



"Some labels are best left out of the closet."

Carrie Bradshaw

Welcome to the first edition of GW, Wexford's new LGBT friendly monthly newsletter.

Every month we will bring you articles about LGBT issues in Ireland, information on events around Wexford and the south-east and we will scour the web for gay related stories from around the world.

If you have any comments or suggestions regarding any information included in this issue, please don't hesitate to contact us. Your feedback is greatly welcomed.

info@gaywexford.com



Senator David Norris to officially launch EAGLE as Limited Company.

E.A.G.L.E Wexford are proud to announce that Senator David Norris will be visiting Wexford on Friday 20/06/2008

On the eve of E.A.G.L.E's 2nd anniversary, Senator Norris will be officially launching E.A.G.L.E as a Limited Company, reconfirming E.A.G.L.E's commitment to provide support, services and an outlet for the gay people of Wexford and the South East.

Senator Norris will also be launching E.A.G.L.E's monthly LGBT friendly newsletter GW, which is the first phase of E.A.G.L.E's Community Development programme for 2008.

An official launch reception is being held upstairs in South 51, South Main Street, Wexford at 13.15. This launch is open to the public and everyone is more than welcome to join the festivities.

Flight of the Eagle

He'd heard rumors there were requirements, this became a belief, then a dream, followed by action. John Walsh presiding he gathered together his team. Following weeks of preparation, research & information dispersal EAGLE (Equality

Alliance of Gays & Lesbians in Éire) was launched in June 2006. The intention of EAGLE was to cater for the local Irish gay, lesbian & Transgender community & fight for their rights politically.

'GLoW' – an icebreaker group in the 1980-'90's, 'Out in Wexford' social nights & selections of private gay gathering opportunities preceded EAGLE. EAGLE would be different, public, and visible, 'OUT' if you will. Utilising media, radio, newspapers, web & communications technology to publicise it's goals & events.

Under the leadership of John Walsh the committee consisted of 7 members with Eagle general membership standing at 300 members. The social nights ran every three weeks from a selection of social outlets, occasionally displaced by larger fund raising events such as the drag show at the Ferrycarrig Hotel and the Halloween Fancy Dress Ball in Whites. Sometimes the 'Club Chocolate', LGBT community meals, trips to Waterford and around the country.

EAGLE began a youth group called 'Sphere' with qualified youth workers and established a local help/ information line for the Wexford Gay community. Many submissions were made to the local Gardai which have certainly got them pursuing the possibility of having a dedicated Gay Liaison Officer for the Wexford area.

In early 2007 EAGLE commenced a collaborative association with sOUTH in

Waterford in an effort to combine knowledge & resources. EAGLE & sOUTH worked on a number of projects together, the largest being the successful LGBT information week held in February 2008. The 'Services Needs Analysis' questionnaire was launched during the week. The intention being to highlight the actual requirements of the LGBT community in the Southeast. Coming to fruition at the end of July, the closing date for questionnaire submissions being the 30th of June.

On the 13th of May 2008 John Walsh stepped down as CEO & Barry Devereux stepped forward by unanimous agreement to put his unique stamp on the role. Continued..

"I feel like a million tonight - but one at a time."

Bette Midler

Continued..

Barry's goal to capitalize on the established social scene & expand. Taking eagle to new heights, pub nights, club nights, social icebreakers, sports events, group meals and community gatherings to promote social inclusion. His intention to cater to the larger local gay community young, old and those in between. Continue & expand existing services, such as the helpline, making gay related health information available. Extending knowledge to schools. To re-establish the Sphere youth group.

One of the incentives behind the vigorous pursuit of bowling, 5 a side football and other proposed sports projects, is to give the younger community an opportunity to get together in a non alcohol environment. Along with the expanded social agenda Barry has expanded the committee to accommodate the new responsibilities to 14 committee members.

EAGLE Overview

E.A.G.L.E is a Wexford based LGBT Community Group offering support and services to Wexford's gay population, their friends & family and to neighboring counties.

E.A.G.L.E. is also one of the first equal rights advocacy groups in the South East creating awareness and lobbying for the introduction of legislation that will see all citizens of Ireland as equals.

E.A.G.L.E is a non profit organization and currently relies solely on fundraising activities to provide our current services. We are actively seeking external funding from Local, Community and State Bodies to extend and develop the services which we can offer to support the LGBT community.

Some of our current Services include LGBT friendly sports, social and cultural events (twice monthly)

E.A.G.L.E Line - A dedicated line for people to seek information and contact us
Information - Provision of information on LGBT related issues and related organisations (Held an information week in February 08 in partnership with sOUTH Waterford)

Organise transport to LGBT events around the country

Lobby for Equality Legislation and network with other Equality Organisations

Some of the services we are actively hoping to establish and are currently seeking funding for

E.A.G.L.E Centre - An LGBT friendly drop in centre for Co. Wexford. A focal meeting point for the LGBT community. A venue to supply emergency accommodation, counselling, information, recreation and training.

E.A.G.L.E Youth Support Group - A specific Youth Group offering young gay and lesbian people a chance to meet people and

make friends their own age. Providing support, counselling & information. Making it easier for young people to "come out" and accept their sexuality and highlight problems associated with homosexuality among young people such as depression, isolation, self harm, bullying and drug abuse.

Health Promotion - Providing information on sexual, mental and physical health, Running information nights / lectures / seminars. Obtaining and distributing literature and condoms among the LGBT community. Developing relations with LGBT friendly medical staff with the view to providing STI screening in Wexford.

Community Integration. To participate more with other community groups and events. We are planning on entering a Float in the 2009 St Patrick's Day Parade and have agreed joint fundraising events with local charities.

E.A.G.L.E Media. We have a number of Media aspirations for the coming year to promote the activities of E.A.G.L.E including developing broadcast applications for BEBO, developing a column in local Newspapers and hopefully a segment on local radio.

sOUTH

sOUTH is a committee of volunteers, based in Waterford, set up to help and support the LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender) community in Waterford and the south-east

sOUTH offers support and organises developmental and social events for the LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender) Community who may want to discuss issue's affecting them.

For more information about sOUTH and our Drop In Centre please see our contact details (right).

"I like my
bear cold
and my
homosexual
s flaming!"

Homer Simpson

Wexford LGBT Community group



info@gaywexford.com

gaywexford.bebo.com
EagleT05.bebo.com (The Gay Team)

www.gaywexford.com

085 1346039 (6pm - 7pm)

Waterford LGBT Community Group



southlgbt@gmail.com

www.bebo.com/SouthLgbtW

Events Guide

WEXFORD

WATERFORD

Friday 20th June

Wexford LGBT Company Launch
Eagle will be holding a reception upstairs in South 51, South Main Street, Wexford at 1:15pm, to mark its second anniversary and the launch of its new limited company. Guest speaker will be Senator David Norris. Everybody welcome

Friday 20th June

EAGLE Cocktails in South 51

8pm onwards, then on to Renaissance Nightclub

End of June

Bowling Challenge Match
Waterford City
EAGLE V sOUTH

Friday 4th July

EAGLE Spice Indian Restaurant
South Main Street Wexford @ 7:30pm

Stores Nightclub afterwards.

Friday 4th July

Bubble Nightclub
The Forum
Waterford

sOUTH Drop-in

EVERY 1st and 3rd WEDNESDAY of each month
@ Cheshire Homes,

News from around the World.

Republican State of California to allow Gay Marriage.

As the numerous groups fighting for full equal gay marriage, here in Ireland, continue to gain the support of the mainstream population in their fight with the current government. Another huge landmark judicial decision has opened the door for Gay Marriage across the pond in the USA. For the population of California, a staunch Republican State and the world's 7th largest economy, gay marriage has become a reality. Despite earlier being vetoed by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger (of Terminator Fame) California's State Supreme Court has upheld the rights of Gay people to marry after years of political lobbying. The state of California includes the cities of San Francisco and Los Angeles which are among the most liberal cities in the USA and home to a huge gay population. Of course this has made the headlines not only because for political reasons but due to the influx of celebrities who have since announced their intention to wed. Most notably Ellen Degeneres & Portia De Rossi. We certainly hope that the current Fianna Fail / PD / Green Government are paying attention as the controversial Heads of Bills on Civil Partnerships is due to be published in the coming months.

'Gay Counselling' call rejected

A gay rights campaigner has rejected a Northern Ireland assembly member's call for homosexuals to seek psychiatric counselling.

David McCartney from the Rainbow Project was responding to comments from Iris

Robinson, who is the chair of the Stormont health committee.

Mrs Robinson said with help, gay people could be "turned around".

Mr McCartney said there was "no body of evidence" to support this and asked to meet the MP.

Mrs Robinson made her comments on BBC Radio Ulster's Nolan Show on Friday.

She said she would defend her right to express religious beliefs, while also condemning violence against the gay community.

"I have a very lovely psychiatrist who works with me in my offices and his Christian background is that he tries to help homosexuals - trying to turn away from what they are engaged in," she said.

"I'm happy to put any homosexual in touch with this gentleman and I have met people who have turned around and become heterosexuals."

Sinn Féin's Education Minister Catríona Ruane said politicians should be guided by equality legislation.

"There are equality laws in the north of Ireland," she said.

"I think it is really important that politicians play a leadership role and that leadership role should be not to say anything that could possibly inflame the situation or cause further distress."

Courtesy of BBC.co.uk.

NEW 2008 / 2009 E.A.G.L.E COMMITTEE

Following our AGM, the following volunteers make up our committee.

Barry Devereux (Chairperson)
John Ryan (Secretary)
Deirdre Ni Dhubhail (Treasurer)
Val Walsh (Media Relations)
Nicky Maguire (Fundraising Coordinator)
Liam Murphy (I.T)
Martin Murphy (I.T)
Eamonn Byrne (Sports & Social)
Darren Roche (Database / Mailing List Coordinator)
Jeff O'Loughlin (Health Officer)
Karen Tyghe (Recruitment Officer)
Bridin Walsh (Volunteer Coordinator)

We will be looking for lots of volunteers during the year to help out with our many projects and fundraising activities, so if anyone is interested in becoming involved with E.A.G.L.E please feel free to contact any Committee Member or email us at info@gaywexford.com.

Freedom. Equality. Truth.

Living in 2008 we are lead to believe that these things are all around us, however the reality is that these things are merely idealistic notions that are unattainable to many in society today. In fact it seems that unless you are Caucasian, male and heterosexual you will at some point be the victim of inequality and/or prejudice.

For years government rhetoric and propaganda have forced down our throats the blatant lie that we live in a just, fair and equal society. The tragedy however is that we have bought into this lie. We ,as a society, have become blind to the inequality faced by women's groups, homosexuals, the disabled and immigrants. Blind to the fact that Ireland is still a patriarchal society governed by the same small minded men year after year. Yes indeed we have swallowed this lie of an egalitarian and free society with the spoonful of sugar the government provided us with.

The dreams we have of freedom and equality can only be made a reality with radical change, in leadership and legislation. We need candidates from all political parties to put aside partisan politics to introduce legislation that will enhance the lives of so many Irish citizens, and it is us who will make this change happen.

We are the generation that has to make this change happen. We are young, strong minded and able. With strength of will, courage of conviction and a burning passion for equality we will make our call for equality a loud and a constant one. A call the government will have to sit up and take notice of.

Irish society has put up with and been turning a blind eye to the rising levels of intimidation and assaults against the L.G.B.T. community for so long that it has almost become an accepted fact "gays will get bashed".

Well we say no more. No more will we be intimidated. No more will we hide who we are. No more will we accept anything less than full equality as guaranteed to us as Irish citizens in our constitution. We will achieve full equal status in Ireland in the coming years, it will be a fight and it will be a long road but we have made an amazing start. I am reminded of an old adage that goes " once you put your hand to the plough you can't put it down until you get to the end of the row"

This month E.A.G.L.E. takes one step forward. In becoming a limited company and joining with groups and people around the country who are fighting for equality. We will continue taking one step at a time because we have a long road ahead of us and a fight that could last years but we are ready for it, we will keep our hands to the plough because if not us then who? If not now then when?

Equality in Ireland will no longer be just a dream.

"Some woman are
afraid to say the word
lesbian, even if they're
mouths are full of one"

Next Month...

GW HAS EXCLUSIVE
INTERVIEW WITH
KILMUCKRIDGE
ROCKERS -
THE JADES

AN INDEPT LOOK AT
STI TESTING AND ITS
AVAILABILITY IN
WEXFORD

BREAKING DOWN
BARRIERS -
GAY TV CHARACTERS