

one80 community Brighton

It's good nowadays, isn't it?

In the first of an occasional series, Roger Wheeler fulminates against the ridiculous rules of Health and Safety.

Many years ago I was working for a vast government department, drowning in a sea of civil servants, who were neither particularly civil nor servile; colleagues would often refer to me as Victor. They thought that I sounded like a gay version of the famous tv grump Victor Meldrew as I was constantly irritated and annoyed. I didn't initially recognise this but soon realised that being well past my own sell by date modern life was becoming more and more annoying. I remember my dad sounding exactly the same nearly fifty years ago, so does every small thing become more annoying as you get older? Probably.

It all started when I met a colleague who was to become my new best friend. Her name is Elfin, formally known as Elfin Safety. Her

main aim in life is to protect you and me from ourselves. She thinks, no she knows that we do not have the sense that we were born with and simply cannot be trusted or allowed to undertake the simplest of tasks without instructions, cautions, warnings, safety goggles and protective clothing.

For decades we have been able to open a window in a hotel or office, get on a train, cross the road, even cruising, without being constantly reminded that we are in serious danger of life threatening injury.

I was planning an event at a major public conference centre, Elfin insisted on a risk assessment being undertaken. Apart from being a ludicrous suggestion as this venue was used by thousands of people every week without the need for risk assessments, I asked Elfin if, before she entered any shop or cinema, did she send in her troops to check that she would survive the experience.

The work place 'experience', how I hate that now overused word, has become a minefield of dangerous hazards with the strong likelihood of one sustaining permanent injury unless you attend a course on, say, using a chair. What was once just a chair has become a serious threat to life and limb unless instructed on how to use it in the correct manner

Today in virtually everything we do we are

warned to take great care or the lube may jump out of the tube and cause permanent damage, of course if you forget to use it there could be consequences. If we don't carefully read every label on everything we buy we are at serious risk of, for instance, drinking the bleach thinking its gin. And the dangers of opening the fridge - never mind about boiling a kettle - are just too horrific to contemplate.

I seriously question the need for this over protectiveness; of course the reason for it all lies with the Americans. That highly litigious society where you sue, or as they would say, issue a law suit, if you break a finger nail when ripping open a condom.

There is money to be made from the most innocent of errors, as we are told every day by the ambulance chasing solicitors, sorry law firms, that if something is not your fault you can get substantial compensation.

I just think it's about time that we took responsibility for our actions, but its too late, careful you're about to come to the end of this article and you need to look away now.

In the 60's, yes I know that was before real life existed and there was no internet or mobile phones how did we manage - the two most dangerous words in the language were Atomic Bomb nowadays its Health and Safety, our new best friend Elfin.

Girls on film

INTERESTED IN SUPPORTING a Lesbian Film Club in Brighton and Hove? Come along to a showing of *Late Bloomers* upstairs in the Marlborough Theatre. £3.50 on the door, bring your pint along and enjoy the film in congenial company.

Sunday 19 July at 3:30pm. For more information, call Val on 01273 3287771



Run rabbit!

NEED A REASON TO get fit and support your local LGBT Switchboard at the same time? Why not run the Brighton marathon for the city's oldest LGBT community organisation?

The challenge is to run in Brighton's first ever marathon (26 miles) and Brighton & Hove LGBT Switchboard has secured places for run-

ners and is asking all runners to raise a minimum of £1,000 sponsorship money in return for the place.

The marathon is taking place on Sunday 18 April 2010.

To discuss this opportunity or book yourself a place contact Natalie Woods on 01273 207050 or by email to brighton.manager@switchboard.org.uk






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Brighton 01273 540 430
The Deneway, London Road, Brighton BN1 8QR
(by the railway bridge)

Peacehaven 01273 58 32 52
154 South Coast Road,
Peacehaven BN10 8EP

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Community helplines

BRIGHTON & HOVE

■ **Access 4 All** LGBT disabled support group (01273) 721 211 www.access4all.org

■ **Allsorts Youth Project** Tel: (01273) 721211

Email: info@allsortsyouth.org.uk

■ **BLAGSS** Brighton Lesbian & Gay Sports Society.0845 65 BLAGS www.blagss.org

■ **Brighton Bandits FC** (01273) 6222273

www.banditsfc.org

■ **Brighton Bothways** Group for the bi-sexual, bi-curious and their friends www.brighton-bothways.org.uk

■ **Brighton & Hove Disabled Dykes**

(01273) 204050 Email: disabled-dykes@yahoo.co.uk

■ **Brighton & Hove LGBT Switchboard**

(01273) 204050 www.switchboard.org.uk/brighton

■ **Brighton LGBT Meditation Group** 07789900568

■ **Brighton Metropolitan Community Church (MCC)**

Tel. (01273) 681101 www.brightonwavesmccbrighton.co.uk

■ **Brighton Oursory Project** (01273) 206655

www.brightonoursory.co.uk

■ **Brighton Women's Centre** 72 High St, Brighton.

(01273) 698036.

■ **CAB HIV Project** (01273) 327474 www.brightonhovecab.org.uk

■ **Cheek To Cheek LGBT** dance classes (01273) 604834

■ **Clare Project** (Transsexual/gender identity counselling

07776 232100 www.clareproject.org.uk

■ **Claude Nicol Centre** - NHS Sexual Health Clinic

Royal Sussex County Hospital, Eastern Rd (01273) 664721

■ **GAYSWAG - Gay Sussex Walking Group** 0870 7605476 www.gayswag.co.uk

■ **GEMS** Group for mature gay men. Meets last Fri of the month at Dorset Gardens

Methodist Church (01273) 884285

■ **Lawson Unit** - HIV Clinic

Royal Sussex County Hospital, Eastern Rd (01273) 664722

■ **Lesbian & Gay Advocacy Project** Guidance with mental health problems (01273) 739847.

■ **Lesbian and Gay AA** Meets every Sunday at 7.30pm

Chapel Royal, North St, BN1 (01273) 203343.

■ **LGBT Narcotics Anonymous Group (NA)** Meets every Friday from 6pm 61 Ship Street, BN1 (01273) 604604.

■ **Mindout** Guidance for LGBT with mental health problems.

(01273) 739847 www.lgbtmind.com

■ **Pride in Brighton & Hove**

For information or to volunteer call (01273) 775939

www.brightonpride.org

■ **Rise (formerly The Women's Refuge Project)** domestic violence charity 01273 622822 www.rise.org.uk

■ **Spectrum** LGBT community group (01273) 723123

www.spectrum-lgbt.org

■ **The Sussex Beacon** - HIV care centre. (01273) 694222

www.sussexbeacon.org.uk

■ **Terrence Higgins Trust (THT)** - sexual health/HIV charity. 61 Ship St, (01273) 764200

www.tht.org.uk

■ **Trans Swimming** Trans swimming group every Monday 8.30pm Call 07867 741025 for venue details

■ **UNISEX SEXUAL HEALTH PROMOTION** University sexual health & drug/alcohol awareness service (01273) 678 641 www.unisex.org.uk

■ **Warren Brown Unit** Testing & treatment for STIs(01273) 461453.

■ **Wide Clinic** - Sexual Health Clinic for gay/bi men

Weds: 6pm-9pm at the Lawson Unit. (01273) 664722

www.brightonsexualhealth.com

one80community listings

Free to non-profit organisations that offer help, advice or a service to the LGBT community. If you would like to add your listings to this page please send to info@one80news.com one week prior to publication date.