



Claiming our Past Celebrating our Present Creating our Future

LGBT History Month bulletin 60

Welcome to the 60th LGT History Month Bulletin. There are 5 sections:

News: A selection of LGBT related news articles from the past month

Birthdays: a list of LGBT people's birthdays this month: both dead and alive.

Events: a calendar of shows, conferences and meetings

Community: appeals, requests and community based ideas

Quotes: who said what, where and when

News

IDAHO

International Day Against Homophobia this year takes place on Sunday May 17th. There are events all over the world. There are big events in Birmingham, Leeds, Manchester, Birmingham, Newcastle, Hull and most British cities – as well as tons of events in London. To see what is happening where you are go to www.idaho.org.uk We support A Day in Hand; an ongoing event that has a major launch event in London on IDAHO itself. Go to <http://www adayinhand.com/> for more.



Sex education: the facts

Here is a simple fact for everyone; all children learn about sex. Some learn at a very early age and some learn later. A few learn in their teens. But all children learn about sex. Here are some examples as to how they might learn about it.

Some children learn about it from their peers in the playground. They might also learn that: you have to do it before you're 13; you can't get pregnant if you do it standing up; and you don't have to wear a condom if you do it on a Wednesday.

Some children learn about it from the old man who sits next to them in the cinema and touches them in a funny place. I was eight when that happened to me. My dad had already told me what men do to women but that didn't help really.

They could learn it from internet porn in the safety of their own rooms. There, they'll learn that it's a meaningless physical act, condoms are optional and multiple partners are fine.

Some children learn about it from their parent(s) or carers. They will learn as much or as little as their guardians want them to know and will also understand to be true any misinformation that is passed on to them.

Some might learn it from their form tutors on Wednesday during registration: sometimes from a badly photo-copied one-size-fits-all handout because their tutors don't really want to talk about it. (Of course, most teachers and parents want children to be safe and protected. But a few will not and in any case they can't be relied upon to know everything.)

Most will learn about it from a combination of the above. Add sexual orientation into the equation and children may begin to learn all kinds of fiction.

Or...

...children could learn about it from a planned programme of study that is age-appropriate and is delivered in school by professional trainers and appropriately trained teachers.

I know which I think is best.

Should there be an opt-out? No. What kind of parent or religious group would want children to be deprived of sensitively delivered factual information?

Should the ethos of a school allow it to vary and adapt what is taught? No. LGBT children grow up in all religions and backgrounds and they have rights. They should not be excluded or stigmatised; least of all in schools, which are supposed to be safe and healthy places.

Finally, England and Wales have the third highest rate of teenage pregnancies in Europe and STD's are going through the roof. Something must be done.

For the sake of the kids.

Other News

Single Equalities Bill

The long awaited Equality Bill is out for consultation until May 11th. It ties together all equalities legislation and creates eight strands, including Transgender as a separate strand from sex. It includes protection for people who are not strictly transsexual in that they are not seeking medical intervention, but not other groups under the trans umbrella, such as intersex. It is also unclear about trans variant children and their rights.

For young LGBT people, it includes protection against homophobic bullying. For more details go to <http://www.equalities.gov.uk/>

Children in Need Has Good News for GALYIC

GALYIC (Gay and Lesbian Youth in Calderdale) has been successful in its bid to Children in Need for funding for a Crisis Intervention Worker to work with members of who are aged 18 years and below. This is GALYIC's second attempt at funding from the children's charity after an application was turned down two years ago. Founder Jan Bridget said: "we put a lot of hard work into completing a full application which we submitted in January this year and had excellent feedback from the person who assessed our application, so we were optimistic - but until the letter arrives you never know".

FYI Radio Looks at Homophobia in Sport

Queer youth radio FYI has a new programme dealing with homophobia and the lack of queer participants in the sports world. To listen to the podcast, click here;

http://fyiradio.podomatic.com/entry/2009-05-01T04_16_02-07_00

Stonewall LGB Youth Event

Stonewall's annual Youth Event, which this year will take place on Saturday 6 June at London's City Hall. It is open to young people aged 16-25 who are lesbian, gay or bisexual, or think they might be. The event is free and travel expenses will be covered.

The deadline for applications is **Friday 8 May**. If you would like to apply but think you might miss this deadline, please call Chris Gibbons as soon as possible on 020 7593 1862.

International

Homophobia rife in Spanish high schools

One in ten teenagers would 'ask to move desks' if they were seated next to a gay classmate, shock research shows.

A major lesbian and gay society in La Safor, CLGS, says homophobia is heavily present in high schools. Talking to pupils in secondary schools in Gandia, they found that a quarter of gay and lesbian teenagers have either been threatened or assaulted for no other reason than their sexuality. CLGS says that, despite the fact same-sex relationships are now recognised by law on the same footing as mixed-sex unions, 'there is a lot to do' among the young.

Baltic Pride 2009

The LGBT communities of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania will celebrate a combined Pride from May 15th - 17th, finishing on IDAHO (International Day Against Homophobia). This is to increase numbers in the face of opposition and violent reprisals from, among others, No2Pride.com. Meanwhile Moscow Pride will take place on May 16th. This is timed to coincide with The Eurovision Song Contest, also to be hosted in Moscow, so that the Police and the Mayor's hired thugs will have the world's cameras watching them when they beat up the Pride participants. If you do watch the Eurovision song contest, don't forget to watch the international situation too. Ant don't stay up so late that you can't be fresh for IDAHO the day after.

Gay Civil Rights Video

Following the tragic passing of Prop 8 the Gay Civil Rights Movement of the USA has its own video site. Go to <http://thegaycivilrightsmovement.ning.com/>

Lesbian Birthdays

May 3rd- Sandy Toksvig (Born 1958) – *Writer, broadcaster, comedian and commentator*

May 16th - Adrienne Rich (Born 1929) - *America's most widely read lesbian poet*

May 23rd - Lea DeLaria (Born 1958) - *Proudly out lesbian actress, singer, and stand up comedian*

Gay Birthdays

May 1st – Gay Times and Attitude – *25 and 10 y.o. respectively*

May 22nd – Morrissey (Born 1959) – *eternally miserable singer/songwriter from Manchester*

May 22nd – Harvey Milk (1930-1978) – *apparently Sean Penn has campaigned to have this made a special day in California*

Trans birthdays

May 1st – Dr Laurence Michael Dillon (1915-1962) – *female to male transsexual who underwent the UK's first phalloplasty. Oxford Graduate and physician*

Events Calendar

LGBT Pride Calendar



Welcome to Gingerbeer!
The Lesbian Guide to
London
www.gingerbeer.co.uk



Scott Capurro is in Manchester for It's Queer Up North. Starts 12 May. Finishes 25th. www.queerupnorth.com

Regulars

Date	where	when	what
Mon	Nottingham	Eve	PM Badminton Social(weekly) http://www.badmintonsocial.co.uk/
	Croydon Town Hall	7.30pm	Crocus Meeting.
	The Intercom Community Centre in Exeter	7-9pm	Western Girls This group runs on the first Monday of the month and is a safe space for all who have had, in the process of or are considering male to female gender reassignment. This social get together for directions or more info contact westerngirls@hotmail.co.uk
Tues	Cramlington	Eve	LGBT Youth (13-19). Sharon on: 01670 597 865 or Steve at MESMAC on: 0191 233 1333
	Hackney	5.30-9pm	The Green Door LGBTQI Youth Project 07772 565 546
	London Charing Cross Road	9-late	Ruby Tuesday. Regular night out for lesbians and their guests Ku Bar WC2H 7BA
	Greenwich MetroCentre, 110 Norman Rd. Greenwich	6-8pm	Penelope's Pitstop. Drop in advice and testing for women who have sex with women 020 8305 5000
	The Marlborough Clinic, Royal Free Hospital Pond St, Hampstead, NW3 2PF	2-4pm	Over 55's LGBT group (last Tues every month) Jackie 020 8305 5000
		8.30-11.30 (monthly: every last Tuesday)	Sexual Health MOTs for 50+ gay and bi men 020 7830 2847
		7pm-12	Bar Wotever
	Central Station, 37 Wharfdale Rd, Kings Cross, London N1 9SE		
	The Castle, Camberwell Church St S London	7.30pm	Camberwell Gay Book Group. Every third Tuesday Free
	N/A	6pm	(last Tuesday of the month) Out in South London - local LGBT radio show with Rosie W Listen online at www.southcityradio.org
	Bar Baby Love, Oxford	10pm-3am	Poptarts
Wed	The Glass Bar 190 Euston Road NW1 2EF	7.30-9.30	London Lesbian and Bi Women's Group Social & Discussion
	Grand Hall, Battersea Arts Centre (BAC), Lavender Hill, Battersea, SW11	7pm	Wandsworth Lesbian, Gay, Bi-Sexual and Transgender Forum
Thurs	Jolly Farmers Oxford	evening	Dr Who night. Every other Thursday from May 14th

Fri	The Oak Bar, 79 Green Lanes, N16 9BU	9pm-3am	Club Wotever
Sat	Leicester Pink Pedallers Cycling Group		For more information on this event or on the Pink Pedallers Cycling Group, contact Eliza Cycling Development Officer on 0116 229 2582 or email elizabeth.barner@ctc.org.uk .
	Sun and Doves, Coldharbour Lane Camberwell S London	8pm	Performances from 9pm (every Saturday) Queer Complex: queer cabaret and music from Club Wotever and Gay Camberwell. Free
Sun	The Church Of The Assumption & St Gregory, Warwick Street,	5pm	LGBT Catholic Mass (1 st and 3 rd Sundays of the month)
	The Candlestick, Essendon London: East Dulwich	8pm	Gay Night Out in Herts
		3-5pm	South London Lesbian Mums Group triciadurr@hotmail.com for details. Every third Sunday of the month
	The Castle, 65 Church Street Camberwell	4pm	Free film screening with free popcorn
May			
5 T	Hall for Cornwall, Truro	6-8pm	Trustee recruitment and group networking <i>In association with Dorset & Cornwall Standing Council Lead Officers.</i> If you are part of an LGBT group then this event is an opportunity for you to show case your group or service to new people, to attract new members or people who are considering acting as Trustee's and get information out to people who may not have come into contact with your LGBT group or activity before. If you are not part of a group or not sure about what's going on in your area then this event is also definitely for you. With new groups and activities starting up all the time this will be your opportunity to get involved and try something new. There will be refreshments and cake as well as lots of new and exciting things to find out! Call us on 01392 201012 or email on vicky@intercomtrust.org.uk to find out more.
	Hill-Wood Centre 1 Polygon Road Euston NW1 1QH	6-8pm	Older Lesbian Social Group in Camden. Please give Debbie a call for more information on 0207121 3331
6 W	E42 Odhams Walk Off Long Acre (beside Covent Garden Tube) WC2H 9SB	6-9pm	Older Gay Men's Social Drop-in
7 Th			
8 F			
9 Sa	The Drill Hall, Chenies Street, London WC1E 7EX	2.30pm	http://www.drillhall.co.uk/pl321.html

	Durham Students' Union. Dunelm House, Durham. DH1 3AN	TBA	Criminal Justice Board event to promote their work and to develop confidence within the LGBT community that crimes against LGBT people are acted upon. For more information or to book a place, contact JK on 0191 375 2969. Text/Phone: 07785 396 705 Email: jagcoordinator@durham.pnn.police.uk
	Batwillow Meadow, Magdalen College Oxford (follow Addison's Garden)	12 noon	OU LGBT Society "Hippy Picnic". For students at any of the higher education institutions in Oxford. Donate something to the potluck picnic, and we'll provide the punch! There will be cheap drinks with profits going to Oxford Pride
10 Su	The Drill Hall, Chenies Street, London WC1E 7EX	2.30pm	http://www.drillhall.co.uk/pl321.html
11 M	Southwark Town Hall, 35 Peckham Rd, SE5 8UB. Room A3	7-9	Southwark LGBT Network Exec Open meeting: everyone welcome If you are interested in attending, for catering purposes please contact Dax on: dax.ashworth@southwark.gov.uk 020 7525 5659/ 07958 301324 www.southwark-lgbt.org
12 T	Manchester	All day (till 2)	Queer up North Arts Festival http://www.queerupnorth.com/
	Inspire, St. Peter's Church, Liverpool Grove, SE17 2HH	6.30-8.30	Southwark LGBT Forum Open Meeting: Equalities More info @ www.southwark-lgbt.org Free refreshments available from 6.15 For catering purposes please let Dax know if you are attending this meeting On 020 7525 5659/07958301324 dax.ashworth@southwark.gov.uk
	E42 Odhams Walk Off Long Acre (beside Covent Garden Tube) WC2H 9SB	1-4pm	Older Women's Group Women only tour of YMCA with full use of gym
	Henderson Court 102 Fitzjohn's Ave, Hampstead, NW3 6NS (entrance on Prince Arthur Rd)	6-9pm	Older Gay Men's Group Speaker's Night Dr John Dawson "Skeletons in your Closet"
13 W	Quebec Pub, Old Quebec St Marble Arch, (Beside Marble Arch Tube)	Starts 6pm	Quebec Community Safety and Social, followed by Sonny's Quiz Night and fundraiser for the project
14 Th	Notting Hill Extra Care Upstairs Activity Room 60 Penfold St, Westmir NW8 8PG	2-4pm	Mixed Older LGBT Group Social

15 F	Oxford Brookes SU	9pm-2am	Oxford Brookes LGBT Society "The Big Gay Ball", £7.50 A fun filled night to celebrate the year that was 1969 and LGBT History. Event open to Students and guests with donation going to Oxford Pride. Sponsored by frog orange in Headington. Dress Code: 1969 theme (sixties clothing) with PRIZES to be won! facebook for further details
	Venue		
16 Sa	The Drill Hall, Chenies Street, London WC1E 7EX	2.30pm	http://www.drillhall.co.uk/pl321.html
	Blackpool	All day	Pride
	Institute of Education, London	All day	Conference on Faith, Homophobia, Transphobia and Human Rights http://www.lgcm.org.uk/fhthconference2009/
	Monument, Newcastle upon Tyne	12noon	IDAHO Event: Blow the whistle on homophobia
17 Su	Worldwide	All day	IDAHO www.idaho.org.uk
	The Drill Hall, Chenies WC1E 7EX	11 & 2.30	Theodore and Margherita http://www.drillhall.co.uk/pl321.html
	Blackpool	All day	Pride
18 M			
19 T	Oval House Theatre 52-54 Kennington Oval, London SE11 5SW	7.45 (Tues-Sat till June 13 th)	Study for a Portrait by Daniel Reitz. Modern play based on the life and death of Francis Bacon. Winner of TIME OUT Critic's Choice. £12/£6 www.ovalhouse.com
20 W	Gay's The Word Lesbian & Gay Bookshop 66 Marchmont Street London WC1N 1AB	8pm	Mia Farlane reads from her debut novel 'Footnotes to Sex' (Penguin £12.99 pb) - WOMEN ONLY EVENT - Free, with refreshments. Footnotes to Sex is a painfully funny novel about procrastination, double-chocolate biscuits, the importance of commitment and what happens in relationships when the sex isn't happening... www.gaystheword.co.uk
	Vernon Hall, Florfield Road, Hackney E8 1DT	6-8pm	Older Women's Social
21 Th	Hay on Wye	All day (until the 31 st)	Guardian Hay Book Festival. Includes, Sarah Waters, Poet Laureate Carl Ann Duffy and Desmond Tutu www.hayfestival.com
	Town Hall, Oxford	7pm	Pride Volunteers meeting
	Gay's The Word Lesbian & Gay Bookshop 66 Marchmont Street London WC1N 1AB	7pm	Paul Burston reads from his new novel 'The Gay Divorcee' (Little Brown, £11.99 pb) Free, with refreshments Brilliantly funny, heart-warming and brimming with bittersweet observations on life, The Gay Divorcee is a hugely entertaining tale of love, marriage and the lies that happen in between. www.gaystheword.co.uk
	Mesmac. Nelson Street, Newcastle upon Tyne	6pm	Newcastle Lesbian Line AGM. Contact: newcastlelesbianline@hotmail.com with AGM Agenda in the subject line.

22 F			
23 Sa	Birmingham	All day	Pride
24 Su	Birmingham	All day	Pride
25 M	Birmingham	All day	Pride
	North East Wales	N/A	Drop-in Coffee Club www.ginas68@live.co.uk
26 T	Henderson Court 102 Fitzjohn's Ave, Hampstead, NW3 6NS (entrance on Prince Arthur Rd)	6-9pm	Older Gay Men's Film Night: Latter Days. Gay rom-com
27 W			
28 Th	Oval House Theatre 52-54 Kennington Oval, London SE11 5SW	7.45 (Tues-Sat till June 13 th)	Study for a Portrait by Daniel Reitz. Modern play based on the life and death of Francis Bacon. Winner of TIME OUT Critic's Choice. Followed by a discussion: "Is the Gay Play Dead?" with speaker Paul Burston. £12/£6 www.ovalhouse.com
29 F	Oxford Castle		Oxford Pride Launch
30 Sa	Harbertonford Village Hall, near Totnes	7.30- 8.45- workshop. 8.45 – midnight- Stomp	Darn your drainpipes, launder your leg warmers, and get ready for sisters' stomp to go retro with a relaxed, friendly, funky and fun dance night for lesbians and bisexual women. There will also be a fabulous strictly sisters workshop. Dressing up is positively encouraged. £8/£7 Workshop and Stomp, £7/£6 Stomp only. BYO drinks. More information from jojazz@onetel.com
31 Su			
1 M			
2 T			
3 W			
4 Th			
5 F	Oval House Theatre 52-54 Kennington Oval, London SE11 5SW	7.45 (Tues- Sat till June 13 th)	Study for a Portrait by Daniel Reitz. Modern play based on the life and death of Francis Bacon. Winner of TIME OUT Critic's Choice. British Sign Language interpreted and audio described showing. £12/£6 www.ovalhouse.com
6 Sa	Oxford	From 11am	Pride March and Parade. Meet at Ship & Cornmarket Streets. Oxford Pride Parade will take place at midday in central Oxford on Saturday 6th June 2009. Best places to view the Parade are at Bonn Square opposite Westgate and Oxford Castle Market Square.
	London City Hall	All day	Stonewall Youth Event for 16-25 LGB people. Free event with paid travelling expenses. 020 7593 1862 b4 May 8 th
	Oxpens Field (near Ice 1RQ	12-8pm	Oxford Pride Main Event : Oxford Pride Main Event features a village with food, fun-fair and the Pride Bar by Pubs on Paradise plus non-stop live entertainment on the UNISON Stage all day to enjoy!
7 Su			
8 M	London	TBA	Public Rally for Equal Pay Reform Fawcett and Unison are organising a public rally in Parliament to urge the

			Government to strengthen equal pay law reforms. Attend the rally and make your voice heard. To register email kat.banyard@fawcettsociety.org.uk or call 020 7253 2598
9 T	Oval House Theatre	7.45	Study for a Portrait by Daniel Reitz. Modern play based on the life and death of Francis Bacon. Winner of TIME OUT Critic's Choice. Followed by a discussion: "The Artist and the Muse" with speaker Sadie Lee. £12/£6 www.ovalhouse.com
	52-54 Kennington	(Tues-Sat	
	Oval, London	till June	
	SE11 5SW	13th)	
10 W			
11 Th			
12 F			
13 Sa			
14 Su			
15 M			
16 T			
17 W			
18 Th			
19 F			
20 Sa			
21 Su			
22 M			
23 T			
24 W	Centre for Professional Development, Oldham	All day	Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council Challenging Homophobia Conference. 0161 872 6602 for more details
25 Th			
26 F			
27 Sa	The Tereza Joanne Floating Palace and Grounds on the banks of the Thames River in east London	12-12	The third annual Outburst UK Pride Festival with a fireworks display at 9pm. £8/£5 concs. To book www.outburstfestival.org
28 Su			
29 M			
30 T			
1 W			
2 Th	Congress House, London	All day	TUC LGBT Conference
3 F	Congress House, London	All day	TUC LGBT Conference

4 Sa	London	All day	Pride

Community

Missing Child Appeal to LGBT Community



Our son, Andrew Gosden, disappeared from his home in Doncaster on 14th September 2007 and travelled to London. Since this time we have no confirmable evidence that he is alive and well, despite much publicity throughout the UK. We are therefore attempting to raise awareness in communities by asking if there are any new young people to the area, possibly using a different name, possibly giving a plausible story, over this period of time. Although most possible sightings have been in London and the south-east, there have been reports throughout the UK. **We wondered if you might be able to circulate this information within your community?** It is likely that his appearance will have altered: he may have altered his hair and dress style and will now be taller than the 5'3" he was when he left. His reasons for leaving are completely unknown. He is now 15 years old (d.o.b. 10.07.93). **As parents, we have considered the possibility that Andrew felt he was struggling with his sexual identity and felt unable to talk about it. We would not wish to impose any particular views or lifestyle upon him & want only to know he is safe and well and to offer any support we can to him.**

Do you know of anyone new over this period of time that may fit Andrew's description? Images and press articles relating to Andrew's missing status can readily be located by entering his name in any search engine under "web" or "images" and on Youtube.

Any information relating to Andrew's whereabouts please contact Missing People (freephone) 0500 700 700 <http://www.missingpeople.org.uk/>

We have attached a poster you could perhaps pin up on a notice board.

If you require further information from me (Andrews Dad), my email address is kevin.gosden@hotmail.co.uk

We would be most grateful for any assistance you can give as we continue to be deeply concerned for our son's safety and well being. Thank you for any help you can offer.

Free counselling for gay men in London:

Email: counselling@gmipartnership.org.uk

Tel: 020 8305 5002

Web: www.gmipartnership.org.uk

Appeal for contributors:

Dear Friends and Colleagues

Olivia Humphreys is a student filmmaker keen to talk to older lesbian, gay or bi people who have recently 'come out'. Further details are at the end of this email.

If you would be interested in talking to Olivia about your experiences or would simply like to find out more, please contact her direct at the email address or phone number below.

Thanks and all the best

Antony

Antony Smith

National Development and Policy Officer

Older Lesbians, Gay Men and Bisexuals

Age Concern and Help the Aged

1268 London Road

London

SW16 4ER

T 020 8765 7576

Birmingham LGBT Community Trust and LGBT Consortium will be running ongoing fundraising surgeries for voluntary groups with either no funding or funding of less than £10,000 pa

Please contact by reply to book places

Regards

David Viney

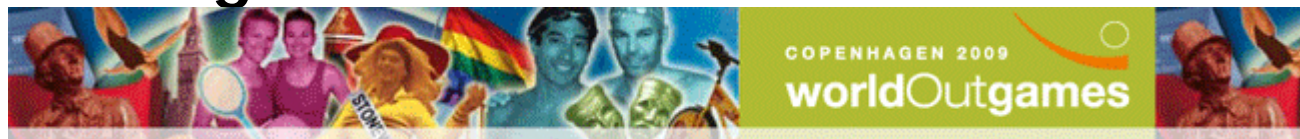
Development Worker

Birmingham LGBT Community Trust

<http://www.blgbt.org>

Tel : 0121 773 0633

Coming Soon



Get ready for Copenhagen 2009!

Brief Encounters

Brief Encounters is a thought-provoking, educative piece of drama about the lives of a group of young lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, queer (LGBTQ) and straight people at school. Accompanying the play is a workshop and a teacher's pack. Gendered Intelligence also delivers Continuing Professional Development (CPD) and ongoing support for teaching staff.

Gendered Intelligence is an organisation working with young people, delivering creative workshops and arts programmes in schools, colleges and other settings to generate discussion and debate around gender and the ways in which it presents challenges in our everyday lives.

This play and workshop is aimed at Year 10 – 13 students and designed to fit into the PSHE national curriculum as it looks at personal issues such as identity and relationships. The play and the workshop aim to:

- Demonstrate respect for differences between people with regard to gender identity and sexual orientation.
- Recognise difference and diversity (for example in culture, lifestyles, gender identity, sexuality or relationships), and demonstrate understanding and empathy towards others who live their lives in different ways. They can assertively challenge prejudice and discrimination (for example that related to gender, race, disability, etc).
- Ensure pupils can discuss relationships, feelings and emotions.

Gendered Intelligence understands the barriers and problems that schools face when trying to tackle homophobia and transphobia. We know it takes time for teachers and pupils to feel confident enough to confront LGBTQ issues. Brief Encounters offers a space to encourage discussion about gender and sexual orientation in a safe and controlled environment.

The play will be available from Monday 29th June until Friday 9th July 2009. We are provisionally offering 10 free places to interested schools. These places however are dependent on funding and the cost of the entire package is £300 to schools who do not gain a free place.

For more information or to book the play and workshop, please contact Jay Stewart on Jay.Stewart@genderedintelligence.co.uk or call 07841 291 277. In addition, we are working in collaboration with Central School of Speech and Drama allowing us to offer pupils further information regarding possible future careers in the arts.

Homophobic and Transphobic Quotes



Already there's been much discussion about whether the delay in appointing Duffy was Tony Blair's nerves about appointing an openly lesbian laureate. Who, apart from the tabloid (sic) headline writers really cares about Ms Duffy's private life?

Much more relevant to her poetry seems to be the fact she's a woman and a mum (her poem A Child's Sleep one of the most tender of its kind).

Pauline McClean dismisses the relevance of the new poet laureate's sexual orientation (BBC News 01-05-09)



Duffy said that Britain had lately "grown up" in its attitude to sexuality. "It is fantastic that I am an openly gay writer [in this role]," she said. She hoped it would demonstrate that homosexuality is "a lovely, ordinary thing".

Charlotte Higgins helps her to celebrate it (The Guardian 02-05-09)



We also used to have a number of state industries – coal and steel – which, for all their faults, made or provided things the nation needed. They've gone. Now we have regiments of condom outreach workers, facilitators and homophobia monitors; all much more expensive than miners - and much less useful.

Peter Hitchens (Mail on Sunday 03-05-09)



The first group was 100 mostly men who had voluntarily come together at Emmanuel Center, London, to give witness to their changing lives. They had come from as far away as Israel, Germany, The Netherlands, Ireland and the U.S. to tell their stories of struggle with same-sex attractions as well as to hear, participate and share their stories in a non-threatening environment.

Dr David Virtue on the volunteers who came to Anglican Mainstream's London Sex in the City Conference to talk about their hatred of their same sex orientation and their road to recovery

(Virtueonline 02-05-09)

Were they all self-loathing? I saw little evidence of that. Most were searching for wholeness. They hated what they were, but more importantly, they wanted to become what God meant for them to be - men, real men who, at a minimum, could live full lives as single men without

jumping into bed with other men and engaging in anal sex, fisting, urinating on each other or bug-chasing. For some men, the desire was greater - to desire a woman, get married, and start a family.

Dr David Virtue later in the same article. He started off okay. Where did it all go wrong?

See you next Month!

LGBT History Month Patrons:

Cyril Nri, actor, director and writer, **Sir Ian McKellen**, actor, **Labi Siffre**, poet, songwriter and singer.