

Introducing **gay**surrey

Gay Surrey launched in 2005 and on the 18th April 2006 became a registered charity (1113772) just over one year of its creation. What started as a group of friends talking via the current Gay Surrey forum board just less than four years ago has blossomed into a countywide success story. The boys and girls of Gay Surrey Charity have developed their own areas of expertise and interests to fully embrace almost all aspects of gay living.



*Some of the Gay Surrey Team at the IDAHO event
Thanks to <http://www.mattpereira.co.uk> for use of the photo*

With a team of over 15 volunteers each volunteer offers a unique factor towards the charity from same sex parent groups, youth groups, minority outreach programme helping the LGBT community cope with their religion, cultural background alongside being gay to even social nights that bring the community together through our club4good campaign which feeds back donations to the charity to help our campaign in fighting hate crime.

In 2008 a team of young people within the charity joined together and raised funding to create a dedicated website aimed at 13 to 19 year olds, the project proved a huge success and is still set to grow with new additions

and offers help and support when needed, from coming out to bullying in schools.

Gino Meriano Chair of Gay Surrey comments *"this has been one of the most rewarding opportunities I have been involved in for awhile now. Seeing the charity grow more and more volunteers on board and new projects that are purely aimed at young people will only reinforce the need to have as many ways as possible on and off line to help young people, their family and friends"*.

In 2009 / 2010 Gay Surrey with the help of a great group of young people are set to launch the "Learn, Teach, Grow" campaign which will become a toolkit to help teachers and headmaster in every school in Surrey about the issues that affect a young person when coming out to bullying. The toolkit which has been part

funded by Surrey County Council will bring a new and fresh look into helping everyone concerned when looking after the well fare of young people in Surrey.

In 2008 Gino Meriano received an award "Everybody Matters" from Surrey County Council for his contribution in raising awareness around Surrey and in 2009 our youngest trustee Aaron was awarded a certificate in recognition of the positive contribution he made in the development of the YGS (Young Gay Surrey) projects funded by Surrey Youth Opportunity and Youth Capital Fund in the last eighteen months.

Contact Gay Surrey on 0700 5982 429 or info@gaysurrey.org
www.gaysurrey.org