



*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 O'Grady*, enGAYge coordinator.



## What have enGAYge been up to?

Its been a very quiet couple of months for enGAYge. Most of us have been preparing for 1st December and remembering family/friends and loved one who are or have been affected in some way by AIDS.

Of course the next seasonal calendar event is Christmas. On behalf of everyone at BCH I would like to wish you all a merry Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

## Stepping Stones

Getting through the pain of bereavement can be like trying to walk through boggy ground where progress is slow and you keep sinking. The first year following a loss of someone close can be overwhelming. Sometimes offloading feelings in a safe environment is easier than coping alone and can reduce the feeling that you are 'going mad' or 'not coping'.

**Stepping Stone Listeners** offers support in a confidential group environment. They work in conjunction with Trinity Hospice bereavement services.

**Stepping Stones LGBT Group** supports primarily but not exclusively LGBT community members.

The groups meet on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month 7.15pm—8.30pm at Renaissance 102 Dickson Road. Call Matt

07753 265506 or Nina 0798 9393232 for a further confidential chat.



## World Aids day 1st December?



This year Blackpool as always has helped to raise awareness of AIDS. The day's highlight was a wonderful evening event hosted at the Winter Gardens. So a huge thank you to Andy Thompson for organising a fabulous event. Numerous local businesses throughout Blackpool along with the Council and BCH helped to highlight the cause. It was good to see so many people out and about in town wearing their red ribbons with pride.

### So why a Red Ribbon?

In 1991 a group of local New York artists gathered together to discuss a new project that would raise awareness of HIV in the city. They wanted to come up with a simple idea that would be both instantaneously recognisable and stand the test of time without aging. They came up with the Red Ribbon after being inspired by the yellow ribbons which forces families tied round trees when they came home from war. They were easy to make and cheap to produce but enabled people to show their sympathy for HIV sufferers throughout the world.

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

Phone: Sandy O'Grady 477911  
Email: sandy.ogrady@bch.co.uk  
Write to: enGAYge c/o Sandy O'Grady  
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.

### Seasonal Office Opening Hours

BCH offices will be closed on Monday 26th Dec and Tuesday 27th Dec re-opening Wednesday 28th Dec. New Year closed on Mon 2nd Jan open on Tues 3rd Jan and rest of week normal business hours.

## Is it a fair trade? Ask trading standards

Whether it's pre-shopping advice, help dealing with a shop or someone to report a rogue trader to, the Trading Standards Advice team is here to help. They offer free expert advice to help you deal with situations confidently, or step in to resolve disputes where you have been treated unfairly.

They would also like to know if you have been targeted by a door to door salesman – as you may know, Blackpool is a No Cold Calling Zone and the team take a tough line on firms who ignore No Cold Calling Stickers. Similarly, if you have received a letter or a phone call and are unsure whether or not it is a scam, we would be delighted to hear from you.

You may also be interested to know that Trading Standards have their own list of approved traders – for any jobs you may need doing – large or small. To obtain a copy of our Safe and Secure Directory, or to report a rogue trader or seek advice, please don't hesitate to contact their advice team on 478375.



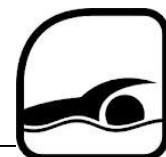
## Liberty Church

meets at 6.30pm on Sundays (except for the Sunday of the month) at North Shore Methodist Church, Dickson Road. The Majority of members are LGBT they are inclusive and welcome all. They hold ceremonies of blessing for Civil Partnership. Please contact Nina on 07955597771 or website [libertychurchblackpool.org.uk](http://libertychurchblackpool.org.uk)

An Inclusive Church for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgendered People and All who affirm them.



Richmond Fellowship have supported the transgender community to secure exclusive swimming sessions at one of Blackpool Council's leisure centres; one hour per month for 18 months. The pool will be closed to the general public for the session and will be privately hired. The first session will be on 15/01/12 and then every third Sunday of the month. The aims of the sessions are to help members of the Trans community gain confidence in a supportive setting and promote health and wellbeing. Please contact Darren Bee on 780952 or Andy Thompson on 311431 for more details.



## Think Responsible and Drink Responsible!

This time of year is a fabulous time to celebrate with family and friend BUT don't forget if you are driving the next day that you could STILL be over the legal limit. Don't take any chances, get a lift or a taxi for your following mornings journey. Its not worth ruining your Christmas and someone else's.

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.
- Renaissance 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 Renaissance office 102 Dickson Road. Call Sandy O'Grady on 477911.