

Welcome!

Summer Edition

Welcome to your Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGB&T) newsletter. We hope to be able to keep everyone in touch with housing news and views and also what's going in the wider LGB&T community. Best wishes, *Sandy Grundy*, enGAYge coordinator.

What have enGAYge been up to?

Once again its been a busy 4 months for enGAYge and the LGB&T community. Pride took place in June along with a whole raft of lead up charity events and post event parties. We've had a guest speaker from Leisure Services with news about the Summers sports actives and healthy eating programme. IDAHO day (International Day Against Homophobia) was celebrated on 17th May. Recent Transgender awareness training has enabled your coordinator Sandy to have a greater appreciation of our Transgender community and hopefully be able to provide greater support.

Proud to be at Pride

Most people will agree that this years Pride event on North Pier was a resounding success. Due to the Prom being closed the usual Parade turned into a Pride March through the town centre. I am proud to say enGAYge played an active roll both walking the March and sharing a stall with some of our BCH staff to help promote both BCH and enGAYge as an LGB&T friendly housing provider. This years guest list was no less impressive with Sinitta and Toyah heading the line up.



One of enGAYge's founder members and regular attendees James Jason said: "Pride is a great opportunity to celebrate Blackpool's diverse cultures and also to show that BCH engages with all its customers regardless of race, religion, sexual orientation. It was a wonderful day and I enjoyed working alongside BCH staff to help promote our stall and give out information on both housing and our enGAYge group."

It was good to see many other local businesses and voluntary groups on the day both supporting the event and advertising their services. As you can see from our pictures, everyone had a great time!



Want to Contact enGAYge? Here's how...

Phone: Sandy Grundy 477911

Email: sandy.grundy@bch.co.uk

Write to: enGAYge c/o Sandy Grundy

BCH, Coastal House, 17—19

Abingdon Street, Blackpool. FY1 1DG

Don't forget ...enGAYge meet on the 2nd Tuesday of each month 5.30pm at SHIVER Offices 102 Dickson Road.

3rd Party Reporting does work



In the last few months BCH has been able to help several of our LGB&T customers with neighbour complaints which I am happy to report these have been resolved swiftly and sensitively. It's good to know that enGAYge and the LGB&T information we put out in the community has helped to give people confidence to report issues rather than just suffering in silence.



Blue is the colour!



Blackpool Police understand that not everyone is always happy to speak to them. If you would like to report an incident which you feel is a HATE crime or just want to talk over an issue which you're not sure should be reported to the Police why not give the Blue Phone a bell? The phone is operated by an LGB&T volunteer who has received Police support training. He will be able to advise you if your query should be reported to the Police and also give you contact information for different support organisations.

All call are treated as confidential.

Contact the Blue Phone on: 07940979610

Body Positive

Based at 23 South King Street.
Open office hours. Or contact their
24hr helpline: 01253 292803



SHIVER & Renaissance Support

Blackpool has two well established and attended Trans support groups; Transinclusion M/F and Lancashire Lads F/M. Meetings are held at the SHIVER Offices on Dickson Road are very informal and extremely welcoming and supportive. Lancashire Lads meet on the 2nd Tuesday monthly at 7.00pm. Transinclusion meet the 3rd Tuesday monthly at 7.00pm. There is also a Trans community social evening the second and last Tuesday monthly at the Gynway Hotel on Dickson Road called "Renaissance" where all Trans community members are welcomed. Also in association with the Richmond Fellowship Shiver run the Freedom group every Monday 12.00-2.00 for both Trans male and Trans female community members to meet, chat and relax. For more information on Trans support contact Andy Thompson on 01253 311 431 or Mobile: 07875 355



Events with BCH



Out and About ... Rents Surgeries

Don't forget that if you need any Rents advice your local Rents Team hold weekly surgeries at each Housing Office.

Tuesday at Grange Park, Wednesday at Mereside, Thursday at Queens Park.

Service Improvement Panels

BCH provides a wide range of panels for our customers to get involved in. These Panels directly influence the different housing services everyone receives. If you would like to join any of our Panels or for more details please contact Sandy on 477911

BCH believes in access for all. To ensure the services provided by BCH are accessible, information can be made available in a variety of formats and languages. For more information please contact your Customer Involvement and Projects Team on 477911.

Useful Contacts

Police (volunteer) Blue Phone: 07940979610
P.C. Julie Hall Diversity Officer: 604244
Broken Rainbow: 03009995428
S.H.I.V.E.R: 311431
Blackpool Council Customer First: 477477
Citizens Advice Bureau: 308400
BCH repairs hotline: 08000730184
BCH Grange Park Housing Office: 477969
BCH Mereside Housing Office: 477968
BCH Queens Park Housing Office: 477971
BCH Head Office: 477900
BCH Rents Team: 477942
BCH Customer Involvement: 477911
BCH Anti-Social Behaviour Team: 477968

What's on when?

Blackpool has one of the UK's largest LGBT populations so there's often local events taking place. Here are a few of the regular ones.

- LGBT PACT (Police and communities together) 1st Thursday of each month 6.30pm. Call 604244 for next venue.

- LGBT Forum 2nd Thursday of each month 6.30pm Town Hall.

- SHIVER offices at 102 Dickson Road has a wide variety of support groups on each week. Call Andy Thompson on 311431.

- enGAYge 2nd Tuesday of each month 5.30pm SHIVER office 102 Dickson Road. Call Sandy Grundy on 477911.