



birmingham lgbt

Annual Report

2011/2012

CHAIRS REPORT

This report covers the period from 1st July 2011 to 31st March 2012.

As you will see throughout the rest of this Annual Report, the past year has been one of incredible growth, stabilisation and development for Birmingham LGBT.

The restructuring of our staff to create a Director post has been a fundamental and significant step forward, enabling our organisation to have the strong leadership and focus it both needs and deserves.

Our success in attracting funding for a new LGBT Health and Wellbeing Centre has also been incredibly significant and I can speak on behalf of the entire Board in saying that we are thrilled to be able to utilise this new space as a catalyst for further community engagement and support for our LGBT Sector.

I would like to pay tribute to my fellow Board Members, who continue to remain engaged and passionate about Birmingham LGBT and the wider LGBT community, and who provide their time, skills and passion on a voluntary basis. Over the course of this year we have further tightened and strengthened our governance, and our sub committees are now running strongly and efficiently.

I would also, on behalf of the Board, like to thank Steph Keeble, our Director, for her continued efforts and incredible hard work in leading and developing Birmingham LGBT, and to Dave Viney, our Health and Wellbeing Manager, who has worked alongside Steph and who has managed the Health and Wellbeing Centre project with such skill. A warm welcome and huge thanks also to Jason Millard, Richard Barrie and our growing Team and all our volunteers.

The year ahead is going to be a busy one for Birmingham LGBT, with a focus on consolidating the projects and programmes that have been developed during the previous year, in expanding the services offered to our local LGBT community, and in maintaining, developing and profiling the needs of Birmingham's LGBT Sector across the city.

Matt Daniels
Chair, Birmingham LGBT Community Trust



Our Vision is a vibrant, diverse lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans community in Birmingham in which individuals can realise their full potential and have equal access to all the city has to offer.



DIRECTORS REPORT

It has been an amazing year for Birmingham LGBT (and for me personally).

I was appointed as the Director of Birmingham LGBT and began the new role in October following two years as the Strategic Development worker. A lot has happened at Birmingham LGBT and the last twelve months have been a period of continued growth and expansion. The team has grown with the appointment of a Health and Wellbeing Manager (David Viney) a Shout coordinator (currently recruiting) a Volunteer Coordinator (Jason Millard) and a schools development worker (Rich Barrie) which enables us to offer more services to the LGBT community in Birmingham.

We have formed a number of new partnerships including being a Partner in the Transforming Local Infrastructure Consortia and a member of the national TRUST partnership a consortia looking at national LGBT services. Birmingham LGBT has also been working closely with Public health and a number of other partners to develop an LGBT health and wellbeing strategy for the city and LGBT health awareness posters for General Practitioners. Birmingham LGBT continues to work with key stakeholders locally, regionally and nationally.

We have had another successful year in relation to fundraising and received a grant from Lloyds TSB to appoint a Volunteer Coordinator our volunteering programme will be launched shortly. We were also successful in securing a capital investment from Birmingham city council to refurbish the Health and Wellbeing Centre and a grant from Barrow Cadbury to deliver a series of training days aimed at building community resilience. We also received a very generous donation from the Birmingham Pride Ball which will continue to support our work with the community forum thank you to everyone who donated and voted for Birmingham LGBT as the charity of achievement for the fourth year running.

We have successfully completed on a lease for the New LGBT Health and Wellbeing centre and refurbishment is due to start very soon this will be a major development for the LGBT community in the city and a big first for Birmingham as it is the first LGBT Health and Wellbeing centre in England and Wales, we hope to be open by the end of the year exciting times. I would like to take this opportunity to say a big thank you to the staff and volunteers who are part of the team at Birmingham LGBT I feel honoured and privileged to work with such a passionate hard working dedicated group of people, I would also like to say thank you to all our funders, donors and stakeholders for continuing to support the aims of Birmingham LGBT and finally I would like to thank Birmingham's Diverse LGBT communities who are at the heart of Birmingham LGBTs mission and purpose I am very Proud to be a member of the community here in Birmingham and very Proud to be the Director of Birmingham LGBT looking forward to an exciting year ahead.

Steph Keeble, Director

"What a year – Shout, the Rhino, Community Area at Pride, Health & Wellbeing Centre to name but a few. What a team – thank you so much for all your hard and inspired work and for your help, advice and support - we couldn't want for more." Paddy Broughton - Pink Souwesters and Pink Pedals

STAFF UPDATES

This year I have continued to work on various projects, the main one being the project management of the new LGBT Health & Wellbeing Centre.

LGBT HEALTH & WELLBEING CENTRE

The new centre will be based at 40 Holloway Circus in Birmingham City Centre on the edge of the gay village and five minutes walk from New Street Station. I have worked with our appointed contract managers to develop the internal design of the centre to ensure we achieve a range of flexible spaces that can be used for service delivery and community use. We are currently developing a programme of activities and services to run from the centre delivered by both Birmingham LGBT and a range of partners.

GAY VILLAGE GATEWAY

Having developed proposals for a piece of public art to act as a gateway to the gay village, we brought on board private sector partners to support delivery and the Rhino was installed onto Wynner House to coincide with Pride 2012. A community engagement project, Heart of the Rhino was also developed and 140 LGBT people's stories, songs, poems, photos and memories form as time capsule inside the sculpture.

PING! BRUM

Birmingham LGBT was a partner in the successful PING Brum 2012, Table Tennis tables were located all over the city with hundreds of thousands of people taking part over the summer months.

PRIDE IN SPORTS

Working in partnership with Birmingham Blaze, Moseley Shoals and other LGBT sports groups in the city, we have developed an LGBT sports festival to take place shortly after the London Olympics. The aim is to encourage participation in sports and break down barriers for LGBT participation. It is hoped the festival will become an annual event.

GAY BIRMINGHAM REMEMBERED

Working with partners Women & Theatre and the National Trust Back to Backs we delivered on site performances exploring LGBT history as far back as the 1800s. The performances were well received and sold out. The scripts and research have been added to the city's LGBT archive in Central Library and the project is currently being developed into a schools resource.

We are incredibly excited about the imminent launch of the new centre and look forward to welcoming the community through its doors in late 2012.

David Viney, Health & Wellbeing Manager

"Birmingham LGBT's commitment and motivation to the Pride in Sports Festival is second to none. Their support is a huge contribution to its development and leaves us with confidence in its success."
Ian Thomas, Birmingham Blaze

VOLUNTEERING

As work on the new LGBT Health and Wellbeing Centre continues, I have been busy recruiting new volunteers for administrative and social media roles. I am also recruiting volunteers for reception and other work in the centre and for the SHOUT festival and film festival. Recruitment 'drop-in' events have been organised for would-be volunteers, and training sessions are ready for the off! I am looking forward to having a team of volunteers ready to take up positions as soon as the Centre opens.

COMMUNITY WORK

The LGBT Community Forum continues to be successful, well-attended and productive: A visit from the LGBT Consortium, promoting their services for the LGBT communities, was a useful addition to the usual agenda and discussions.

I have started to get out and about within the local LGBT community, with visits to some of the forum members, and invitations to play badminton and football, and to learn a musical instrument! I am looking forward to meeting more community members in the future.

FTM GROUP aka 'BERNARD'

This is a new social and support group for Birmingham's FTM community. In response to a community consultation, it was evident that there was a gap in provision for transguys in Birmingham. "Bernard" was set up to address this gap. The first few sessions have been extremely well-attended, and I have had great, positive feedback on the group and its members. I am looking forward to more meetings, new faces, and some interesting and challenging events and workshops for the group over the coming months.

Jason Millard, Volunteer Coordinator & Community Work

"Bernard's meetings provides a safe space to be a man amongst men. It is somewhere where men like me understand the challenges in my life, where I can get answers to questions without being questioned. Somewhere where we are in the majority!" Ben, FTM Group

BACK TO BACKS SCHOOLS PROJECT

Two lessons have been designed to be delivered in schools based around the 'Back to Backs' plays of Annette in the 1940's and Leila in the 1970's. Funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund - the resources also incorporate LGBT history such as key pieces of legislation that have allowed for better equality for LGBTQ people. So far five schools and four youth clubs have been contacted.

A toolkit to help schools meet the needs of LGBTQ young people and their LGBTQ teaching staff is being drafted. A blog account has been created and the projects will run in schools and youth clubs between September 2012 and February 2013 with the toolkit launched to all Secondary Schools in Birmingham in February 2013 ready for LGBT History Month.

Richard Barrie, Schools Development Worker

SHOUT FESTIVAL 2011

In 2011, the city welcomed its third SHOUT Festival and presented a variety of events and activities celebrating LGBT Arts and Queer Culture. Since 2009, SHOUT has gone from strength to strength and has become a highly regarded addition to Birmingham's vibrant independent Festival scene as well as offering its LGBT citizens an opportunity to experience local, national and international artists and see work which speaks to them.

Last year's SHOUT Festival saw us expand outside Birmingham for the first time – taking LGBT Arts into the wider West Midlands. In total, the Festival delivered over 100 artists, 50 separate events, 5 exhibitions, 17 films, 5 talks, 15 performances and 7 community events to an audience of 40,000 people.

We received great feedback for the quality and diversity of the programme including the Gay Birmingham Back to Backs, Imagining Intimacy and Just Us Gays. Many thanks to everybody who attended events, our funders and sponsors including Arts Council England, Screen WM, the Heritage Lottery Fund and our partners within the region – without whose support SHOUT would not be possible.

Look out for upcoming SHOUT activity in 2012 and 2013 including our first dedicated Film Season!

Neil Anderson
Chair, 2012 SHOUT Festival

"Working with SHOUT was a fantastic experience for both staff and our audiences. Traditionally, the Barber attracts conservative audiences, but we were able to significantly diversify this with the SHOUT platform by tailoring events for the first time to a largely LGTBQ crowd, who in turn have become regular visitors. Following SHOUT, we ran several successful LGTBQ-themed events, including a screening of Queer cinema shorts and a SHOUT fringe event presented by esteemed scholar Judith "Jack" Halberstam, and they have also proved successful in terms of visitor numbers and their feedback. On the other hand, engaging with SHOUT was a great way to reassess our collection and present our art in a new way, as well as encouraging our traditional audiences to engage more with LGTBQ issues and their historical importance." Ben Goodwin, Marketing Assistant, the Barber Institute of Fine Arts

"Keep up the good work! I'm so proud to live in Birmingham "

"Loved the Gay Back to Backs, absolutely fantastic. We need to have more events of this quality in 2012. Its great to have an arts festival that celebrates who we are."

"Great festival helps raise the profile of Birmingham and the confidence of it's citizens"

Festival Participants, 2011

www.shoutfestival.co.uk
www.facebook.com/shoutfestival
www.twitter.com/shoutfestival





Gay Birmingham, *Back to Back*. Women & Theatre. SHOUT 2011

LGBT Health & Wellbeing Centre

Ongoing development of this new community hub for the LGBT community in Birmingham.

LGBT Community Forum

Bi Monthly meeting for LGBT community groups.

Community Fund

Distribution of Pride Ball donation to LGBT forum members.

Strategic Work

Ongoing advocacy and lobbying on behalf of the LGBT community in Birmingham.

Volunteering

Development of volunteering opportunities in the new LGBT Health & Wellbeing Centre.

Community Training

Development and delivery of free training in Confidence Building, Community Organising & Leadership.

Research

Publication of OUT & ABOUT, Mapping LGBT Lives in Birmingham.

Birmingham Pride Community Area

The third year we have managed the Pride Community Area.

Pink Picnic

Now in it's 6th year the event goes from strength to strength.

Bernard

Development of FTM group.

THE RHINO



Gay Village Gateway Public Art

Successful installation of a new piece of public art for the Gay Village.

The Heart of the Rhino

A community engagement project, as part of the Gay Village Gateway project.

SHOUT Festival 2011

Delivery of the 3rd annual SHOUT Festival.

SHOUT Film Season 2011

The inclusion of film into the SHOUT Festival programme.

PING Brum 2012

A partner in the second PING Brum table tennis festival.

Pride in Sports

Partnership development of a new LGBT sports festival for Birmingham.

Gay Birmingham Remembered, City Archive

We continue to gather material for the LGBT archive in Birmingham's Central Library.

Gay Birmingham Back to Back

Acclaimed performance and archival heritage project exploring LGBT history in Birmingham.

Gay Birmingham Schools Project

On going development of Gay Birmingham Remembered into a schools resource to tackle homophobic bullying.

FUNDERS & SUPPORTERS



LOTTERY FUNDED



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