

Shell here, the Secretary of Norwich Pride 2012. This is the first of my new fortnightly emails to you. The Steering Group meet every two weeks and we have full Pride Collective meetings every six weeks so I'll give you a quick update after each meeting. We had a Collective meeting on Sunday and thanks to Lee and the Castle Pub for letting us use the Barn for the meeting. OK, here's the news which includes.....

- Open Meeting
- Money, Money Money
- Pride Choir
- Sew Gay
- Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital Trust LGBT Staff Support Group
- Pride Live!

Open Meeting

We've got an Open Meeting on Wednesday 18th April at the Barn in the Castle Pub. It's from 6-8pm. Don't worry if you can't get there exactly at 6pm - the idea is you can meet the Pride Collective, find out what's happening at Norwich Pride 2012, sign up for some jobs if you're interested in volunteering and there will

of course be a little raffle because we never miss the chance to make a little money for Pride. Talking of money.....

Money Money Money

We need your financial support! Each year we need to raise about £8,000 to cover the cost of the day itself and all the events and publicity in the run-up, as well as admin, website etc. Now the Unions are always brilliant and so far we've received £550 in donations from local branches of Unison, TUC, NUT and PCS. Deanna Allison's filmmaking has also netted us £150 from UEA who are going to use some of her Norwich Pride footage in a movie. We raised £40 from the Football v Homophobia tournament so that means we've got £740 so far - just £7,260 to go! We spread the cost of the Forum hire amongst the stallholders so that's a big help and every penny you spend in the Pride Shop is crucial for helping us keep our central events free and accessible. Kirsty has been filling in various funding applications and has written a brilliant page on our website about how you can raise money for Pride:

www.norwichpride.org.uk/fundraising.html . This is the first year that Kirsty has joined the Pride Collective but she has always been an inspiration - in the early days of Norwich Pride she organised a Plant Sale and raised £240. I cannot tell you how moved and thrilled we were to know that someone in the community had done something so creative of their own initiative. It was just brilliant, a huge help and a great confidence boost for us. Other sweet funding news - Andrea from the Pride Choir runs Deepdale Backpackers in North Norfolk

(www.deepdalebackpackers.co.uk) and she is donating a weekend in a Tipi for this year's raffle. Talking of the choir.....

Pride Choir

Sing with Pride are now back rehearsing every Thursday from 7-9pm at the United Reformed Church on Princes St. Costs £6/£4 per session. We practice in 8 week blocks and our aim this block is to have as relaxed and fun time as possible. When we start back in May, it will be heads down working on our performance for Norwich Pride on 28th July. This year we are talking over the bandstand at the Pride Picnic. We've had some fabulous singaround evenings at Jurnets Bar in Wensum Lodge with some wonderful guests like Casper with his Queer Calypso. So we've offered to organise all the entertainment from the bandstand. Talking of Chapelfield Gardens.....

Sew Gay

Our aim this year is to make Chapelfield Gardens look absolutely gorgeous for the Pride Picnic and the Sew Gay group are working hard making bunting and knitted chains - 75 year old volunteer Margaret has been scouring charity shops for rainbow-coloured wool and must have knitted a mile of chains already! The Sew Gay group have got their next monthly meeting this Saturday 31st March, 12-2pm on the big table on the first floor in the library. They've invested in a portable, battery-operated sewing machine so people can make bunting at the sessions and we seem to be a magnet for young people hanging out at the Forum who have been joining us to cut out

material, learn to knit and design panels for the Pride Patchwork. This is Sew Gay's big project - over the next two years they hope to create a patchwork quilt representing over 50 years of LGBT history, with the panels showing a key event each year. If you want to know more email Stevie at sewgaynorwich@gmail.com. Talking of who.....

Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital: LGBT Staff Support Network

Stevie has an Equality and Diversity Role at the hospital and wanted us to let you know about their new staff support group which starts meeting at 1pm today, 27th March, in the Brancaster Room, Level 4, West Outpatients. For more information contact communications@nnuh.nhs.uk. We've got high hopes that the group might have a banner on the Parade (remember the wonderful giant umbrella that Helen and George made for the Norfolk and Waveney Mental Health Trust and Norfolk County Council LGBT Staff Support Group last year?) but no pressure! It would be great to get an interview with the group on our Pride Live! show. Talking of which....

Pride Live! on Future Radio 107.8fm every Monday at 6pm

Yes don't forget to tune into our weekly Future Radio show every Monday at 6pm, presented by Di, Jules and Nick with loads of fabulous guests and brilliant music. if you can't get it on your radio at 107.8fm you can hear it on the internet at www.futureradio.co.uk/listenlive. You can also download podcasts of shows via our website www.norwichpride.org.uk or Future Radio. Last night's show included BJ Epstein talking about making babies the Gay Way, Caroline Jones on Norfolk LGBT and Disabled group and Jon Ward talking about RuPaul's Drag Race.

Well I think that's as much typing as I want to do this morning! So hope that's helpful and you feel suitably informed with what going on at Norwich Pride. You can keep up-to-date via our website and we've also got a very vibrant presence on facebook - both a page (Norwich Pride 2012) where we upload info and as a person (Norwich Pride) where people can write on our wall. You can email us at info@norwichpride.org.uk at any time. We aim to respond to emails as quickly as possible but please don't forget we

are all volunteers at Norwich Pride, doing as much as we can within the time available.
And we're always looking for new volunteers so do get in touch if you can help.

Stay Proud!

shell x

on behalf of the Norwich Pride Collective

Norwich Pride is Saturday 28th July 2012

A Celebration from the LGBT Community for Everyone

www.norwichpride.org.uk