



...Hull & East Riding Speaks OUT

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November 2009  
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**LGBT Conference  
Special Edition**  
Hull LGBT Forum,  
supporting lesbian, gay,  
bisexual & trans (LGBT)  
people in Hull & East Riding

## Welcome

I bet you thought the newsletter had gone for good? – well...NO!

A lack of contributions does mean that a monthly newsletter is not an option but you don't get rid of me that easily (and believe me plenty have tried).

This is the first in a series of irregular special editions...

### LGBT CONFERENCE SPECIAL EDITION

Following on from a fantastic Hull Pride and timed just 2 days after World Aids Day hull will host its first LGBT Conference.

Taking of Hull Pride, were you there? Well done to Andy Train and his band of merry men.

What a great day out.

They even managed to order in good weather.

The night out afterwards saw all of the venues full with crowds walking up and down the street between venues (very Canal Street Manchester). Wow.

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

## Raising Awareness in Hull and East Riding Sexual Health at the LGBT Conference



**The LGBT Conference will help to raise awareness and knowledge around sexual health in both men and women in the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender community.**

The Quality Royal Hotel will play host to the Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender (LGBT) Conference on **3 December**.

It has been organised by Hull and East Riding Sexual and Reproductive Healthcare Partnership in association with City Health Care Partnership

(NHS Hull's Provider Services), LGBT Forum, Hull Pride and Cornerhouse.

The conference will tie in closely with **World AIDS Day** (1 December).

Delegates will be able to explore and raise awareness of issues related to the LGBT community and sexual health services in Hull and the East Riding of Yorkshire.

Clinicians from the Sexual and Reproductive Healthcare Partnership will give presentations on topics chosen by the LGBT community in the morning. The afternoon will take the form of workshops picking up on the morning themes.

The topics are:

- HIV testing/PEP (post Exposure Prophylaxis)
- Lesbian Sexual Health
- Sexual Assault

- Transgender Sexual Health
- Gay Men's Sexual Health

Delegates attending the conference will come from the LGBT community, local support groups, statutory bodies and voluntary organisations.

The HIV Prevention Officer at City Health Care Partnership, Marek Mironski commented.

*"This is a great opportunity for everybody to get information, gain knowledge, share experiences, explore and raise awareness of issues related to the LGBT community and sexual health services."*

Our aim with this conference is to raise awareness of local issues surrounding sexual health in the LGBT community.'

# Hull Pride 2009

by Lewis Jacobs



I would highly recommend the Pride DVD this year and you can get it from;

[www.GayPrideDVD.com](http://www.GayPrideDVD.com)

I have to admit, I was praying for good weather but I had a feeling in my bones that this years Pride was going to be great.

All that praying paid off, the weather was fabulous and the day was even better.

It was brilliant to see so many people and especially to see so many families. Many had brought blankets and a picnic to sit and chill out whilst they listened and watched the acts on the stage. The atmosphere was fantastic.

I particularly enjoyed the drag queens this year, the fabulous Bobby Mandrell and the luscious Sissy Star and Lucy Garter, they really got the crowd going. Almost Pink was also brilliant and she pleased the crowd enormously; She was certainly almost as good as the real thing.

In the evening it was really good to see the city come alive at all the venues. Every venue was packed and the air was electric with people hell bent on having a good night.

I have been to many Prides across the county and enjoyed every one of them, this year's Hull Pride was the best Pride by far, **roll on Pride 2010!**

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## 100 things about being a Gay Man (31-40)

- |                                                                                 |                                                              |                                                  |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| 31. You know that sex complicates things. So?                                   | 35. You're not embarrassed to sing in a piano bar.           | 38. You know how to make an entrance.            |
| 32. Nobody tells you what to do in bed...unless you tell them what to tell you. | 36. You're embarrassed by people who sing in piano bars.     | 39. You know when to make an exit.               |
| 33. You have a medicine cabinet stocked for any occasion.                       | 37. You never hold a grudge for longer than a decade or two. | 40. You choose the most fabulous greeting cards. |
| 34. You have at least one movie musical on video.                               |                                                              |                                                  |

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## Whisky

A man walks into a bar and says to the bartender 10 shots of whisky.

The bartender asks, "What's the matter?"

The man says, "I found out my brother is gay and is marrying my best friend."

The next day the same man comes in and orders 12 shots of whisky.

The bartender asks, "What's wrong this time?"

The man says, "I found out that my son is gay."

The next day the same man comes into the bar and orders 15 shots of whisky.

Then the bartender asks, "Doesn't anyone in your family like women?"

The man looks up and says, "Apparently my wife does."

# Coming-Out Story... Confused? - You will be!

## A tale of sexuality and gender.

**My coming out has spanned over 20 years. I have struggled to deal with sexuality and gender issues. At times confusing one with the other or just hiding from the reality of myself.**

I always felt like I was on the outside looking in, never fitting in. At school I was always very masculine. I was called "dyke", "lezza" and "man wannabe" to name but a few. I had very few friends at school and even they kept me at a distance.

In my teen years, as my body changed, I became less comfortable with myself. I had a sense of things being 'all-wrong' and not behaving in a way I expected. I was also realising my attraction to girls but people thought I was weird without another reasons for people to bully me.

I was also bullied at home; my father would hit first and then ask questions. By 16 I started to stand up to him and I hated him with a passion. Now I feel nothing but pity for him.

I came out as a lesbian to my parents and few close friends. I was 18 and things between my father and myself were getting worse. I was thrown out of my home on several occasions and I eventually got a place in a hostel until I got a bed-sit.

It was in the bed-sit I met a girl. She was gorgeous but things soon turned sour. She became very abusive, yet I put up with her bullying day after day. I spent most of my time crying and hiding bruises from my friends and family.

Things ended when she took her own life but I hit rock bottom. I was using drugs & alcohol to escape and I became depressed, I attempted suicide myself. In a relationship with another girl I just couldn't cope, I hurt her badly.

I didn't want to know women and turned to men and promiscuity.

I was actually struggling with my own identity; I just didn't fit as a woman. I then began to realise more and more that I actually felt I was a man. I had heard of trans women but not trans men, did they even exist?

Accepting all this was another matter, I was scared to be myself or seek help. I rejected it, wanting a "*normal*" life?

I met a man at 24 and the day after my 25<sup>th</sup> birthday we were married. About four months later I was pregnant with my son. He has disabilities and I guess for five years I threw myself into his needs, ignoring my own.

I did love him but he wasn't what I wanted and we parted with me, once again, turning to women. I was still hiding. I still had my son to care for and eventually even focusing on him wasn't enough to prevent me from being miserable about hiding my true self.

I started to come out as trans 6 years ago, gradually and to close friends. My brother died I realised life is too short and came out to everyone. My doctor wasn't sure what to do but he was very quick to sort things out for me.

However, whilst I waited for an appointment with a psychiatrist I suffered a complete mental, physical and spiritual breakdown. I was an empty shell.

"Another relationship - another bully - I snapped and had to leave." I turned to friends in Blackpool where I stayed for a year to get my act together.

I got a job, a place of my own and saw my GP to re-start down the process of correcting my gender. But this was false start and I moved back to Hull to be closer to my son, now in a residential school and nothing will get in my way this time. I just want the physical body to match my gender identity. I am now on hormones and feeling so much better with myself.

The past year has been one of getting my mind well to cope with the changes that are going to happen to me, pushing myself forward and exploring possibilities.

Regarding my sexuality my view was polarised. I saw myself as a straight man but as I relax, be myself, worry less about what other people think I have started to realise that my sexuality is very open. I like men, women and those in between or yet to decide.

It has been a roller coaster life that hasn't all been bad, just confusing and, at times, scary. With confidence comes acceptance of me as I am. There is much more to me than my gender and sexuality. I am a pansexual trans man and very proud to be that person.

## Look Back to June 2009

### Stonewall 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary March

by Trisha Buscada

On Saturday the 27 June as part of the run up to the Hull Pride event there was a memorial march to commemorate the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Stonewall Riots. The riots were the first time that the LGBT community fought back against the routine harassment that was prevalent at that time.

As a united group they were a strong force to be reckoned with. From this event the gay pride movement came about. This resulted in the recent improvement in rights and improved relations with the wider community that benefits us all.

The marchers gathered at the Polar Bear on Spring Bank and were met by WHCR's outside broadcast unit. Rikki Arundel, Lewis

Jacobs with Andy Train, in the guise of a 60's US motor cycle cop; all gave interviews for the radio.

The march proceeded along Spring Bank towards the town centre with 20 or so people handing out leaflets and giving interviews along the way.

We then turned down Park Street to the back of Saint Stephens and on to Star & Garter and Yorkshireman "OMG... both closed on a Saturday afternoon!" and on to Propaganda for a much needed drink. Finally we finished up in Queen Victoria Square near the big screen TV.

I would like to thank all those who took part in the march and to WHCR even if some of us were a little nervous

about live radio interviews.

Not only was the march a great way to celebrating the accomplishments of those who have gone before us, often at great personal risk, but it also helped promote this years Pride and helped to highlight the issues that still affect the LGBT community.

Let us make this an annual event that demands a stop to the prejudice that today, still fuels the hate that extremists thrive on in many parts of the world.

We managed to make our point peacefully and without incident and I would urge you all to take part next year and make your voice heard. Silence only serves those who wish to turn back the clock 40 years.

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#### EDITORIAL

## New Rainbow Over Bridlington

Last week the BBC reported that Bridlington was bucking the trend in a worldwide recession. With businesses closing across the UK, Bridlington has seen an increase in new ventures. In the midst of this boom is a new hotel **proudly flying the rainbow flag**.

Just 1 minute walk from the Spa on Horseforth Avenue and boasting sea views this luxury 7-bed hotel is all en suite. The Swallow is more than a hotel as those looking for a more independent holiday also have the option of booking one of 2 self contained flats in West Street.

Proprietor Ludwig Sittler said, "Flying the rainbow flag seemed like the right thing to do."

His partner and co-proprietor, Paul Sharpe added, "We had been concerned that it may impact our business but demand for rooms in a gay owned hotel means we have been fully booked almost every week since we opened in August earlier this year".

[www.hotelswallow.com](http://www.hotelswallow.com)

For More information contact: [hotelswallow@hotmail.com](mailto:hotelswallow@hotmail.com) or Phone: 01262679301 - 07739548733



# Free Condoms & Chlamydia Testing Kits from NetworkPlus Kiosks

**This is a free and confidential service run by Hull and East Riding Sexual and Reproductive Health Care Partnership.**

## What is NetworkPlus?

NetworkPlus is a new kind of condom machine, which lets you get **FREE** condoms, Chlamydia test kits and sexual health information, without queuing.

Before using the machine for the first time, you just need to register\* a few details with a member of staff.

## How to Register

Look out for registration events, or alternatively you will always be able to register at Conifer House, 32-36 Prospect Street, Hull, HU2 8PX.

Once you have registered you will be able to use the machine to access your free services. However if you are under 16 you will need to re-register every 4 months to check everything is ok.

## \*Registration

To register you will be required to provide the Hull and East Riding Sexual and Reproductive Health Care Partnership with the following information:

- Age
- Gender
- First part of your postcode (e.g. HU2)
- Scan of both of your index fingers

The reason we require a scan of both your index fingers is to

enable NetworkPlus software to create you a unique code. The code enables NetworkPlus to know it is only you trying to use it in future.

The advantage of this system is you don't need to remember a PIN or carry a card which can be easily stolen, or lost.

Your code is encrypted and kept securely by the Hull and East Riding Sexual and Reproductive Health Care Partnership. It is impossible to identify you from this code and no one outside the sexual health service, including your GP, will know that you are using NetworkPlus.

## What do I get?

- You will be able to help yourself to three boxes of condoms per week
- Each box contains 3 condoms and 3 lubricants. NetworkPlus will vend one box per 24 hours until you have reached your weekly limit
- You will be able to help yourself to a Chlamydia test kit if you feel you need a test

## How to Use the NetworkPlus

Simply place an index finger on the scanner on the front of the NetworkPlus Kiosk to sign in and then you will be offered condoms and/or a Chlamydia test kit. Use the touch screen to make your choice!

To access information on clinics and sexual health advice there is no need to scan your finger.

## What if I am under 16

If you are under 16 and would like to register for the NetworkPlus you will have to see a Health Professional first. However if you are under 13, you will not be eligible to use NetworkPlus.

Sex with anyone under the age of 13, male or female, is always an offence, punishable by law.

## Where can I find a NetworkPlus?

There is a NetworkPlus on the second floor of Conifer House and various other locations across the city.

Keep a look out for more information about NetworkPlus venue launches

[www.luvhull.co.uk](http://www.luvhull.co.uk) or [www.luveyorks.co.uk](http://www.luveyorks.co.uk)

## Remember!

Enjoy No Worries sex with NetworkPlus.

Condoms can protect you both against many Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI's) including HIV.



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## 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

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