



Media release

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NEW CHAPTER FOR GAY AND LESBIAN GROUP IN HISTORIC TOWN HALL

GALYIC (Gay and Lesbian Youth in Calderdale) is marking its relocation to offices in Hebden Bridge's community-run Town Hall with a day of celebration in Hebden Bridge on Wednesday August 18th. The celebrations will be marked by the flying of the gay and lesbian rainbow flag from the Town Hall's flagpole.

GALYIC supports lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender young people up to the age of 25, and runs a range of activities, including a weekly youth group, advocacy, advice and one-to-one support. It has provided a much-appreciated service in Calderdale since its original founding in 1999, and is highly respected for the role it has played in helping young people locally. GALYIC currently is supported by BBC Children in Need, Lloyds/TSB and Calderdale Community Services, among other funders.

Jan Bridget, GALYIC Service Manager, says:

“We're delighted to have moved in to the Town Hall in Hebden Bridge, and to be sharing in the work of creating a real focal point for community activity in this fine old building. The move gives us a springboard for developing our work with young people in the Calder valley.”

Andrew Bibby, Hebden Bridge Community Association trustee says:

“When we took over management of the Town Hall from Calderdale in April, the building was burdened with several empty offices and had a general air of neglect. We’re working hard to bring new life to the Town Hall, and are very pleased to have GALYIC as one of our first community tenants.”

GALYIC’s day of celebration will take place in the recently opened Waterfront Hall, in the rear of the Town Hall, and will start at 1pm. The group will be arranging a series of presentations of its work and hosting exhibitions. All are welcome.

The gay and lesbian rainbow flag originated in San Francisco in the 1970s, having been designed and hand-dyed by artist Gilbert Baker. It is now known worldwide as a symbol of gay and lesbian pride. “Flying it is symbolically important, and will give our young people a big lift. It sends out the message that gay and lesbian people are valued and are an important part of our community locally,” Jan Bridget says.