

# HULL OUT

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Hull LGBT Forum,  
supporting lesbian,  
gay, bisexual & trans  
(LGBT) people in  
Hull & East Riding

## ...Hull & East Riding Speaks OUT

### Welcome

Welcome to the long awaited first issue of the Hull LGBT Forum newsletter.

This is a significant step for the Forum, as the newsletter could become the best tool we have, to hear views from across the whole of Hull and East Riding. Also for us to inform people of changes, developments, events and even problems affecting the LGBT members of the local community.

The newsletter belongs to everyone both, production team and readers.

Your input is vital to ensure the content is both up to date and interesting so start writing those eMails.

If you want to write a regular column or a one off article just get in touch with your ideas.

**John Furniss**  
Chair of Hull LGBT Forum

### Coming-Out Stories

*Everyone has their own story, some happy, some sad. Read them here.*

### With a Song in My Heart: Music after the Tears

The most difficult thing I have ever done. You get into a strange place believing that you want the family.... Marriage.... You are

heterosexual. You've messed about with other guys and that a gay lifestyle is "pink" and the sound of Steps & Kylie will echo eternally about your house if you are a gay man... NO!

It hurt like hell, I cried for days before and after. I will never forget that night I left my family.... My parents were amazing, in fact everyone but my ex were very supportive. I understand that for her I had completely messed things up. Believe me, it was not an over night decision. I went for counselling... in fact we both did. It's that walking away and bringing yourself to a place where you can be honest and more importantly live that matters.

It's not easy but there is support, other colours than pink and the music choice is up to you.

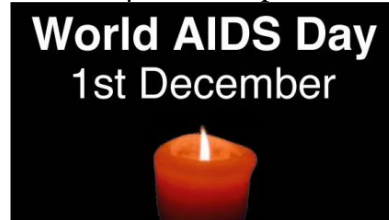
### Rikki's Rants: 50 under 30

*Each month Rikki will cease upon a current topic LGBT population across the globe and present from the trans perspective.*

November 20<sup>th</sup> was Trans Memorial day – an international day of remembrance for all those trans people around the world who have been brutally murdered. Of course it

### Inside this issue...

- Picture Special: Respect & Protect



- .....Page 2
- Bullying Special.....Page 3
- Introducing HI'...3 .....Page 4
- Civil Partnership: Gay Marriage or Apartheid? .....Page 6

is not just trans people – as we all know only too well, anyone whose gender expression does not conform to societies idea of "normal" is a potential target for homophobic/transphobic hate crime.

GenderPac in the USA has produced a booklet, "50 under 30" presenting the details of over 50 people under the age of 30 who have died because their gender was atypical. Most of them were non-white, most born male and most murdered by young men. We don't often hear about such issues in the UK but they do happen.

On 19<sup>th</sup> November 2007 a Jamaican teenager, then 17, went to the flat of transsexual Kellie Telsford from Tobago where, according to him, oral sex took place although he had no idea she was

transsexual. He claimed that when he left at around 10pm, taking with him Kellie's mobile phone, Freeview box, DVD player and oyster card, she had been "fit and well".

Kellie was not seen again and on 21<sup>st</sup> November her strangled body was discovered, three days after she died. Despite all this, in August a jury found the teenager not guilty, believing that another unknown man had subsequently killed her during a sex game that went wrong.

OK, I have not seen a transcript of the trial, but there seems to have been a huge miscarriage of justice here.

We are reluctant as a nation to recognise the problem of atypical gender violence.

**Rikki Arundel**  
Gendershift

# World AIDS Day 1st December



## World AIDS Day: Respect & Protect



The release of the red balloons is to raise awareness of World AIDS Day, supporting people living with HIV against discrimination as well as protecting us all.

The balloons represent people who we have lost through HIV, a way of remembering their lives as well as showing support for those living with HIV.



Light a candle in remembrance & celebration.

Tish Lamb  
Cornerhouse

For more information:  
[www.wearecornerhouse.org](http://www.wearecornerhouse.org)



## Anti Bullying Special: Being Different, Belonging Together

17-21 November 2008 was Anti-bullying Week

Homophobic bullying has hit the headline on numerous occasions this year with high profile campaigns from both Stonewall and the TUC.

The LGBT Forum haws offered both Hull & East Riding councils a representative to sit on the schools anti-bullying action groups.

Perceived sexual orientation and gender identity issues are amongst the most common causes of bullying.

A Norwegian study into bullying by **K. Hegna & L. Wichstrom in 2007** surveyed 407 LGB youths aged 16-25 and found that over a quarter reported that they had previously made a suicide attempt.

Most of our schools do not record bullying, let alone the cause of it. Many schools are guilty of reinforcing gender stereotypes and refusing to allow atypical gender expression.

atypical gender was not considered to have been a significant factor.

In Hull this year we have been trying to help a young trans boy whose school refuses to use his male name, refuses to allow him to engage in sports with his male friends and when he had his hair cut short put him in isolation for two days.

Gendershift has been running trans awareness workshops for the public sector for nearly 12 months now in Hull and have yet to see one single representative from a school attend.

We know from research that most people expressing atypical gender are relentlessly bullied but still little seems to be done.

**Rikki Arundel  
& John Furniss**

### February is; LGBT 'History Month'.

We are planning an intense campaign of entertaining presentations, movie nights and anything else that helps draw attention to the unacceptable treatment of LGBT people.

If you would like to help with this campaign, **especially in schools**, please contact:

[rikki@gendershift.com](mailto:rikki@gendershift.com)

We need as much help as we can get to make this a worthwhile campaign!

In Doncaster earlier this year a young boy with a history of effeminate behaviour and cross dressing, hanged himself but his

# SCENE QUEEN

*A slightly irreverent and tongue in cheek review of what is on offer on Hull's 'gay' scene*

## Camp as Christmas

**Scene Queen writes:**

Well the season of good will to all men, women and those who are yet to decide is almost upon us.... all the venues, that is **7**.... yes that's it, count 'em....

We added **Dazal**, they serve 'Pussy' (the drink stupid... Gordon Ramsay likes it!) [*Why are we not surprised?*]...

The big 2:

Fuel Clubs UK, (**Fuel, Prop & Yorkshireman**).

Red Dragon Clubs (**Polar & Star**)

They will be encouraging you to go in and spend, spend, spend. The choice is yours.

You could be a proper lush and do them all in 1 night.... slip in **Frankie's** (ooooer!) and make a camp pub crawl a reality in Hull.

Hope Rusty & Gavinia have a fab and glitzy show for us on Christmas Eve.... will there be a Chrimbo treat from Adrian James... who knows?

The nice guys from Hull Pride have a fundraiser on the 19th Dec. **"Camp as Christmas"** so get all glummy and camp that night, as if we need any encouragement.

Don't go out and what have you got? Will and Grace re runs on TV & Hull's Gaydar Chat room full of guys with no profile pix.... we are so in the dark ages there. So better get yourself out... the Hull scene awaits....

Perhaps I'll just stay on Princes Ave' or out in the Old Town and as much as you moan after a few drinks you know you will eventually decide to head for Fuel... Merry Christmas darlings!

Here's to some fab Zara bargains in the New Year sale.

**SQxx**

**There is a gay man's drop-in night every Tuesday evening 7-9pm (staff availability permitting) at the LGBT Forum office (see address below).**

### HI'...3

*In this column we will be inviting 3 people to give their views on a single HIV issue.*

*Marek presents the facts as an HIV prevention officer working in our region. Local residents (names withheld) write the next two articles. One is living with the knowledge that he is HIV+ and the other is his partner.*

*In issue one Marek will introduce himself and the services offered in this area. Our first friend re-lives a 'testing' time. We will introduce his partner in the next issue.*

**All three welcome your letters sent to [editor@lgbtforum.co.uk](mailto:editor@lgbtforum.co.uk)**

### Introducing...

As HIV Prevention Officer for Hull NHS, my overall aim is to raise awareness and provide information and support to all sectors of the community. I am currently organising a weeklong campaign wholly dedicated to HIV testing within Conifer House (as well as clinics in the East Riding).

I will be working towards more support and access to information in the future for MSM [Men who have Sex with Men], Commercial Sex Workers, Asylum Seekers & Refugees, BME [Black Minority Ethnic] and also prisoners and young offenders, young people, homeless people and those living with HIV.

My background in Poland was also in HIV prevention. I was a volunteer for 6 years working with people living with HIV/AIDS and as a Project Worker/Outreach Worker in Association for Prevention HIV and other STD [sexually transmitted diseases] "TADA" [The TADA programme is a non-governmental in six Polish cities.] for 3 years. I worked with commercial sex workers, MSM, gay communities, drug users and young people.

Also I provided Harm Reduction Programme dealt with social and pathological problems, advised on free HIV-testing and other STI [sexually transmitted Infections], organized social welfare and provided social counselling and legal counselling for foreigners without residence permit. As a part of my role I worked with victims of violence and trading women.

**Marek Mironski  
HIV Prevention Officer,  
Hull NHS**

### The Day My World Came Crashing Down

HIV, this is probably a bit of a taboo subject in Hull, maybe even a mystery and I must admit that's how it was for me.

This was the day that my world came crashing to an end. Yes I had been a little unwell, but this was something that I had never even thought about. HIV+, what me? Well yes, that was the diagnosis.

I had slept with a couple of people without using protection, but how could I have caught it? These guys looked OK; none of them looked like they were ill. But I learnt afterwards, you can't tell by looking at someone.

I'm a bit unfit and I smoke, but I was getting worse so off I went to the doctors and he did the usual tests and some time off work.

When the results came back clear, he decided to do more in-depth tests and, HEY, another sick note. Once again nothing to report so now there were only a few options left and me being a young gay male he suggested a full sexual

health screening.

I made an appointment with the GUM Clinic [Genito-Urinary Medicine] to be tested for everything. Appointment day came and off I went, not sure what quite what would happen.

On arrival I filled out the form and waited, reading a few leaflets, nerves growing stronger and stronger. My name was called and I went into the room with the doctor who asked me a lot of questions about my last sexual partners, whether I'd had protected or unprotected sex, and then about the symptoms I'd been experiencing.

He took some swabs and blood samples and told me to return in 2 days for the results. Panic now set in and 2 days later it was D day. The health advisor took me into the room, sat me down and told me that one of the tests had come back positive.

My whole world came crashing down, I knew before being told which test it was going to be. She said, "It is the HIV test that is positive" and asked me how I felt.

All I could say was "empty"... **empty** is exactly how I felt at that moment.

*Next month I will tell you about the information and treatments offered and how I broke the news to my partner.*

**Anonymous**

**Do  
you  
know  
your  
HIV  
status  
?**

Address:  
Registered-Office:  
**Hull LGBT Forum Limited**  
(reg. no. 5246975)  
**Community Enterprise Centre  
Cottingham Road  
Hull  
HU5 2DH**  
Telephone:  
**+44 (07981) 110838  
+44 (01482) 441002 ext 206**



## Clarification Statement

The Hull LGBT Forum has been active in the area for almost 10 years and has built up excellent working relationships with the authorities, both public & private sector and with other community & voluntary organisations. We wish to make it very clear that we are in no way associated with the LGBT Switchboard, which is a brand new and totally separate entity.

It would appear that numerous organisations that have been approached by the LGBT Switchboard have initially formed the opinion that the Hull LGBT Forum operates the LGBT Switchboard. This is wholly incorrect.

We can only speculate as to just how this misunderstanding has been allowed to happen but stress that the Hull LGBT Forum has no involvement with the LGBT Switchboard, what so ever.

**John Furniss**  
**Chair of Hull LGBT Forum**

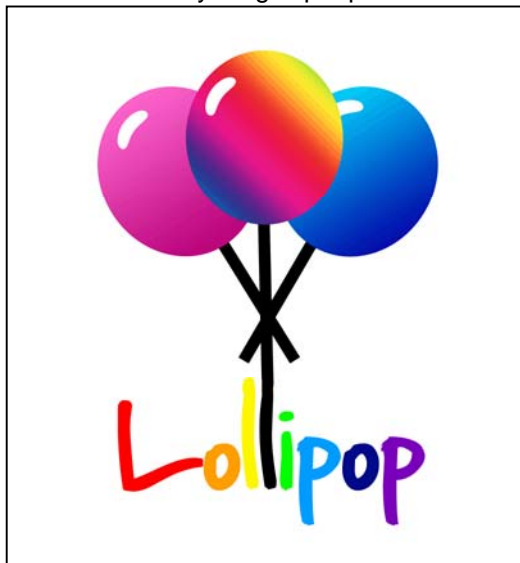
## Lollipop: East Riding Young LGBT

It is accepted that the East Riding has long been a bit of a wasteland for the LGBT community. To be fair to the powers that be, this was mainly due to the sheer geographical size and diversity of the area and not to any lack of commitment on their behalf. However, due to the dedication and hard work of a few young people, that is no longer the case.

Members of the East Riding Youth Assembly secured money from

the Youth Opportunities Fund to start up a sexuality support group in the area for young LGBT people aged 13 – 19 for a year.

The group has been up and running since May 2008 and is facilitated by two sexual health youth workers who both have many years experience in working with young people.



From very early on, the service that the group provided got a rating of 'good' by the Joint Area Review [which examines services for children and young people provided by the County Council, police, NHS and voluntary sector].

After much deliberation and some suggestions from the LGBT Forum the group members decided to call themselves LOLLIPOP. The reasoning behind the name was that it sounded young and fun, which was a reflection of the group, and lollipops come in all different shapes, sizes, colours and flavours as do the present and future members.

Lollipop is about letting young LGBT people get together in a safe environment, to make new friends, enjoy various activities and learn new skills. The logo, designed by one of our members and developed by another, reflects the young, fun aspect of the group but also incorporates the rainbow colours to celebrate a connection to the wider LGBT community.

Although the group is still relatively new they have been involved with several events and promotions, including Hull Pride where we manned a stall, the World Aids Day (WAD) Gig in Beverley, the WAD poster competition and they are currently designing and

sewing a square for the WAD quilt.

They are also in consultation around safety on the internet for young people and have lots of exciting ideas to get this message out to their age group as well as exploring new avenues of funding to ensure the future of Lollipop.

The Group meets every fortnight in Beverley on a Wednesday evening between 6.30 and 8.30.

**We are happy to take professional referrals or self-referrals. Please contact Helen Jones or Elaine Bell on 01482 392808 or 07771844156.**

Helen Jones



## Cop this... Best Police Force: Pink Paper 2009 Awards

The voting forms are out now for the Pink Paper 2009 Awards and the Humberside Police Force has been nominated in the category for Best Police Force.

This is a major achievement for us so please go online and vote for us at <http://www.pinkpaper.com/awards2009.html>

Damian Chapman

## East Riding of Yorkshire Council Update

All Equality Impact Assessments (EIA) have been completed to identify if any of the Council's 41 services have barriers for residents accessing their service. Some good areas of work have been highlighted as well as gaps in services.

The Single Equality Scheme is due to be finalised by the Cabinet in February 2009. There has been a delay in finalising this due to relevant feedback from our residents, especially by the disability and age groups.

There is a new equality and diversity framework which most council's follow. A self-assessment on the new criteria has been undertaken with gaps being identified. The LGBT Forum have been asked to help monitor this action plan, ensuring that the Council's service meet the needs of all our residents.

Disability Fayre is to be held on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> February 2009 at Cottingham Civic Hall between 2.00-7.30pm. The LGBT Forum have been asked to bring a stand, as the event is an Information Fayre for people with disabilities.

A new procedure is currently being developed to report Hate Crime (potentially replacing True Vision) in conjunction with Humberside Police. The LGBT Forum have been asked to

participate in a consultation to be undertaken with members of the group to ascertain what would be the best methods to report such crimes.

**Kirandeep Kochar**  
Senior Policy Officer  
Health, Diversity and  
Information Team  
East Riding of Yorkshire  
Council

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## CPS Update

Over the last month there have been no significant announcements by the Diversity Panel or the [Crown Prosecution Service] CPS, but as usual I would like to reassure the forum and the community of our continuing strive to keep in touch with the LGBT Community through the Forum and assure everyone of the support we can offer, particularly myself as CPS Ambassador to the LGBT Community.

The Panel have yet again been involved in delivering training to criminal justice staff, so they may have a better understanding of the needs and wants of the community if and when

we come into contact with them.

Independently, my colleagues and I have been working with the CPS with regards to written communications to the general public in order to break down barriers caused by jargonist letters.

**Stephen Murfin**  
Ambassador to the LGBT  
Crown Prosecution  
Service

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## Out Spoken

*Just one person's view on the topic of the week... Don't agree? Have your say write to: [editor@lgbtforum.co.uk](mailto:editor@lgbtforum.co.uk)*

## Civil Partnership: Gay Marriage or Apartheid?

With the Civil Partnerships Act giving same sex couples equal rights on many legal, social and economic issues, why did gay/lesbian couples take court action to legalise gay marriage in the UK?

Two East Riding women who were legally married in Canada hit the headlines back in 2006 after losing a long

battle with the UK legal system to have their Canadian marriage recognised as a marriage, not a civil partnership.

University professors Sue Wilkinson and Celia Kitinger, who live near Pocklington, claimed that their civil rights had been infringed.

Although I recognise the huge step forward that Civil Partnerships represents for the gay community, I am acutely aware that this is not equality.

There is nothing fundamentally wrong with Civil Partnership. In fact they would make a fantastic alternative to marriage for straight and gay alike. The problem is that same sex couples are excluded from marriage and straight couples are excluded from Civil Partnerships.

To say that same sex couples and heterosexual couples can both have their relationships legally recognised but they have to do this via different ceremonies is no different to the bad old days of apartheid in South Africa when black people and white people were both allowed to swim but only if they used different swimming pools.

These issues can be even more far reaching for couples already in a marriage or civil partnership where one or both of them decide to change gender.

**John Furniss**  
Chair LGBT Forum

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## Getting Involved

If you want to get involved just enrol as a member of the LGBT Forum.

To enrol just pick one of the following methods:

- Join via our Yahoo Group at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/hulllgbt>
- Visit our Website at <http://www.lgbtforum.co.uk>
- Come along to our meetings at 7pm in the Guildhall on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month

Visit our office at:  
Community Enterprise Centre  
Cottingham Road  
Hull  
HU5 2DH