

Gay & Lesbian

Same-sex and the City



In the pink Citypink founders Anna Whowell and Andi Schembri (Below, Music night at Ronnie Scott's)

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Since The Candy Bar closed, there has been no full-time lesbian bar in London. But there are alternatives to the scene, as **Paul Burston** discovered when he met Anna Whowell of women's social network Citypink

How would you describe Citypink?

'Citypink is a forum for women to socialise, network and have fun together, aimed at women who are looking for an alternative to "the scene". Events are held in upmarket venues such as private members' clubs, offering gay women an exclusive space where they can relax. The events are diverse and include business seminars, networking drinks, live music nights, and theatre and sporting events. We have strong ties with business too: Ernst & Young hosted our March business seminar. We also help raise money and awareness for Stonewall.'

How long has it been running?

'We launched in January 2005. The two founders of Citypink, myself and Andi Schembri, were both in investment banking. An email to five contacts at

five investment banks drew a crowd of 50 for the first event, immediately dispelling the myth that there are few lesbians in the City! The network has grown by word of mouth and expanded to include all industries and backgrounds. We currently have around 2,500 members on our mailing list and a much wider audience who visit our website and attend events. We recently discovered that two women who met at our first event are getting married this year!'

What sort of women attend?

'The age range is 25-60 years old, but the average age is mid-to-late thirties. The earning range of the majority of our women is double that of the national average, and over 20 per cent earn over £80,000.'

Sounds intimidating.

'Not at all! The founders have worked hard to create a friendly, approachable, attitude-free and non-intimidating network. Women who arrive are welcomed by the hosts and introductions for newcomers are offered. We ease people into the

crowd! These are events you can go to on your own and you won't be left in standing in a corner.'

Any exciting events coming up?

'We have our monthly drinks evening at Adam Street private members' club, and monthly live music nights at Ronnie Scott's. Our next big event is the Dame Dallow Tennis Tournament.

Citypink is resurrecting a lesbian tennis tournament that was held annually more than 15 years ago, originally at Clissold Park, north London. Maria Dallow was the original organiser and well known in lesbian circles. We're thrilled to be hosting such a brilliant event, and it's now at the stunning Chelsea Harbour Club. The event will last all day, and will be followed by the Citypink Summer Party in the evening.'

The Dame Dallow Tennis Tournament is on Aug 1. Tickets are £40 and include tennis and party (£20 spectators, £15 party only).

www.citypink.co.uk

www.timeout.com/gay


Out & about


How to be listed

Listings should be addressed to Paul Burston and must arrive in writing by Tuesday, **eight days** before publication. We do not accept listings over the phone. Listings can be sent by post, by fax to 020 7813 6001, or by email (strictly without attachments) to paulburston@timeout.com. Please include admission prices, times, nearest /rail/bus, photographs if possible and a contact phone number.

Ongoing (Jun 18-24)

FREE NEW Kathleen Bryson - Wolves of Candyland at *The Book Box*, 53 Chatworth Rd, E5 0LJ. 020 8525 5664. Hackney Central rail. ▶ Jul 12. Exhibition of paintings by Alaskan-born queer artist, exploring magic and fairytales.

Naked Boys Singing at *King's Head Theatre*, 115 Upper St, N1 1QN. 0844 412 2953.  Angel. Tue-Fri 8pm, Sat 8pm & 10pm, Sun 4pm; £15-£20 (£12.50 conc). info@kingsheadtheatre.org. ▶ Jul 5. Seven men sing naked in this new production of the New York smash hit musical, directed by Phil Willmott.


NEW Paul L Martin - Wide Eyed and Legless in *The Basement* at *Leicester Square Theatre*, 5 Leicester Place, WC2H 7BX. 0844 8472475.  Leicester Sq. Doors 8pm, show 8.30pm (Sun doors 3.30pm, show 4pm); £15. Jun 18 ▶ Jun 21. The king of cabaret is back with his first solo show in four years. See *Cabaret*.


NEW Pride Festival Fortnight pridelondon.org/festivalfortnight. Jun 20 ▶ Jul 5. Season of arts events to celebrate and support Pride London. See daily listings or Pride website for details.

Thursday 18

Events & meetings


Living The Life I Want 07956 295327. 6-8pm; £25. counselingtherapy.com. Weekly therapeutic group for gay and bi men to explore ways of living authentically. In central London. Advance booking advised.

London Gay Symphonic Wind weekly at *St Gabriel's Pimlico*, Warwick Square, SW1V 2AD.  Victoria/Pimlico/12, 2A, 2, 36, 185, 436. 7-9pm. band@lgs.org.uk. London's only symphonic wind band for the LGBT communities. All brass, wind and percussion players welcome.

*** There is No Word For It - The (Trans) Mangina Monologues** in the *Pinter Studio Soho Theatre*, 21 Dean St, W1D 3NE. 0870 429 6883.  Tottenham Ct Rd. 7.30pm; £10 (£8 conc). info@transmanginamonologues.com. A celebration of trans male sexuality with Laura Bridgeman, Serge Nicholson, Lois Weaver, Simon Croft and cast.

Bars & clubs

Gravity weekly at *Fire*, 34-41 Parry St, off South Lambeth Rd, SW8 1RT. 020 7582 9890.  Vauxhall. 12midnight-9am; £8 (free before 11pm) with flyer/ad, otherwise £10. fireclub.co.uk. Afterhours club with DJs David Jimenez, The Oli, Alan K and guests.

FREE Homosocial weekly at *BarCode*, 3-4 Archer St, W1D 7AP. 020 7734 3342.  Piccadilly Circus. 9pm-1am. bar-code.co.uk. Male bonding and a musical melange from DJs Severino and Benjamin playing disco, funk, soul and house. Relaxed and friendly.

FREE Industri weekly at *BarCode* Vauxhall, Arch 69 Albert Embankment,