests enjoying what you've created.

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This year, we are official host for women at this year's Brighton Pride. We only formed the company two weeks prior to signing the contract so we had to work flat out on everything from the website to the design of the tent. We are also hosting the main official after party for women as well as the VIP party. I also host CODE events in London twice a month and am the European Liaison for Girl Bar Dinah Shore in California.

The hardest part is dealing with the 'scene politics' and trying not to upset anyone. I guess it's best not to take things personally. New nights will come and go and some may become threats to your business. I just see it as a challenge and believe there are enough lesbians to fill all our venues.

My fondest memory was the launch night of Rush. I had dreamed of opening a bar since my early twenties so it was amazing. I also remember how the team pulled together at Soho Pride – they were amazing and worked so hard but we all enjoyed every second of it.

The advice I'd give anyone wanting to follow in my footsteps is to make sure you are well connected. Don't just rely on Facebook!

I'm very excited about everything right now and I won't stop until I have a hugely successful company I have a great business partner, Rebecca Paisis, and I truly believe the sky is our limit

For more information visit www.girlactionevents.com or www.club-code.net



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Whatever your background we'd like to talk to you – and we're looking for people who reflect the community in which they live and work. For details of a career that will do more for the people around you, visit hertspolicecareers.co.uk

organisation, simply a question of where.



Promoting Diversity



COMPANY SPOTLIGHT

Each month, g3 asks gay employees what their company is doing for diversity.



For more information visit www.redcross.org.uk

Company: British Red Cross Name: Louise Irvine Age: 30 Job title: Senior Fundraiser

What does your job entail?

My role is to raise funds to support the work of the British Red Cross both locally and overseas.

What do you love about your

job? Being privileged enough to be able to see at first hand the difference the Red Cross has made to people's lives. I also love that every day is different. One day you can be speaking at a local primary school about our HIV work in South Africa and the next day you will be raising funds for the Chinese Earthquake Appeal.

How did you come out at work? How hard was it? I always find its best to come out early on, so you don't get caught up playing the pronoun game! Lots of people asked if I was married and I was very open and said that I lived with my girlfriend. It has definitely been the easiest coming out experience I have had in my life!

Are there many other gay

employees where you work? Yes, which made it easier to come out as I already knew that it was a gayfriendly work place.

What makes your company so

gay-friendly? I think the fact that diversity is at the very core of the Red Cross's values means that here is no room for discrimination on any grounds. I have always felt very supported and accepted at work.

What does your company do to promote equality? We do a lot of community engagement work. For LGBT issues, this mainly means attending Prides around England and Wales. This year we were one of the sponsors of Birmingham Pride.



Do you want to change career? Add to your experience? Do you want to volunteer?

London Friend, the LGBT charity in Kings Cross, seeks volunteers to:

- Staff the helpline,
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BRecruitment

GOING SOLO

The current economic downturn means unemployment is on the rise. If you find yourself being made redundant, don't fret... this could be the perfect time to start your own business.

I.Do your research

Contacting potential clients and doing market research with the general public.Valuable feedback will be given on how your ideas can work better for you, thus saving you money and time.

2. Get funded

There are various new business loans and funding available but you will need a professional business plan. It is worth going to your local business link (www. businesslink.gov.uk), who can advise you on funding such as that available from the Prince's Youth Trust and other government funding. You might also try for lottery funding.

3. Marketing and branding

The quality of any materials you send out to clients, such as letterheads, promotional materials and business cards, is extremely important and can provide a great first impression. Websites have also become a necessity for businesses. If you can't afford a web designer, there are various ways to launch an effective website for free using effective site builder tools such as www.wix.com for flash sites or www.rvsitebuilder.com.

4.Do the sums

It is important to plan your expenditure and how much money you will need to make each month by filling out a cash



flow forecast for at least six months ahead. Work out realistic running costs and a separate budget for personal expenditure. By doing this you will know if the business is a viable one. Look at ways of saving costs, possibly by working from home. If you need a decent company address, you can use companies such as MailBox, who forward your mail.

5.Get registered

It's important to get everything in order before you begin trading. You need to choose whether

you want to register as a limited company or trade as a sole trader or partnership, so speak to an accountant or financial adviser before you decide. You also need to set up a business bank account. Most banks have free business banking advisers. If you expect your turnover to be more than £68,000 pa you should register with the Inland Revenue forVAT. You need to get basic business insurance and also think about copyright, trademarking or patenting your ideas (www.ipo.gov.uk).

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Improving people's lives around the world

You may never have heard of A4e, but we're a global community committed to helping individuals, communities and businesses in all sorts of different ways.

We can help if you:

- Have been unemployed for a long time and want to get back into work
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- Want to talk to someone about living independently through Direct Payments for Social Care
- Want help starting a business or growing your existing business
- Have recruitment or redundancy needs

Take a peek at mya4e.com for more information on some of the great stuff we do, or talk to one of our Customer Service team on 0800 345 666.





We all come from somewhere.

And here's where we're coming from.

Think about the Environment Agency, and many people think of flooding. Well, that's okay – flooding is a major risk in these times of climate change, and we're working tirelessly to protect homes and businesses. But that's not all we do. From rivers to coastlines, from farmland to parks, from waste dumps to water treatment plants – we are there, working to create a better place. And our people are as diverse as our environment: whether office based or out in the field, technical specialists or administrators, those who tell the world about what we do or those who get on and do it – we reflect the people of this country at every level. So, no matter where you're from, if you can understand our point of view we'd like to meet you. We've got work to do together.

We will be attending Birmingham, Sheffield, Newcastle, Plymouth, Cornwall, London, Lincoln, Brighton, Cardiff, Swansea and Manchester Prides.

Diversity: it's in our nature.

www.environment-agency.gov.uk/jobs



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▲ Mini E BMW

Charge: 2.5 hours with a special converter or eight hours, lasting 156 miles between charges. The much talked about mini has a lot more than just batteries under its bonnet – it can almost ramp up 100mph. The car will be available to test drive later this year, however when the new mini finally arrives, it may prove an expensive sibling to the petrol version and only fits two people. Price tbc.

Mitsubishi i-MiEV

Charge: 20 minutes, lasting 100 miles between charges. A reasonably nippy vehicle with an ergonomic design – the Japanese car, which costs around £30,000, can make a top speed of just under 90mph. The charge time and the four-person capacity are the best features on this EV.

▼ Lightning

Charge: 10 minutes with a special converter or two hours, lasting 188 miles between charges. All electric cars are not the same. In the past we've been used to sluggish cars which are only suitable for geography teachers and short librarians, but Lighting does exactly what it says on the tin and can max 130mph, except at £120,000, being eco-friendly and cool comes at a price.



▲ Tesla Roadster

Charge: 3.5 hours, lasting for 220 miles between charges.

One of the first sports EVs out. With a top speed of 130mph you'd never know it was charged using a household supply. The cute roadster can do 0-60 in 3.9 seconds, beating most petrol cars to the chase. Price £94,000.

...if costly EVs are not for you yet, there is always a compromise.



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ADVERTORIAL FEATURE

TO BUY OR NOT TO BUY?

Many people see affordable housing products as their only route to home ownership. Rebecca Roberts-Hughes from Metropolitan Home Ownership reports.



Who doesn't want to own their own home? If you're renting your landlord probably doesn't lovingly furnish your home to suit your own specific tastes. If you still live with a parent, maybe you do get to do what you want with your décor, but your space still isn't your own.

HousingOptions ran a survey at their recent London Affordable New Homes Show – which a phenomenal 5,000 Londoners attended – and 68% saw affordable housing products as their only route to home ownership.

Trying to buy your first home in the current market is a smart idea, but can seem daunting. City dwellers have been hit hardest by the challenging property market. For example, in Hadrney in London the average price of a flat is £205,000*. If you're a first time buyer looking to get a mortgage, which is usually 3.5 times your income, you'd have to be earning around £58,000 per year.Add to this the 10% deposit required and you'll need over £20,000 in the bank. It's a tall order for anyone who values their social life! One solution is to buy your home in stages. With the government-backed scheme New Build HomeBuy, where you part-buy and part-rent your property, you can buy a share in a home on a designated development. For example, you would buy 25% of a flat and pay a reduced rent on the remaining 75% to the developer who owns it.

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Mountside Walk in Hackney is a New Build HomeBuy development by Metropolitan Home Ownership. You can buy a 30% share in a one bedroom apartment for only £43,500, so that you only need a deposit of £4,350 and an annual income of £19,725. Your monthly costs, including mortgage repayments, rent and service charge would be an estimated £608.

The cherry on top of the cake is that New Build HomeBuy homes are in brand new developments. Shiny new kitchens and bathroom suites are standard, and white walls provide a blank canvas on which you can express yourself.

HousingOptions, the HomeBuy Agents and advisers for London, work with over 40 housing providers who offer an exciting range of newly built and resale homes across the capital at market beating rates, and handle 35,000 applications every year from London key workers and other first time buyers.

MHO have new homes available now in areas such as London, Hertfordshire and the Midlands. There are also individual homes for resale, which previous owners are selling. To find out more, visit www.mho.co.uk or call 0845 230 4422.

> * Data based on Hometrack calculations in June 2009.





HousingOptions products

New Build HomeBuy

(formerly known as Shared Ownership) Brand new homes for sale on a part-buy, part-rent basis. Home owners can increase the share they own over time, which is called 'staircasing'.

NBHB/SO Re-Sales

These properties are New Build HomeBuy or Shared Ownership properties which are being re-sold by their existing owners, also on a part-buy, part-rent basis

Intermediate Rent

Brand new apartments are available to let from a housing association at a subsidised rent level, which is usually 20% below private rents.

HomeBuy Direct

First time buyers can buy a home from a private developer using an equity loan of up to 30% of the property value.

Rent to HomeBuy

Would-be buyers can rent a new build home at a discounted rate for two to three years, with the option of buying the home afterwards using the New Build HomeBuy scheme.

Home Ownership for people with long-term disabilities (HOLD)

People with long-term disabilities can buy a home on a part-buy, part-rent basis, using the benefits system to pay the mortgage and rent.

London Wide Initiative

Key workers can buy a property in one of 15 developments across London. The government retains a share and no payments are expected until the key worker leaves their profession or sells the home.

To apply for an affordable home, register with your local HomeBuy Agent. If you live or work in London, register with HousingOptions: www.housingoptions.co.uk To find out who your local HomeBuy Agent is, visit: www.homesandcommunities.co.uk/ homebuy agents

Buy a brand new home in Hitchin, Hertfordshire*

Part buy, part rent (25/75 shared ownership)

Milestone Road, Hitchin



Milestone Road is an attractive new development in Hitchin. Hitchin provides a broad range of shops and a regular traditional market; together with a good selection of restaurants, bars and pubs, swimming pools, theatres and library within its historic centre. The town is ideally located and is served by a mainline railway station with direct links to London Kings Cross, Peterborough and Cambridge and direct road links to the A1(M) and M1.

For further information, and to see if you are eligible to apply for shared ownership, please contact our Home Ownership team.

Tel: 01462 633277 Email: homeownership@nhh.org.uk Web: www.nhh.org.uk/sales

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* Homes will be released in October 2009

** Oven with extractor hood, fridge freezer and washing machine

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new home

new life

Intermediate Rent

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Prices starting from £69,825 (35% equity) for a one bedroom apartment



30% share from £209.29 per week Rent to Homebuy Available one bed: £830 pcm

Highbury Square N5



35% share from £250.94 per week



*35% share from £204.64 per week Rent to Homebuy Available one bed: £801 pcm two bed: £890 pcm

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Atelier offers a particularly stylish, affordable and convenient east London base for development. Residents have the best of city life with an eclectic range of restaurants, shops and entertainment nearby.And its location in Poplar; near Canary Wharf, makes it ideal for first time buyers looking for easy access to work. Shared ownership apartments start at £47,250.

Roding Court, liford, is a buzzing town centre development offering fast access to central London and shared ownership prices starting at £42,000.

It boasts stylish one and two bedroom apartments with a range of features including private balconies and hi-specification fixtures and fittings.

llford has a range of shops, restaurants, bars and cultural



sites. Roding Court has excellent transport links and takes 20 mins by train to Liverpool Street.

The Watch, a development of listed Georgian apartments and mews houses on London's Isle of Dogs, provides historic city centre living with one and two bed shared ownership apartments available from £50,000.

Easy access to Canary Wharf, the Jubilee Line and DLR, makes it a prized Docklands base.

Set in a relaxed village location near Bishops Stortford, homes at the Wyndralls, Priors Green, offer an antidote to city life in high quality accommodation.

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98

Duplex apartment in historic development minutes from...

Canary Wharf

This truly is an opportunity that does not come around very often, new, contemporary apartments set within a Grade II listed fire station built circa 1904.

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The Watch Bartlett Mews, Docklands E14





There are currently two apartments available, both offering features unique to this type of development!

£224,500

Property One

This unique one bedroom apartment is situated within the main Fire Station building, retaining charismatic original features including:

- High ceilings
- Original wood panelling in parts
- Original fireplace
- Contemporary fitted kitchen with stainless steel oven, hob and hood, fridge freezer and washing machine overlooking the courtyard
- Separate kitchen/dining and living room

Property two

This one bedroom duplex apartment offers a modern twist on the historical facade of the Fire Station and features:

- Duplex levels
- High ceilings
- Large open terrace
- Contemporary fitted kitchen with stainless steel oven, hob and hood, fridge freezer and washing machine
- Separate kitchen/dining and living rooms both with open access to the courtyard

Call us today on 0800 389 6382 for more details or visit swanho.org.uk for more information

REMEMBER THAT YOUR HOME IS AT RISK IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON A MORTGAGE OR OTHER LOANS SECURED ON IT. Travel times quoted are approximate only. Photography provides a guide to interior finish at The Watch.



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"My friends would never forgive me if I didn't invite P!nk."

My ideal girls' night in would be spent at mine, trying to cram as many of my mates in my house as possible, for crazy fun and mischief. Probably get the BBQ going, crack open a few beers and get the guitar out for a singsong. My mate Jeffers would be filming all the madness so we could tag and shame people on Facebook the next day. Good times!

The music would be varied for everyone but at any gathering I always end up giving a live performance of my latest songs with my mates Symph, a female beatboxer, and Envy, a female MC.

My friends would never forgive me if I didn't invite Pink, Iol. We could spend the night jamming and collaborating, it would be wicked.Two words. . . ''Call me''.

I've got the best mates and girlfriend in the world. If we're all under the same roof there's always serious fun and laughing going on. Conversation would be pure gossip. Who's breaking up? Who's getting together? And who had their beer goggles on the night before...?

The drink situation would consist of beer, wine, more beer, spirits, more beer and more wine, then apple sourz to finish it off. Would also have to break out the good old finger food.

The best girls' night in I had was two weeks ago. My gorgeous girlfriend and all my girls threw a surprise party for me – I don't know how the gossips kept it a secret but they did! They all fell out of my kitchen screaming and letting party poppers off, it was an amazing night. I love 'em all to pieces.

Kizz is a 22-year-old singer-songwriter, MC and guitarist, currently working on her debut album Lyrix 2 u, Life 4 me. For more information visit www.myspace. com/officialkizzel







h indulge yourself...

1

restaurant

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Whether you want to change the world, or simply need time away from the office, a year out could be just the ticket. Anna Maria Espsäter helps you plan your adventure.

The days are gone when gap years were the sole domain of 18-year-old students wanting to see the world before going to uni.These days, anyone can take a "career break" to travel, learn a new set of skills, re-assess their lives or volunteer their own knowledge in far-flung places.There are backpacking grannies, whole families with children in tow, couples and singles, all taking advantage of time out to re-invent and re-discover themselves. Not sure what to do with that redundancy package? Now could be a good time to change your life.



Before you go...

Many people choose to take a whole year out, often maximising the validity of a plane ticket. Some people are spontaneous and prefer to just 'up and go,' but to make the most of the year away and have things run smoothly, a bit of forward planning is key. For those with commitments in the UK the earlier you start to plan the better-even as early as a year before leaving, if possible. If you have your own place and plan to be away for six months or more, it's worth renting it out to cover your mortgage and also make some extra cash while away. If you go for a shorter period of time, friends or family might be willing to house-sit, or check on your property on a regular basis.

Once you've sorted out what to do with the house, pet and car, there are further practicalities to look at before you can get to the fun parts. Is your passport still valid, will you need a visa? Does your passport have enough blank pages to fit stamps or visas? Do you have comprehensive travel insurance? Might you need vaccinations for the exotic locations you have in mind? Would you like to travel on your own or with someone?

If you choose to go on your own but would you like to hook up with other travellers along the way, you might want to join some online networks before you go. If you're in a couple and would like to travel together, bear in mind that a long journey can strain a relationship — if you didn't know each other that well before you set out, you certainly will by the time you come back! Also, don't forget to check out the options for staying in touch while away international SIM cards and/or email access. Last but not least, check out the best time to visit different countries, to avoid monsoons and typhoons.

where to next?!

TEALAN

WINE WEW YORK

And now for the fun part – actually planning what you'd like to do and where you'd like to go for your year out...

Good old Round-the-World...

This is the classic gap year experience – jetting off on a round-the-world ticket – but many things have changed since the early days of globetrotting. Whereas before many would follow a definite backpackers' trail from east to west through Southeast Asia, to Australia, New Zealand and onto the Pacific, returning via the USA, or simply the same route in reverse, nowadays the options are endless. Most plane tickets are valid for 12 months and although you may have to book fixed dates for each leg of the journey, these can often be changed for a small fee or even free of charge.

There are several airline alliances, such as One World and Star Alliance, offering RTW fares that incorporate all the alliance members, thus multiplying the number of destinations available. Most allow you to 103





Lending a hand in Borneo

stop off in as many as six to ten places. It's possible to create your own tailon-made itinerary. For example, you can include an East African safari on the way out to Oz and NZ, while flying back via Easter Island and South America... Or fly out to Moscow, do the Trans-Siberian or Trans-Mongolian railway on the way out, fly from China to Oz or NZ and return via Canada.

With such diverse options, it's essential to do research, either online or with the help of a specialist travel agent such as Trailfinders or STATravel. Once you've decided on your route, consider whether you want to backpack or travel in style. No one said you have to rough it during a gap year and many airlines now offer special discounted RTW business class fares. Even if you're on a tighter budget or plan to work some of the time you're away, it's worth booking your accommodation for the first few nights after arriving at your initial stop. This takes away the hassle of having to find a place to sleep when

useful websites

www.gapyear.com www.gapyearforgrownups.co.uk www.trailfinders.com www.statravel.co.uk www.oneworld.com www.staralliance.com www.vso.org.uk www.worldwidevolunteering.org.uk www.worldwidevolunteering.org.uk www.caledonialanguages.co.uk www.wanderlust.co.uk www.lonelyplanet.com/community you're a complete newbie somewhere, and breaks you in more gently.

Giving something back – volunteering...

Taking a whole year out to travel for pleasure is a dream for many, but for some, just travelling isn't enough. With the world becoming increasingly divided between rich and poor countries, many on a gap year see it as an excellent opportunity to do their bit to redress this balance and have wonderful, life-enhancing experiences at the same time. Volunteering has become more popular in recent years and a number of organisations now offer projects, both long and short term, in many countries.

Although it's still possible to find a project to work with and support on the spot while abroad, think carefully about what you're looking to achieve before you commit. If you're only going to stay for a couple of weeks, consider whether you'll really be helping the community. Is time being spent training you to do a task that could just as easily have been done by someone local? Are you staying long enough to warrant the time and effort local people put towards training you, so you can have an interesting experience abroad? And also, how useful and transferable are your skills in the first place? For example, if you're an IT consultant at home, why would you make a good medical assistant in Ethiopia?

If volunteering is what you'd like to do, it's best to commit to a minimum of six months and do some research into charities such asVSO with experience of sending volunteers abroad.

Learninga newskillabroad...

Volunteering is a great way to pass skills on, but also increasingly popular is combining yourtravels with picking up a new skill, improving an existing one or indulging in a favourite hobby. Think salsa and Spanish classes in Cuba, cookery in Italy, drawing in Greece or horse riding in Argentina. There are endless exciting options to choose from and some of them could also be careerenhancing, not just for fun. Become a diving instructor; interpreter or playwright in the place of your choice – just make sure your diploma or certificate is valid internationally.

Cominghome...

Remember that returning home after months on the road can be just as much of a culture shock as arriving in a new country. Be good to yourself upon return and try to ease yourself back into a routine until the travel bug bites

again and you start planning your next escape.

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Most sanitary pads, panty liners and tampons, contain a very high percentage of synthetic materials derived from crude oil, such as plastic, polypropylene and super absorbing gels. Add to this the chlorine-bleaching that is carried out as well as the occasional synthetic fragrance and lubricant, is it any wonder that we get imitated every month!

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It's fun, it's cost effective, it doesn't harm the environment... and it's also a great form of exercise! Charlotte Dingle welcomes you to the wonderful world of cycling.

Ecological

In these eco-conscious times, cycling is becoming an increasingly popular way of getting from A to B. According to the Department of Transport, a quarter of the UK's carbon dioxide output currently comes from transport emissions. As fewer of us feel inclined to key the ignition of the 4x4 and casually blast noxious fumes into the atmosphere, the roads are filling up with people pedalling their way to the office.

Cheap

Once you've paid for your bike, helmet and other accessories, cycling is an inexpensive mode of transport. There's no need for petrol or MOTs, you don't have to pay congestion charges or road tax, and a decent bike will last longer than many cars. Of course, you will incur various costs for the upkeep of your bike, but these are unlikely to come anywhere near the cost of an annual train pass! As far as minimum start-up costs go, you can get yourself a decent new bike for around £300, and a helmet for about £30. Add a pump and a puncture repair kit and you're looking at approximately £350 in total.

And, last but definitely not least... Healthy!

Victoria Hazael, spokesperson for UK's national cyclists' organisation, Cycling Touring Club (CTC), says: "70% of women don't get enough exercise and cycling is the perfect way to incorporate it into your daily routine. It burns at least five calories a minute and evidence shows that if you ride your bike regularly you'll have a fitness level equal to a person ten years younger, and you'll live on average two years longer."

Cycling is a fantastic way to keep fit. Regularly hopping on your bike is a great source of aerobic exercise. This will decrease your risk of both heart disease and high blood pressure.

Keeping trim is another fortunate side effect of regular cycling. If you cycle for half an hour to and from work, you will burn off almost all the calories of a light lunch. You'll also find your thighs, calves and bum becoming much more toned.

Like other forms of exercise, riding a bike can lift your mood and de-stress you. If you cycle to work, you don't need to battle your way on to packed tube trains or sit in traffic jams, and you get some fresh air before your working day begins. If you're feeling down in the dumps at the weekend, you can herd your mates together and go for a scenic ride somewhere green.

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folding bikes If you need to incorporate a train journey into your ride, or you just don't fancy leaving your bike chained up outside the office, you might want to invest in a folding bike.

107

hybrids

you navigate

rough terrain.

The hybrid is effectively a cross between the mountain bike and the racing/road bike. It uses the mountain bike's upright posture, but goes faster than a mountain bike as it also has the large wheel

Designed for off-road cycling, mountain bikes

have a number of gears and sturdy tyres to help

diameterof a racing/road bike.

Bhealth&beauty

CYCLING CHECK-LIST



bike shop, such as Evans or Halfords, and ask for advice!

helmet/

A well-fitting helmet is crucial if you are to lessen the chance of a head injury in an accident. Information about the recognised safety standards can be found at www.dft.gov.uk. If you have an accident, or drop your helmet at any time, you must replace it.

high visibility clothing/ There

are many different high visibility items available to wear, or to cover your bags with, so that other road users see you more clearly. Reflective bands are perfect for night cycling.

lights/ If you're riding at night, you want to be as visible as possible. It's vital to invest in lights for both the front and back of your bike.

IOCK/ Splash out on a sturdy one, as bicycle thieves can often cut through the cheaper locks. Remember, it's not just the entire bike which can be stolen – front wheels often go missing too! Buy a security cable which you can run through the spokes and secure with a lock. Or remove the front wheel and lock wheels and frame together.

pump/ Make sure you get the right pump for your bike, as not all pumps work with all bikes! You also need to decide if you want a frame pump or a portable mini pump to take with you.

puncture repair kit/ Essential so that you're not stuck on that picturesque country lane due to an unexpected flat tyre!

water bottle & holder/ Cycling is thirsty work, and you'll want water at your disposal!

bags/ You can get bags to attach to various parts of your bike frame, and your saddle.

useful info



advice/

www.ctc.org.uk British Cycling: www.britishcycling.org.uk Sustrans: www.sustrans.org.uk

bikes and accessories/

Halfords: www.halfords.com Evans: www.evanscycles.com

groups/ Dykes on Bikes : www.dobs.org.uk

this month's top beauty tips



Face the Future

Tipped as Europe's No 1 Facial, OXYjet promises to smooth fine lines and wrinkles and fight signs of aging. Try it out for yourself...The treatment feels like it is breathing new life into your skin, making it feel more toned and giving it a youthful glow. There's a free St. Tropez spray tan worth £35 with every facial – and throughout August selected treatments come at the reduced price of £15!

www.beautiquebrighton.com / 01273 711 077

Lightning Locks

Good news – the fabulous Electric Hair Salons are building on the successes of their Brighton and Reading branches, and opening a new salon in Marylebone in London later this year. Not only this, but owner Mark Woolley has just been named global ambassador for Denman International, manufacturers of what has come to be known as 'the hairdresser's hair brush.' So, if your tresses need some attention, you know where to go! www.electric-hair.com / 01273 202808





PinkWeddingDays.co.uk

Planning your Civil Partnership?



Pinkweddingdays.co.uk is the ultimate online wedding directory for same sex couples.

We can put you in touch with some of the best gay friendly wedding service providers on a regional and national basis, from cakes to honeymoons, suits or gowns, rings, photographers and many more.





www.pinkweddingdays.co.uk The Ultimate Online Wedding Directory for Same Sex Couples

Venues & Florists & Cakes & Entertainment & Gifts & Honeymoons & Spartan Stags & Diva Nights

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Brelationships

Unfortunately, everyone's gaydar lets them down from time to time. <mark>Theresa Heath</mark> looks at those confusing 'is she, isn't she?' situations.

It used to be that you could spot a lesbian from half a mile away in a bad fog. If they weren't shaven-headed and check-shirted, they were probably wearing a rainbow

Today the possibilities for expression are endless and queer women are free to dress themselves however they choose. Hurrah for that! The downside is that lesbian and bisexual women can now be notoriously difficult to spot. This can be particularly frustrating if you fancy the pants off someone but aren't sure which team she bats for.

badge or at least a discreet pinkie ring.

You can limit yourself to gay venues, or look for the traditional clues – lesbian haircut, flat shoes, short fingernails, etc. But with straight women now also free to mix it up, you could just be hankering after a tomboyish piano player. And if she's a femininelooking girl, your gaydar doesn't stand a chance.

Kaya found herself in this predicament with a work colleague: "A new girl started in my office. She was very attractive, cool, well-dressed, lived in east London, never mentioned a boyfriend or boys in general. I had the dilemma of: lesbian or very cool?

The weeks rolled past and I was sure there was some 'vibe' between us – she was really intense, locked eyes when we spoke, sending what I interpreted as flirty emails...

All this weird tension reached a climax at the Christmas party. We were downing shots, dancing close, whispering jokes and were basically oblivious to everyone else. So right at the end of the night I bit the bullet and said, 'I really want to kiss you.'



Luckily she didn't freak out – but she didn't kiss me either. We had a big cuddle and never actually acknowledged what was said. It was only later, when I officially came out to her, she then became my chief confidante in all things girly, and is still a great friend. With hindsight all that 'chemistry' was probably just projected from my own lesbian self on to this poor hapless beauty, who was just thinking she'd made a great friend."

So there we have it – gay women have just become too cool. If everyone could start wearing Birkenstocks and weaving their own tunics from recycled hemp again, that'd be great thanks.

Siobhan also found herself infatuated with the coolest girl at school, whilst feeling like a bit of a geek herself: "Being unsure of someone's sexual preference can be disastrous for your confidence, especially combined with an utter lack of gaydar... and unfortunately I tend to go for girls who don't look stereotypically gay.

I was desperately in lust with Flossy Iqbal, the cool American girl at school. I was so nervous I

could barely talk to her. If I'd had more confidence in my own sexuality back then I'd have flirted more, or at least tried to see if she responded, but in the end I chickened out and she thought I didn't even like her!

A few years later, I decided I fancied my friend Judy. She was girly and not obviously gay, but she had a way of touching me a lot and being a bit flirty. By this time I was more open about being gay and had found that the best way around the 'is she or isn't she?' conundrum was to be brash and incorrigible. So I plunged in with 'How's about it Jude! Ever fancied a woman?!' The answer was 'No, but thank you'. And it didn't hurt one bit because I'd asked with a sense of humour, and I now took more pride in my sexuality."

Maybe the answer is to be brave and plough in with a cheeky smile and, if they turn out to be straight, hope they take the advance as a compliment. Of course, this could end up in a humiliating rejection or a nasty confrontation with someone's boyfriend – but is it worse than never knowing? Only you can decide that.







You forgot her birthday, and then she caught you flirting with the girl next door. Charlotte Dingle helps you back into your girlfriend's good books.

Write her a poem

Of course, this one only works if you have the required sensitive literary touch. You don't want to end up being the ex she tells everyone about at dinner parties... You know, the one who rhymed 'boobies' with 'boogie.'

Buy her a present

Remember, though, it's the thought that counts. And if your thought is "Oh, I'll buy her that Barry Manilow CD I've secretly been yearning for for months, you may wish to think again.

Cook her a meal

A certain amount of culinary talent is necessary here. I mean, a five-yearold can open a jar of pasta sauce. Equally, however, you don't want to be too adventurous, and risk it all backfiring. Not everybody wants to sit down to a big plate of ostrich sausages, spiced red caviar and braised sea cucumber.



her out for a drink Take With any luck she'll forget what a pig you've been after a few pints. That, or she'll punch your lights out. Life's all about these little gambles.

Cry. A lot

If all else fails and the homemade pasta sauce you tried to knock up was inexplicably bumt to a cinder, you can always rub the leftover onions into your eyes... Ham it up massively, and make her feel bad for being so angry with you. Poor, misguided little you. Aw!

DEAR BROOKE & DARIA...

Our resident agony aunts soothe your dating pains

Dear Brooke and Daria, My girlfriend has just asked me for a civil partnership. I adore her but, at 19, I'm not sure I'm ready. How can I tell her? Yours, Footloose of Fishguard.

Brooke: Not everyone wants or needs to make their relationship official. Indeed, some people find the very idea distinctly uncomfortable - particularly younger folks. Frightening images of pipes and slippers float into view... Shudder: The whole thing just seems to take us a few steps closer to being a grown up, and that sucks. Sure, there are legal benefits, but what 19-year-old (or indeed 25 or 30-year-old, for that matter) is worrying about whether or not they'll inherit their partner's Xena action figures when they die? You need to sit her down and explain that you're not ruling out a CP later on down the line, but now isn't the right time. Emphasise that it's nothing to do with her, and everything to do with your attitude to getting hitched in general. Hopefully, she'll come round. If not, you can always get her one of those nice Russian brides off the internet to keep her quiet. Daria: At 19, you're not supposed to be settling down to a future of Swedish furniture stores and IVF. You should be upside down in a toilet in Soho, projectile vomiting after your 18th Bacardi Breezer: Most 19-year-olds don't worry if one of their ladies starts being difficult - they've usually got at least another five on the go. Ditch the bitch and go party!

OUR Stars By Philip Garcia

Π



Horoscopes 🔹

aquarius 20 Jan - 18 Feb

Now is a good time to look back over previous weeks and assess successes and disappointments. Place them in the context of your general life structure, and see that one or two problems might seem to crop up consistently. Are you being taken advantage of? Now is a good time to solve problems in your life.



There are some unspoken anxieties affecting a close relationship. Postpone major discussions until you've had a chance to decide how you really feel. Spending a little time on your own will help you sort out your priorities. In the next few weeks you will receive just the bit of news you've been waiting for. The picture gets brighter and brighter.



19 Feb - 20 March

After a quiet start to the month you could find your desire for peace replaced by a whirl of new social contacts and opportunities. Friends made in the next month will want to involve you in group activities; expect to be doing more travelling. All of this month's changes could result in some positive achievements both personally and professionally.

cancer

21 June - 22 July

Bulging wardrobe but nothing to

wear? Time to update your look.

Take a fashion-conscious friend along

with you and enjoy a spending spree.

Suddenly, deciding what to wear to

the office won't be such an ordeal,

and you'll find others complimenting

you on your appearance. An

overseas connection could bring an

exciting offer.



21 March - 19 April Consider why someone is

deliberately trying to rub you up the wrong way. Perhaps they are doing it to mask the attraction they feel for you. Change your tactics over the weeks ahead. Don't rise to the bait and soon you may have managed to get a budding romance off the ground. You can be persuasive in a gentle way now.



23 July - 22 Aug

Give yourself time to get to know people before you put your trust in them. Someone is trying to set plans that will benefit them more than you. You will be against these initially but once they've put their powers of persuasion into action, you could find yourself changing your mind. Don't! Your first impressions were the right ones.



20 April - 20 May You are more easy-going than usual.

You're giving more time to your closest relationships. Something makes you reconsider your approach to a romantic interest. Suspicion is now replaced with sincerity and you know immediately how to bring out the best in others. Over the weeks ahead someone will be left in no doubt about how you feel for them.







23 Sept - 22 Oct A friend might come to you for advice and, if you put yourself in her shoes, you could offer her some helpful tips. Getting involved in other people's problems could be just what you need to take your mind off your own concerns. Romance will be up and down over the weeks ahead; friendships will bring you most happiness now.



Understanding why someone is behaving strangely will make a big difference in your relationship. You can't always expect others to be the same in all situations with all people. You might admire their persistence in some areas and laugh at their antics in others. This will help strengthen your romance over the weeks ahead.



If you're unhappy in a relationship, why pretend it is okay? A certain union is well past its sell-by date and it's time to find someone new. An energetic period begins, and a marked interest in community affairs will emerge. You are in the good books of an older relative and an official will become a useful ally.



You're feeling unusually sensitive and emotional now and it isn't easy to hide your feelings. This mood could surface

in any number of situations. Its importance lies not in understanding others but in realising the depths of your personality. You will feel proud of yourself after you do something for those less fortunate than yourself.

Call 0905 072 3512 for your detailed Horoscope or 0906 117 7583 for one of Philip's Psychics or Mediums. Calls to 0905 cost 75p per min/ to 0906 cost £1.50 per min from a BT Landline/ Other networks may vary. All calls recorded for your security, 18+ only. All calls regulated by PhonePayPlus. SP: Astro Int, PO Box 322, WA15 8YL.



rant Opinion //rant//debate//chat//rant//debate//chat//rant//deba





Faye Hughes is the writer and producer of new lesbian drama *Far Out*.



It started about three years ago and I think it was on a Thursday. I am not quite sure from where it came but I just started writing. I had written plays before, having acted and directed for theatre for coming up for ten years. It comes naturally.TV, however, was not something I was used to — but the idea and the characters came to life on the page so freely that I was sure I was on to something.

By the end of the weekend, I had mapped out the first series of *Far Out*, aTV series based on the lives of a group of gay women in and around Soho. I was a woman possessed; something was driving me to put this down on paper. Within the next fortnight I had a rough draft of scenes for each of the six episodes and within a month a group of my actress friends sat down in my living room for a read through. I still have the tape recording from my dictaphone of the first read-through. Many of the scenes have barely changed and some of those actresses remain.

Full of passion for the project, sure that the UK public and broadcasters were ready for it, I sent the script out. I waited. Then BBCWriters room returned it and I was gutted, so I shoved the script under my bed and went back to directing theatre.

Then, late last year, curled up on the sofa, channel flicking, I came across this comedy show about two flatmates in London. In this particular episode a lesbian couple had moved in next door. The stereotyping was just dreadful, I was outraged. The jokes were just pervy. My licence fee was paying for this rubbish! What made it worse was that everyone could see this, my parents could see this, this was how the lesbian community was being represented on TV.

I am all for a laugh, and I can take a joke at my own expense, but when there is no realistic balance, no accurate representation to balance out this 'humour' – that in my opinion is what breeds homophobia and ignorance. I sat down and thought about it. Really thought about. I set about making a list of accurate representations of the lesbian community in the media, and I could have fit my list on the back of a postage stamp.

I dusted the script off and *Far OutTV* was launched. We managed to secure some funding, but just enough to hire equipment; everyone would have to give their time for free. And they did. We were inundated with casting submissions. People have given their time so generously, crew, cast, designers, website designers, extras. It really fires you up to know that so many people want this to happen.

The project has grown beyond what we ever thought possible. And the joy of it all is that this WILL be an accurate representation of my friends. Not produced by a group of businessmen in it for the money. It won't be over glam and sensationalised, it will be honest and real and made by the people it represents. Now we just need an audience!

www.farouttv.co.uk

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A series of interesting facts for you to impress your date with!)

Debating is a formal way in which people can discuss differences of opinions on subjects ranging from the Iraq War, election candidates, and whether or not Tupperware should go in the dishwasher when there is the risk of lid shrinkage.

Debating was invented in ancient Rome by lesbian twins called Tracius and Sharonus. They frequented an ancient drinking hole called the Oakius Barbarus, and were often seen propping up the huge stone bar, shouting about the topics of the day. We are very fortunate that the British Museum of Great Lesbian Artefacts has an original transcribed conversation, reprinted here for your pleasure:

Tracius: "Iwas like…" Sharonus: "Yeah, it's like…" Tracius: "Iknow…" Sharonus: "Yeah…" Tracius: "Exactly, know what I mean?" Sharonus: "Yeah, it's like…" Tracius: "Yeah..."



These, and other complex debates, set the precedent for generations of highbrow lesbian interaction.

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I thought I'd never be fit enough to be a firefighter, or have the strength. But then I started my training and realised I could do it. And because you have to pass the same tests as the men, you get everyone's respect from the start. You get brilliant support; your instructors will help you in every way they can. I was the first woman they'd had at my station, and I think the men were more worried about it than I was. But I'm not treated any differently and the atmosphere is brilliant, it's like they're my second family. On top of all that the hours are great: we work two days, two nights and then have four days off, so you can fit your life around it. But really, the best thing about the job is the challenges I face, and knowing that I'm helping people, every single day.

For more information on our Open Days for Women, call Dawne Stephenson on 020 8555 1200 ext. 30528 or email dawne.stephenson@london-fire.gov.uk quoting G3. Or text LFB5 to 80199.

BUT THEN I'D NEVER ASKED.