

## DO SOMETHING SERIOUSLY **SEXY**

### WE INTEND TO RECRUIT 3 OUTREACH WORKERS

We may think about sex every three minutes, but sexual health is less likely to register on our radar.

If you have the confidence to approach strangers in pubs, clubs and other venues in West London and introduce a subject that's probably the last thing on their minds, you can change their lifestyles and behaviours. Somewhere down the line you could save lives.

To be involved with our work, you have to be free up to 6 hours a month, usually at evenings or weekends.

We welcome applications from people living with HIV and from those from Black and Minority Ethnic Communities.

For an informal discussion or to register interest  
please call George on 020 8583 2586  
or email [george.leonard@hounslow.gov.uk](mailto:george.leonard@hounslow.gov.uk)

## Upcoming **24s** Dates

### ••• May

- **The Coleherne** • Wed. 2<sup>nd</sup> 7pm -10pm
- **Richmond Arms** • Fri. 4<sup>th</sup> 7pm - 10pm
- **West 5** • Fri. 11<sup>th</sup> 8pm -11pm
- **Ted's** • Tues. 15<sup>th</sup> 8pm -11pm
- **Windsor Castle** • Sat. 26<sup>th</sup> 8pm - 11pm

### ••• June

- **Bromptons** • Fri. 1<sup>st</sup> 10pm -1am
- **West 5** • Fri. 8<sup>th</sup> 8pm - 11pm
- **Ted's** • Mon. 11<sup>th</sup> 8pm -11pm
- **Windsor Castle** • Sat. 16<sup>th</sup> 8pm - 11pm
- **Club Exilio** • Sat. 23<sup>rd</sup> 10pm - 1am
- **The George** • Fri. 29<sup>th</sup> 8pm - 11pm

Here are the upcoming dates for 24s, West London Gay Men's Projects's free bulk condom and lube distribution scheme. To sign up to the scheme, just speak to one of our friendly outreach workers on the night - they'll be wearing GMP T-shirts. Alternatively, call George Leonard on 0800 587 8302 or email [24s@westlondongmp.org.uk](mailto:24s@westlondongmp.org.uk)

# the SOURCE

•••• health information for the LGBT community

## Useful Contacts



Page 6

Page 12

## Upcoming **24s** Dates

west london  
**gmp**  
gay men's project

## HOMOPHOBIA REPORTING KIOSK -

*Happy 1st Birthday!*



# HELLO & WELCOME

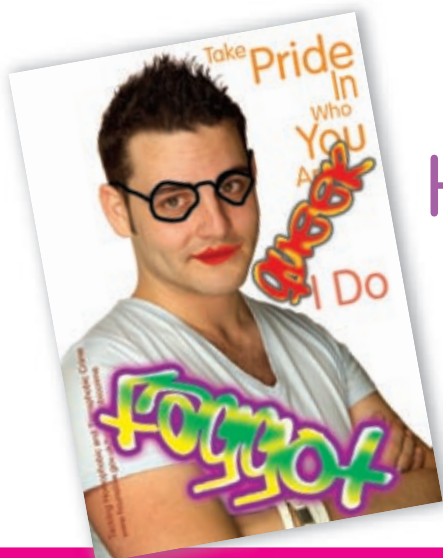
to Issue 10 of The Source,

This issue we are not only celebrating The Source hitting double figures, but also celebrating the success of the Homophobia Reporting Kiosk, one year since it was launched. We take a look at the proposed rapid HIV testing service in collaboration with the Naz Project London and see how the new Equality Act, which includes the provision of goods and services, affects the LGBT community.

Auntie Jee is back to offer her advice to readers in our regular problem page, plus details of GMP's free bulk condom and lube distribution scheme, 24s.

The Contacts page, offering information on local support services, sexual health clinics and LGBT youth groups can as usual be found on pages 6 & 7.

We would like to hear your thoughts on The Source, so please call or e-mail us with any comments, suggestions or ideas you may have to 0800 587 8302 or [thesource@westlondongmp.org.uk](mailto:thesource@westlondongmp.org.uk)



## Homophobia is a Crime - Report it.



[www.westlondongmp.org.uk](http://www.westlondongmp.org.uk)  
0800 587 8302 Monday - Friday 9am - 5pm  
(Voicemail out of hours)



# Rapid HIV Testing Service



In the next few months the West London Gay Men's Project, in collaboration with the Naz Project London will pilot a rapid HIV testing service in West London.

The service will provide the opportunity for gay and bisexual men to get tested for HIV in a non-clinical setting.

The aim is to encourage men, who might not otherwise want to be tested at a sexual health clinic, to do so quickly and without an appointment.

The rapid testing will take place at two West London settings – The Naz Project London and West London Centre for Counselling. The whole process will be completed within an hour. Men will have a confidential discussion on arrival to discuss their reasons for testing and to assess their possible risk of having contracted HIV. The test

itself involves taking a very small blood sample from a finger and the result is determined within half an hour. After the test, men will have a second discussion to review the result and any further information and support that may be required.

If you would like further information about the testing service or have any comments, feel free to contact us at [info@westlondongmp.org.uk](mailto:info@westlondongmp.org.uk) or call 0800 587 8302.



# HOMOPHOBIA REPORTING KIOSK

*Happy 1st Birthday!*

In May last year, the first UK Homophobia Reporting Kiosk was launched at The Birdcage pub in Chiswick. Since then it has moved location to The Windsor Castle pub in Hounslow, where it continues to serve the gay community as a way to report incidents of homophobic / transphobic crime and LGBT domestic violence.

The idea for the kiosk came from a collaboration between Hounslow Community Safety Partnership and the West London Gay Men's Project, as a way to combat the under reporting of hate crime in the borough. The aim is to use the kiosk as a means of collecting vital data to discover the frequency and type of homophobic / transphobic and

domestic violence incidents that are occurring in Hounslow.

The kiosk gives members of the gay community, who might not normally report such incidents, the opportunity to do so. It also provides information about agencies that offer support to victims of homophobic crime.

By encouraging people to report homophobic incidents the kiosk brings the issue to the forefront, showing the community that this type of crime must be dealt with and will not be tolerated.

The kiosk has allowed 33 previously unreported incidents of hate crime to be recorded, however those victims who felt comfortable to leave their personal details and wanted to

take the incident further with the police, were few. This shows the kiosk's success, but highlights the continuing problem of people not wanting to disclose their identity.

As a community we need to be encouraging and supporting people so that they feel prepared to report incidents of hate crime. The perceived attitudes of the Police should not be those of 20 years ago - where victims of homophobic crime and LGBT domestic violence thought they wouldn't be taken seriously, would have to deal with prejudice or might be dealt with in an insensitive manner.

Simon Phipps, Superintendent for the Metropolitan Police based at Hounslow, describes the kiosk as "a brand new way to report homophobic crime and a step in the right direction in building relations between the Police and the gay community."

**If you are a victim of homophobic / transphobic crime or LGBT domestic violence you can access the kiosk during pub hours at The Windsor Castle, 152 Bath Road, Hounslow, TW3 3ET. Alternatively you can call your local Police Community Safety Unit (see Contacts page for details) or report online at [www.westlondongmp.org.uk](http://www.westlondongmp.org.uk)**

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# CONTACTS



## Local Support Services

**The River House** • Drop-in for people living with and affected by HIV.

**020 8753 5190** [www.riverhousetrust.org.uk](http://www.riverhousetrust.org.uk)

**Naz Project London** • Services for Spanish, Portuguese, Muslim, Somali, Ethiopian & Asian men **020 8741 1879** [www.naz.org.uk](http://www.naz.org.uk)

**Living Well** • Self Management Programme and support for people living with HIV **020 8746 2274** [www.livingwellhiv.com](http://www.livingwellhiv.com)

**HART (Hillingdon AIDS Response Trust)** • Practical and emotional support to people affected by HIV and AIDS **01895 813874**

**The Bridge, Fulham Broadway Methodist Church** • Thursdays 2pm-8pm  
Drop-in, therapies and counselling for people living with HIV  
 **020 7381 3806**

**Hounslow African Health Project** • Provides services around health and social care to the African migrant communities in the Borough of Hounslow **020 8580 1046**

**OutWest** • Social and support group for the LGBT community in West London **020 8892 5061** [www.outwest.org.uk](http://www.outwest.org.uk)

## Sexual Health Clinics

**Ealing Hospital** • Level 8 Clinic, Pasteur Suite  
 **020 8967 5555** (Reception) no appointment necessary

**West London Centre for Sexual Health (Hammersmith)** • West 6 Clinic, for men who have sex with men **Tuesdays 5.30 pm- 7.30pm**  
Appointments Preferred - limited walk-in appointments. Arrive before 7.15pm  
 **0845 811 6699** Appointments **020 8846 1579** Health Advisers

**West Middlesex Hospital Sexual Health Clinic (Hounslow)**  
 **020 8321 5718** (Reception) no appointment necessary

**Tudor Centre (Uxbridge/Hillingdon)**  
 **01895 279537** (Reception) **Appointments Only**

## Lesbian, Gay & Bisexual Youth Groups

**O.O.T (Hammersmith)**  
 **0800 169 4318** [www.outonthursday.org.uk](http://www.outonthursday.org.uk)

**Your Zone (Ealing)**  
 **07985 12 64 42** [yourzone@ealing.gov.uk](mailto:yourzone@ealing.gov.uk)

## Local Police Community Safety Units

**Ealing**  
**020 8246 9617**  
**Hammersmith**  
**020 8246 2436**  
**Hounslow**  
**020 8577 1212**

**IN AN**  
**EMERGENCY**  
**ALWAYS dial**  
**999**

**CRIMESTOPPERS**  
**0800 555 111**

## Other Useful Numbers/Sources of Information

**West London Gay Men's Project Sexual Health Advice Line**  
 **0800 587 8302** or text/call **07947 734201**  
 [info@westlondongmp.org.uk](mailto:info@westlondongmp.org.uk)  
 [www.westlondongmp.org.uk](http://www.westlondongmp.org.uk)

**London's Health Directory for Gay Men on the Web**  
 [www.metromate.org.uk](http://www.metromate.org.uk)

**NHS Helpline**  
 **0845 46 47** [www.nhsdirect.nhs.uk](http://www.nhsdirect.nhs.uk)

**National HIV/AIDS/STI Helpline**  
 **0800 567 123**

**THT Direct**  
 **0845 12 21 200**

**London Lesbian & Gay Switchboard**  
 **020 7837 7324**





**Regulations that form part of the new Equality Act came into force on 30<sup>th</sup> April 2007.** This is good news for the gay community as the Act makes it unlawful for schools, businesses and other agencies to refuse services to people on the grounds of sexual orientation. **Adoption agencies are exempt from the regulations until December 2008.**

While many businesses would never have refused services to lesbian, gay and bisexual people anyway, in many instances within the law they would have had the right to do so. This is no longer the case. The new protections within the act are intended to capture direct discrimination, indirect discrimination and victimisation.

**For instance, it is now unlawful to:**

- Refuse a same-sex couple a double room in a hotel because doing so might cause offence to other customers.

- Refuse to provide a gift registration service for couples planning a civil partnership where such a service was offered to couples planning a wedding.

On the flip side, the Equality Act applies to businesses such as gay bars too. For example, a gay bar that refused to admit a straight person into their premises on the grounds that they were not gay would be breaking the law.

The law incorporates businesses such as travel and financial service companies that design their products for lesbian, gay and bisexual customers. Providing goods and services that are likely to be of more interest to lesbian, gay and bisexual people is not unlawful, as long as these goods and services are also made available to straight people.

The new law now enables lesbian, gay and bisexual people to bring a direct discrimination claim against a provider of goods and services who denied them access to a benefit or service that was being offered to a straight person in a similar situation.



**If you have a problem that you would like Auntie Jee to answer, email it to [thesource@westlondongmp.org.uk](mailto:thesource@westlondongmp.org.uk) or send it by post to: West London Gay Men's Project, Public Health & Health Improvement Unit, Housing & Community Services, Civic Centre, Lampton Road, Hounslow, TW3 4DN.**

**Dear Auntie Jee**

Two weeks ago I met a guy on-line who came to my hotel room and let me give him oral sex. He came in my mouth but I spat it out. Two days later I woke up in the night with really bad shivers and cold sweats. I had them for 2-3 days and was sweating really bad at night. I had a sore throat as well but no runny nose or head cold (which seemed odd). I read somewhere that a sign of infection are flu-like symptoms days after being infected. I've heard so many different theories about oral sex and HIV. Any advice or information you might be able to provide me would be appreciated.

**Darren, Isleworth**

*Darren, it is difficult to give simple answers to your questions. The short answer to the likelihood of HIV infection from oral sex is that it is believed there is a risk. However it is much lower than for unprotected anal sex. Various factors such as the amount of HIV virus present and how healthy your mouth is contribute to a greater risk of getting HIV.*

*You also ask about bad shivers, sore throat and cold sweats 2 days after oral sex. My information is that the symptoms of illness first associated with becoming HIV positive may take place from 2-12 weeks after infection and that both a fever and a rash would be stronger indications of that process.*

**For more information on the Equality Act go online to: <http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2007/draft/20075920.htm>**

Dear Auntie Jee



*That said, some men might not have such symptoms.*

*Perhaps you should consider an HIV test? It normally takes at least 6 weeks after HIV transmission before the antibody test can give a reliable result. It is a very good idea to have regular sexual health checks if you are having sex with different partners as other sexually transmitted infections such as herpes, syphilis, gonorrhoea etc. can be transmitted by oral sex.*

*There are a number of options you may think about if you are worried about the risk from oral sex. You could stop giving oral sex, or you could ask your partner to wear a condom or not to ejaculate into your mouth.*

*You may decide that the risk of HIV transmission from oral sex is low and acceptable. In any case it is a good idea to have regular dental checks, and not to floss or brush your teeth before giving oral sex.*

#### **Dear Auntie Jee**

*2 years ago my ex-boyfriend cheated on me and gave me anal warts, which went un-diagnosed for about 6 months. After which time they had gotten so bad I had to go in for a general anaesthetic and operation to have them removed. It was painful and upsetting. I felt and still do feel dirty. For the past 2 years I've been going back to the clinic for regular treatment. I have one left, just inside, which must be removed. As you may imagine*

*I've been off sex for a while, however I've recently met a lovely guy who wants to have sex with me. I want to have sex with him too, but I'm scared. I know that if we use a condom he'll not get warts on his penis, but still, I worry. I like him, so I want to be honest with him, but I feel ashamed. I know warts carry a high risk of Anal Cancer, which scares me more. Should I tell this guy why I'm scared of sex?*

#### **Tony, Hammersmith**

*Tony, I imagine that it must have been very upsetting for you over the past two years, however I'm concerned that you feel 'dirty' because you have anal warts, a type of human papilloma virus (HPV). This virus is extremely common and there are studies that estimate between 30 and 40 percent of young adults have HPV.*

*There are many different strains of HPV (over 100), most of which cause harmless warts in various places including the arse and genitals. A few high-risk strains of HPV can lead to anal cancer if not caught*

*and treated early. Most often, though, infection even with those 'high risk' strains of HPV doesn't result in cancer.*

*I appreciate your concern about telling the guy you've met about the warts. As you know, if you are taking care of your sexual health you will be using condoms when having sex, which will help prevent him from catching the virus. You also mentioned that you have one wart left just inside you, which I guess would be hard to spot anyway, so telling him is entirely up to you. Unfortunately feeling stressed, worried and run-down can be linked to the reappearance of warts so think positively - you only have one left, which is going to be removed. Staying healthy physically and mentally may prevent them from ever reappearing.*

*If you explain the situation and present him with the facts then he can make up his own mind, but there is absolutely no reason for you to feel ashamed - you never know he may have HPV himself!*