

The Source

Health Information for Gay and Bisexual Men



Upcoming 24s dates

January 2006

3rd	Birdcage
6th	Windsor Castle
13th	The George
17th	Birdcage
21st	Club Exilio
23rd	Ted's
28th	W5

February 2006

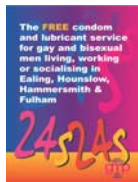
1st	Birdcage
10th	Windsor Castle
17th	Club Kali
21st	Ted's

March 2006

1st	Birdcage
13th	Ted's
17th	W5
24th	Windsor Castle

Ealing Hammersmith and Hounslow Gay Men's Project welcomes you to **Issue 4** of **The Source**.

If you are already familiar with **The Source** you will know that it is a FREE information point to local health services and a guide to what's on, what's new and what's coming up in your area. Regular features include the Local Contacts and Useful Numbers section, plus the upcoming dates for 24s, our FREE condom and lube distribution scheme. To sign up just speak to one of our friendly outreach workers on the night - they'll be wearing EHH Gay Men's Project T-shirts. Alternatively, call Karen Randall on **020 8583 2476** or email **24s@dial.pipex.com**.



This issue looks at Civil Partnerships and examines what the advantages and disadvantages are to getting hitched. There is also the low-down on the O.O.T Youth Project based in Hammersmith.

Please call or email us with your comments and suggestions about **The Source** to: **020 8583 6461** or **thesource@dial.pipex.com**.





What was **Out On Thursday**, Hammersmith and Fulham's Young Gay & Bisexual Men's Project has undergone somewhat of a major transformation over the past twelve months. It is currently in the process of re-branding to become **O.O.T**, having undergone a series of progressive expansions in service provision and delivery, reacting to the needs of the borough and the young people contacting and accessing the project.

O.O.T. now runs four face to face group work sessions a week, each delivering a varied and inclusive programme of workshops and activities over nine weeks of an ever changing ten week programme. It runs two sessions on a Tuesday for lesbian, gay & bisexual young people, as well as those questioning their sexuality. The first from 5-7pm is for young people aged 18 and under and the second from 7-10pm is for young people aged 21 and under. On a Wednesday night from 7-10pm it runs a session for lesbian & bisexual women, as well as those questioning their sexuality, aged 25 and under. On a Thursday night it runs sessions for young gay & bisexual men aged 18 and over, from 6-10pm.

As well as the weekly sessions the project offers bookable one-to-one support outside of group times, email support, phone line support, mediation and advocacy. Within every ten-week programme there is at least one activity that is whole project, including all the groups either on a session night rotated amongst the various groups or on a night outside of normal delivery.

This allows for a whole project sense of identity and feeling of belonging for the young people that attend the various sessions.

The young people like the changes that have been introduced and more and more are coming each month. On a Tuesday night nearly all of the younger members choose to stay for both sessions. Those members that are too old to attend the earlier session arrive at the later 7pm session.

The women-only space, although still in the early stages of growing and developing an identity, is proving to be a success with a slowly expanding user group.

The mixed space is exactly that, with female members attending as regularly as their male counterparts, though it has been noted that at present the young women that attend the mixed spaces are not the same people as those who attend the women-only space, highlighting the need for both sessions within the project.

If you would like more information on O.O.T and the services it provides please feel free to contact them on:



020 7386 9131 (Office Line)
0800 169 4318 (Young People's Support Line)
07989 514 581 (Male worker mobile)
07896 160 743 (Female worker mobile)

Email: info@outonthursday.org.uk
www.outonthursday.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)

020 8846 1567 / 1577 (reception) - appointments only

& West 6 Clinic, for men who have sex with men, Tuesdays
5.30 pm - 7.30pm

West Middlesex Hospital Sexual Health Clinic (Hounslow)

020 8321 5718 (reception) no appointment necessary

IF YOU HAVE ANY SYMPTOMS OF AN STI,
PLEASE GO TO A CLINIC IMMEDIATELY

Lesbian, Gay & Bisexual Youth Groups

I-identity (Hounslow)

08000 854 036

www.identityuk.com

O.O.T (Hammersmith)

0800 169 4318

www.outonthursday.org.uk

Your Zone (Ealing)

07985 12 64 42

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



Local Support Services

Hounslow African Health Project

Provides services around health and social care to the African migrant communities in the Borough of Hounslow

020 8580 1046

Living Well

Self Management Programme and support for people living with HIV

020 8746 2274

www.livingwellhiv.com

Naz Project London

Provides a variety of services for Spanish or Portuguese speaking men, Muslim, Somali, Ethiopian and Asian men

020 8741 1879

www.naz.org.uk

The River House

Drop-in for people living with and affected by HIV.

020 8753 5190

www.riverhousetrust.org.uk.

Other Useful Numbers / Sources of Information

London's Health Directory for Gay Men on the Web

www.metromate.org.uk

EHH Gay Men's Project Sexual Health Advice Line

0800 587 8302 or text *07947 734201*

NHS Helpline

0845 46 47

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



- Civil Partnership -

As of **December 5th 2005** the Civil Partnership Act comes into force. This allows same-sex couples to gain legal recognition of their relationship.

“So how do we do it?”

If you want to form a partnership and you are over 16 (parental consent required if under 18), then you must both *give notice* to the registration service in person. After giving notice, you must then wait for 15 clear days before you are able to sign the register and the civil partnership can be formed. Once given, your notice is valid for 12 months.



“Where do we go?”

A civil partnership can be formed at a registry office or at any venue that has been approved for the formation of civil partnerships. Couples will have the option to say a set form of words (the equivalent of wedding vows) and will be able to arrange a ceremony in addition to the registration procedure if they wish, however no religious service is permitted.



“How much will it cost us?”

Giving notice in advance of forming the partnership costs £30.00 per person and the forming of the partnership at a register office costs £40.00.

If you are subject to immigration controls you will *not* be

- Civil Partnership -

able to give notice unless you have entry clearance granted expressly for the purpose of forming a civil partnership in the UK, however there are a few exceptions to this rule.

“What difference will it make to us in the long run?”



Forming a civil partnership will affect issues relating to pensions, employment rights, tenancy rights, social security, tax, the death of a civil partner and child-support. However same-sex couples who are cohabiting (living together) but are *not* registered civil

partners will be affected if claiming social security benefits and tax credits.

Below are some key advantages and possible disadvantages for you to think about before deciding to go ahead with forming a civil partnership...

Advantages



Civil partners will be able to claim bereavement benefits, dependants' allowances and pensions in the same way as opposite sex couples. Surviving civil partners will be entitled to bereavement payment, bereavement allowance and widowed parents' allowance in the same way as surviving spouses currently are. State pension rights, including adult dependency increases will also be extended to civil partners.

If a partner dies without leaving a will the surviving partner automatically inherits their partner's estate. Domestic violence protection shall also be awarded.

Disadvantages



Registered partners will be treated as a single family unit for income related benefits purposes. So couples that are registered civil partners or are just *cohabiting non-registered partners* will be liable to support their partner/be supported in the same way that married/unmarried cohabiting couples are. They will no longer be treated as single individuals for the purpose of benefit and tax credit claims, in other words, the disadvantages unmarried heterosexual couples face will be shared by same sex couples who do not choose to register their partnership.

A parent who is living together with a same-sex partner as if they were civil partners will be treated for the purposes of child support, as if they were husband and wife.

For more information on all of the issues surrounding civil partnerships visit:

www.womenandequalityunit.gov.uk/lgbt/partnership.htm

To find out where you can go to give notice call:

Hounslow: 020 8583 2090

Hammersmith: 020 8753 2360

Ealing: 020 8825 7272

