



LGBT Staff Newsletter

WELCOME !

Welcome to the latest LGBT Staff Update. There has been plenty happening since the last newsletter and there's plenty going on over the coming weeks!

Since the last newsletter we've run a couple of well-attended events. As always, ideas for future events are welcome. The Stonewell application process is well underway and you'll be able to read more about it overleaf.

Finally, it's that time of year again when the city celebrates Manchester Pride. Our involvement in previous years has been quite minimal, but this year we're hoping to take the first steps to becoming more involved in this important event for the city and the LGBT community.



Happy Birthday to us!! This issue marks over 12 months since the first newsletter came out and we have a new look! As ever, contributions are welcomed from across the University to ensure that it remains diverse and relevant to all LGBT staff at the University. Contact us and get involved!

Pride 2011

Thanks to everyone's input and ideas we're hoping to have more of a presence at this year's Pride celebrations. We had initially offered use of meeting space in the North campus Buildings, but it seems the organisers are sorted as far as venues are concerned. Therefore, the group thought it would be good to show our support in other ways. As a start we will be:

- * Having a small stand at the Whitworth Street Entrance to Sackville Street Building
- * Flying the Rainbow Flag on Sackville Street Building
- * Displaying a banner showing The University of Manchester's support for Pride 2011

We therefore need people to staff the stand on Saturday 27 August from 1pm—3pm. We hope to just have flyers/newsletters and details of how Manchester University is a 'gay friendly employer'. If there are enough people then it should only mean a 20 minute stint per person, unless you want to stay longer. The position of the stand will be at the end of the parade and so hopefully we'll have plenty of visitors.

Of course there are many other events in and around campus in the week leading up to Pride. Here are just a couple advised by our group members:

The Martin Harris Centre has a number of events from 22nd—26th August. A full timetable can be seen here:

www.arts.manchester.ac.uk/martinharriscentre/mhceventsmoonth.php

The Cornerhouse are also showing a number of films that may be of interest:

www.cornerhouse.org

There are also a number of Fringe events. Full details can be seen on the page here: www.manchesterpride.com/whatson/fringe

Survey 2011

Thank you to everyone who completed the survey circulated by Geoff. The feedback and suggestions have been discussed and the majority were agreed to be implemented.

Geoff has circulated a new survey to all members. Everyone is encouraged to complete the survey and offer feedback. The link to the survey is:

<http://www.survey.ls.manchester.ac.uk/TakeSurvey.aspx?SurveyID=94516p4>

A final survey will be circulated to all staff after approval from internal communications and the findings will be used as a basis for our October network group meeting.

In the meantime, any further information can be obtained from Geoff:

geoff.blunt@manchester.ac.uk

May Talk

Dr Andy Kesson from the University of Kent gave an entertainingly alternative view of literature in Shakespeare's time, and how the most popular (and successful) author of the age, John Lyly, has been gradually whitewashed out of literary history, in favour of the 'more masculine' Shakespeare, who often adapted Lyly plots for his own work. Andy's fascinating talk showed how Lyly's ornate, witty, and occasionally sexually ambiguous style, which reflected society at the time, fell prey to a culture of authorial machismo and historical revisionism.

Stonewall Project Group

We're well underway with our application to be in the 'Stonewall Top 100 Employer Index' and becoming a 'Stonewall Diversity Champion' in 2012 - these are both recognised accolades and should help raise the profile of the LGB community at Manchester University. We'll be holding a meeting on Tuesday 30th August to go through the survey. Venue details will be circulated via e-mail.

For more information on the project, please contact Daniel: daniel.taylor@manchester.ac.uk

Family-Friendly Policies

Did you know that the University's policies apply equally to LGBT staff and parents? Established policies include:

- Maternity / Paternity and Adoption Leave
- Flexible working Policy
- Parental Leave

These policies also reflect legislative changes that took place from 3 April 2011 that allows members of staff to share leave with their partners. For further information see:

www.staffnet.manchester.ac.uk/employment/policies-and-procedures/

Forthcoming Events

FILM: Following an enjoyable screening of 'The Laramie Project' in May, it has been decided to continue with an LGBT Film Night. The next screening will be in October on the University campus and suggestions for films that will appeal to the group are welcomed.



BOOK: The next meeting of the book group will be **Thursday 6 October 2011** in Kro Bar (opposite the Student's Union) from 5pm. The meetings are very informal and a great opportunity to meet other network members over a glass (or two) of wine. The chosen book is "Middlesex" by Jeffrey Eugenides, a Pulitzer Prize-winning novel that has warranted international acclaim. Why not pick up the book for your holidays and join us in October to discuss and share your thoughts? Email: Stephen.Johnston@manchester.ac.uk

WALK: The monthly walks continue to different spots around the North West (and slightly beyond!). The next planned walk will be on Sunday 7th August—it's approximately 10 miles starting in Chapel-en-le-Frith and ending in the picturesque town of Buxton.

To find out more details or to join the walker's mailing list then please contact:

Richard.Savage5555@yahoo.co.uk or
James.St-Andre@manchester.ac.uk

SOCIAL: The group is planning a pre-Pride get together on the week commencing 15 August. Suggestions for a suitable venue or event are welcome!

Mentoring

One of the aims of the LGBT Staff Network Group is to act as a support forum. All members have the opportunity to receive some expert and confidential advice/guidance/mentoring from a fellow staff member. If you feel you'd benefit from a chat about anything (career, identity, LGBT issues at work...) then please drop an email to: lg.bt@manchester.ac.uk and your mail will be forwarded to a dedicated advisor.

In addition, if you feel you have the skills to offer any of the above services (or something else!) to fellow staff members then please get in touch.

THE NEXT MEETING

...will take place in October and we're hoping to have a representative from Senior Management present. We will hopefully have useful data from the staff survey for discussion as well as the opportunity to raise wider LGBT issues at the University.

Time/venue details will be circulated via mailing list.

"What can the Network do for me?!"

The primary purpose of the network group is to support and promote LGBT staff at The University of Manchester.

In addition to regular events, meetings and involvement with external projects we also aim to have an input on University policies and procedures. If there is anything you feel the Network could do more of or get involved in then let us know!

For general enquiries or to be added to the **confidential** mailing list please email: lg.bt@manchester.ac.uk or for Equality and Diversity Issues:

Paul.Marks-Jones@manchester.ac.uk

