

# HULL OUT

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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 to issue 5... Back in Time as the Clocks go Forward.

It was Thursday evening and my partner Mike and I were surfing t'Internet when we found a half board 'Spring Deal' at the Cairn Hotel in Harrogate.

Well with the clocks going forward and the thought of losing an hour, a weekend away was just what we needed so we booked it.

Now don't get me wrong, I enjoy a meal in a quiet restaurant, a stroll through the park (not just for the cruising), browsing the galleries or shopping 'til I drop.

It does, however, need to be balanced with wine, cocktails, shots, bar dancing and a room full of hot gay men so I trawled the net for 'Gay Harrogate' mmmh.

An hour later and armed with just 3 articles covering 2 venues we were ready for the off.

When we got there on the Friday we decided to locate the 2 gay friendly venues. Update for the Internet, 1 of them has closed.

As we walked around Harrogate and nature called me to the cottage toilet I was confronted with 2 pieces of graffiti. The first written on the cistern condemned me and all other gays to death. The other scrolled across the cludgy door appeared to be a recruitment advert for the emergency services, "join the police force and become a homophobic biggot".

Hells bells, I thought I was in Hull 5 or more years ago. I would get the same feeling later that night when the front of the pub was pelted with eggs by a few spineless fools that are insecure

in their own sexuality for no other reason than it is gay friendly.

But hey, this brings us to the pub in question, Hales Bar on Commercial Street and the time machine now takes us to mid-



Picture from <http://www.halesbar.co.uk/> with kind permission of Amanda ©2007 Hales Bar and Gareth Molyneux

17th century and one of the first Inns for visitors to the spa town.

The bars [Website](#) says that, "The premises were rebuilt circa 1827 and known as The Promenade Inn." and goes on to detail history through the Victorian period and on to its appearance in the film 'Chariots of Fire'.

Hales Bar claims to be the oldest pub in Harrogate including traditional gas lighting in the main bar. The management attitude is right up to date though.

Amanda Jane, 'The Boss' said, "this bar is gay friendly all day every day, we don't just do a weekly gay night to cash in on the pink pound".

It didn't need saying. The atmosphere is great with a very mixed crowd, straight, gay, trans, old and young. The walls in the corridors to the toilets are covered in pictures from theme nights, just like a Frankies/Fuel-Hull cross.

The art, the history, the Valley Gardens and a fabulous hotel all topped with a forward looking bar. This is my memory of Harrogate.

My hope for the future is that Amanda, her staff and the bar go from strength to strength.

Perhaps this is also something for the LGBT crowd in Hull to reflect on.

It is so easy to lose touch with the past. We now have a number of venues owned by different people.

Next time you feel yourself grumbling about things, as we all do from time to time, just think back to what we had and ask yourself 2 questions;

1. Is what we have now better than what we had?
2. Did they come in take the pink pound and run or

are they still making their living here as part of the community whilst providing a service?

We will visit Harrogate and stay at the Cairn Hotel again just as long as Hales Bar continues to fly the rainbow flag. It's nice to be home though.

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

### A Cure for Gay!!!

A colleague told me today that, unbelievably, he had seen an article in Cosmopolitan that talked about "curing gay".

I said to him, "That is fantastic, if it can be 'cured', then it wont go off and can be enjoyed for so much longer". ☺

# HIV/Aids the gay disease... Think again!

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

When HIV/Aids first hit the headlines it was at a time when the highest rates of infection were amongst men who have sex with men. As a result it was widely reported as the gay disease and this label has largely stuck in peoples minds.

As a result funding suffers, people in other parts of the community are complacent (perhaps even careless), education about HIV/Aids suffers and people continue to become infected.

When we hear that there are well over 30 million people worldwide who are HIV+ with 2 million deaths in 2007 the figures are so large that, whilst we may be shocked, it doesn't really register as it is so impersonal.

If we are told that two thirds of the infected people are in Africa the subconscious starts to make us think, "Well it doesn't really affect me, I don't know anyone who is HIV+ and it's not around here".

Looking closer to home, an estimated 80,000 people living with HIV in the UK gives people the get out of saying this is just an estimate, it may be wrong so it doesn't really mean anything.

## Time to wake up...

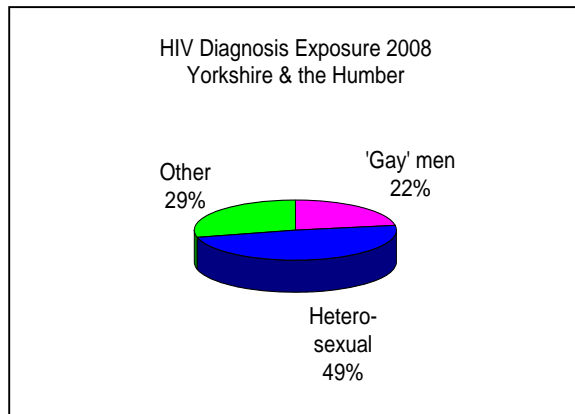
[The Health Protection Agency reports:](#)

to the end of 2008 in Yorkshire & the Humber (**yes, right on your doorstep**)  
4,717 people diagnosed  
2,877 men  
1,840 women  
420 diagnosed in 2008

**Note that these are diagnosed cases and are actual not estimates.** If you take into account people who are infected but have not been tested we are

probably looking at half as many again on top of these figures.

Whilst Yorkshire & the Humber reports 94 diagnoses amongst men who have sex with men, there were 205 diagnosis through heterosexual exposure, 118 of these are women.



The other 121 cases are from a variety of exposures including mother to infant and injecting drug users.

HIV/Aids a gay disease? I don't think so, this is everyone's concern.

John Furniss  
Chair Hull LGBT Forum

## 100 things about being a Gay Man

Here are 11-20 things in our list of 100

11. You're the only type of male who gets to say "fabulous."
12. You can have naked pictures of men you don't know on your phone.
13. You can have naked men you don't know in your home.
14. You know how to handle the telephone like a Stradivarius.
15. You understand why the good Lord invented spandex.
16. You understand why the good Lord didn't intend everyone to wear it.
17. You know how to get back at just about everyone.
18. You only wear polyester when you mean to.

19. You can smile to let someone know you can't stand them.

20. You're good pals with women other people can't stand.

## Scene Queen

So tell me when was the last time you ventured onto Hessle Road for a night out?

Your Hull Gay Scene would be incomplete without a visit to Frankie's.....

The Vauxhall Tavern is just a bit up from Smith & Nephew. You drive right passed it on your way in or out of Hull on the Clive Sullivan Way.

It was for many of us the start of a Saturday night before staggering down to TC's. Sticky carpet and Mr. Dunbarr's homo-pro banter.

It's like stepping into a time capsule for the gay Hull experience. Top to bottom rainbow, camp, cheesy photo album wall coated queer.

Reasonably priced drinks and friendly banter to welcome those who step through the door.

Be brave push on the handle like the first time out and once inside that brief moment as everyone stops and turns to see who it is... fresh meat perhaps.

Police Academy had it right as the Blue Oyster Bar was entered by accident. The juke box plays cheesy, obscure, but friendly tunes. Bobby Mandrell's regular haunt and Hessle Road regulars to boot.

The back room has pool and the gents loo, porn.... well nearly, well no not really, just rather risqué wall decorations. A collage of scrapbook material that will keep you in there for longer than you should be. **Don't spend too much time in the cottage!**

Always lots of entertainment with regular local talent making it well worth a visit.

Be safe, enjoy and not too many Easter Eggs!

SQ xx

# The Gaymes

## 5 September 2009



### September 2007:

over 100 people took part in the first Gaymes.

### September 2008:

over 200 people took part in the second Gaymes.

### September 2009:

The Gaymes 2009 will take place at Brierton Community Sports Centre in Hartlepool. A modern community centre with plenty of indoor and outdoor space.

The Gaymes brings people from different backgrounds, ages and communities together in a range of events and activities, such as, 5-a-side football, Rounder's, 100 metre fancy dress dash, Pool, climbing wall, dancing and circus skills workshops, relaxation therapies and street entertainment.

### A fun day for everyone.

To get involved:

- 1 Enter a team for the sports events
- 2 Have an stall
- 3 Become a sponsor

### For further information contact:

Alan Burnside – Manager  
Tel: 01429 236790  
Email: [thegaymes@googlemail.com](mailto:thegaymes@googlemail.com)

Hart Gables is a charity based in Hartlepool that works with the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered (LGBT) community. Our aim is to break down barriers and bring different communities together.

Got something to say start writing those eMails now.

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

**Humbercare**  
**Client Group**

## Meeting

Tuesday, 21 April 2009  
Humbercare, The Coach House,  
81 Beverley Rd, Hull

Humbercare is forming a Lesbian, Gay, Bi-Sexual and Trans (LGBT) client group. If you are interested in joining the group please indicate by ticking the appropriate box below and send it back in the FREEPOST envelope provided.

The main aim of the group will be to provide an opportunity for individuals who are LGBT to have an input in how Humbercare provides and delivers its services.

Another aim is to provide a forum for peer to peer support and an avenue for the discussion of issues that are specific to your needs as part of the LGBT community.

YES, I am interested in joining this group and I would like to attend the meeting.

NO, but please contact me for further discussion.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Tel No: \_\_\_\_\_

## Coming-Out Stories

### In a World We Created: Now is the Time for Change

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

In a heterosexual dominated environment people are alienated from society if they have any bisexual or homosexual feelings.

I've always lived in Hull and I am proud of this fact, but I've faced verbal and mental abuse from this society throughout my life just for being me. Disgust is a learnt behaviour past on from previous neurotic generations.

Hopefully this habit will be broken and future generations will benefit from their newly formed varied culture.

### ED'S NOTE:

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

### Behind the Mask... the making of me (part 3)

Sorry folks this article is delayed. Is the writer just building up suspense for the grand finale?

### ED'S NOTE:

To be continued with the writer's identity revealed in the final article next month... or the month after.. or, oh well who knows?



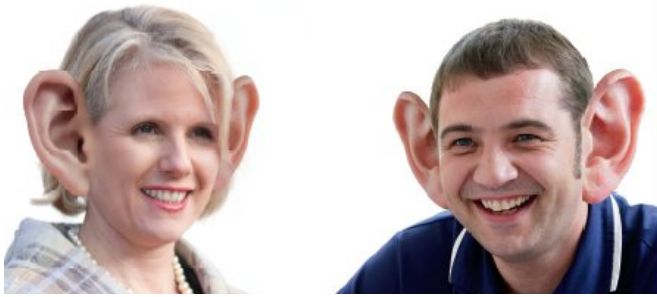
## We're Listening

To have your say,

visit [www.nhshullears.net](http://www.nhshullears.net) or call 01482 344 732

Or become an NHS Hull Member

call 01482 344 739 or email [membership@hullpct.nhs.uk](mailto:membership@hullpct.nhs.uk)



## Coming Out Meant Moving Out for Gizmo

Well from an early age I sort of had feelings I was gay but decided to hide it for a few years even to the extreme I had a girlfriend. People at school guessed I was gay and always used to call me puff, gay boy and worse, you know all the usual names so I hid it all the way through school.

When I left school it was a little easier. I could hide things from workmates, even though I did have a crush on one of them.

I carried on hiding my sexuality until one day I got talking in the canteen to an openly gay colleague. We went for a drink after work and carried on talking and he explained what he thought was the best way to come out.

I decided then that I was still not ready to tell the whole world I'm gay. My mum started asking questions but, yet again I continued to deny it.

After a few months I started talking to a lad on the internet and we got really close. I started staying at his place a lot while telling my parents I was seeing a girl.

One day they called my mobile and heard the lad I was seeing in the back ground. I remember the conversation to this day... my mum asking me if I was gay.

By this time I had decided it's now or never. I said, "Yeah, I am gay". That was it; I was finally out to my parents.

**"Yeah I am gay"  
That was it; I was  
finally out to my  
parents**

I thought they would take it really well as my uncle is gay but oh how wrong I was! I got a text from me mum about half an hour later. It said, "Sorry son we need to speak to you, you had better come home.

The time had come to go home and face the music, but by this time I was bricking it as my dad had such an explosive temper. So I started the 10 minute walk home but it seemed like hours.

I got to my mum and dads and they were crying; saying that I was a bad son for coming out and asking, "How could you be sleeping with another man?" By this time I was feeling really guilty but I couldn't help my feelings towards this lad. I needed to talk so I went back to see him.

Meanwhile, I was getting phone calls & texts from my mum and dad asking me to go for tea. I did, thinking everything would be OK. Not at all... my dad was drunk and really argumentative but I stayed for my mum's sake.

After a few hours I said, "Right, I'm going to go now cos we are going out". Well that triggered a huge argument and I can't bring myself to write down and re-live what I went through that night. Coming out and not having to live a lie was supposed to be the best day of my life, but it was horrible. There I was with a broken nose, bruises and not knowing what life would be like as an out gay man but at last I was able to be me.

I moved out for a while and things calmed down so I took the decision to move back in with my parents. Things were OK for a few months and then I got offered a job in Sheffield so I thought, "Buzzing, I'll take it". I was thinking this will give mum and dad more time to get used to their son being gay.

Gary Barron (Gizmo)

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

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

## Getting Involved

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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

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