LOVE IS A HUMAN RIGHT
Amnesty International
PROTECT THE HUMAN
no matter the progress made, we know there remains so much work to be done for and by our community.

LGBT Youth Scotland has published new research into LGBT young people aged 13 to 25 and their experiences of safety as well as their awareness of hate crime legislation. 50.2% said they knew their rights under the hate crime legislation. Overall 53.8% of respondents said they would feel confident reporting a crime, but that percentage slips for trans folk (41.2%) and further for black women (40.6%).

In addition, only 51.8% of young trans people felt safe using public transport, sometimes fearing reactions to non-stereotypical gender expressions.

Of course in a great gay utopia there’s no need for hate crime legislation because such crimes shouldn’t occur. I don’t want us to be living in fear or to add to any sense of anxiety here. The perspective I would offer is we all need to educate ourselves on our rights and best course of action, should the worst happen. Not for our own individual protection, then so we can support others in our community in times of crisis.

Another source of support from a confidential third party comes in the form of Stop Hate UK’s new 24-hour LGBT helpline. This is for immediate emotional support, ongoing advocacy, advice or anonymous referral to the police, among other services. If you or someone you know have been a victim of a hate crime, call them on 0808 801 0661 or there are other options to report incidents: via text, web chat, e-mail or post. Visit stophate.org for more details.

“Complicated? Bisexual people’s experiences of and ideas for improving services” is a groundbreaking report released by the Equality Network this month. It reveals some awful statistics and stories surrounding bisexual members of our community and the times when they need to access support.

They are highly unlikely to reveal their sexual orientation to service providers due to fear of a negative reaction. 66% of those polled felt they had to pass as straight and 29% felt they had to say they were gay or lesbian to access services.

The highest instances of issues were with NHS or with LGBT organisations. Visit their website for the full report and more information. If you’d like to know how your organisation can be more bi-inclusive contact sam@equality-network.org and they’ll be happy to help.

Happy times ahead with Pride in Glasgow 22nd and 23rd August as well as the Fringe from 7th Aug, check our website www.dogstrust.org.uk/ petsparade for more details.

As always, send your upcoming events, happenings and mildly offensive haikus to news@scotsgay.co.uk.

Forty-two years ago I was born, to a woman who was in love and a man who already had a ring on his finger. Attitudes back in those days were far different to those of today, so the family consensus was that I couldn’t stay around, resulting in a woman with a broken heart and son without a father.

Growing up in a predominately female environment was somewhat interesting as I relate more to women than I do men. These females were also very strong in their beliefs and also in their personalities. Sorority had a way of influencing my journey throughout my life and how I relate to others. From a very young age I knew I was different from other boys but not quite knowing what it was until I became a teenager.

Many of us LGBT people grow up without either one or other parent and sometimes both so some of us feel ourselves looking to an outer realm for role models to learn and evolve from. As a child I always knew I had a father out there somewhere, only known by name so putting a face to that name was practically impossible. This is why I currently live in Edinburgh as that was where he had originated from and I originate from Fort-William. I was suggested to me that I take the details I had on him to Register House where records of births, deaths, and marriages are kept, so that is exactly what I did and within the space of 15 minutes I had found him.

From the information that I found I had been living in the Livingston area which is in West Lothian and back in 2006 I also lived and worked in that area but unbeknownst to both of us we were so close but yet so far. But to say that from this information he had passed away back in 2007, so you can imagine how devastating I felt and still feel. So what I did next was to compile a letter to his wife, my stepmum, explaining who I was and what I was after. In circumstances of this sensitivity you can never predict the outcome. Her reply was one of comfort and his ghost which had followed me around for the best part of my life was finally revealed. I’m sure you can picture that moment for yourselves when you finally get to fit that last jigsaw piece into place. I still keep looking at it and I’m sure I will for many years to come.

My message is this. If you are or have found yourself in the same position as me never for one moment ever give up hope of searching even if the odds are stacked against you, as you have the right to know who you have come from and to know about your heritage. My search continues for other family members now. To my friends I cannot thank you enough in your continued support on this matter. It is truly felt in many ways. This is my story.

Brian Charles Green
This month’s article will take a look at what you’ve missed this last month and also, what’s coming up next. The ‘month of the month’ will be back, as will Mysti Hole with Mysti’s Morsels amongst a few other untouched areas. (You probably thought that sounded rude yet I reckon it’s around you just enough to need a rest).

Cheers Bar is our first stop on our trip through the LGBT+ scene here in Aberdeenshire. Rehearsals for Cheers’ fun and filthy summer spectacular ‘Fame’ are well under way and tickets are flying out the door with Fri and Sat showings both sold out! Tickets are still available for the 25th and 26th July performances, and also Sun and Aug has tickets left for both the matinee and evening performances. All tickets are £10 and can be purchased in the bar. This is only the show of its kind in Aberdeen and you seriously don’t want to miss it out! Hey, I’m saying it, the comedy value in that alone will be worth your wad of gold in pocket!

We have a variety of queens visiting Cheers in July and Aug, with what I know, they’re going to be fierce! On Sat 16th, Miss Penny will be gracing us with her presence. This is a queen I’ve never seen live so why not pay me a visit and see what’s going on? Also on the 20th we have the fabulous KATYA joining us! Tickets are seriously scarce now so get yours soon to avoid disappointment! ⚫️ cheezbar.co.uk/tickets

Of course ever week Cheers brings you Aberdeen’s best and brightest queens!

Gay Dads Scotland website: www.gaydadsbscotland.org.uk

Miss Cherry Bellew hosts Karaoke every Wed from 9pm. Miss Penny Delve will be the resident DJ on Sat and the night ‘Coppers and Rubbers’ as they intend on giving you chances for your logo to stand out. If you’re wearing fancy dress in which the entry fee will be £1, all profits go towards GayMen’s Health!

Other services that are on offer from GMH include:

– ‘VGE Grampian’, this is a group for HIV+ MSM that meet one evening a month at the GMH office and offers mutual support, information and invited ‘guest speakers’ from relevant agencies.

– ‘Prime Time’; This is a social group for men over the age of 40 that meets somewhere (other than a bar or club) on the first and third Tuesday of every month.

– ‘Parent’s and Family Support Group’ meet on the last Wed of every month. If you would like any information on the above services, please contact Colin on: Colin.M@ghn.org or E-mail: Colin.M@ghn.org

GayDads Scotland is a volunteer group that meets monthly in Edinburgh, offering a service of mutual support and networking advice for men that identify as gay, bi or questioning and who are also fathers to either children, teenagers or young adults.

Members come from all back grounds and ages; single, divorced, separated, married or in a relationship. All are dealing with partners and how to best cope as a parent. Some Dads are out to our kids others aren’t - some have male partners others don’t. Some are out to their straight partnering parent, extended family and community and others are still to make decisions about such things.

As a Dad, if you identify (or know of others) that might identify with any of these scenarios, then this might be the support group you are looking for! Better still, GayDads Scotland is seeking interest with regards to hosting meetings in the North East and surrounding areas. A current member from Aberdeen who attends meetings in Edinburgh will be facilitating this new development. All enquiries will be treated in absolute confidentiality; they are just being comfortable and knowing who they are on the inside and taking steps to be that person on both the inside and outside. More importantly; they are just being comfortable with and facing themselves. Drag queens are constantly asked “do you want to be a woman?” and the answer is usually a resounding no. Don’t get me wrong; we love women, we respect them and think they are fierce, funny, fabulous people but, we want to impersonate them, not because we have to but because of society’s views, I think it takes guts to admit to being tran, even to one’s own self and I feel a lot of respect has to be given to the Ts in our LGBT+ community! They are some of the bravest people out there. I will happily put on a wig and heels and get on a stage, that doesn’t scare me, because it’s an impersonation. But ask me to walk down the street every day, trying to show people that’s who I truly am and like a lot of trans people (forgive the upcoming puns), I wouldn’t have the balls.

So that’s for this month, (I apologise in advance for the really funny pun that’s coming your way). Thank you for joining me here in this lovely magazine! Hopefully the good weather will continue and I shall see you out and about. Well done you purple headed beauties! The Gay Dads Scotland website: gaydadsscotland.org.uk

Bee Fiarse Beaujambes

There’s nothing like gay skits, cold winds and rain to make it feel like it’s summer! June hasn’t been the brightest in terms of sunshine... however we want to see the sunshine after the rain and as ever our cozy wee Glasgow scene has enough colour and joy to chase the clouds away!

First of all I would like to congratulate my dear old friend and former Chief Exec of GMH Bruce Fraser on his upcoming weekly slot on Xpress Radio Scotland, beginning Mon 25th June ‘Bruc’s Big Mouth’ promises to be a host! Tartan Partnerships are holding a big gay ball on 4th July. With Nancy Olch, shuffling on to the stage to host the evening’s festivities, it looks like a cracker of a night! Also if that doesn’t enough a new LGBT awards group has been set up ‘The Icon Awards’, which aim to celebrate and celebrate all that is great and good in Scotland.

I hear Luke and Jack are bringing a new range of Andrew Christian underwear personally I’m huge fan of underwear and am even bigger fan of the treats concealed inside! And on the flip side The Virginia Gallery has a rolling calendar of exhibitions for the sophisticated culture in all of us! So check out what’s on!

I gather that Ultimeast will be making a return to AIXM, I don’t know about you but I remember the classic ‘Pretty Pink Eyes’ being a staple tune of my youth, which of course was just yesterday for AIXM! Also Memory is bringing Season Zero face-contestant MAX to the glitterball!

The Riding Rooms has a jam packed schedule of cabaret and circus on offer throughout the week, with the ever popular and successful Tom Mariner-free bringing his Sky watches and FlizTix for every Mon! If you’re in need of a dance afterwards then CRUNCH Mondays or Lilloplop Wednesdays in Polo are worth a spin!

The Waterloo Bar is bringing Blackpool favourite glamourgous DJ Carmen to her adoring fans in Glasgow! Katie’s Bar has the fabulous Cherri Trefi returning to her Sun spot following a brief stint at Cumbria Pride!

Salina Thistle, Scotland’s reigning gay football champion hosts their annual quiz, Underground who sponsor the team. They will also be holding their annual summer ball if you haven’t got a ticket yet... you’re missing out! You will also find me wandering the microphone either side of Mon at karaoke down Underground!

Pride Glasgow is steadily approaching, so sales of glitter and whiskies will be sky-rocketing! And Free Pride will also take place on 20nd Aug at Glasgow Art School and will be completely free to enter. Music, drama and spoken word performances will take place during the day, as well as workshops and talks. During the evening there will be live music and a clubnight. To find out more, or to get in, please visit us on Facebook 酤 freeprideglasgow

So, until next time my loves, pray summer arrives and have yourself a gay old time! ationToken St, EH2 2AA, venue 68
**Venues / Emporia**

**DUNVEGAN**
Dunvegan LGBT Centre*
17 Dunvegan Road.
Tel: (01463) 227000.
Open: Mon-Sun 10am-10pm.
Free Internet.

**DUNDEE**
Avenue*
192 Broughty Ferry Road.
Tel: (01382) 720028.
Open: Mon-Sun 10am-10pm.
Free Internet.

**EDINBURGH**
**LGBT HEALTH & WELLBEING**
Edinburgh LGBT Health & Wellbeing*
1st Floor, Scott House, 53 West Register Street.
Tel: (0131) 555 9000.
Open: Mon-Fri 9am-5pm.
Free Internet.

**Dundee LGBT Centre**
Dundee LGBT Centre*
108 Reform Street.
Tel: (01382) 558 4756.
Open: Mon-Fri 11am-7pm, Sat 11am-6pm.
Free Internet.

**Kate's Bar**
Kate's Bar*
Edinburgh LGBT Centre*
43-44 Fettes Row.
Tel: (0131) 556 9331.
Open: Mon-Sun 11am-10pm.
Free Internet.

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The Big Comedy Gala
in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support

Die Roten Punkte host the biggest party night on the Fringe.

Friday 28 August 2015
at 20:00 (120mins)
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Tickets: £18 (booking fee may apply)
0131 226 0000
venue150.com
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