

Birmingham Gay Pride 2005



Birmingham Gay and Lesbian Pride in its ninth year has become the country's biggest FREE gay festival spanning over three days, and raising thousands of pounds for worthy gay and lesbian community groups in the West Midlands. In addition the event brings around £10 million in revenue to the city through visitors who flock to enjoy this great carnival weekend.

The Carnival Parade on Saturday 28th May proved to be a flamboyant and colourful event winding its way from Victoria Square through Birmingham City Centre down to the Gay Village in Hurst Street, watched by thousands of shoppers. The Positive Mental Health Group ensured that their parade piece - **AWAY WITH THE FAIRIES** - created interest and excitement.



Supported by the **Birmingham & Solihull Mental Health Trust**, **NIMHE West Midlands**, **BGLAD** and the **Positive Mental Health Group** the fairies were certainly "away with themselves". A bright yellow bus was surrounded by colourful "tourists" sporting cameras, lilos, Bermuda shirts and flapping wings!



During the parade, the crazy tourists handed out sweets and promotional merchandise as well as around 650 yellow "Positive About Mental Health" carrier bags containing:

- ☺ Information on Mental Health/Gay Services in Birmingham
- ☺ PMHG Calendar of Events - special edition.
- ☺ PMHG Leaflet, User Voice Leaflet, HR leaflet and BCA Leaflet
- ☺ Yellow "Positive About Mental Health" Bug or Pen.

Birmingham Gay Pride 2005



At the Village Stall the celebrations continued throughout the weekend with music and dance. Down on the Village Green the fairies were busy all day Sunday, staffing an information stall where the team:

- ☺ Distributed hundreds of leaflets and information packs about mental health issues
- ☺ Talked to many members of the public, and workers from other organisations about how to receive regular information on mental health
- ☺ Directed people towards services they may need, or wish to make contact with.



To get involved and take part in any future events please contact Claire Swindale,
Mental Health Promotion Manager
Birmingham and Solihull Mental Health Trust
on 0121 678 4150 or claire.swindale@bsmht.nhs.uk

To see pictures of the event log onto -
www.bbc.co.uk/birmingham/your_community/gay_village/index.shtml