LGBT People of the Commonwealth

The Equality Network has secured funding of £9,992 from the National Lottery Celebrate Fund to prepare and hold an Exhibition on ‘Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender people of the Commonwealth’, to be held during the Glasgow 2014 games.

LGBT people of the Commonwealth is a project which will celebrate and recognize the contribution of LGBT groups and organizations from the 53 countries that make up the Commonwealth, and ensure the visibility of LGBT people and their lives during the Commonwealth Games.

The charity has also announced a partnership with Pride Glasgow, Glasgow’s annual LGBT pride festival and the Glasgow Human Rights Network to hold an international LGBT Human Rights Conference at Glasgow University on 18th July, five days before the opening ceremony and a day before the Glasgow’s annual pride celebration.

According to Scott Cuthbertson, Equality Network’s Community Development Coordinator, “The Commonwealth Games offers us a unique opportunity to reflect on and support LGBT human rights around the Commonwealth and the world. As the eyes of the world fall on Scotland for the games we have the chance to give a voice to the successes and challenges faced by LGBT people in every part of our world. We are delighted to receive this grant which will help us to celebrate the contribution of LGBT people to culture and human rights, while also standing up against criminalisation and violence against LGBT people around the globe.”

Alastair Smith, Chief Executive of Pride Glasgow, said, “Pride Glasgow welcomes the Commonwealth Games to our city. The games have provided a platform to celebrate and showcase the achievements of the LGBT community here in Scotland while also highlighting the successes and struggles faced by LGBT people throughout the Commonwealth. Pride Glasgow will send a strong message of support to our LGBT brothers and sisters throughout the Commonwealth Games, held in our city, during the Pride Glasgow festival.”

Dr Matthew Waites, of the Glasgow Human Rights Network, said, “The GHRN are pleased to be working with the Equality Network and Pride Glasgow on holding an International LGBT Human Rights Conference here at Glasgow University. The Conference gives us the opportunity to highlight human rights abuses across the Commonwealth and give a voice to LGBT people around the world.”

The Equality Network says that while Scotland has made significant progress towards achieving LGBT equality in the law and society, the situation for LGBT people is deteriorating in some Commonwealth countries, with anti-gay laws being passed recently in Uganda and Nigeria, and re-criminalisation of homosexuality in India after a recent Supreme Court appeal.

The charity points out that 42 of the 53 members of the Commonwealth criminalise homosexuality, and that more than half of the 78 countries worldwide that criminalise homosexuality belong to the Commonwealth.

Later this year Glasgow will host the 2014 Commonwealth Games and the Equality Network will be working with the Scottish Government and LGBT groups across the Commonwealth to highlight the challenges many LGBT people continue to face.
The New Town Bar

On the Scene:
Well, spring is officially here by the time you read this the clocks will have gone forward onto Irish Summer Time and to top it off it’s slowly getting a little warmer and day longer – nice! Out in Edinburgh’s vibrant LGBT scene things are as busy as ever so let’s go to it and have a pour down of what’s going on.

In the last edition of the ezine I brought the news that the New Town Bar lease was up for sale, so I asked a comment that it may be attributed to the tough financial situation. I intended this statement to be reflective of the bar industry as a whole, and not attributable to the New Town Bar itself. I now appreciate that this was not clear enough and may have caused our readers to assume the latter to be correct. I therefore make full retraction of the piece as published and offer my deepest apologies to Jeremy Quinn and his staff for any hurt or distress the article may have caused. It was not intentioned to cause any ill feeling with the New Town Bar or its staff who have supported both myself and non-Glasgay ventures and the LGBT scene as a whole. It is rich contribution which we should be proud and I hope to see it continue to feature in many of the events that the New Town Bar stage both now and in the future and hope that the New Town Bar will wish to continue its association with the Edinbugh Scene Column.

Starting with the fantastic Chatty’s Late Night Lounge which has got off to a fantastic start with the crowds pouring in especially on the weekends. With a raft of theme nights throughout the week, a must are the Gay Themed Tuesdays which always draw a strong crowd. The team in Chatty’s have now completed the redecoration and it truly sparkles with three happy days a week with offers such as Vodka, Gin and other selected spirits as well as wines, Bottles of VK, cpw, Bombs and most importantly the Bomb Menu from cpw. Shots is a treat on Happy Days its free entry. Well worth checking out.

Over to The Street, it’s still a bit over shady especially with the late night opening and as mentioned in last month’s edition Terry’s and her team continue to pull out all the stops with music, food, drinks and entertainment in Edinburgh.

Over at the New Town Bar, while the bar is busy as ever, bar manager Tommy Quinn assures me it’s business as usual with the excellent food and drinks offers still to come. He says there are many exciting plans for the future as the New Town continues to evolve so why not pop on down to the Duke of York’s favourite G and T with ice and a slice.

Over to Chatty’s sister namely Night Lounge which claims to be the best pre club bar in town out there with special drinks promos and a cream of the DJs plan’s on Thurs night the crossword quiz continues to be a huge crowd puller especially as it’s hosted by Cilla Scotia. Now following a successful Pride Scotia fund raising things to be busy with excellent drinks promos and entertainment on offer including Campbeltown Karaoke with DJ Paton every Thur. It’s free or you won’t be missed.

Final Thoughts:
So there we have it another busy month with our staff who have supported both myself and non-Glasgay ventures and the LGBT scene as a whole. It is rich contribution which we should be proud and I hope to see it continue to feature in many of the events that the New Town Bar stage both now and in the future and hope that the New Town Bar will wish to continue its association with the Edinbugh Scene Column.

People Make Glasgow - the new toolkit for your organisation
The diversity of culture and talent in our fair city. Part of that culture is the LGBT community, which continues to produce some incredibly creative people, I was recently asked to contribute an essay to an exhibition to be shown on BBC Scotland in May called ‘1 Glasgow’. Karen Dunbar interviewed me, this was a big deal as she was a hero of mine when I was a teenager. She always made me laugh. Karen got her start and perhaps first real job at The Regent. She felt the craft in the bars and clubs of our city and it got me thinking about just how much history we have and indeed how much talent we still produce.

The lovely Tommy Clarke, GM/Volunteer, Massesse Extraordinary and all round gorgeous man recently held an exhibition at The Virginia Galleries about the interesting history of the LGBT Glasgow community. Very informative and very creative! Thanks Tommy!!

Never forget that for those of us who are 50-75, LGBT Youth Scotland, brings you several great youth groups throughout Scotland. For Dundee we have Allsorts, meeting every Tue 6.30-8.30pm in Stirling, meeting every second Wed 6.30-8.30pm and in Perth we have Glow, meeting every Thu 6-8pm. All of these groups provide a safe space for young people to meet, other young people and take part in activities and workshops that happen from week to week. There are great chances to be involved with other LGBT Youth groups and we recommend you have a look at menonlytayside.com for more details, or if you prefer, follow them on Facebook at menonlytayside.

And finally, if it’s a bit more of relaxation you’re looking for then anything else, get on up to NUMBER 53, Dunde’s own Gay Sauna (previously known as Jocks), is open Sun Noon-Sun, Mon Noon-6pm, Tue-Thu Noon-Sun and Fri-Sat Noon-Midnight (last entry six hours prior). For more information visit www.numbers53.net

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**The University of St Andrews organised** a lecture on all things LGBT & Allies in an innovative evening and well done to the students who gave a background history.

**Out and about in Tayside, Deejay will be continuing** 3pm and there’s a Sunday Carvery 1 – 4pm.

**Thanks so a big thanks to** her staff and customers who welcome and developing the great work already done.

**As our straight allies from the main** bar who came through to show their support and join in the evening on Thu 27th Mar. 

**Callum and Ann in Kirkcaldy.** 

**David Jackson**

**berdeen@scotsgay.co.uk**

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**America’s fourth largest - and number one fastest-growing city, Houston (a.k.a. H-Town), was founded back in the 1830s in a Texas region that has flown six federate and now USA! Moreover, a key **name!** He became the first President of the Republic of Texas and, later, Senator for Texas when it joined the United States in 1845.

**Honey, mill and port industries** powered Houston’s massive 20th Century expansion, and - whilst space exploration continues to assure its place in history - it is now home to one of the world's biggest healthcare hubs and boasts a massive food and arts scene, plus a sizable gay district. And it’s all just a nine hour direct flight from London, by United.

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**Or call**}

**Andi Watson**

**aberdeen@scotsgay.co.uk**

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**The Lowdown on H-Town**

_From downtown high-rises to laid-back districts: Adrian Gillan flies to land in Houston, named after a Scottish clan!_
It was a year to the day since Priscilla first rolled into Edinburgh's Playhouse Theatre in all its shimmering glittering splendour. What a difference a year makes as, sadly, the production has been hit hard with touring fever. The elements which pushed the show far beyond the normal touring production have been stripped out of it. For example, last year the three Divas and numerous members of the cast were flown from stage on an intricate stage flying system that's all gone with the Divas now hatching their own skirts up and marching on stage when required. The overall show is one of tightness as it reaches the end of its mammoth 13-month tour with set being bashed, costumes starting to wear thin and cast members now phoning in their performances.

However it's not all bad, the three leads give it their best with Jasmin Donovan continuing to turn in a strong performance of a Gay Dad struggling to accept he should have a life of his own. The main character when it matters, no matter what his son was always on his mind. The role of Adam/Felicia is normally played by Graham Weaver but due to indisposition was taken over by his understudy Liam Marcellino who excels bringing real drive to the role as he can come up to the plate and deliver a youthful drag queen with hope and emotion for the better things. The biggest praise again goes to Richard Greaves as Bernadette. A transsexual who seeks the power of love to make her life complete and following the cross country journey achieves that, it's a richly satisfying portrayal that leaves you smiling. All in all this production is saved by its performers as the production team strip away its glamour layers, even when the time comes Priscilla herself started giving up with the giant screens turning black. It kind of sums up the production, once it was great and sparkled now it's reliant on its cast to light up the stage. Hopefully since the show is given a good nest it will come back in all its glory.

Review:
PRISCILLA QUEEN OF THE DESERT

DOROTHY PAUL A DENTONSTOWN DIVA

The legend of Scottish entertainment retold following her participation in the television tour - at the impressive age of 76, she's back doing what she does best, entertaining packed house with humour, dance and ravishing LGB T people facing domestic violence. Staying with the traditional start to all her shows, the Cleaner Woman, who whilst busy dusting everything on stage regales us with stories of living with him indoors who apparently it would take a stick of dynamite to get him to shift from the TV. As

The second art's 15,000 paparazzi were impressively opulent but the anemic Palestinian documnetaries' impotence was frankly nibble, the third act bombasted up a health and safety nightmare...Alas: definitely one for the radio!...Bendoron died in 1881 in the arms of a well-sung.   It

The Met orchestra under Alan Altinoglu surprised themselves in delivering Massenet's magical orchestration and quicksilver changes of emotion, colour and style. Richard Eyre's production, updated to Massener's time, focused on the dash of humanity and depth of the characters' emotions: the supporting roles were all equally well-rounded and well-sung. It really doesn't get any better than this!

Next production: Puccini La Bohème – 5 April 2014

Cleaner heads off for a cup of tea and a mince pie, the gap is filled by vocal trio La Diva. Ms Paul then relays the stage to talk us through anecdotes, songs and the humorous emotions: the supporting roles were all equally well-rounded and well-sung. It really doesn't get any better than this!

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Edinburgh

Masseur for Antony (anaal) for friesly. 18 to 35 yrs. Underground. I'd like to meet someone for fun. Have you been to my connexion (1736) 368888. Box 301451.

T R A N S / GENDERQUEER

Edinburgh

20 yrs old. Very bi-polar. Can cater for all urban. Likes it hard for me... to ex-plore time with you and want this to happen. sugarsissy - pentru@vodafone.co.uk Box 301450.

S T R A I G H T

Silver Bear Edinburgh

Looking for someone to play with and women of all ages. Box 301453.

Looking For Love!

Edinburgh

Looking for a man, woman or preferably both. Single, lady, 25 yrs. 5’10” green hair and brown eyes. Straight,SIAM/SM/BDSM/lolita. Box 301460.
Gay Men’s Health is a charity registered in Scotland, No. SC023479.