



www.gay-ness.org.uk

Contact

Email:

forum@gay-ness.org.uk

Phone/text: 07017 611 111

Highland LGBT Forum

PO Box 5735

Inverness IV1 9DB



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We now have over 190 friends!

LGBT Youth Scotland has a text message support service - simply text "info" to 0778 148 17 88 and a trained youth worker will text you back.



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Highland LGBT Forum

Making the LGBT community more visible in the Highlands

Newsletter July 2010

Summer's here!

There's lots happening around the North of Scotland this summer with pink picnics, plus new groups in Elgin, Fort William and Stornoway, not to mention the London Lesbian & Gay Film Festival on tour at Eden Court. Keep checking the [Events page](#) for updates.

If you have anything you want us to add, just send it to forum@gay-ness.org.uk

The Forum is currently having planning and development meetings to set goals for the future. We'll keep you posted on what happens! Meanwhile come and visit our stall at the Inverness Highland Games on Saturday 24 July.

LGBT events calendar

- **5 - 29 July:** [London Lesbian & Gay Film Festival](#) at Eden Court. See full details below.
- **Tuesday 6 July:** meeting for the new [Moray LGBT group](#) at Elgin library in the Activities Room at 7.30pm. Contact them on their mobile 07598418638 or via [Facebook](#)
- **Saturday 10 July:** Picnic at the Ness Islands from 1pm - 4pm. Meet at the circular seating area and bring your own picnic basket! All ages of the LGBT community & friends are welcome. Organised by Thomas Close (07733 758 309 / salsaness@yahoo.co.uk).
- **Tuesday 13 July:** The [Pink Castle Philosophy Club](#) meets at 7pm at Nico's Bar (Glen Mhor Hotel), Ness Bank, Inverness. Contact Morgan on 01463 751258 / 07745 930383 or email morgan@tramstop.org. The club meets on the second Tuesday of every month.
- **Thursday 15 July:** Girls night out - meet for a meal in Jimmy Chungs any time from 6.30pm onwards then see the lesbian comedy film [And Then Came Lola](#) at 8.15pm at Eden Court. Contact Joanne at girlzone@gay-ness.org.uk
- **Friday 16 July:** [GirlZone](#) lunch from 12.30pm - 2pm in the restaurant upstairs in Debenhams (take the lift to the very top floor in the Eastgate shopping centre, don't go to the cafe on the ground floor!). If you are new, look for the blue box or contact [GirlZone](#) if you wish to be met in advance.
- **Thursday 22 July:** The Swans of Scotland is an independent group which meets at the Beaufort Hotel in Inverness on the fourth Thursday of the month for transgender / transvestite / transexual people. [Visit their web site](#) for more details.
- **Saturday 24 July:** the Highland LGBT Forum is running an LGBT diversity stand to promote physical, mental and sexual health & wellbeing and raise awareness at Inverness Highland Games in the Northern Meeting Park. Information, leaflets, free condoms, etc.
- **Wednesday 28 July:** Caithness LGBT group meeting in Wick (contact Caroline.Snow@ttht.org.uk for more details).
- **Thursday 29 July:** [Highland Rainbow Folk](#) meeting in the Dunbar

Gay Nights @ The Market Bar

Every Tuesday, Sean and Ronald host a Gay Night in The Market Bar (Church Street, Inverness). Starts at 8pm. The first Tuesday of every month is also a Drag Night. [Check out their photos and info on Facebook.](#)

Nights Out

The Highland LGBT Forum is talking to some Inverness venues about hosting gay nights - we'll keep you posted!

NEW GROUPS

Following the SPEAKOUT Highlands & Islands events run by the Equality Network and THT in May, a new group has been formed in Moray and the next meeting will be in Elgin library in the Activities Room at 7.30pm on Tuesday 6th July.

A new LGBT group has formed in Stornoway (details coming soon). Fort William meetings will start in September on Tuesday evenings. The existing Caithness group will be meeting in Wick on Wednesday 28th July (contact Caroline.Snow@tht.org.uk for more details).

THT IN INVERNESS

On Tuesday 8 June, THT Highland presented an evening at the Crown Court Hotel asking what the local LGBT community would like THT to do for them. If you weren't able to attend, but would still like to offer your feedback on THT services, please contact info.highland@tht.org.uk or leave a message on the [THT Scotland Facebook group](#).

Open Door Afternoons at THT (Waterloo Place, Inverness) are on Tuesdays from 2pm - 4pm for LGBT people to meet up and chat.

Centre, 7pm.

- **Friday 6 August:** LGBT youth night at THT, Waterloo Place, Inverness from 6pm-8pm (first Friday of every month) - contact Caroline.Snow@tht.org.uk
- **Saturday 7 August:** [GirlZone](#) lunch from 1pm at Wetherspoons in Church Street. Joanne will be away on holiday but there will be someone to welcome any newcomers.

LONDON LESBIAN & GAY FILM FESTIVAL

Films at Eden Court this month:

- 5 July at 6pm - [Plan B](#)
When Bruno's attempts to win back his ex-girlfriend prove unsuccessful, he formulates a plan to befriend her current partner, Pablo, in an attempt to break up the couple. As the friendship between the two boys develops, Bruno begins to flirt with Pablo, and soon their relationship takes a detour that neither of them expected.
Argentina, 103 minutes. In Spanish with subtitles.
- 15 July at 8.15pm - [And Then Came Lola](#)
This raunchy, funny, sexy lesbian comedy is a loose homage to hit film Run Lola Run only with more women in tight vests and plenty of Sapphic shenanigans to keep you entertained. Running time 70 minutes.
Any girls wanting to meet up for a meal first, see you in Jimmy Chungs (on the river above Johnny Foxes), any time from 6.30pm onwards. Contact Joanne at girlzone@gay-ness.org.uk
- 17 July at 6.15pm - [Boys On Film](#)
Shorts programme: Candy Boy; Protect Me From What I Want; Dish :); Breath; Lucky Blue; My Name is Love. Total running time 98 minutes.
- 22 July at 8.45pm - [Here Come The Girls](#)
Shorts programme: Memoirs of an Evil Stepmother; Henna Night; Wicked Desire; Falling for Caroline; Private Life; Little Black Boot. Total running time 94 minutes.
- 29 July at 8.45pm - [Children Of God](#)
A politically bold, sweepingly romantic and beautifully photographed examination of identity and sexuality in the Bahamas. 103 minutes.

Date for your diary

Make a note in your diary for **Saturday 23 October!** The Highland LGBT Forum is organising a **Halloween Party** at the Raigmore Motel with a whole evening packed with live entertainment. The line-up features DJ Calum, The Shire, and a special guest appearance by Miss Shirley B. Tickets will cost £10 and will go on sale in August.

The Raigmore Motel is offering a special discount on room rates for the night. A single room will cost £35.80 and a twin/double room £56.20. Call them on 01463 221546 to book your room.

GAYDAR

If you are on Gaydar and want to report anything - check out the Northern Constabulary profiles: www.gaydar.co.uk/policeservice and and gaydargirls.com/policeservice You can also use the [Hate Free Highland](#) web site if you wish to report something anonymously.



Faith

After meeting with Rev. Peter Nimmo several times, some members of the Highland LGBT Forum will soon be meeting with other Church of Scotland representatives.

DONATIONS

The Highland LGBT Forum is a registered charity. If you'd like to make a regular donation, you can download the [standing order mandate](#) from our web site. Simply fill in your bank details and return the form to us. We will then process it for you.

Conference

GayCon 2010: Gay Men's Sexual Health and Wellbeing - 3rd National Conference for Scotland 20th and 21st October 2010 at the Royal College of Physicians, Edinburgh.

The objectives are:

- Provide a free, two day event for 200 delegates with the opportunity to participate in workshops, seminars, presentations and plenary sessions on a range of relevant topics.
- Ensure the conference provides opportunities for those with no previous experience of gay and bisexual men's sexual health to learn about this area of work
- Ensure that the conference is specifically applicable and relevant to those responsible for implementing the HIV Action Plan within the NHS and Local Authorities
- Engage participants in discussions on the latest international research evidence and lessons learned, encouraging them to address the challenges of applying these to the needs of gay and bisexual men in Scotland.
- Provide a forum to share promising and innovative practice and to learn from what has and what has not succeeded in Scotland and internationally.
- Identify key priorities for action in sexual health promotion and develop a clear focus for future sexual health work for gay and bisexual men in Scotland

For more info visit [GayCon 2010](#)

HIV Comeback Tour

Gay Men's Health in partnership with other voluntary organisations and NHS Lothian have launched a new phase of the award winning HIV prevention campaign in Edinburgh. The campaign features images of men in bars and saunas and highlights the fact that condoms are still our best protection against HIV transmission.

The **campaign** also reminds us of some of the facts about HIV e.g. that every week in Lothian a gay or bisexual man is diagnosed with HIV.

In a survey recently published by the Medical Research Council, almost a third of gay and bisexual men with HIV did not know they were infected. The campaign stresses that the only way to know if you have HIV is to have a test. For more [information on HIV testing click here](#).