

# plymouth prideevent 2008

## Media Release

Ref: PP/JEN016

June 2, 2008

### **Solicitors dispel myths at Pride 08 event**

One of the Westcountry's top 10 firms of solicitors will be dispelling some common myths and offering free advice to people attending the region's largest Pride event at the weekend.

Foot Anstey, which has offices in Plymouth, Exeter, Truro, and Taunton, is running a free legal workshop at plymouth prideevent 2008 (CORRECT).

The free-entry, one-day Pride event takes place in Plymouth Guildhall on Saturday, June 7, and will be officially opened at 11 am by the city's Lord Mayor and Mayoress, Councillor Brian Vincent and Pauline Murphy.

It is the South West's largest Pride event and is organised by a committee of volunteers from Plymouth's lesbian, gay, bisexual, and trans (LGBT) communities and members of support organisations.

Three members of the Living Together team at Foot Anstey will attend to give advice on a range of issues which can impact on LGBT communities.

They are Jess Pitt, a family law specialist, Anna Manning, a property law specialist, and Tamara Richardson, who specialises in all aspects of wills and estate planning, Court of Protection matters, and contentious probate.

Tamara Richardson said "Our workshop will address some common areas of concern to gay and lesbian couples.

"For example you don't have legal rights just by living with somebody. If you have a civil partnership, you won't automatically get half of your partner's assets, and next of kin has no legal meaning – to make financial and medical decisions for each other, you need a lasting power of attorney.

"Unfortunately, lawyers have a reputation for being intimidating and inaccessible and this can result in couples missing out on the legal advice they need.

"This is why our Living Together team is attending plymouth prideevent, to give us an opportunity to dispel some legal myths such as the existence of the common-law spouse or partner and to give some practical legal advice and pointers in a positive and supportive forum."

Visitors to the Foot Anstey stand will also have an opportunity to win a Champagne balloon flight for two, with the winner being announced on the firm's website on June 12.

Other topics which will be covered in the workshop include:

- Civil partnership pros and cons
- 'Pre-nups'
- Cohabitation agreements
- Adoption and childcare issues
- Buying a property together - what are the big issues
- Inheritance rights - effective estate planning both for tax and avoiding claims against your estate

The day also features an LGBT communities' history exhibition, including Holocaust Memorial Day and a play based on the memories of older lesbians and gay men, a public question forum with police, health, and city council representatives, an international speaker relating the experiences of being a gay Muslim in Iraq, and sexual health workshops for women and men.

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](http://www.plymouthprideevent.co.uk) or emailing [info@plymouthprideevent.co.uk](mailto: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](mailto:julia@m2smedia.co.uk) or [john@m2smedia.co.uk](mailto:john@m2smedia.co.uk)