

plymouth prideevent 2008

Media Release

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'Parade with Pride' puts City on international gay map

Plymouth has been placed firmly on the international gay map thanks to a 'Parade with Pride' triple coincidence.

The city's lesbian, gay, bisexual, and trans (LGBT) communities are taking part in tomorrow's (Saturday) Lord Mayor's Day Parade, the theme of which is celebrating diversity.

The parade will feature a 'Parade with Pride' float organised by the committee of plymouth prideevent 2008 (CORRECT) to celebrate the 30th anniversary year of the Rainbow Flag.

By coincidence, tomorrow also happens to be International Day Against HOMophobia (IDAHO) – which is now featuring the Lord Mayor's Day Parade on its website in a list of world events.

And it is also the day in 1990 when the World Health Organisation removed homosexuality from its list of mental diseases.

Members of the city's LGBT communities are invited to meet on The Hoe between 11 am and 1 pm to join the 'Parade with Pride' float. Everybody who helps will receive a free rainbow T-shirt.

Today (Friday), members of plymouth prideevent and the separate Plymouth Pride Forum have also for the first time been invited to represent the LGBT communities at the Lord Mayor's election ceremony and civic reception.

The Rainbow Flag, which originated in San Francisco in 1978, now symbolises support for diversity in the way people lead their lives.

The 'Parade with Pride' float will help to raise awareness of next month's plymouth prideevent 2008 - the region's largest annual Pride event - which takes place on Saturday, June 7.

The free entry one-day event in Plymouth Guildhall features:

- An LGBT communities' history exhibition, including Holocaust Memorial Day
- Information about famous lesbian, gay, bisexual, or trans people in history
- A public question forum with police, health, and city council representatives

- An international speaker relating the experiences of being a gay Muslim in Iraq
- Legal and sexual health workshops

There will also be a host of fun activities for LGBT communities' families and friends, including belly dancers, rodeo bull, sumo suits, a bungee run, line dancing, and street and circus skills entertainers.

The entertainment line-up includes boy band Billiam, who are the official support act for Girls Aloud Tangled Up tour 2008, Madonna tribute singer Sarah Devonshire, top cabaret act Lizzy Drupp, and samba band Crooked Tempo.

Plymouth prideevent 2008 is a registered charity raising funds in support of the city's LGBT organisations and working in partnership with Plymouth City Council, Devon and Cornwall Constabulary, Plymouth Primary Care Trust, Out Youth Group, Plymouth Pride Forum, Plymouth Sound Radio, The Swallow public house, Zeros Nightclub, Eddystone Trust, Intercom Trust, Fyne Times, In Other Words Books, She Bang, University of Plymouth, and the TUC South West.

More information about the 2008 Pride event is available by visiting the website www.plymouthprideevent.co.uk or emailing info@plymouthprideevent.co.uk or telephoning 07753 339965.

ENDS

Notes for Editor:

- The phrase 'trans' should be used as it is a particular term covering transsexual, transgender, transvestite
- Photos are available on request
- Queries on this media release can be directed in the first instance to Julia Netherton or John Thorne, M2S Media, PR consultants to plymouth prideevent, on 01823 663146 or email julia@m2smedia.co.uk or john@m2smedia.co.uk