

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **HAT WORKS WELCOMES MILITARY PRIDE**

A new exhibition at Hat Works explores the experiences of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people within the context of conflict, war and military service. 'Military Pride', an Imperial War Museum North touring exhibition, is a powerful display of portraits and personal testimony.

Military Pride details changes in historical and cultural context and shows a timeline of post 1945 legislation and policies within the Armed Forces. The exhibition is on display as part of Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender (LGBT) History month in February.

This display of 5 personal testimonies reflects through contributors' own words how war and conflict have shaped people in the LGBT communities' lives from 1945 to the present day. As well as reflecting adversity, the display aims to celebrate the achievements and reflect the positive contributions of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender communities to the Armed Forces and examine how experiences may have changed since 1945.

Councillor Shan Alexander, Executive Member for Leisure, at Stockport Council, said: "It is an honour to host this prestigious exhibition as part of Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender (LGBT) History month. This exhibition will also complement the permanent 'For King and Country' display at Hat Works which showcases fascinating military headwear."

Catherine Roberts, Head of Learning & Access at Imperial War Museum North says: "The experience of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people, within the context of conflict, war and military service, is arguably still a largely hidden history. Through this small but important display, which we are delighted is now on tour, hopefully we can make a step towards helping to reveal and celebrate it."

Military Pride is on display at Hat Works from 1 – 28 February and is FREE to enter.

Come along and meet the James McSharry, co-curator of Military Pride, to celebrate the contributions of LGBT communities in the armed services. Friday 13 February 1.30 – 3.30 pm FREE.

For more information contact Hat Works on 0161 355 7770 or visit [www.hatworks.org.uk](http://www.hatworks.org.uk)

For a full list of local events or more information about LGBT, contact 0161 480 1211 or visit [www.stockport.gov.uk/diversityequality](http://www.stockport.gov.uk/diversityequality)

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**28 JANUARY 2009**