

LGBT Staff Update

ISSUE 4

MARCH 2011

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Book and Film Group

The group needs book and film suggestions to re-launch this month! As the iViva! Spanish and Latin American Film Festival is currently on at the Cornerhouse then this might be an ideal opportunity to view our first film. Send recommendations to Stephen Johnston or via the Facebook page. The first book title suggested will also be our April read!

Walk

March's walk will be a stroll around the grounds of Yorkshire Sculpture park—
www.yssp.co.uk.

We will be getting to the park by car, leaving at 10am from the city centre (place to be confirmed) aiming to be back in Manchester by 5pm. The entrance fee is £4 per car, so non-drivers should expect to be chipping in £5-10 to cover that fee and petrol. To find out more information please contact:

Richard.savage5555@yahoo.co.uk

Next meeting

The next Network Group Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 5th April. Venue details will be circulated via the mailing list, but please make a note.

Next Event

What would you like to see as our next group event? Or are you organizing an event you'd like to promote to our members? Remember there are over 150 people in our network group and the number is increasing all the time.



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!

You can read all about the activities that took place during LGBT History Month below. Thank you to everyone who participated and made the events a big success.

The University of Manchester also won two awards from the Pink Paper—'Best University College or School' and 'Best University LGBT Group' - you can see all winners using this link: www.pinkpaper.com/winners

As always any articles, news or events for the newsletter can be submitted using the contact details below.

LGBT History Month

There were a number of events which took place throughout February and it was great to see so many network members participating. Below is just a short review (and contact details where necessary) of the various events. If you have any ideas for 2012 then please put these forward to the group.

Volunteering—We were lucky to have a representative from the George House Trust to come along and talk about how network group members can volunteer for this local charity. Volunteering is a valuable way to support local groups and charities and fits in ideally with Goal 3 (Social Responsibility) of the University's 2015 agenda. If you weren't able to attend the session, you can e-mail Laura Hamilton directly on laura@ght.org.uk or visit the website—www.ght.org.uk

Walk—Once again the LGBT Historical walk proved very popular. There was a different route this year taking in much of Manchester's rich LGBT history and culture. This was followed by social drinks at Taurus Bar. If you would like to do the walk with a tour guide, then it can be booked here: www.visitmanchester.com

LGBT Refugees— the final event of the month was certainly very interesting and sparked a lot of debate. We learned first hand about different experiences of LGBT Refugees and the struggles they have faced fleeing their home countries and then seeking asylum in the UK. It was certainly a very thought provoking session. You can read the blog of Paul Canning using this link: www.madikazemi.blogspot.com

Theatre Reviews—Network Group member Peter Jacobs has reviewed a couple of the shows at the contact theatre (discounts were offered to network group members as part of History Month):
www.thepublicreviews.com/peter-grist-and-company-%E2%80%93-contact-theatre-manchester/
www.thepublicreviews.com/eat-your-heart-out-%E2%80%93-contact-theatre-manchester-2/

NEW NAME!

Many discussions have happened over a new name for the group yet we're still waiting for the ideas to come flooding in!

If you can think of something more snappy than 'The University of Manchester's LGBT Staff Network Group' then please get in contact.

The chosen name will win £20 in Cornerhouse Vouchers

YOUR NETWORK NEEDS YOU !!

Facebook Group The LGB Staff Network now has a Facebook page. It is a private group solely for members of the Network and we would encourage people to join to try and increase interaction with other members of staff and hopefully drive the group forward. Email: lg.bt@manchester.ac.uk for the link. Or you can search 'Manchester LGBT Staff Network Group' on Facebook and request to join.

Contacts: For general enquiries or to be added to the mailing list: lg.bt@manchester.ac.uk
For Equality and Diversity issues: Paul.Marks-Jones@manchester.ac.uk
For the book club: Stephen.Johnston@manchester.ac.uk



Equality and Diversity Forum

The latest Equality and Diversity Forum took place on 28 January. There were representatives from each of the network groups in addition to trade union reps, the Registrar and Secretary, Deputy President and Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Heads of Directorates and the Associate VP for Equality and Diversity chaired the forum.

Key items on the agenda included an update on the Equality Act 2010, an annual review of the University's Single Equality Scheme, feedback on disabled staff and student survey and a review on the Dignity at Work and Study Policy.

On the whole, it seems to be the case that LGBT staff at the University have very few concerns (or are at least not raising any concerns) however there are a few action points that the group can take away to work on.

Firstly, there is an obvious need to have a wider presence - both on the web and by other methods to try and engage with non-email using staff and those who do not work on the main campus. There is also more work that could be done around engaging with other network groups, the wider University, the local community and encouraging membership from BME and disabled staff. It is also important to remember that the University has zero-tolerance of discriminatory, bullying or harassment behaviour and anyone who has been subjected to, or witnessed any form of this behaviour is urged to contact either a Harassment Advisor, the Equality and Diversity team or Human Resources.

The next E&D Forum is not until November however if anyone has any suggestions, recommendations or concerns then please contact Stephen.Johnston@manchester.ac.uk - all communication will be treated with the strictest confidence.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Pride

We need members to set up a working group for Pride 2011! We know that the University should have a presence, but what it is yet, we do not know! So—if you're interested in being part of the group please contact lg.bt@manchester.ac.uk

Newsletter

Can you distribute some of our newsletters? If so, please send a mail to:

paul.marks-jones@manchester.ac.uk

and some will be dispatched to you!

Wellbeing Week

This year Wellbeing Week takes place 28th March—1st April.

There are plenty of activities for everyone to be involved in. So join in—why not organise sponsorship for one of the events?

Message to Network

Members

Following the Equality and Diversity Forum, The Revd Dr Terry Biddington (University Anglican Chaplain) has sent a message to the group. To view this message, please see the network group web page via the Equality and Diversity website.



Stonewall Project Group

We're currently looking into having a place in the 'Stonewall Top 100 Employer Index' and becoming a 'Stonewall Diversity Champion' in 2011 - these are both recognised accolades and should help raise the profile of the LGB community at Manchester University. The group has now met on a couple of occasions and has formulated a plan to submit an application before September. There are a few things we need to achieve before then - one of which is completion of a survey. This will be sent to you in due course and we ask that as many of you as possible complete this. For more information on the project, please contact Daniel: daniel.taylor@manchester.ac.uk

Just Like Marriage Research Project

Same Sex Marriage: Before and After.

This one day conference will take place from 9.45 at the Manchester Museum on the 25th March 2011.

This one day conference invites speakers from around the UK to talk about same sex marriages from a variety of angles.

This conference is free but those wishing to attend must register by emailing Lisa Jenkins on lisa.jenkins@manchester.ac.uk.

Places are limited due to space and will be allocated on a first come, first served basis.

More information on the project and research can be found at The Morgan Centre for the Study of Relationships and Personal Life:

www.manchester.ac.uk/morgancentre

Mentoring

The benefits of the LGB group keep growing thanks to your input. Now you have the possibility to receive some expert and confidential advice/guidance/mentoring from a fellow staff member.

So if you feel you'd benefit from a chat about anything—career, identity, LGB issues at work or anything else then drop a mail to lg.bt@manchester.ac.uk and your mail will be forwarded to our dedicated advisor.



Contributions

Do you know of an event that's happening that might interest the network group? Or maybe you are organising something yourself. Anything you feel might be of interest can go into the newsletter!

We're aiming to publish 4 letters per year—so all contributions (whatever they may be) are welcomed. Just send your text to one of the addresses below and your words will appear in print!

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