

volunteer himself for Outreach Youth in Suffolk supporting young LGBT people.

Dan says "I am extremely excited about coming to work for CGS. I am passionate about equality and good services for LGBT people. I am sure we can build on the fantastic work that has already been done and look at new ways of delivery which can really benefit the LGBT people of North Essex. I shall look forward to meeting a lot of you in the near future."

A key priority for Dan is to undertake a User Needs Assessment that will take in the views of current service users, other LGBT providers as well as capturing views of potential users. This research will inform future service development in coming years.

If you have any suggestions or ideas for Dan to look at, or want to share experiences of current services run by CGS please contact him at office@gayessex.org.uk.

colchesterGAYswitchboard

News Update June 2010

www.gayessex.org.uk
Charity no 1006244

Colchester Gay Switchboard's future secure

Trustees at Colchester Gay Switchboard are pleased to announce that NHS North Essex has agreed to continue funding the helpline and support services for the foreseeable future. They have agreed a three year funding programme which in the current financial situation is admirable and a reflection of the value they place on the service we provide. The funding covers the core costs of the services but we have to continue to raise additional revenue through community fundraising initiatives to ensure that we can continue to adapt and deliver new and innovative responses to changing needs of the LGBT community.

The helpline takes in the region of 1,000 calls each year and future developments will look at increasing the volunteer base, not just on the helpline but also developing opportunities for people to be involved at all levels. We are particularly keen to recruit people from around the region who can keep us

informed of events and new venues in their area. It is important that we have accurate information covering the whole of the Eastern Region from Southend to Norwich. Anyone who wants to be an Area Representative should contact us at office@gayessex.org.uk

Community Development worker appointed



We are pleased to announce that we have a new Community Development worker starting in July. Dan

Bunker will be joining Colchester Gay Switchboard to help recruit new volunteers and plan new services. He has years of experience with Community Development in the voluntary sector, previously developing services for unpaid carers in Suffolk. He also works as a

Continued on back page



Pass it on.....

We would love you to copy this news sheet and pass it on to anyone you know who may be interested. We are always looking for new people to come and use the services and maybe even volunteer!

We gratefully acknowledge the financial support of our funders: NHS North Essex; Awards for All; Henry Smith Charity; CHAIN; Grassroots; CORY Environmental Trust and the many individuals from the wider LGBT community

Colchester Gay Switchboard - The Outhouse 19 East Hill
Colchester CO1 2GX Charity no. 1006244 June 2010

Who would have thought....

There's a community
in Colchester that
cares about you

Gay Switchboard

01206
869191

If you are out of area,
you can call our Lo-Call
rate number:

0845 1 23 23 88

New gay venue in Colchester to open



Colchester has a new gay wine bar opening in June. PRIDE wine bar has its grand opening on June 26th and volunteers and users from The Outhouse will be down there helping them celebrate. The new wine bar (145 Caelum Drive CO2 8FN - off Hawkins Road) is in the Hythe area of Colchester and will serve a variety of drinks as well as food at lunchtimes. Why not join us on the night, followed by a visit to Colchester's premier club, Enigma at The Sky Rooms on the High Street.

Meet at PRIDE Bar from 8pm

Suffolk Pride 20 June

12 noon - 8pm
Christchurch Park - Ipswich

Essex Pride 5 September

11am - 11.30pm
Central Park - Chelmsford

Volunteer opportunities

- ◆ Facebook Editor
- ◆ Newsletter Editor
- ◆ Helpline operators
- ◆ Drop-In Hosts
- ◆ Women's Officer
- ◆ Media Officer
- ◆ Social events
- ◆ Trustees
- ◆ Catering
- ◆ Librarian



Thursday July 22nd Curry & Quiz Night 7pm at The Outhouse

Order food on the night
(cost £5)

Bring own alcohol but soft drinks will be available

Thank you to all the people who joined our Friends & Members group, your subscriptions will collectively make a huge difference to the service we can offer. For just £15 you too can support the work we do.
Call the helpline to find out more

Food delivered at 8pm

Choice of:
Chicken; Lamb; Prawn;
Vegetable

Major structural alterations and redecoration will be taking place throughout August at The Outhouse. Please bear with us during this period.



"I have really enjoyed coming along to The Outhouse. It has helped me to make many new friends and take part in several of the activities arranged by CGS. All in a comfortable and informal setting with a cup of tea! The Sunday lunch at The Outhouse stands out as it helped lots of people to come together and have a nice relaxed lunch and spend time in each others company outside of the drop-ins, just chatting over a nice meal and

a glass (or 2) of wine/pint of beer. Many of us went to Castle Park afterwards to enjoy the wonderful weather and a great day was had by all.

The "Meet A Mate" night also stands out as it encouraged me to meet others I may not have met before, and in a way that made it easy. The whole evening created a great atmosphere and carried on to Enigma to round the night off.

If anyone is considering coming along and needs that last push, then I highly recommend that you do. I was nervous at first, but everyone was so warm and welcoming. I have never looked back."



Book Club

Would you like to meet like minded people to read and share your thoughts about books you've enjoyed reading. Join our book club where you can suggest, read and hear about books with an LGBT theme or by an LGBT author. If you have a favourite book you would like to share then come along and suggest it. You may meet like minded people, have a laugh and enjoy a book you wouldn't have thought of reading before.

So far we've read 'The Black Butterfly' by Mark Gattiss of League of Gentleman fame which was widely enjoyed and very entertaining third book in a trilogy, then we read Joe Orton's infamous play 'What the Butler Saw' and our most recent book was the modern classic Armistead Maupin's 'Tales of the City' a celebration of life, love and freedom in the exciting world of 70's San Francisco.

Our next meeting will be on Thursday 24th June and we are reading E.M. Forster's collection of short stories entitled 'The Life to Come and Other short stories'. Ideas for future books to read are more than welcome. We meet at the outhouse drop in on Thursdays at 8pm till about 9pm often followed by a friendly drink down the pub. Everyone welcome.

We have recently been given a large number of books for the library, why not come along and borrow some. More donations always welcome.