

# NEWS@10

HELLO AND WELCOME  
TO THE THIRD EDITION  
OF NEWS@10

WE HOPE YOUR YEAR  
HAS BEGUN WITH A  
BANG AND YOU HAVE  
NOT BROKEN TOO  
MANY NEW YEARS  
RESOLUTIONS  
ALREADY

AS THE WEATHER  
STARTS TO GET A  
LITTLE BRIGHTER WE  
CAN HANG UP THE  
WINTER COATS AND  
LOOK FORWARD TO  
SPRING

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## Round Up of LGBT History Month 2012

February marks LGBT History month around the UK, and in Norfolk it was no exception. There were lots of events which people could get involved in including quizzes, talks at the UEA, Aviva Talent auditions, films and question and answer sessions.



It all kicked off with an exciting launch night at The Forum on the 31 January 2012, which started with stalls and a Human Library event in the atrium. Speakers at the event included Michael Cashman MEP (who was famous for the 1989 first gay kiss on TV on Eastenders), Carol Bundock of the BBC and a Deputy Lieutenant of Norfolk, David Todd of Norfolk Carers Forum. At the launch the winners who had won bursaries from Norfolk County Council & LGBT History Month gave the guests updates on how their projects were going and entertainment was provided in the form of live music in Marzanos courtesy of Radio Norfolk and also from Sing with Pride.

For me, highlights of the month were The Dysfunction Room, which is an exciting new comedy night in the Vault of Karma Kafe. On the bill were a great line up of comedians. Headlining was the hilarious Bethany Black who had some great anecdotes which really tickled the audience's ribs! Also come to save the day was Hilary Koe Danger Lesbian. Now I finally understand the importance of "sensible shoes!", as well as Katy Went who did a very good job as it was her first time and Paul Knight. Jake Wyatt kept the proceedings running along smoothly with fun introductions and readings from his new book "The Nice Adventures of Derek The Homosexual Gerbil" If you want to experience The Dysfunction Room, the next night is on Friday April 20<sup>th</sup>, and you can also find them on Facebook.

I also went to the Aviva Talent Final which was held at The Talk. There were some great acts who performed and comparing was the fabulous Pequlia Bigtopp and Jim Blythe, with judging from Matthew May who is a singer, Joel Mullin who is the drummer for last year's winners The Dying Breeds, Sarah Hamlin, Assistant Chief Constable for Norfolk Constabulary and Future Radio presenter and Norwich Pride Events Lead, Mike Stonard. This year the event was raising money The Albert Kennedy Trust's project Purple Door. The aim is to create safe and supportive homes to young people who face violence and homelessness after coming out as lesbian, gay, bisexual or trans so it's a really worthwhile cause. Everyone did really well the overall winners were the dynamic dance crew Passion Elite.

For more information about the Norfolk LGBT History Society who organise History Month as well as other events, please visit [www.lgbthistorymonthnorfolk.org.uk](http://www.lgbthistorymonthnorfolk.org.uk)

By David



## TRANS\* LITERATIONS



*Welcome to Trans Literations. The purpose of this column is give people a better insight into trans issues and hopefully encourage discussion about those issues.*

### **What is Privilege?**

This time I want to discuss what may be a slightly contentious issue. That is, the subject of privilege. If I asked you what privilege is, what would your immediate answer be? No doubt many people would think of wealth, and certainly affluence is something which is held in high regard in many places in the world. As such, those with money are often ascribed social status because of it. However, privilege as a concept is generally more wide ranging than that.

Let's consider those words 'social status', for a moment. What do we mean by that? The word 'status' obviously refers to a state of being. For example, when someone posts a Facebook status, it is a post about something that is happening to them or something they are thinking about at that moment in time. However, when we say that a person 'has status', what we are normally saying is that for whatever reason they are held in high regard. Therefore, when we talk about 'social status' we typically mean that a person has a particular characteristic that is favoured socially.

Take a moment to think of what characteristics you possess and then think about how they may impact on your daily life, some examples of characteristics are things like race or ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender, faith and so on.

All of these characteristics can advantage or disadvantage you socially, more often than not depending on cultural context. Take the example of faith. If you are a Muslim in Britain, owing to the current political climate people may react less favourably towards you than if you were a Christian or an Atheist because of stigma around terrorism that is attached to a Muslim identity.

In contrast, if you are an Atheist in the southern states of America, you are likely to be treated far less favourably than if you are an Atheist in the UK. This is not to say that Muslims are treated any more favourably in the US than they are in Britain, they are not, but in fact being an Atheist in parts of the US will actually earn you more hostility than being Muslim.

With that in mind, let us now consider more fully the concept of privilege. If we return to the example above of wealth being an example of monetary privilege, we can see that when a person is wealthy they may feel an entitlement to certain things and other people may also see this as perfectly reasonable.

Couple this with the idea of social status that we have already discussed and you begin to get a clearer idea of what privilege actually is. Granted, religious belief is not always something that awards you status, although it is interesting that there are a number of bishops who are members of the House of Lords but apparently few known Atheists. Furthermore, wealth or financial status can be variable over a lifetime, meaning that people can lose the privilege that accompanies that wealth as their fortunes change. Nevertheless, both of these examples are good illustrations of the basic concepts that constitute the idea of privilege.

In short, if a person is privileged they have a characteristic that is viewed as favourable within society and this may lead to their taking certain things as a given. This is not necessarily the fault of the individual. It is, more often than not, simply because of the way that society operates as a whole. Society tends to set up norms, so that everyone can function together and cooperate. However, often these norms become so ingrained as to exclude those who are not part of the group norm. Once this happens it is very easy for us psychologically as a species to set up an 'us vs. them' type mentality which can operate in very subtle but damaging ways.



Of course, if one type of characteristic is privileged then it is logical to assume that another is not, and this is often the case. Furthermore, owing to the fact that as people we are all composed of a myriad of identities each individual may possess certain characteristics, some of which are privileged and some which are not. You may be reading this and thinking 'What are you talking about? I'm not privileged.' If you are, then this is a perfectly normal reaction, it is not however entirely accurate. Bear with me and I will explain what I mean.

I, the author, am a myriad of identities. I am a white, middle class, disabled, queer person. There are no doubt other aspects of myself that I could label, for example I am also of average height and fairly thin, both of these things being valued in today's society. However if I were to continue to label every aspect of myself we would be here all day and you would no doubt be bored to tears, so for now I will stick with the identities I have already mentioned.

I am white. This means that I have a skin colour that is generally favoured in Western society, and even were I to get a tan, I would still not experience the stereotyping and discrimination that a person of colour may experience.

I am middle class. This characteristic is more obviously advantageous and means that I will likely have generally better life chances and be considered more favourably than peers of a lower socio-economic status, i.e. in relation to employment, general social interaction etc. It is important to note that being middle class doesn't necessarily equal wealth as this can be variable. When I refer to class, I am referring to cultural connotations that accompany socio-economic status.

I am also queer and disabled. I am queer in a number of ways, which I will not go into now, but needless to say this means that I identify and am labelled as part of a group that is not generally considered normal by the rest of society. I am disabled as my eyes don't work properly, (I regularly wave down lorries when catching buses in the countryside.) and I am also Dyspraxic which means that I sometimes have coordination issues and regularly experience processing difficulties, both sensory and cognition based as too much noise can leave me feeling frazzled and I often have difficulty sequencing my thoughts during conversation. Dyspraxia is regarded as a specific Learning Difficulty. I personally do not regard my queerness or my disabilities as problematic. However, this article is about what society thinks of various characteristics and these are two such that are often viewed negatively.

Having now outlined my own social identities, one begins to gain a clearer picture of exactly what privilege is and how it invariably intersects with less privileged identities.

You may be wondering why I am writing about this concept in a general sense in an article about trans\* issues. The reason for talking about it in a general sense to start off with is to make people aware of what privilege is and now that I have done so, I can link it more specifically to trans\* related issues.

In particular, I want to talk about the concept of cisgender privilege. You may remember from the introductory article, if you have not read this then it is a good idea to do so as it covers all the terminology that will be used in these articles, that being cisgender is an opposite of sorts to being trans\* and particularly being transgender. (Note that when I say transgender in this context I mean a person who is transgender rather than a person who comes under the overall umbrella as, for example, a person who cross dresses may be transgender or may be cisgender but enacting some form of gender variance.)

If you are reading this as a cisgender person, you may not understand how you are privileged. After all, in your day to day life you get on with what you need to do, go out and buy food, clothes and other shopping and probably don't give a second thought to your gender identity. Therein lies the point. As a person who is cis (this being a short hand of cisgender as trans is a short hand of transgender.) you don't have to question your gender identity. Your gender identity and overall body structure match up completely and you probably feel it self-evident that if you have one set of genitals or the other, then that dictates what you are.

Furthermore, society is set up to cater for your body type in conjunction with your gender identity and also your desired gender expression is fully accounted for. For example, if as a female identified person with breasts and a vulva who was born and raised as such, you walk into a shop and want to buy a dress no one would bat an eyelid. This is not to say that women in our society are not devalued in a number of ways. However, to discuss the issue in full is quite a complex matter and beyond the scope of this particular article.

Now, all this may seem a rather bitter pill to swallow and it may even seem as if I am in some way attacking you just for being who you are. Rest assured, this is not the case. I merely wish to highlight the fact that, owing to your place as part of what society considers socially normal, you have a number of advantages that trans\* people do not possess. For example, because society operates according to the logic that if you have one or other set of genitals then that is what defines you, a cisgender person will never be told that their gender identity is in some way wrong or that they are simply delusional or mentally ill. All these things have been said of transgender people in the past and continue to be said of them in certain places in the world today.

I want to end this article by say that if you have finished reading this and find yourself more aware of your particular social position and any advantages or disadvantages that may be inherent in that then I am glad. The purpose of this article was not, as I have already stated, to condemn or attack anybody simply for being themselves but to make people more aware of the struggles that marginalised groups can have when it comes to being accepted and validated, owing to the way that society operates.

If you have found this piece educational and it motivates or inspires you to be more aware of how you can help other people who may be disadvantaged in some way that is a good thing.

**By Iain**

**TRANS\* LITERATIONS**



# The Lowdown On What's Up

## Micheal Ball fined for homophobic twitter comment

*The Lowdown:* Former England defender has been fined £6,000 by the Football Association for making homophobic comments on twitter.

In February the Governing body warned players about their conduct when using social medias.

Ball admitted acting in an improper way after he was charged for the tweet about Coronation Street actor Anthony Cotton.

This is the highest fine received by a player for homophobia.

*The Conclusion:* Hopefully, this will make people think twice about what they say on twitter/facebook.



These small steps all build to make a great barrier to homophobia in the long run.

## Kylie Minogue was the guest of honour at Sydney Mardi Gras

*The Lowdown:* Kylie Minogue is celebrating 25 years in the music industry. She had her own "Kylie" themed float and performed at the after-party in Moore Park later.



*The Conclusion:* The theme of the event was equality given the current push for same-sex marriage in Australia. Kylie gave her support to the cause: "Of course I believe that it should be legalised. I always say, love is love is love."

## AVIVA Pride Talent 2012 raised £1,355 for charity

Who will be crowned winner?

# Talent Finale 2012

With special performances from:

- Winner Of Talent 2011 Dying Breeds
- Comedian Jim Blythe
- Entertainer Pequila Bigtop

Sat 3rd March 2012  
The Talk, Norwich  
19:00 till late

For tickets and further info:  
Aviva Pride  
avivapride@hotmail.co.uk  
Or pop in to any of the audition venues

£5 in adv. £7 on the door. All proceeds to charity

*The Lowdown:* AVIVA Pride's Talent 2012 raised £1,355 for The Albert Kennedy Trust supporting young LGBT 16-25 year olds who are made homeless or living in a hostile environment. The Purple Door Charity is a direct response to the needs and requests of young people who come to AKT in crisis after becoming homeless and/or experiencing domestic violence.

*The Conclusion:* The Results!  
3rd place winners - Harriet I Killed A Kid  
2nd place winner - Ashley Kate Inns  
and.... WINNER OF TALENT 2012 - PASSION ELITE!!!!



## It's time to test.....

There are more people living with HIV in the East of England than ever before. In 2010 there were an estimated 5,870 people living with HIV in the region. 24% of these people were undiagnosed.

There were 445 new HIV diagnoses recorded in 2010 in the East of England. This figure represents a 9% increase on the 418 reported in 2009 and an increase of 35% from 2001.

At least 116 infections were acquired through sex between men; a 29% increase on 2009 and 88 of these people (59%) acquired their infection in the UK.

31.6% of gay and bisexual men living in Norfolk, Great Yarmouth and Waveney did not know that free HIV testing was available to them. (Stigma Research)

9.2% of gay & bisexual men living in Norfolk did not know that free STI testing was available to them. (Stigma Research)

1 in 4 gay men with HIV don't know they have it.....

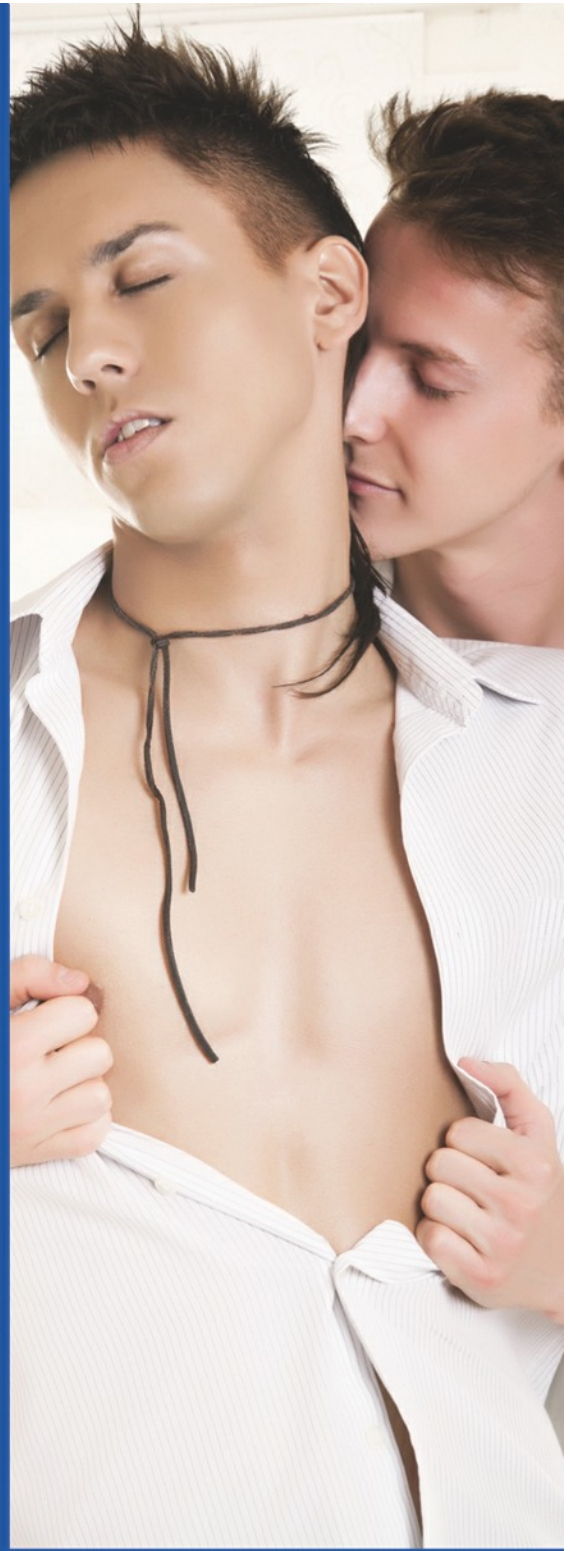
### TAKE RESPONSIBILITY.....

- Value yourself and your health and have regular sexual health checkups.
- Take personal responsibility for using condoms.
- DO NOT assume that you know someone else's HIV status.

**Free condoms and lube are available in all gay venues in Norfolk**

Registered Charity No. 1129770

[www.norfolklgbtproject.co.uk](http://www.norfolklgbtproject.co.uk)



NHS Norfolk  
and NHS Great Yarmouth and Waveney

# International Women's Day 8th March

International Women's Day is celebrated every year on 8th March. Events are held across the world to celebrate and inspire women and their achievements.

People across the world arrange political rallies, business conferences and networking events through to local women's craft markets, theatrical performances, fashion parades and much more. It is a public holiday in many countries such as: Afghanistan, China, Cambodia, Cuba, Nepal, Russia and Uganda to name a few. In some countries it is the equivalent of Mother's Day but in others all women receive gifts, cards and flowers.

1975 was designated International Women's Year and the UN gave official sanction to, and began supporting, International Women's Day.

## Norwich Events:

8th March 2012

### Lady HaHa, Norwich Playhouse

Norwich Playhouse has been a staunch supporter of IWD over the years, regularly playing host to the evening of hilarity that is Lady HaHa. The stage will be awash with an assortment of lady comics

### ResNet: Connecting Girls, Inspiring Futures, UEA

ResNet collecting and sharing the stories of who and what inspired the women of UEA and NRP

9th March 2012

### Women Reaching Water: Water Reaching Women, UEA

An evening of presentations and discussions with our panel of speakers from UEA, WaterAid, Green Party; also guests and friends from many local organisations.

## History:

1908 Great unrest and critical debate was occurring amongst women. Women's oppression and inequality was spurring women to become more vocal and active in campaigning for change. Then in 1908, 15,000 women marched through New York City demanding shorter hours, better pay and voting rights.

1910 An International Women's Conference was held in Copenhagen. A woman named a Clara Zetkin (Leader of the 'Women's Office' for the Social Democratic Party in Germany) tabled the idea of an International Women's Day. She proposed that every year in every country there should be a celebration on the same day - a Women's Day - to press for their demands.

1911 Following the decision agreed at Copenhagen in 1911, International Women's Day (IWD) was honoured the first time in Austria, Denmark, Germany and Switzerland on 19 March. More than one million women and men attended IWD rallies campaigning for women's rights to work, vote, be trained, to hold public office and end discrimination.

1913 Russian women observed their first International Women's Day on the last Sunday in February. In 1913 following discussions, International Women's Day was transferred to 8 March and this day has remained the global date for International Women's Day ever since. In 1914 further women across Europe held rallies to campaign against the war and to express women's solidarity.

1917 Demonstrations marking International Women's Day in St.Petersburg on the last Sunday in February (which fell on 8 March on the Gregorian calendar) initiated the February Revolution.

From its official adoption in Russia following the Soviet Revolution in 1917 the holiday was predominantly celebrated in communist and socialist countries. In China from 1922, and by Spanish from 1936. After the founding of the People's Republic of China on October 1, 1949 the state council proclaimed on December 23 that March 8 would be made an official holiday with women in China given a half-day off.

In the West, International Women's Day was first observed as a popular event after 1977 when the United Nations General Assembly invited member states to proclaim March 8 as the UN Day for Women's Rights and International Peace.

# THERE IS MORE 2 ME THAN BEING LGBT....



**SUPPORT 4 FAMILIES & FRIENDS OF  
LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL & TRANSGENDER  
INDIVIDUALS**

**For more information & support call 01603 219299**

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**[www.norfolklgbtproject.co.uk](http://www.norfolklgbtproject.co.uk)**

**Registered Charity No. 1129770**



The **co-operative** membership  
community fund

Just a quick thank you to all our readers for all the support.

This news letter is run by volunteers for the Norfolk LGBT Project

If you would like to contribute anything then email us at:

[Newsat10lgbt@gmail.com](mailto:Newsat10lgbt@gmail.com)

See you in May!



**NEWS@10**