

Cheshire Cheese

Singlehood

What does being single mean to YOU now, in the past and in the future?

If you are male, aged over 50 and have spent most of your life time NOT in a relationship, you are sincerely invited to take part in a research project at the University of Oxford.

There has been little research on this topic and your contribution will be important for the project. The research is solely for academic purposes. I am interested to listen to your experiences. Participants of different backgrounds, including straight and gay men, men of all ethnicities and beliefs are welcome. All information will be anonymized and confidential.

If you are interested, please contact me (Yiu-tung Suen) on 07942 582 142 or yiuen@sociology.ox.ac.uk

Farming is a difficult business at the best of times; the isolation, bad prices, animal diseases and the red tape make life difficult for all farmers. Depression has become an occupational disease. Should you happen to be gay as well this will add a further interesting dimension!

Be reassured that there are many other gay farmers. You are not the only one. Despite what you may feel, being gay is not a handicap – in fact it has many positive aspects to it. But there may be decisions to be made: should I come out? Can I come out? What will be the effect on those around me? And there are other questions such as how would it affect the farm succession? You may want to talk over your situation and that is where the Gay Farmer Helpline comes in.

Call the helpline and talk to someone who understands the farming situation as well as what it is like to be gay. Total Confidentiality is assured – we understand how delicate and difficult the situation can be. Remember, talking to someone who understands helps. Call 07837 931894 (Telephone calls can be expensive so the call can be returned) or email info@gayfarmer.co.uk

Gay Farmers Helpline

B Outrite provides telephone support to people who have questions or problems around their sexual orientation or sexual health. We are here to listen when you need us too. In times when the line is not staffed please leave a clear message on the answer phone with a contact number or spelled-out e-mail address. Recently messages have given contact numbers that have not been recorded properly. Please ensure you speak at a regular pace and clearly in to your phone. Please do not turn your head away from the mic in your phone and do repeat the number. This is so that if interference blocks the first number from coming through clearly the second time we may hear digits that are blocked.

T Outrite is here to support you and all details are kept confidential. All details of your call will be destroyed once we have contacted you, should we not have managed to answer the telephone initially. If you would like support, social group details or just to talk why not call 01270 653156 or e-mail info@outrite.org for more information or take a look at what we have to offer you, free and confidential, at <http://www.outrite.org>. Many thanks and we hope to hear from you.
Christopher and the Outrite Team

Send your news of up and coming events, or indeed anything you think may interest the Cheese readers to Chris at: Cheshire Cheese, PO Box 321, Crewe CW2 7WZ. Tel 01270 653150. Or email us at info@cheshirecheese.org.uk

CHEESE PLEASE!

To receive your free copy of the Cheshire Cheese each month, complete the form and send it to: **Cheshire Cheese, PO Box 321, Crewe CW2 7WZ.**
Or Email: info@cheshirecheese.org.uk Tel 01270 653150

Paper copy Email copy Both

Name _____

Address _____

_____ Postcode _____

Email address _____

Free Condoms & Lube

Get free condoms and lube delivered direct to your door by filling in the form below. All orders are dispatched in plain packaging. Your personal details will be destroyed once your order has been dispatched.

Complete and post to: **Outrite, PO Box 321, Crewe CW2 7WZ.** Or Email your request to: info@outrite.org Tel. 01270 653156. Postage & packing is free.

Tick if you would like to receive information with your order. (By ticking this box you are agreeing to receive information which may have adult content.) If you have an allergy to latex please call for options. Send my free condoms & lube to:

Name _____

Address _____

Police Investigation. Can You Help?

Cheshire Police are currently investigating the murder of a Connah's Quay man in Chester. The attack took place on Thursday 3rd June firstly at Charlotte Court with a further incident at King George's Tower on the City Walls.

Although the victim was attacked on the City Walls at Chester we would like to reassure you that we are confident that there was no homophobic element to the attack. We would also like to emphasise to anyone frequenting that area that any police patrols there are for public safety and not harassment.

We know the area is frequented by many people and while some have come forward, we are confident that there are still people who have not. The reason

why anyone was in the area on those dates is not important to us, but it is important to speak to everyone who was there, so that we are in a position to know whether anything you may have seen is relevant to this ongoing murder enquiry.

We would therefore urge you, if you were in the area, to contact police, either via the Incident Room on 01244 613145, or anonymously on the Crimestoppers hotline, 0800 555 111. Remember this information will be treated sensitively; we have no interest in the reason why you were at the location.

I hope someone can help us. Everything we are told will be treated sensitively and with respect.

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Trans Liaison Officers

Cheshire Police has over 60 LGBT Liaison Officers covering all the Force area. This is to ensure that people from the LGB&T communities who live, work and socialise in Cheshire have confidence in the Force. We want people to be confident that they will be treated fairly and with respect and have a clear understanding that they can report homophobic and transphobic hate crime and incidents directly to Cheshire Police, knowing that there are staff adequately trained to deal with them.

If you need to speak to an LGBT Liaison Officer ring your local police number and ask for an officers details, or, between 8am – 5pm ring 01244 612003 and speak to a member of the Force Diversity Team who will be able to give you advice and contact details.

Tolerating Intolerance By Doing Nothing

David Davies has allegedly called the Conservative and Liberal Democrat force a 'Brokeback Coalition'. Still high profile speakers use Gay and Bisexual men and women to illustrate dysfunction and weakness. Do you really want to stand for this kind of behaviour? Isn't it childish and disappointing that homosexuality is being used as a negative, derogatory comment to illustrate someone's feelings about the coalition?

Comments like these allow the perpetuation of homophobic behaviour and attitudes and should be seen very much in the light of homophobia. You can act against this kind of behaviour and it is important, even in this day and age, not to become complacent about freedom and sexual orientation.

There are still a great number of people who have no understanding or a flawed understanding of same-sex feelings and relationships. Some of these people are actively campaigning against all people who are not heterosexual or fit heterosexual 'normal' behaviour.

Keep active, write to your MP about issues that affect you and make sure your voice is heard. Rights are not innate to you they are handed to you by the government and can be taken away. Use your vote, use your voice, stop homophobia and promote understanding.

Christopher Thomas Tomkinson BA
(Hons)

New Older LGBT People's Group

Started in December 2009 as the intended outcome of a highly successful conference, we hold regular monthly meetings at the Polari Lounge in Hanley (The recently acquired home for the LGBT Network N Staffs). Members socialize and make suggestions for a programme of activities for the group, whose principal objective is to offer mutual support, by respectfully sharing interests and personal experiences in a safe location. In this way it also offers an opportunity for individuals to escape feelings of isolation often felt by older LGBT people, particularly those living on their own, whether in quiet rural countryside or busy urban townships.

Starting with a handful of people on a cold and snowy winter's day, each month has seen a steady increase in numbers. In addition to people from the local community in Stoke-on-Trent, individuals travel from as far afield as the Staffordshire Moorlands, Cheshire and the Welsh Borders. Members of the group have welcomed the chance to meet new friends and exchange stories in a warm, supportive and friendly environment, as well as planning optional social and cultural activities for the month ahead. These have ranged from visiting places of interest, such as art galleries and old buildings, to music concerts, theatre performances and even trips to Manchester to spend time with some of the fabulous members of Out in the City.

Some of those travelling the greatest distances have commented that it was well worth the effort to be able to talk to other people like themselves and not feel as if they were the 'only gay in the village'. We extend a warm welcome to older lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people.

The group usually meets at 2:00pm on the last Sunday of the month. For further details, please get in touch by calling 01782 266998 or email info@gaystoke.com

Switchboards & Helplines

LESBIAN, GAY & BISEXUAL

Cheshire Outrite Helpline
01270 653156 (Mon, Wed, 5.00pm - 9.30pm)

Gay Farmer Helpline
07837 931894 (Telephone calls can be expensive so we will call you back)
Email: info@gayfarmer.co.uk
Website: www.gayfarmer.co.uk
Gay Farmer? Need to talk? Need information? Talk with someone who understands. Complete confidentiality assured.

St Helens
01744 454823 (Mon/Wed 7.00 - 9.00pm)

Warrington
01925 241994 (Tuesday 5.30 - 8.30pm)

National
0207 837 7324 (10am - 11pm 7 days a week)

Liverpool Armistead Centre * *
0151 227 1931
Email: info@armisteadcentre.co.uk
(Mon, Wed, Fri - 12.00am - 6.00pm. Tues, Thurs 2.00pm - 9.00pm. Sat 1.00pm - 7.00pm)

Manchester
0845 3 303030 (6-10pm) Automated service (10 - 6pm)

North Wales LGBTQ Helpline
01248 371367 (Tuesday 7.00-9.00pm)
www.mesmac.com

OTHER HELPLINES

AMICUS - LGBT Group
Helpline 08457 413092 (Local rates)
Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender rights at work (confidential helpline)

National AIDS Helpline
0800 567 123 (24 Hours)

Samaritans
08457 90 90 90 (24 Hours)
Confidential, emotional support

Triangle
0808 801 0306 (10am to 6pm confidential)
Housing helpline advice and support service for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered people in Wales

Pubs & Clubs etc.

CHESTER

Bar Six T Nine *
1 Boughton
Friday & Saturday 9pm - 3am. Wednesday, Thursday & Sunday 10pm - 2am

"Genderblender"
12-14 Northgate Street
01244 372 141
www.myspace.com/ladywandaofficial
Every Tuesday @ Reflex, Chester, 10pm - 3am

Liverpool Arms (The LA)
79 Northgate Street
Website: www.liverpool-arms.com

NORTHWICH

Northwich Sauna
Winnington Lane, CW8 4GX
01606 784881
Website: www.sauna-sauna.info
Gay sauna open midday to 11am every day

WARRINGTON

1806/WISH @ The White Hart * *
Sankey Street
01925 241994
Last Wednesday of the month

Youth Groups

CHESTER

Utopia
Phone Rachel/Davey on 01244 602817
Email: chester@utopialgb.org.uk
For lesbian, gay & bisexual people up to 25 years. Wednesday 7.00pm - 9.30pm

CREWE

Utopia
01270 253633
Email: crewe@utopialgb.org.uk
For lesbian, gay & bisexual people up to 19

years. Wednesday 6.30pm - 9.00pm

ELLESMERE PORT

Utopia
Phone Davey/Rachel on 0151 348 5628.
Email: eport@utopialgb.org.uk
For gay, lesbian & bisexual people up to 25 years. Tuesday 6.30pm - 9.00pm

HALTON

Halton G Space
0151 422 5503 or 0778 933 2880
Email: haltonospace@hotmail.co.uk
Weekly Halton Youth Service project offering information and advice for young people aged 13-19 who identify as LGB in Halton

NORTHWICH

Utopia
Phone 01606 350750.
Email: northwich@utopialgb.org.uk
For gay, lesbian & bisexual people up to 25 years. Wednesday 6.45pm - 9.15pm

WARRINGTON

GLYSS (Gay & Lesbian Youth Support Service)
Call/text Jane 07747 473 829
Website: www.freewebs.com/glyss
Weekly youth group meets Tuesdays 4.30pm - 7.30pm, Wednesdays 6.30pm - 9.30pm, Thursdays 6.30pm - 9.30pm

FLUID (Freedom to Love Ur Identity)

Call/text Jane 07747 473 829
Website: www.freewebs.com/fluid
Monthly youth action group meets Warrington town centre. For all young people with an interest in lesbian, gay and trans issues

Social Groups

ALL CHESHIRE

Come Out And Walk
Telephone Craig: 07950 583 828
Website: www.comeoutandwalk.co.uk
Monthly LGBT walking group based in Cheshire and the North West. All events are free. Supported by BPCNW and Outrite

Gay Outdoor Club
08448 770462 (National number)
07928 179688 (Clive, North Wales)
Website: www.goc.org.uk
walking/climbing/swimming/cycling/and lots more

CHESTER

Mersey & Dee Women
07946 231877
Meets 1st Tuesday of every month and holds regular events

Clwyd & Cheshire Gay Group
Nigel 01978 291008
Meets alternate Tuesdays

CREWE

Outrite Men's Drop-in * *
01270 653156
www.outrite.org
Gay & Bisexual men's drop in
Mondays 7pm - 9.30pm

MACCLESFIELD

Outrite Men's Drop-in * *
01270 653156
www.outrite.org
Gay & Bisexual men's drop in
Tuesdays 7pm - 9.30pm

Health, Support, Information & Advice

Body Positive Cheshire & North Wales
* * *
PO Box 321, Crewe, CW2 7WZ
Tel: 01270 653150 Fax: 01270 653158
E mail: contact@bpcnw.co.uk
Website: www.bpcnw.co.uk
Working together to improve the quality of life for people living with or affected by HIV and AIDS

Outrite (formerly CASH Project) * *
Gay & Bisexual Men's Project
PO Box 321, Crewe, CW2 7WZ
Helpline 01270 653156
E mail: info@outrite.org
Website: www.outrite.org

Social & support groups, Counselling, 121 support sessions, Condoms & lube by post service, Clinic companion service. Bases in Crewe & Macclesfield. All services free & confidential

HIV & Sexual Health

www.bpcnw.co.uk/sexualhealth
Website signposting information and services for health & social care professionals working in the field of HIV and Sexual Health as well as members of the public.

1806 Group/WISH (Warrington Initiative for Sexual Health) * *

11 Winmarleigh Street, Warrington WA1 1NB
01925 241994 (24 hour ansaphone)
LGB support group staffed Tuesday 6.30 - 8.30pm, meet Wednesday 8pm - 10pm

Specialist Health Promotion *
Wayne 01244 650534/ Mobile 0774 763 1021
Wayne.Ashbrook@wcheshirepct.nhs.uk
Catchment: Chester, Ellesmere Port and Neston

Sexual Health Clinics

Free confidential advice and treatment on sexually transmitted infections/HIV testing

CHESHIRE

Chester 01244 363091
Crewe 01270 612255
Macclesfield 01625 264116/264119
Northwich (VIN) 01606 564198
Runcorn 01928 753101 *
Warrington 01925 662476

WIRRAL & MERSEYSIDE

Liverpool 0151 706 2620
Southport & Formby 01704 513303
Wirral 0151 604 7339

STAFFORDSHIRE

Stoke-on-Trent 01782 554205
Stafford 01785 230260

NORTH WALES

Holyhead 01407 766026
Bangor 01248 384054
Rhyl 01745 534455
Wrexham 01978 727197 *

MANCHESTER

Jarman Clinic 0161 611 4939 * *
For Gay and Bisexual men

Publications

Cheshire HIV Services Directory
Call 01270 653150 to order or download directly from www.bpcnw.co.uk/directory
Directory for services of benefit to people living with or affected by HIV/AIDS. Free to individuals and organisations.

Cheshire Cheese
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Crewe
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Body Positive
Cheshire & North Wales
(Registered Charity
No. 1009850)

* Pink Press Available
* Condoms & Lube Available
* Dental Dams Available

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