



Welcome to the 59th edition of The Ribbon. Once more we are in a period of building works as what started as a small project to replace our outdated and un-repairable stair lift has turned into a project to replace the whole staircase, which was coming away from the wall after 140 years of use. Thanks to some funding from the Big Lottery Awards for All and also the Hardship Fund and LASS reserves we have been able to invest in our lovely old building. While builders were in we took the opportunity to extend our popular café which has now been used for over a year for meals.

Among the building works, HIV positive people have launched their own new group called LhivE, we have a new African network to help raise awareness about HIV in the African communities and LASS social enterprise is now set up as a company. You can read about all these new developments below.



We are delighted to be working in partnership with Trade, the LGBT centre and Leicester Rape Crisis to offer some short term employment opportunities to long term unemployed people as a part of the Future Jobs Fund. We are using this opportunity to increase raising HIV awareness and for this we thank all our supporters and volunteers.

We still need you to help us to address the fact that HIV is very much a local issue and with a rising HIV rate, we really do need to encourage more people to get an HIV test. So do get in contact with us about getting involved in events and awareness. We would also like to invite our supporters and volunteers past and present to LASS on 4th June for tea from 3pm to 5pm to celebrate Volunteers' Week. I do hope you will join us. Please telephone to let us know if you are able to attend. Many thanks for your ongoing support.

Jenny Hand
CEO

LASS Social Enterprise Company Ltd

LASS has now set up its new social enterprise company. It is called LASS Social Enterprise Ltd and was incorporated in March. The new company will trade as Well For Living and will supply a range of services including training courses, publications, consultancy and health management packages for companies and individuals. The new company will not get involved in things to do with HIV as that is what the charity does; instead, it will concentrate on broader health issues and can work anywhere in the UK. The charity is limited to Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland. A pilot web site is under construction at www.wellforliving.co.uk and full details will be available over the next few weeks.

African Network

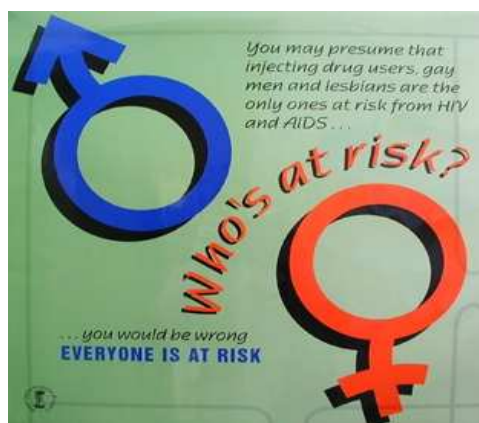
We have also started an African Network – initiated with Eric, Sylvia, Sadiya, Sarah and Mirriam, to name a few – to develop this area of our work by making contacts to develop stronger links to the different African communities in Leicester. If you are interested in this please contact Eric.

We would like to encourage the Rapid HIV Testing volunteers to get in touch with Celia – we need you to support this important service. Please let me know if you are still interested in assisting with this.

Finally – we have just issued the new programme for training for June and July. Please sign up to the sessions if you want to – ongoing development is important. We are also planning a session for events volunteers about the different activities we use to engage the public. Again contact one of us for more information. Hope to see you soon. Celia, Khadija, Ravina, Eric, Dipesh, Steve and Chaz.



Sexual Health Promotion



The Sexual Health Promotion team has grown in the past month, with 3 people employed under the Future Jobs Scheme. So I'll introduce you to Eric (African Communities Development Worker) and Steve & Dipesh (sexual health outreach and events workers). You will see them around and about and will hopefully get to work with them at different events over the summer.

It's important for you to know that we still need you to get involved with events and activities. Our intention is to increase our participation in events and activities with the new staff – with you playing your usual role. So here is a list of the up & coming events for the next few months. Can you get involved with one or more? Will you let us know as soon as you can?

Riverside Festival	June 5 th & 6 th (12pm – 5pm)	Western Boulevard Leicester
Braunstone Carnival	July 3rd	Braunstone Park
Belgrave Mela	18 th July	Leicester Market
Caribbean Carnival	7 th August	Victoria Park
Summer Sundae Weekender	Fri – Sunday 13 th – 15 th August	DeMontfort Hall

Free Food Hygiene Course. Sounds interesting? Contact Matt!!!

We currently have some funding available to offer volunteers the chance to complete a course leading to a qualification in Food Hygiene and Safety. The course is nationally recognized qualification and will look good on your CV. Topics covered include food handling, poisoning, food control, cleaning & waste and the law. We hope that when you complete this course you will help us as a volunteer in our kitchen. The course is offered free of charge, you can complete the course either at home or using the computers at the Michael Wood Centre, all you require is an internet connection. The course should take no longer than 3 hours in total, however, you can complete this at your own pace. There are limited places available, for more details or to reserve a place then please contact Matt.





LHIVE is an inspirational group of HIV+ people empowering each other to strive to achieve our aspirations in life through peer led advocacy. Summer activities, discussions, talks and outings! The project will be managed by all of us with HIV and you can have as much or as little involvement as you like.

Dates for the Diary

Friday 18th June – Escape to Safety

An interactive multi media exhibition to experience life as a refugee

Tuesday 22nd June – Positive Testers Group

A discussion of the HIV+ volunteers that have undergone the community testing course

Sunday 4th July – Outing, fishing & BBQ (TBC)

A day out of fishing with a family BBQ or picnic

Saturday 10th July – Creative & Expressional Writing with Dr Kerry Young

A workshop to learn the basic skills of personal writing

Tuesday 13th July – Stigma & Discrimination (11.30)

An open discussion facilitated by Michael Loutitt

Sunday 18th July – Leicester Belgrave Mela (11.00)

South Asian arts and culture festival

Tuesday 27th July – Relationship & Disclosure(11.30)

An open discussion facilitated by Michael Loutitt

Sunday 1 August – Rathayatra (11.30)

A colourful Hindu religious event inc. procession

Saturday 7th August – Caribbean Carnival (12 noon)

A celebration of Caribbean Cultural identity

Saturday 4th September – Leicester Pride (12.30)

A visit to the street party at Belgrave Gate

For further information either email julie@lass.org.uk, call reception on 0116 255 9995 and leave a message or call Julie on 07951 666875

If you have any ideas on groups you would like to run give us a call on 0116 255 9995 and leave a message for the LhivE Group and one of us will come back to you. Please join us on this journey of discovery!

Christmas Party

We are starting to put together plans for our Christmas party. This year we will be planning our own party which will be open to service users, volunteers and staff which we are hoping will take place on Friday 17th December. We are currently putting together a group of staff, service users and volunteers who will organise the party. If you feel that you have any ideas, skills or expertise that you feel you could bring to the group and would like to be part of planning this fun event then please contact Matt for more details.



Refugee Week International Football Tournament Saturday 5th June 2010.
The Action Starts at 10 am in the morning!!



An event to be enjoyed by the whole family so bring them along too! We have fun and games for the children and access to Abbey Park playground nearby!

LASS have put forward a team to compete in the Tournament. So come along and cheer for LASS!

Tournament to be held at:

St. Margaret's Pasture's Sports Centre
St Margarets Way
Leicester
LE1 3EA

Sponsored Walk, Barbeque & Fundraising at Horse & Groom in Rearsby at the end of July!!!

Dipesh, Mohsin, Casey and George have been assigned to a sponsored walk project to take place towards the end on July this year. Efforts will be made by the team to raise the maximum amount of money for the David Manley Fund which is most in demand.

Come along with the whole family to have a great day out for a noble cause!!

A couple of dates to go in your diary

The AGM and the Film Premier will take place on the 16th of September. The curry night event will take place on Monday the 22nd of November – Everyone is invited and please do come as half the money you pay comes to LASS and half obviously goes to the restaurant.

New Starters from the Future Jobs Fund
First of all, what is Future Jobs Fund?



LASS in partnership with Trade, Leicester Rape Crisis Centre and the LGBT Centre have been able to offer a number of new posts to long term unemployed people for the next 6 months. These roles will help all the organisations develop and raise our profile.

The Future Jobs Fund was announced in Budget 2009. By March 2011 it will aim to create 111,000 additional jobs, primarily aimed at 18-24 year olds who have been out of work for six months and claiming Jobseekers Allowance, to deliver real benefits to communities and also in Leicester for people over 25 who have been unemployed for between 6 and 12 months. Below we introduce you to some of our new team. Each person is employed for 25 hours.

Dipesh

Hi my name is Dipesh and as part of the Future Jobs Fund (FJF) I have been successfully appointed as a Sexual Health Promotion, Outreach and Events Worker, for 6 months. I was keen to get involved with LASS in any capacity, as I am passionate about the work LASS does, and have been volunteering at LASS for a number of years.

Prior to my role at LASS, I had worked for a number of organisations such as the Home Office and the Leicester City Council to mention but a few. My role will require me to support sexual health promotion and HIV awareness by raising stalls and displays at events, festivals, health fairs and other occasions in Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland. I look forward to working with everyone involved, and look towards making a positive impact during my time at LASS.

George

My name is George and I am the new Marketing Assistant with the LASS Social Enterprise; Well For Living. After graduating in Fine Art from DMU I was on Jobseekers Allowance for some time. I began volunteering at Fabrika, the Independent Arts Centre, and I also helped out Oxfam, setting up and marketing two fund raising music events. I found volunteering to be a great way to get involved with people and projects in the area and to do something positive.

Now I am very pleased to be working with the LASS Social Enterprise Team, the team is developing some exciting products and services, revenue from which will be given to LASS.

My job is to work on the branding of the company and to help market our products and services, and I can't imagine a warmer and friendlier place to work.

Casey

Hi my name is Casey Bentham and I have been working at LASS for nearly 2 months now as the Catering Support Worker. I really enjoy working here because it is so welcoming and I get to meet a lot of friendly people. As I have been working here I've been considering going to college to carry on with the HIV and AIDS awareness training that LASS has put me on. So working here has had a big impact on what I want to do in the future.

Steve

Hi I am Steve Sackett and I work here at LASS as a Sexual Health Promotion worker. I hope to gain a lot of knowledge of HIV and AIDS. Now that I have settled in I have a great team here in Sexual Health Promotion that are very supportive and I hope to support LASS for years to come.

Mohsin

Hi my name is Mohsin, I am delighted to be appointed by LASS as a Bookkeeper Administrator as part of the Future Jobs Fund initiative. Upon completing my Degree from De Montfort University in BA Accounting and Business I was involved with an international based charity called Skillshare International as a volunteer in the Finance department.

I consider myself very fortunate to be a part of LASS working alongside greatly talented and extremely friendly people. My role as a Bookkeeper Administrator in the Corporate Services team involves carrying out the tasks which are required for the smooth functioning of LASS such as paying salaries, paying bills, reconciling, petty cash and volunteer recruitment to name a few. I am very passionate about the work I do and I hope to continue doing some really good work for LASS.

Ravi

Hi my name is Ravi. I have recently joined the LASS team and work for the Leicester LGBT Centre. I come from an Indian background and culture and am aiming to progress the Centre's work with my community further. I am 20 years of age possibly the youngest member and have been involved with the creative sector before I started with LASS.

I am a very enthusiastic individual and I aim to work hard in order to outreach to various different communities. My position is about working with all kinds of people from various backgrounds offering advice and support in the areas of sexuality. LASS and the Centre have been very welcoming towards me and I enjoy working with them.

Eric

The Sexual Health team would like to introduce Eric Gore who is the Sexual Health African Communities Worker. Many of you would know Eric for he has been a volunteer for LASS for the past year. He is an accomplished HIV tester.

Nicholas

Hi my name is Nicholas Bolton I work for Trade Sexual Health, a sexual health promotion charity for the lesbian gay and bisexual community in Leicester. My previous employment included working for a finance company in Leicester for two years.

I joined Trade Sexual Health in April 2010 as part of the Future Jobs Fund Scheme. It's only been a few months but I have learnt a lot from working within a small charity. My role involves maintaining and implementing administrative systems and ensuring the finance books are kept up to date. I'm also

involved in project work such as assisting people via drop in services and providing administrative support to Trade staff and volunteers.

Since working for trade I have learnt a lot about sexual health and about the issues that LGB people face. I have found the training extremely interesting and it has made me more aware of sexual health and the importance of keeping yourself safe. I really enjoy working for Trade! No two days are ever the same.

Volunteers Week

Volunteering Week has been created by Volunteer England and celebrates the contribution made by volunteers across the UK in order to raise volunteers' profile and to inspire others to join in. Volunteer England is an independent charity and membership organisation that is committed to supporting, enabling and celebrating the diversity of volunteering.



This year Volunteers' Week is about 'Inspiring and Celebrating' and LASS will be celebrating the contributions made by its volunteers by holding a Coffee and Cake afternoon. The event will be held on the 4th June 2010 from 3pm - 5pm at The Michael Wood Centre, 53 Regent Road, Leicester. We will be giving out celebratory certificates for our volunteers to thank you for your incredible efforts. There will also be information about the organisation at the event for newcomers and opportunities to recruit new volunteers - so please bring along friends and family who may be interested in our work. Service users and LASS staff will have the opportunity to personally thank volunteers by signing the Volunteers' Week *thank you book* as well as online dedications on the official Volunteers' Week website. Please refer to the LASS website to be sign posted to this site and for further updates and information about Volunteers' Week at LASS.

We look forward to seeing you.