



Responding to the challenges of HIV & AIDS

LASS Volunteer News August 2009

We hope you are keeping well and not suffering too much with the rain and flu. As some of you will know Tony Saddington has moved house and job and is now living in the warmer dryer climates of Southern England!! We would like to introduce you to Lisa Whelan, our new Direct Services Support and Advocacy Worker who joined the Direct Services Team at the beginning of this month. Many of you have by now come across Tom who is LASS' company administrator and is chasing all volunteers for an update of their contact details.

If you use IT please take the time to look at our new website and let us know what else you think we should put on it and if you can find information you want. Your views on this would be really helpful.

LASS have a busy time coming up in the next few weeks and we would welcome your involvement in a range of different ways....

- On 29th August (10:00am) Tom will be part of a world record breaking Michael Jackson Dance outside The Curve. 300 dance performers are dancing to "Thriller" and we'd love you to go along to watch and give him your support.
- AGM 10th September 7:00 - 8:30. We will look at how LASS might be in five years time and try and plan for the future, as well as celebrating achievements from the last year.
- 6th September. Voice Coaching plus autumn clean up!! Come and help us reorganise LASS, clean windows, sort out junk etc. We intend to repeat this every six months so we can maintain a higher level of tidiness and save money in cleaning costs. The voice coaching is mainly for reception volunteers but everyone who comes should find it fun and is welcome to join in. Let Tom know if you able to join us.
- 24th September 4-6 or 6-8 Volunteers Meeting - help us plan more events and meet other volunteers. We want to organise another Christmas dinner dance and plan a foot ball match against our auditors and IT support company.
- 31st October Sponsored Swim. Contact Gareth for more info, join the swim, count the lanes or support someone else who is swimming and raise money for LASS.

- WAD planning and getting involved for this December 1st is starting - contact Celia, Ravina or Khadija. One of the ideas we have is to collect as many photos as possible of everyone wearing their red ribbons. We want to put these on our website and also show them across Leicester on 1st December - so get your cameras out!
- We would welcome more volunteers for the kitchen, please contact Matt if you are interested. We will provide Food Hygiene training. Also if you are interested in training to be an HIV community tester contact Celia who is setting up another round of testing training.

Prevention and Awareness Raising Events

Here is the list of events and activities coming up in the next few months. Let me know if you are interested in getting involved with any of them.

- Leicester Pride Festival- 5th Sept
Pride is a festival that promotes understanding of gay, Lesbian, transsexual and cross gender community. Celebrating the diversity and vitality of the community in Leicestershire.
- Leicester college Fresher fair- 16th September
- Health Market Place at Walkers Stadium- 29th Sept 4.00-9.30pm
At the health market place there will be information about health services, social services, health concerns and current health focussed initiatives within the Leicester City area.
- Leicester & Leicestershire BME Carers Workers Network 1st October 1.00pm-7.00pm Leicester & Leicestershire BME carers Workers Network are holding

an Information Event for BME carers. We will have a sexual health promotion stall at this event.

- Community Fair at De Montfort University- 1st October
- Mini Health Fairs @ Highfields, St Barnabas and Hamilton Library- 19th October
- WAD stall at Centrica- 27th November
- Sexual Health Advice & Guidance week (Shag) at University of Leicester - 30th Nov- 4th Dec

Finally We have also got some tickets for the small charities prize draw where the main prize is a car. Tickets cost £2.00 (LASS keeps £1.90) are available at LASS reception and the draw closes on 21st August - so do get spending and help LASS

Do let me know what else you would like to see in the news update and if this is a useful way of keeping in contact. I look forward to hearing from you and seeing you here at LASS.

Best Wishes

Jenny

CEO LASS