

ERASURE'S ANDY BELL BECOMES PATRON OF DHIVERSE

Andy Bell, the singer songwriter and member of Erasure has agreed to become the Patron of the Cambridgeshire based charity Dhiverse.



Dhiverse was established 30 years ago to provide support for people affected by HIV and AIDS. The charity now undertakes a wider spectrum of work in the advancement of education of the public through the promotion of good sexual health in order to reduce the spread of sexually transmitted infections. Dhiverse is particularly active in educating the public in order to challenge the stigma, ignorance and discrimination surrounding HIV and AIDS through the promotion of greater public awareness and understanding of these diseases; and to educate young people at secondary schools, sixth form colleges, further education colleges and universities in matters of sex, sexual health, and contraception. Dhiverse also provides education and support to people with learning difficulties, and reaches out to all communities at risk.

Andy Bell was born and brought up in Peterborough. He is a founder member of

Erasure together with Vince Clarke and the duo has enjoyed global success and continue to tour and produce best selling albums. Andy announced that he was HIV positive in 2004 and has given many interviews on living with this, the loss of friends from AIDS and his outlook for the future. Andy said when he agreed to become a patron of Dhiverse:

"To be honest I had been feeling a bit lost & felt like I wanted someone to help me understand & find my way through the maze that is HIV. I was also thinking that I really want to put something back into the area that made me i.e. Peterborough though it wasn't idyllic there growing up it was safe! I really do believe that when we ask we receive & hey presto I had the approach from Dhiverse! I look forward very much to see what we can achieve as a group & perhaps a bit more of a public profile."

Rob Turner, Chairman of Dhiverse said: "We are honoured and excited to have Andy as our patron. The importance of education of all sections of society in the area of sexual health and particularly HIV is dramatically emphasized by the rise in new infections recently reported. With Andy's help we will raise the profile of Dhiverse and continue raising funds to support our vital work.

Further information available for Sharron Spindler CEO of Dhiverse, Dales Brewery, Gwydir Street, Cambridge, CB1 2LJ Telephone 01223 508805, Mob 07983 150524, email sharron@dhiverse.org.uk