



news

Summer Issue 2009

CARING FOR YOU

The South London HIV Partnership (SLHP), a consortium of Primary Care Trusts (PCTs) and Local Authorities in South East and South West London. The Partnership commissions health and social care for residents of South London affected by HIV.

Residents of Greenwich living with HIV or affected by HIV are entitled to the following services commissioned by Greenwich Council through the Partnership:

- * Advice and advocacy services
- * Help in choosing the right services
- * Health support Services
- * Counselling & emotional support
- * Peer support services

Community nursing and a dedicated dental service for people affected by HIV and Hepatitis B. If you have HIV or AIDS and want to carry on living independently in your home, the Council's Disability Team may be able to help you. We can arrange for you to have a community care assessment, with a view to helping you with any of these services.

Services are free and confidential, although you may be asked for information about your sexual history and any risks.

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NATURAL BURIALS

In this time of economic recession, where many people have lost their jobs and the family income is becoming limited to essentials, unless one has some form of insurance policy, it makes good sense to spend as little as possible on the procedures involved when a loved one dies. Total cost of Cremation including Flowers, Cremation, Ministers fees and a coffin can be around £2750.

Today, many more people are taking real control over the disposal of their human remains and are considering different sorts of funeral as an alternative to traditional religious services and cremations. The last ten years has seen a huge increase in the number of natural or green burials, which are seen as a more environmentally friendly way of returning the body to the earth and seem to offer a more holistic approach to the whole process of death.

The law is contained in the Burial Laws Amendment Act 1880. A person who knows the circumstances of the death and has a lawful certificate of the cause of death must first register a death with the Registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages.

It is legal to bury one's relatives in one's garden which has several advantages. There are very little actual funeral expenses, no hearse, no church with displays of flowers everywhere.

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Hi Folks!

During the past few months we have all been suffering from the economic downturn. With unemployment continuing to rise and businesses closing every day, many feel it is a deeply worrying time.

Bogus callers and the recession have left charities with a shortfall in donations. Donations have dropped 15%. The two major causes are people keeping their possessions for longer as the recession kicks in and a rise in the number of fake collectors.

We need you to help us raise funds and make the difference in our fight against HIV. Volunteering to fundraise for **harbour trust** can be a great way to meet new friends, learn new skills, and to know that you are helping to make the difference.

Needing Help With Your Computer?

If, because you suffer from a disability, you find using a computer uncomfortable or difficult in anyway, there may be a solution we can find for you. Perhaps you never used a computer before, because you think you'll have problems reading the screen or using the mouse and keyboard; we can introduce you to a whole range of specialist features to get around these problems - whatever your age or difficulty.

I've been a volunteer for the past three years helping people with disabilities overcome the difficulties when their computers have failed them. All volunteers are vetted and will make an appointment to visit you and help solve your problems.

This service for disabled people is free of charge, apart from a cuppa, to keep your volunteer going!

The **ITCH Network** <http://www.itcanhelp.org.uk/> - part of the British Computer Society is a voluntary organisation providing computer assistance to individuals with disabilities in their homes and at other locations such as day centres. Please feel free to contact me **Mob: 07775854739** if you need more information call ITCH at **0800 269 545** or email enquiries@abilitynet.org.uk to ask for a volunteer to visit you.

Enjoy the warm summer
that's forecast.

Jani

Councils are allowing cemeteries to fall into a state of disrepair and maintenance is often shoddy at best. One can place flowers on the grave and relatives can visit and pay their respects as often as they wish without any farther transport costs.

You do not need planning permission for one or two persons. Neither do you need to contact the Environmental Health Department. All that you need is permission from the land owner (that's yourself if you own your garden). The Council will have to get permission from the Home Office to exhume you, if they feel strongly about your choice of burial site. (Which they are very unlikely to get).

Consulting the local authority about the water table is not good idea, since this will set alarm bells off all over the Town Hall and these days councils love to find any reason they can to interfere in your life. In fact, the pollution of the water table is very unlikely from one or two bodies.

Dead bodies are not evil receptacles of disease. They do not corrupt the land or water. (How many dead sheep have you seen in lakes, streams and reservoirs?) Soil and the creatures in the soil and in the body itself will break it down safely once they are buried, since the earth acts as a natural deodorizer and cleaning agent.

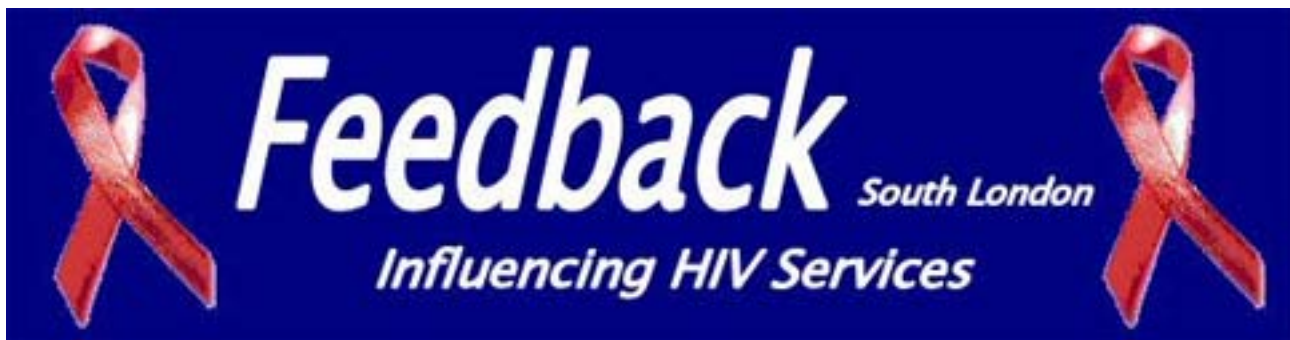
The implications for conservation are enormous! And although it's tempting to consult with officials, there really is no need.

For those not using undertakers, cardboard and wooden coffins are obtainable, as well as woollen shrouds although it is not necessary to use any of these.

Coffins must be of biodegradable materials such as untreated wood, cardboard, willow or bamboo. Shrouds and clothes must also be of natural materials such as cotton, linen and wool. A number of companies now offer biodegradable coffins and shrouds, with options to decorate them to personal taste.

I spoke to, J. E. Gillman & Sons funeral directors, 971/3 Garratt Lane, Tooting, London SW17 OLW (tel 020 8672 1557; fax 020 8767 7573). They do chipboard coffins from £75, their cardboard coffins are £140 for a standard size and £220 for a large size when collected.

They advised there would be a delivery charge of about £30 to the Greenwich area.....



Friday 5th May 2009: at **The Positive Place**



A bumper turnout again at Feedback South London. (FSL) Counting stopped at 60!!!

The main meal consisted of a beef pasta bake with a vegetarian equivalent and a fruit salad for desert.

The latest recruit to the crèche staff proved immensely popular.

Around a dozen people signed up to NAT's the "PRESS GANG". FSL are grateful to Brad for his presentation.

17 people took part in the Stigma Index survey on the night. It was impossible to deal with everyone who came forward so a further two groups will be organised at the Positive Place.

In addition to the presentation from Brad (NAT) the main meeting devoted itself to dealing with a short history of Feedback South London. The relationship it has with the various decision making bodies it represents to and the mechanisms for funding it. The Chairman also introduced an issue concerning meal charges at the Positive Place which had been put forward by an anonymous complainant. The methods for ensuring people who are suffering hardship are able to have meals without being stigmatised were explained.

A raft of issues were aired. We heard some appalling news of mistreatment of four of the women present who had been placed in housing where they found themselves sharing properties with people who were delivering disgraceful exhibitions of prejudice including threats and actual violence. Feedback SL (FSL) are setting up further meetings with those concerned.

A large number of complaints about conditions at one of the major clinics and considerable dissatisfaction on a raft of issues there. FSL agreed to invite the lead clinician to attend to face questions. Some of the issues had been raised but the response from the liaison officer at the clinic was regarded as unsatisfactory.

The chairman announced he was now appointed a trustee at the Positive Place and would over time wish to hand over chairmanship to someone else. He also made it clear he would not step down until someone else was able to fill the role. He would then act as facilitator to the group filling the role of administrative support the Positive Place is contracted to occupy.

The commissioner expressed support for what FSL do and the role of the service user in the decision making process. She reported the new board of the South London HIV Partnership will meet and a raft of issues (too numerous to mention here) will be raised there. Service Users are represented at that meeting by FSL Chairman, Secretary and Women's Lead.

After a leading figure in the NHS stated, recently, she knew nothing of what FSL do they have done some checking. Over the last three years FSL has had to write, by email, to the NHS 1,413 times. This does not include circulars, reports and "snail" mail. 721 of these occasions were to the SE London HIV Sector. Of these 81 occasions were exclusively to the officer who made that statement.

Local

A man facing some of the most horrendous problems in his personal life spoke to FSL. Whilst dealing with all this a brown envelope dropped through his letter box. The dreaded DLA review had arrived... even though he should not have been eligible for the review.

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The George & Dragon

Due to the recession and with so many of you perhaps losing your jobs you may be seeking something local and inexpensive to cheer you up and while-away your leisure hours this summer.

Well here and our local Borough you can find **South East London's Premier Late Night Cabaret Bar** at **2 Blackheath Hill London. SE10 8DE** have an exciting range of acts for your entertainment in June this year.

Friday		Saturday	
05	Claudia Patrice	06	Sophie
12	Eva The Diva	13	Titti LaCamp
19	Kitty Munroe	20	Lola Lasagne
26	Ava la Putain	27	Bette Rinse
		Sunday	
07	Tiffany Wells	21	Tony Sinclair
14	The Duchess	28	Lady Imelda
Fri & Sat: 8:00pm - 4:00am		Sun 8:00pm - 2:00am	

Tuberculosis and HIV

One in four deaths from TB worldwide is HIV related, say WHO March 24, 2009

A new World Health Organisation report released to coincide with 'World TB Day' showed that while the total number of new tuberculosis cases has remained stable, twice as many tuberculosis patients are HIV co-infected.

Approximately 1.37 million new cases of tuberculosis in 2007 were in people with HIV, with HIV-TB co-infection accounting for 456,000 deaths. This, the report says, is due to the inclusion of more countries reporting TB cases rather than a rise in cases. It does however show the severity of the situation and highlights the need to address HIV-TB co-infection worldwide.

As the report says, these findings point to the need for doctors to "test for HIV in all patients with TB in order to provide prevention treatment and care".

FSL was able to offer him some specific advice but better still to refer him to the excellent emotional support service at the Positive Place. The closeness of FSL's relationship with PP proved invaluable. Within a couple of hours of his phone call to FSL he was seeing a qualified psychotherapist but not just any psychotherapist. He was seeing one of the most approachable people in the business.

The chairman said, "I can say no more about his circumstances. What I can say is that while people argue about who is paid what and why and spurious statistics are banded about... here is real evidence of very real help and support."

"The Voice of God"

Pope's comment that condoms "increase the problem" of HIV/AIDS comes under criticism
March 17, 2009



Speaking on his first visit to Africa, on route to the Cameroon, Pope Benedict XVI has described HIV/AIDS as "a tragedy that cannot be overcome by money alone, that cannot be overcome through the distribution of condoms", stating that condoms can even "increase the problem".

He did not elaborate on how condoms increase the risk of HIV. Instead he brings a message of abstinence and fidelity as "the only sure way of preventing the spread of HIV and AIDS", to the 230 million Catholics in Africa.

The World Health Organisation has responded that the statement is not only incorrect but also dangerous in a pandemic affecting 42 million people worldwide. Condoms when used correctly are over 90 % effective in preventing HIV transmission.

Director of AVERT, Annabel Kanabus, concluded. "In any comprehensive approach to combating the AIDS epidemic, condoms will need to be a vital component... education on its own will go a long way but it is not enough".

metro pride boat party

04.07.09

Join our fabulous boat
up to London Pride

Bar and cabaret



Set sail @ 10.45am from Greenwich
Pier, arrive @ Westminster Pier
approximately midday

Ticket Only (150 limit) £5



Tickets available @

020 8305 5000

ole@metrocentreonline.org

The Metro Centre
Norman House
110 Norman Road
Greenwich SE10 9QJ
www.metrocentreonline.org

4th July Pride Boat Party - **Boat ride from Greenwich Pier up to London Pride** with bar and cabaret
-Start 10:45 a.m. to arrive at Westminster about midday -Tickets limited to **150 @ £5.00** each
-For tickets sales contact 0208 305 5000 or email ole@metrocentreonline.org



NATURAL BURIALS cont

Infectious disease shouldn't cause you a problem either, unless you die of anthrax, haemorrhagic fever, cholera or plague. Even if you were to die of one of these bizarre illnesses, your family could take you home from hospital as long as they were going to bury or cremate you immediately.

Please note that AIDS is not a notifiable disease and creates no problem in burial.

The Grave: No coffin shall be buried in any grave without less than 30 inches of soil between the surface [of the ground] and the upper side of the coffin. (Section 103 Burial Act 1847 chapter 34) It's probably best to dig a 4 foot hole, since this will allow about 3 feet between the upper surface and the body/coffin. It should take about three hours, minimum, work to dig a four foot deep grave.

Headstone So long as they are not too near a highway or over a certain height, planning permission is not needed to put up a headstone in a garden. The grave may also be marked with a microchip or GPS coordinates so that it can be found again easily by visiting relatives.

You will need to make a register for the grave. This means that you will need a piece of paper with the name, address, date of birth, age, date and place of burial and the name of the "minister". A drawing also needs to be kept with the register, showing the exact location of the grave. You need to keep these papers safe so that there will be no fear of your grave being disturbed by accident.

Because choice is possible within the law, we have the opportunity to bury ourselves where we want and be certain that the land around us cannot be tampered with. We need to be very aware that our culture is the only thing standing between us and a burial within any part of the Land that we like.



One of Off Broadway's longest-running shows is about to enjoy a new London production this summer. Coming to the **King's Head Theatre** in Islington will be **Naked Boys Singing 2009** from 27 May 5 July, running Tuesday to Saturday at 7:30 PM and 3:30 PM on Saturdays and Sundays. box office: 0844 412 2953 info@kingsheadtheatre.org

INFORMATION

where to find out more about hiv

- <http://www.greenwich.gov.uk/Greenwich/HealthSocialCare/HealthMatters/HIVAIDS/VoluntarySectorServices/HarbourTrustContact.htm> The Harbour Trust is a community HIV charity which supports people living with HIV/AIDS, their carers and families.
- <http://www.metrocentreonline.org/services.htm> 110-114 Norman Road SE10 9JQ The Metro Centre aims to work with self-identified lesbian/gay/bisexual people.
- <http://www.thepositiveplace.org.uk/> 52 Deptford Broadway Deptford SE8 4PH The Positive Place exists to respond to the needs of people who Live in South London & are affected by HIV and AIDS
- <http://www.gaylawyers.co.uk/Default.aspx> Our understanding lawyers will make you feel as comfortable as possible when contacting us with your legal issues.

The  **harbour trust** Peer Mentoring Program has, in partnership with AHEAD and The Metrocentre, has recently been awarded three year's funding from the Kings Fund Partners for Health in London scheme to develop Africasafe and Harboursafe, for Heterosexual African men and women and BME men who have sex with men, respectively. We're all very excited to see HIV Prevention Peer Mentoring grow in this way, so watch this space for details.



15th August Drag Race
Rose & Crown 1 Crooms Hill
Greenwich
SE10 8ER

Beth
Ole may have
more info b4
we go to press.

They are still planning this so unfortunately I don't have any more specific information yet. Call them on the telephone 020 8305 5000 for update.

H A R B O U R T R U S T

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