

AUTUMN 2011

The Crescent News



Hertfordshire Office
The Crescent
19 Russell Avenue
St Albans
Hertfordshire
AL3 5ES
Tel: 01727 842532
Mon—Fri 10am—5pm

Buckinghamshire Office
The Crescent
9 Pennefather Court
Aylesbury
Buckinghamshire
HP21 7RA
Tel: 01296 436241
Mob: 07903868525
Wednesday 10am-3pm

Email: info@thecrescent.org.uk

www.thecrescent.org.uk

Itext: 07800473104

Just Giving: 70070 CRES19 £1,2,3,4,5 or £10

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Good bye Lesley.....	2	Watford Drop In to open.....	3
Christmas in July.....	2	The Crescent Needs You!.....	3
Herts Pride.....	2	The Crescent Calendar.....	4
World AIDS Day 2011.....	3	News from Bucks.....	4

Goodbye Lesley!

The Crescent staff, trustees and members bid a fond farewell to counsellor Lesley Addington, who has taken early retirement. Lesley had been with The Crescent for over 15 years, offering counselling, emotional support and testing to anyone accessing The Crescent. A retirement party was held for her at The Crescent, where a good time was had by all. We won't miss Lesley too much though, as we're lucky enough to have her on hand for counselling services as and when needed by members and the general public alike. To make an appointment please call The Crescent Office on 01727 842532.



Christmas in July

A big thank you to the Load of Hay pub for hosting our fundraising event "Christmas in July". As you can see, The Crescent staff and volunteers got into the festive spirit (a little early in the year admittedly!) and were doing their utmost to raise funds. Thank you to all of the people who kindly donated to our cause that night. If you would like to donate to The Crescent you can do so through Vodafone's "Just Giving". Simply text CRES19 a space then an amount in increments of £1 up to £5—after £5 the only alternative is £10, to 70070. It's free (for text donations) and you can reclaim gift aid for us too if you wish to do so.

Herts Pride

Our outreach worker Nigel has been working alongside the newly established Hertfordshire LGB&T Partnership to plan Hertfordshire Pride. The event is intended to be an opportunity for LGBT in Hertfordshire to celebrate and 'be themselves' in a safe and supportive environment, as well as raising awareness amongst people in Herts about LGBT people. It also aims to raise awareness amongst people in Herts about LGBT people.

This will be the first ever Pride event to be held in Hertfordshire, and the Crescent is keen to do all that it can to help make it a success! Nigel has also gave a presentation to the LGB&T Partnership about who The Crescent is and what we do on Tuesday 25th October, which was well received.



For those who would like more information about the LGB&T Partnership or who are interested in getting involved, you can contact Nigel via email (nigel@thecrescent.org.uk) or call The Crescent office on 01727 842532.

World AIDS Day 2011

1st December

Right all, it's almost that time of year again, which means The Crescent is getting ready to rattle it's collection tins and raise money for World AIDS Day—the first ever international health day which has been running since 1988 and aims to raise awareness of HIV and AIDS and end the stigma and prejudice surrounding the condition. We are very happy to continue our work with Hertfordshire gay venue The Load of Hay pub, which is now under the management of Andy Harrower. Andy has kindly agreed to continue supporting us, and will be holding an event at the pub on 26th November to help us raise some cash! It's a fancy dress occasion so come as whatever you like, and be sure to buy a raffle ticket or ten to stand a chance of winning some fab prizes! We'll also be rattling our collection tins in the streets of St Albans and Harpenden on 30th November, and running a door-to-door collection between the 28th November to 3rd December. You can also donate through Vodafone Just Giving (details listed on page 2). Happy WAD Day!



Watford Drop In to Open

Exciting news! The Crescent will soon be opening a new drop in centre in Watford. It is hoped that the new centre will operate on a similar basis to the St Albans and Aylesbury drop in centres, offering existing and new members of The Crescent and members of the public a chance to stop by for counselling, free condoms, advice, testing, social events, or just a chat and a cuppa. The venue is located just opposite NatWest on the high street, and was formally a JJB Sports store. Development of the centre is still underway, but will keep you posted with any and all progress.

The Crescent Needs You!

The Crescent is looking for new volunteers—can you help? All we're asking is for you to spend a few spare hours helping us out. There's lots to do, from transporting clients to offering emotional support, and if you have any other skills that you think would be useful then we want to hear from you! Volunteering is a great way to connect with your community, gain experience and skills, as well as beefing up your CV! So what are you waiting for. For details on applying and attending volunteer training contact Sandra on 01727 842532 or via Sandra@thecrescent.org.uk



PSSSST..... OUR WEBSITE WWW.THECRESCENT.ORG.UK HAS HAD A MAKEOVER! HAVE A LOOK, WE THINK YOU'LL BE IMPRESSED!

The Crescent Calendar

November - January 2012

November

Thursday 3rd November, Gay Men's Group, 7.30-9.30pm

Saturday 12th November, Ladies Lunch, 12-3pm

Sunday 27th November, Sunday Lunch, 1.30-4pm

Wednesday 30th November, Street Collections for **World AIDS Day** in Harpenden and St Albans

Monday 28th November—Saturday 3rd December, Door to Door Collections for **World AIDS Day** in St Albans and Harpenden

December

Thursday 1st December, Gay Men's Group, 7.30-9.30pm

Saturday 10th December, Ladies Lunch, 12-3pm

Sunday 18th December, Sunday Lunch, 1.30-4pm

January

Thursday 5th January, Gay Men's Group, 7.00-9.30pm

Saturday 14th January, Ladies Lunch, 12-3pm

Sunday 29th January, Sunday Lunch, 1.30-4pm

Other groups such as those for carers/partners, mothers and under 35's will commence again in January. For further details please see the Crescent website www.thecrescent.org.uk, e-mail: info@thecrescent.org.uk or call 01727 842532.

News from Bucks

- Congratulations to our volunteer Mary, who recently became a grandmother again! Our best wishes go to her family.
- The Crescent has now begun distributing condoms on behalf of the Brookside Clinic in Aylesbury. Anyone wanting free condoms can obtain them by accessing 9 Pennefather Court, Aylesbury on Wednesdays between 10:00am and 3:30pm
- A successful lunch was held in August, for which the staff and volunteers demonstrated their culinary skills to Crescent members! We're told the end results were extremely tasty, proved by the fact that unfortunately there was nothing left to taste test for ourselves!
- The Crescent has enjoyed working alongside Buckinghamshire Social Services for 2011, and would like to take this opportunity to say that we look forward to continuing this working relationship in 2012!