Welcome to the LGBT Forum information bulletin, a place where you can find items of interest for Forum Members.

If you no longer want to receive these bulletins or any other information, please email Jo Holloway, Forum Secretary yorklgbtforum@gmail.com

Normal service has been resumed.

Apologies for the lack of bulletins recently. This is entirely due to York Forum’s secretary being unable to create them due to a number of commitments. Bulletins will usually come out monthly or twice monthly if we have enough information, so please send us anything you would like promoting, signing up to or getting out to York and the surrounding area’s LGBT community.

HLGBT Performing Arts Events

Monroe’s Gillygate & HLGBT Performing Arts will be collaborating every Tuesday & Wednesday between 10.30am – 1pm, from April the 23rd to the 21st of May 2014. Weekly events will run of dance music & exhibitions. Our aim is to bring a wider awareness of the LGBT community by holding works & exhibitions of some of the finest artists. Please come along & support the LGBT community of York.”

People can contact Mei at Mei.Wilshire@Live.co.uk
Cure me I’m gay!

Many of you will have seen the recent documentary featuring Dr Christian Jessen, Undercover Doctor: Cure Me – I’m Gay. If you found this interesting there are a couple of follow up documents for you to read An article by the York Railway Station Chaplain, Dr Stephen Sorby, on York Mix:

http://www.yorkmix.com/life/people/cure-me-im-gay-what-nonsense-we-are-who-we-are/

And there is a link in this article to “Conversion Therapy, a consensus statement“ by a raft of professional organisations in the UK:


At the request of the Department of Health this public information was prepared by the UK Council for Psychotherapy with the support and assistance of the British Psychoanalytic Council, the Royal College of Psychiatrists, the British Association for Counselling and Psychotherapy, the British Psychological Society, The National Counselling Society, Pink Therapy and Stonewall.

Commissioned Policy and Guidance for Trans Community

The Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) has commissioned the Gender Identity Research and Education Society (GIRES) to prepare comprehensive transgender policy and guidance to cover NMC staff and registrants. It will include advice on responding to trans service users.

GIRES is setting up a focus group of trans nurses to contribute to developing the guidance. For more information, please refer to:

http://www.gires.org.uk/medpros.php

Older People sought for Theatre Project

Flying Cloud Theatre is looking for 15 older people to work on an intergenerational project with the youth group at the Theatre Royal.

You can find out more about the Flying Cloud Theatre at www.flyingcloudtheatre.com/vision/. Leandra Ashton, the founder of Flying Cloud, is based in York, with collaborating artists scattered across the globe, many of whom met at RADA.

THE BOOK project is on the themes of “identity, faith, freedom and our common humanity” and Leandra, Jennifer and Marta will be holding 2 workshops with you at the Theatre Royal on 16 and 23 May. See attachments for details. The plan is to have one workshop with the youth group, one with older people, and then bring them together in the 3rd workshop and film. This short film will be shown at the beginning of The Book as they tour with the show starting with performances at the Theatre Royal Studio on 5-7 June.

Please spread the word and contact Charlotte Cunningham on 020 8964 5060 (or 07939 595748), she is the Turtle Arts producer for this show, if you would like to take part or know more.
Give your views on Health Inequality

The Centre for Health Economics are currently working on a project which is looking at public views on health inequality and in doing so are holding two one day Citizen Panel events, one on Saturday 26 April 2014 and the other on Saturday 3 May 2014. They are looking for members of the public to attend these events to give us their views on health inequality.

Both events are being held in the Ron Cooke Hub on Heslington East at the University of York and run from 9.30am - 3.00pm. The centre will provide refreshments throughout the day, lunch and also give each participant a one-off gift payment of £50.00 to thank them for their time. There will be 30 volunteers participating on each day (each participant can only attend one day, not both), and whilst have some people have come forward, there are approximately 20 places which need to be filled.

Further details about the project can be found on the webpage:  
http://www.york.ac.uk/che/research/equity/monitoring/

Celebrate Same Sex marriage

One of the problems same sex couples have when celebrating their marriage is the lack of Mr and Mr, or Mrs and Mrs paraphernalia to buy...a local York maker has now created some signs you can buy for friends or family to celebrate their day.

The signs are hand painted, slightly sanded down for a distressed look vintage maps are used to create the paper hearts or doves that decorate the signs. The price is £12.50 a sign and if you want to buy one contact snugbydesign@yahoo.co.uk.
Before I Die - A Festival for the Living about Dying
12-18 May 2014

The festival is sponsored by the University of York and organized as part of the ‘Dying Matters’ coalition Dying Awareness Week. It is part of a growing social movement to reflect on how we manage death and dying.

Highlights will include

- **An Instinct for Kindness** – a solo-show telling the true story of Chris Larner’s journey to Dignitas, the assisted suicide clinic in Switzerland, with his chronically ill ex-wife (Tuesday 13 May, Upstage Centre Youth Theatre, Monkgate – time probably 7.30 tbc)

- **Dying to Live: Preparing yourself and your loved ones for death** – a talk by the Revd Canon Dr Christopher Collingwood (Chancellor of York Minster) & Rev’d Dr David Efird (Philosophy Dept, UofY) about the spirituality of dying (10am-11am Wednesday 14 May)

- **For Their Own Good** (Untied Artists) - a play which combines beautiful puppetry, new writing and documentary material to tell a moving and darkly comic tale which explores whether the way we kill animals teaches us anything about our own demise (Wednesday 14 May, Friargate Theatre – time probably 7.30 tbc)

- **Music to Die For** – Alison Wray and Chanticleer Singers, with poetry from James Nash (7.30pm Thursday 15 May, National Centre for Early Music)

- **Expert Panel on Advance Decisions** (ADs) for end-of-life planning (5.30-7.30 Friday 16 May followed by drinks and nibbles) – at the University –venue tbc

- **One-to-one ‘clinic’ sessions on writing ADs** from members of the charity *Compassion in Dying* (Saturday 17 May – individual appointments on request – sign up sheet available at the Friday Expert Panel)

- **Real People Theatre presents DEMENTIA & ME** (Saturday 17 May, Melbourne Centre, Escrick Street, Fishergate, 2.30 - 4pm, £3 at the door includes refreshments)

- **Public lectures and workshops** from York academics on topics ranging from violent death in video games to the use of photography to document death and dying (throughout the week –details to follow)

Celia Kitzinger, University of York
celia.kitzinger@york.ac.uk (best contact)
Tel: 01904 434736 (administrator)

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**Dementia Doesn’t Discriminate**

It’s not often that LGBT communities are considered in the devastating illness of dementia. This fantastic new leaflet, attached to the bulletin, provides information and support to LGBT people, their partners and families.

- 1 in 3 people over the age of 65 will develop dementia

- The number of people with dementia will double in the next 40 years

- Older LGB&T people are statistically more likely to live on their own

- Older LGB&T people often worry about ‘coming out’ to service providers so they can find it difficult to access services
OLGA Spring Newsletter

OLGA (The Older Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Trans Association) have recently published their spring newsletter.

Information inside includes an events listing, more information on Alan Turing’s royal pardon, information on the Care Quality Commission and human rights for gay and trans people.

The newsletter is attached with this bulletin.

Call for Trans Groups to contact Chris Grayling re Spousal Veto

The Secretary of State for Justice Chris Grayling, has invited trans groups to write to him with testimony surrounding the spousal veto included in the same-sex marriage legislation for England and Wales. The spousal veto as part of the Marriage (Same Sex Couples) Act, which came into effect on 29 March 2014, means transgender people in England and Wales must obtain written consent from their spouse before being able to get legal recognition of their gender.

Following a meeting with Tory MP Mike Freer, Mr Grayling said he had sympathy for trans people on the issue of the spousal veto, and invited groups representing the trans community to write to him about with their views.

A statement from Mr Freer’s office read: “The Secretary of State for Justice, Chris Grayling, has expressed his sympathy for the issues raised. As part of a wider review of marriage legislation, the Secretary of State has agreed to receive representations from the trans community on the issue of the Spousal Veto. Groups representing the community should make their views known.”

York Healthwatch need your views

York Healthwatch are currently consulting on health priorities for the next year. This is your chance to get LGBT issues on the health agenda. Please complete the survey below, and in the other box for priorities make sure you list the key issues you feel need addressing with health issues for the LGBT Community.

The closing date for the return of completed surveys is May 30th.

https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/FJ3QK8L

If you have any issues with health providers, you can ask Healthwatch to take these up. Please have a look at the attached issue referral form.