



Issue 4.2009-03  
March 2009  
Editor: John Furniss

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

*...Hull & East Riding Speaks OUT*

Distributed Free

Back issues available to download at [www.lgbtforum.co.uk/newsletter](http://www.lgbtforum.co.uk/newsletter)

## Welcome

Perhaps I should consider a new career as a dentist.

If you are thinking that the salary is what has triggered this thought or that the frequently reported shortage of practitioners makes it a good bet in a recession then you are quite wrong.

The simple answer is that getting copy in for the newsletter this month has been like pulling teeth but we made it.

Now 4 issues in, perhaps this is a good time to appeal to our readers for some feedback so, let us know what you think, what is good, what is bad, how often you want us to publish, etc.

John Furniss - Editor  
[editor@lgbtforum.co.uk](mailto:editor@lgbtforum.co.uk)  
Chair of Hull LGBT Forum

## LGBT Centre Seeks Financial Support

'Five Thousand Pounds, Five Thousand Pounds. My Kingdom is yours for Five Thousand Pounds!'

It sounds like a small amount of money but the difficulties faced by the LGBT Centre in Hull to raise the annual operating costs are threatening the very existence of this new facility at the point when it is needed most.

Opened in 2007 as part of the LGBT Forum expansion, the Drop-in Centre and LGBT Forum Office on Cottingham Road has been working to promote itself and develop as a community drop-in for the LGBT community within Hull and East Riding for the last 18 months. It has seen uptake of its services rising steadily as the community find out about its existence.

"It is all part of the strategy to deliver services and facilities that are required in both local

authority areas" says John Furniss the Chair of the Hull LGBT Forum. "We want and need to do more to support the LGBT community, but without the financial assistance this is not possible."

Running entirely on voluntary effort, the LGBT Centre has created a community safe space with built-in social area and internet facility designed to make information and material accessible to the LGBT community.

"I can't access a gaydar profile or read a magazine at home or work without someone finding out so I come here on the way home, or call in on a weekend" comments one service user.

There are subscriptions to the major gay, lesbian and trans magazines all on hand and internet access. We now have service provision within the city and dedicated Gay Man's and Trans drop-in evenings all running at the Centre.

These means significant steps have been taken to offer the level of service available to LGBT people in Cities such as Leeds, Manchester and Brighton but there is still more to do and with the threat of closure on the cards, time is running out to save the Centre.

"At the end of the day, there are still costs that have to be paid in order to survive" comments Damian, Finance Officer for the LGBT Centre. "Whilst we have volunteers to support the users, there are rent and rate payments that must be made in order to offer this facility.

We are working with local authority representatives but the public purse is finding it more and more difficult to fund projects... everyone is feeling the pinch."

This financial year alone the LGBT Centre is running at a deficit and if things don't change soon, the Centre could be forced to shut its doors.

John Furniss stated, "It seems ironic that large amounts of capital funding are covering the setup costs to replace excellent organisations forced to close due to a shortage of revenue funding."

He added, "It would be much more cost effective to support existing projects but, unfortunately, that does not tick the political boxes."

The LGBT Forum was established in 2001 and since then has continued to work as a voluntary body supporting the community and advising public and private sector organisations in the City and surrounding areas.

Issues such as LGBT equality, gender transition, consumer goods and services legislation, recruitment and welfare support as well as organising Hull Pride.

Members of the LGBT Forum have been active in supporting a host of community initiatives, including Hull Together, True Vision and the provision of representatives for community interview panels in the recruitment process for local authority equalities posts.

In 2006 Hull Pride became a separate organisation and is now moving to become a Charity.

Subject to funding, the Hull LGBT Forum Centre will provide a first class service to the City and the East Riding of Yorkshire that is otherwise unmet.

Anyone wanting to pledge assistance or support should contact the Rikki Arundel or John Furniss 01482 441002.

***Damian Chapman***

## Rikki's Rants: Rikki on the Box

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

When I get time I really enjoy Sunday morning programmes on the BBC1, especially the Big Questions hosted by Nicky Campbell.

if you watch it you may remember that a few weeks ago homosexuality was a hot topic.

The trouble is that I want to get involved and have my say on some of these issues so, when I saw that the programme was coming to York, I sent off an email outlining my experience and asking to join the show.

It worked... they called, had a chat about the questions and I was on the show... and in the **FRONT ROW.**

First question;

***Is Islam an intolerant religion?***

Well I had plenty to say about that.

"No it is not an intolerant religion, but some powerful Islamic people are very intolerant". On the day one of them was there arguing for the introduction of Sharia Law in Britain.

"...it seems that mentioning 'erections' on a Sunday show when discussing lust is inappropriate."

I didn't manage to get a word in on that argument but did witness open discrimination and hostility towards a gay Muslim man who had the courage to come on the programme, wearing dark glasses to disguise himself because of the very real threat of violence.

The next question was the one they wanted my comments on: ***A catholic priest has apparently observed that men most often confess to sins of Lust, Gluttony and Sloth while women tend to confess to Envy, Pride and Anger. Do Men and women confess to different sins?***

Inevitably the discussion tended to polarise on Lust and whether it is just men or do women feel lust... and had I noticed this change when I changed gender.

Interesting discussion – but of course there are seven deadly sins – the missing one is Avarice – greed.

Odd with the current economic crisis caused entirely by greedy men – that this did not appear on the list or does this mean that men simply don't admit to greed, or don't even see it is a sin.

Despite trying to move the discussion this way, it stayed on lust – and it seems that mentioning 'erections' on a Sunday show when discussing lust is inappropriate.

The final question;

***"Does a benefit culture encourage sponging?"***

Once again I had lots to say – but no opportunity to say it. Having spent two and a half years on benefits, it is surprising how many people simply do not have any idea how difficult life is on benefits.

They are unable to understand that being openly trans, lesbian, gay or bi is going to increase the probability of being unemployed and make finding a new job more difficult.

Well had my 30 seconds of fame, though sitting on the front row did get

me lots of visual coverage.

Great audience and we had an excellent warm up in the "green room" debating the issues before the show and continuing the discussion outside afterwards.

I was also surprised at just how many people watch the programme – I am still getting comments from friends and members of audiences at seminars, so it has certainly done me no harm – and a great way to spend a Sunday morning.

Rikki Arundel  
[www.GenderShift.com](http://www.GenderShift.com)

## HATE CRIME REPORTING GOES DIGITAL

In a bid to make hate crime reporting more accessible to the LGBT Community, Humberside Police has launched an online reporting form that sends the information direct to the Hate Crime Team.

Speaking to 'Ull Out, Humberside Police Hate Crime Coordinator Katy Ineson, said, "This is the first step of many to make Hate Crime reporting more accessible. We know that homophobia still exists and that people just aren't reporting it. We need to do more to make it easier for the community we serve to contact us about homophobia and this is just the first step."

Since Humberside Police adopted 'True Vision' in collaboration with Hull City Council, North East Lincolnshire Council, North Lincolnshire Council and East Riding of Yorkshire Council, over 150 reporting centres have been established. This links up Police Stations, Council Customer Service Centres and Community Organisations to provide an anonymous reporting method.

However, most people find it difficult to either access a reporting centre in the first place or feel uncomfortable talking to a stranger about their situation.

For someone who has personally had to go through the process I can say with conviction that it can be very distressing having to tell a uniform of any persuasion what's happened and that is where the online form comes into play.

So what is Hate Crime? The law says it is, "...any offence committed against a person or property which is motivated by the offender's hatred of people because they are seen as being different."

Specifically, homophobic abuse is because someone thinks you are Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual or Trans; you don't have to be LGBT to suffer homophobic abuse.

*Continued on Page 3*

## Hate Crime Reporting Goes Digital

Hate Crime comes in different guises such as name calling, pushing and shoving, spat at, beaten up, name calling, theft of property or criminal damage as a result.

You shouldn't have to put up with it and nor should anyone else (mothers bully speech over!).

Like anything else, keeping it bottled up and hoping it will all go away doesn't work, so speak to someone about it... even if its online.

The Home Office website says talk to friends, family, the Police, LGBT Organisations or the Samaritans but sometimes that just doesn't work. Find a way that suits you and don't keep it hidden.

There are a lot of myths about Hate Crime and Hate Incidents so here are 'Ull Out's five points about Hate Crime:

- 1) **Anyone can be victim to it**- you don't have to be Gay to suffer homophobic abuse, nor does it have to be aimed at you personally (it could be someone else in the street);
- 2) **It can happen at any time and anywhere**- Home, school, work, on the bus, in the pub, day, night, afternoon (you get the point);
- 3) **You can choose to make the report anonymously;**
- 4) **All Hate Crime Incidents are investigated, and build a crime picture in the area;**
- 5) **Neither the Crown Prosecution Service or the Police will out you** - They can suppress information during the investigation and conviction to accommodate whether you are out or not.

To report online using the new form visit

<http://tinyurl.com/hatecrimeform>

or for more information on Hate Crime visit

<http://www.report-it.org.uk> OR

<http://www.humberside.police.uk> Damian Chapman

## Behind the Mask... ...the making of me (part 2)

In the last issue, I briefly spoke about my time at school, in which I had found myself a girlfriend to stop the bullying and having my first 'moment' with my best friend.

I was about 17 and was very confused about who I was. I mean, I had a girlfriend who was the envy of all the lads at school, and I was fumbling around with my best mate (who, I later found out, was also seeing my girlfriend behind my back!)

A few years passed and I relocated to another part of the country, still with no real experience of being gay. By this time I was about 20 and I had no real Gay role models, in fact I still had a girlfriend.

The only people on TV at that time were Julian Clairy and Quentin Crisp!! I knew I was different and decided to send off for a catalogue of 'dirty mags.' that I had found details for on the back of the News of the World.

I was really, really nervous about the catalogue arriving, in case my mum opened it before I could get to it, so for a week I got up really early to wait for the postman. I was so excited, and I felt really naughty too!

I ordered some mags. from the catalogue and was shocked as I thought I was **the only gay in the village England!!**

Time passed until one day I was out with the office girls, got very drunk and went to the local club on my own. This guy approached me and we spoke for a while, and he and his friend, who I assumed was his girlfriend, offered me back to their flat while I waited for a taxi.

As the taxi pipped me outside, I got up to go and he kissed me on the cheek, I was shocked! The first kiss I had ever had from a man, my stomach was churning. I was smiling and confused and every other emotion you can have all at the same time, and this was in the taxi.

I couldn't keep him out of my mind, and I was having difficulty in concentrating at work the next day. I didn't want to be too eager, but I couldn't help it. My patience had got the better of me and I rang him.

I stuttered and managed to have a conversation with him. We agreed to go out to some club he recommended. I couldn't wait, but there was a problem...

...What do I tell my Girlfriend?

### ED'S NOTE:

To be continued with the writer's identity revealed in the final article next month.

Any guesses who this is yet?

## Did you see on the BBC?

Did you see reported on the BBC the horrific story of a teenage boy assaulted and left for dead?

No...

Well that is not suprising as Ben Summerskill reports in the Stonewall eBulletin that;

***"The BBC has reported every single murder of an adolescent in the past 18 months in this country as a national news story - yet not this one."***

Michael Causer's family had to make the decision to turn off life-support. Meanwhile, a teenager that stood trial walked free even though witnesses had testified to the accused hurling homophobic abuse during the beating.

To subscribe to the Stonewall eBulletin go to;

<http://www.stonewall.org.uk/>

For urther information on the case of Michael Causer case go to;

<http://www.pinknews.co.uk/news/articles/2005-11289.html>

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

Send you're contributions to [editor@lgbtforum.co.uk](mailto:editor@lgbtforum.co.uk)

## Quentin Crisp- Part 2

In this never-ending cycle of movie sequels (A Gay Movie, Another Gay Movie, Yet Another Gay Movie etc.), it is no surprise that the television execs over at ITV have finally got round to finishing Quentin Crisp's life story... more than 3 decades after starting it.

Crisp (born Dennis Pratt) tried his hand at art and journalism before being declared by the Army when drafted during the Second World War as suffering from "Sexual Perversion".

After moving to London Crisp turned to prostitution and nude modelling at various art colleges whilst developing his signature appearance of bright make-up, crimson hair and painted hand and toe nails.

Following the success of his book and

its dramatisation, Crisp moved to New York aged 77 and lived the life of high society rolling in the social circles of choice in the 80's and 90's to such extents that Sting wrote the song, "Englishman in New York" about Crisp.

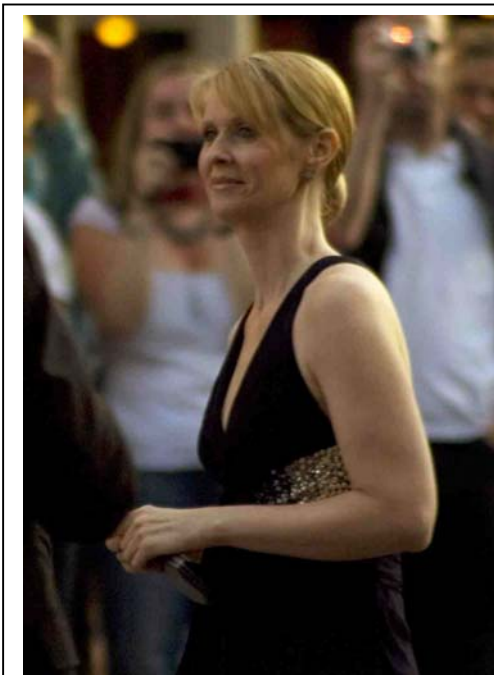
His flippant remarks that usually carried favour caused him great problems in 1993 when he commented that AIDS was merely a fad.

Five years later Crisp hosted a series of 'An Audience With...' events in the US, sparking a UK Nationwide tour in 1999. However, in Manchester on the eve of the tour Crisp collapsed and died just a month before his 91<sup>st</sup> birthday.

The Naked Civil Servant was Crisp's autobiography published in 1968 and gave an insight into

the first half of Quentin Crisp's life as an out gay man at a time when homosexuality was still illegal. Renowned for his flamboyant lifestyle, unique dress sense and unusual career history, Crisp was heard on the radio giving an interview about his life and was subsequently commissioned to write the book.

With it Crisp's name and nature became immortal. The Naked Civil Servant was a self proclaimed title based on his nude modelling and the



Cynthia Nixon - Premiere "Sex and the City", Berlin  
Daniela Stanek from Berlin, Germany  
*Creative Commons Attribution ShareAlike 2.0 License*

autobiography of the same name became not only an international best seller but also Granada Television's greatest ever one-off drama.

It paved the way for an up and coming actor to make a name for himself as one of the greatest actors of modern time. John Hurt's portrayal of Crisp in the 1975

television drama earned him a BAFTA for his efforts and enshrined the production into gay history.

With 'An Englishman In New York' set to hit our television screens in the summer, Hurt gets the chance to finish something started so long ago.

Speaking to reporters last year on behalf of the network, Laura Mackie said, "We are delighted to be making another film about Quentin Crisp given the Naked Civil Servant was such a landmark film for ITV. Its a real thrill and honour to be bringing an actor of John Hurt's stature back to the channel to reprise such an iconic role."

Cast alongside Hurt for 2009 are Jonathan Tucker (Patrick Angus), Dennis O'Hare (Phillip Steele - character based on Phillip Ward

and Tom Steele), Swoosie Kurtz (Connie Clauser) and Cynthia Nixon {pictured} from Sex in the City to play Crisp's friend and confidante Penny Arcade.

For those who can't wait until August to see this on the small screen of ITV1, An Englishman In New York is scheduled to form part of the 23<sup>rd</sup> annual London Lesbian and Gay Film Festival (LLGFF) in March 2009 as well as being screened around the world.

Tickets are available online at <http://www.llgff.co.uk> but if you can't make London, don't forget to keep an eye on the listings for the unmissable TV show of the decade.

Damian Chapman

## 100 things about being a Gay Man

*Here are the first 10 things in our list of 100*

1. You truly don't care who Julia Roberts is sleeping with.
2. You understand the difference between 43 brands of imported vodka.
3. You can call anyone "honey" including pets.
4. You know someone who definitely was in the A&E with Richard Gere and the gerbil.
5. You understand the immense importance of good lighting.
6. You can be at a crowded disco the size of two football fields and still spot a toupee.
7. You can tell a woman you love her bathing suit, and mean her bathing suit.
8. You can explain the nuances between steady date, boyfriend and lover.
9. You really have "been there, done that."
10. Your women friends will tell you everything you want to know about their boyfriends. And that means everything

# Positively Speaking

## Disclosure

Your questions & comments are welcome sent to [editor@lgbtforum.co.uk](mailto:editor@lgbtforum.co.uk)

---

*Someone in our community speaks out about what it is like to be HIV+ and living in Hull*

Right then, having been diagnosed for sometime I have now got the dilemma of deciding whether to tell people or not. Then comes the next problem, WHO do you tell?

It's a bit like when you come out as gay, but worse due to all the taboo's of the whole "AIDS thing", which is obviously the description imposed by many heterosexuals.

I read a few booklets and, on the net, other peoples stories about their own experiences and I read some advice about telling people.

The first things that are asked are "do you need to tell people?", and "how do you tell them?"

I sat and thought really hard about whether I had to tell people, and I decided that I wanted to tell my friends because I thought if I ever needed support from anyone then these are the people who I could turn to.

Once I had decided who I wanted to tell, I then had to think about how I was going to tell each of them, but also how they would react.

Was telling people over a drink the right thing to do, or would it be better to go and see them and tell them over a coffee in the privacy of their own home. Telling friends was going to be a different experience with each of them.

I had decided that the first person that I was going to tell was my best friend. So I rang him to make sure he was home and that he was alone. All was ok, so off I went.

I got there and eventually got the words out. He looked shocked and amazed, then hugged me and said that everything would be fine.

He then asked a few (what now seem to be, standard) questions;

- Do you know who gave you it?
- Do you know how long you've had it?
- How do I feel about it?

We talked and I felt relieved that someone was going to be there for me if I ever needed support.

Well with the first one over, and I was relieved at how well it had gone, I decided that telling my friends wouldn't be so hard.

### How wrong can you be.

One thing that you will always find is that you know the friends who are the true friends.

When telling people something like this is not something you can untell. You can't take back if they react badly or betray your trust and spread it around.

Think carefully before each person you tell. You can't just think about the first disclosure and assume the rest will be the same.

**Anonymous  
Name on file.**

---

## Culture Club

If you want a little more than a alcho pops and funky house on a night out how about a preview of artwork.

Dazal have a monthly Gallery night with a chance to meet and chat with the featured artist whilst viewing the works.

The pictures remain hung in the bar for the rest of the month and

## Scene Queen

Hello darlings, have you been out recently... free entry to Fuel? Looming lack of drag shows? Long time to the pride season? Can't afford to get to Leeds/Manchester? (Never mind finding the funds for when you get there.)

Well it's not all doom and gloom. There is a hint of glitter and glitz on the strip...

The Queer Quarter in Hull has a new favourite... whether you start your night there or decide to go back and finish there... it's the STAR & GARTER!!!

Yeah, I know. Not really like a gay "Jockey" off Shameless. Jim and Tony (now independent from the Bear) and their team of entertainers, bar staff, DJ's (Well Mad Simon actually) and Drag sisters (Cissy Star & Lucy Garter) are doing their campest to make your night go with a swish of sequins.

If you like fairy lights, it's like being trapped in the lighting department of B&Q two weeks before Christmas, then get your tush into S & G.

Drinks offers, late bar and cheesier than cheesy chips with extra cheese and if your group wants to stay and you don't then the Yorkshireman is just next door or bypass that and nip to Prop. The night is young.

Enjoy darlings. No glove, no love.

**SQx**

all of the pieces are available to purchase.

The Art Exhibition I went to was "The Work of Leon Welburn". Leon specialises in mixed media on board.

It was interesting to see that he had incorporated into one piece hundreds of photographic transfers of Hull public houses taken over many years by his late father.

In conversation with Leon I found it facinating to hear him speak about the pleasure he gets from revealing the layers of history of Hull through the layers in his artworks.

My personal favourite features the dartboard in the Queens.

## Coming-Out Stories

### Go Into the Light: Finding the Real Me

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

Same sex attraction is something within you that I am sure is there from birth but you subconsciously suppress it as you live a life that conforms to societies rules.

Married many years to a girl that I was in love with then and now love in the way you love your family. We had children together and were very happy for most of this time.

A number of issues placed a strain on our marriage and in my very low state I began to think that there was no way out and that our marriage may be over. I started to re-evaluate my life and with the social barriers down I began to realise that I had a same sex attraction.

For a few weeks I tried to come to terms with these alien thoughts. I knew that the attraction to men was very real but I also knew that my love and attraction to my wife was just as strong as ever. I finally knew the answer to the mental turmoil of the previous few weeks, "I am bisexual".

Very quickly I started to become very depressed, I was in a very dark place. I realised that I was now living a lie.

Lies are destructive and although I knew I was risking my marriage I could not lie to my wife or to my self and I came out to my wife. By Christmas, I had also told my best friend and my children.

I also told all of my closest friends as I felt they needed to know I trusted them. If they were going to find it hard to deal with I didn't want to add a lack of trust to the hurt.

Coming out is not a case of telling everyone; **it is a case of being**

### ABLE to tell ANYONE if you CHOOSE to tell.

My wife and I have remained friends but we are divorced and living very different lives now. I don't regret my previous life, how could I, that would be regretting my fantastic kids and many great experiences.

I value the friendship and love of my family and friends, but I love **the real me**. The me that I didn't know before, the me that I didn't even know existed.

I have had many happy times, but I am now happier than I have ever been before and I never again want to go back to the dark place that exists **in between** my old life and my current life.

Coming out is the best thing I have ever done in my life.

#### **ED'S NOTE:**

[Would your coming-out story help others. Why not send it to editor@lgbtforum.co.uk](#)

---

### Out Spoken: Growing Old Gracefully

*Just one person's view on the topic of the month... Don't agree? Have your say, write to:*

[editor@lgbtforum.co.uk](mailto:editor@lgbtforum.co.uk)

Newsreader and reporter John Suchet has thrust dementia into the headlines by revealing that his wife Bonnie has fallen victim to this terrible condition.

With 700,000 people suffering from dementia in the UK, not only are we in the gay community as likely to become sufferers of dementia in later life but I would suggest that we are more likely to be carers than the rest of society.

For many same sex couples we are just as likely to find ourselves caring for a partner as John Suchet, but how many closeted

gays continue to live with parents well into their adult life?

Eventually, perhaps inevitably, they take on the role of main or sole carer for one or both parents with little or no help.

What is worse is that people in this situation often lead fairly solitary lives and are not able to call on an extended support network of friends and family.

Having indirectly experienced caring for a dementia sufferer I also have concerns that memory regretion may hold hidden additional insults and suffering for those caring for a partner.

It is not uncommon for a sufferer to lose recent memory and forget their partner but what happens in the case of those who lived for many years in straight relationships before coming out?

I have been unable to find research that reveals whether regretion takes the individual back to a time when they identified as straight.

There is also the issue of care homes. Is a gay person moving into a hostile environment after years of living in a loving same sex environment?

The Hull LGBT Forum are working closely with Age Concern. The Alzheimers Society have information for Gay Carers on their Website at [www.alzheimers.org.uk/gaycares](http://www.alzheimers.org.uk/gaycares)

**John Furniss**  
Chair LGBT Forum

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

**Send your're contributions to**  
[editor@lgbtforum.co.uk](mailto:editor@lgbtforum.co.uk)

---

## Getting Involved

© Hull LGBT Forum 2009

If you want to get involved just become a member of the LGBT Forum by picking one of the following methods:

- Join via Yahoo group at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/hulllgbt>
- Attend meetings @ 7pm, Guildhall 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday every month
- Visit our Website at <http://www.lgbtforum.co.uk>
- Visit our office

**Hull LGBT Forum Limited**  
(reg. no. 5246975)

Telephone:  
+44 (07981) 110838  
+44 (01482) 441002 ext 206

**Registered-Office:**  
Community Enterprise Centre  
Cottingham Road  
Hull HU5 2DH

This publication may be printed, copied, eMailed and distributed free of charge under the terms of copyright on the condition that is is done in its entirety and with no alterations additions or omission. Reproduction and use in part is subject to UK copyright legislation.