



Autum 2009 Newsletter

Rebrand

For the past 14 years South Staffordshire Mesmen Project have been providing services to the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Trans communities and in recent years have also been delivering services to the wider community. The re branding to Staffordshire Buddies Health Promotion Team goes some way to reflect this change. A Launch Event will be taking place on Wednesday 7th October at the Lichfield centre of Staffordshire Buddies 11am - 3pm. *Light refreshments will be provided.*

OUTPOST

NEW Fortnightly **Drop in & Social**, where you can hang out and get together with other people, or just chill. Family & friends welcome. The first **OUTPOST** will be on Thursday 22nd October 7pm to 9pm. It is planned that this will be a cheese and wine evening.

Proms In The Park Picnic

Meet us below the pink union flag was the rallying cry; so amongst the hundreds of people who descended on Beacon Park, in the City of Lichfield for the annual Proms in the Park on Saturday 5th September, were a proud group of 26 gay men.

The flag was hoisted in the centre of the park and was the meeting point for the pink presence at the proms. Picnic tables and chairs were erected and blankets spread on the ground for a spot of al fresco dining and celebrations.

The Proms began at 7.30pm with a varied programme of popular classical music and songs from hit shows performed by the British Police Symphony Orchestra, Bella Musica and the Lichfield Operatic Society and concluded with a rousing sing-along to Rule Britannia, Jerusalem and Pomp and Circumstance march No. 1 accompanied by a spectacular fireworks display.

An enjoyable evening was had by all and plans are already underway for a bigger and better pink presence at next years Proms in the Park (we want a marquee with candelabras and silverware).

The event was organised in conjunction with the LGBT social networking website

www.outeverwhere.com





World Aids Day 2009

A Coffee morning at



North Lichfield Initiative is currently being organised to take place on 30th November. We need **GIFTS** donating for the **TOMBOLA** stall. So if you have anything you would like to donate please contact Alan at the Lichfield Office or Sarah at the Hanley Office, or just take them along to either offices. All funds raised will be going to Staffordshire Buddies.

FOCUS GROUPS

We are currently looking for people to get involved in our FOCUS Groups. This is where you can have your say about campaign & service developments.



Your opinion and choices are important, so get involved. Contact Alan at sexwise@staffordshirebuddies.co.uk

Tel:01543 411413

VOLUNTEERING

There are many & varied Volunteering opportunities at Staffordshire Buddies.

We could not do all the good work that we do without the help of our dedicated team of volunteers. If you want to help us make a difference please get in touch to find out more about becoming a volunteer

Health Promotion Team Services

Support Groups:

OUTPOST DROP IN SOCIAL

meets **every other Thursday** between **7pm to 9pm** at

9A Wiltell Lodge
Upper St. John's Street
Lichfield
Staffordshire
WS14 9ET
Tel: 01543 411413

SPACE LGBT Youth Group

Meets **Wednesdays** at The CHILL OUT
Burton College, Burton-on-Trent.
3:30pm - 6:00pm during term time.

Staffordshire LGBT Youth Forum

Meets Bi Monthly at various Youth Centres around Staffordshire.

For information about any of the youth services Contact Alan for details on 01543 419002 or 07779132018

Email: youth@mesmen.co.uk

Stoke Pride



On Saturday 8th August, Staffordshire Buddies Health Promotion Team had a successful day at Stoke Pride 2009. Seven staff members and seven volunteers working at the prominently positioned health promotion information stall throughout the day. Thanks to the loan of the inflatable condom suit from Pasante Healthcare which proved to be so popular with the hundreds of people wanting photos with the condom suit and accessing over 1000 free condoms.



Staffordshire Buddies Information Stall

Printed resources and information was also so popular that at the end of the day there were hardly any resources left and lollipops that we gave away had all gone by mid afternoon.



**Deputy Mayor Of Stoke & Scott,
Health Promotion Manager**

The deputy mayor of Stoke on Trent was impressed with the work of Staffordshire Buddies in educating people around safer sex and raising awareness of HIV particularly with young people on the day.



Staff & Volunteers relaxing

The team was so impressed with the event and look forward to Stoke Pride 2010.



Staffordshire Buddies Chairman

HIV Services

Drop in Times Lichfield

Fortnightly from Thursday 17th
September
3.00 pm - 7.00 pm

*Complementary therapy sessions must
be booked in advance*

Tel: 01543 418770

Contact

For further information about
any of our services, social
groups or events please contact

Health Promotion Team

PO Box 3919

Lichfield

Staffordshire

WS14 9ET

Tel/Fax: 01543 411413

email:

sexwise@staffordshirebuddies.co.uk

Web site:

www.staffordshirebuddies.co.uk



**Staffordshire
Buddies**

Health Promotion Team

Part of Staffordshire Buddies

Reg. Charity No: 1047375

Staffordshire Buddies HANLEY

Staffordshire Buddies

PO Box 474

Hanley

Stoke-on-Trent

Staffordshire

ST1 3HX

Tel: 01782 201251

Fax: 01782 201264

Sexual Health Clinics

Stafford-District General Hospital

01785 230 260

Cannock

01543 572 757

Burton-District Hospital

01283 593 212

Tamworth and Lichfield

01827 263 810

Stoke

01782 554 205

Birmingham-Whittall Street

0121 237 5700

We work on the principle that an informed, empowered and happy LGBT community is a big step forward towards a healthier community.

Newsletter compiled by Staffordshire Buddies Health Promotion Team with contributions from Steve Lomax.

If you would like to contribute to future editions of the newsletter or would like to submit an article, story with local interest, events that are happening etc. Just get in touch; we will be glad to hear from you.