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GOLDEN HANDBAG AWARDS 2019 - VOTING OPENS MAY 21

Brighton’s Gay Oscars, the Golden Handbag Awards, will take place in the spectacular surroundings of the Oxford Suite Ballroom at the five star Hilton Brighton Metropole on Sunday, June 23 from 7.30pm.

The Golden Handbags Awards 2018/19

The Golden Handbag Awards 2019 will be hosted by Lola Lasagne with the full line-up of artists appearing being announced in June Gscene which goes online on Friday, May 24. The Golden Handbag Awards give everyone in LGBT+ Brighton & Hove the opportunity to acknowledge all that is positive about the commercial scene and voluntary sector in Brighton & Hove.

Who’s your favourite top? Where’s your favourite bottom? What’s your favourite bar, and which is your favourite voluntary sector organisation? The winners of these much sort after accolades will be announced in spectacular Hollywood fashion by an impressive list of showbiz personalities and local dignitaries.

Voting in the Golden Handbag Awards 2019 will go live at midnight on Tuesday, May 21 following the Golden Quiz, at Charles Street Tap.

Voting this year will once again take place online at www.gscene.com.

To nominate someone you think should receive a special Community or Lifetime Achievement Award, email your suggested nomination to info@gscene.com by Monday, May 27.

VIP tables at the Brighton Hilton Metropole seating 12, costing £240, will be available from Monday, May 6 by emailing info@gscene.com or calling 01273 749 947.

Unreserved single tickets, costing £20 each, will go on-sale at Prowler, 112 St James’s Street, Brighton from Friday, May 31.

THE GOLDEN QUIZ - WHO’S TOP OF THE CLASS IN 2019?

The Golden Quiz kick-starts the voting season for the Golden Handbag Awards 2019, which culminates in a star-studded ceremony at the Hilton Brighton Metropole on Sunday, June 23 when the voluntary and business sectors come together to celebrate everything fabulous about the LGBT+ communities in Brighton & Hove.

Lola Lasagne will once again host the biggest quiz in town to find out who has the brainiest LGBT+ bar staff and volunteers in the city. Will last year’s winners the Rainbow Chorus hold onto their crown? Once again, the winners of the Quiz this year will take over a front cover of Gscene for a month (value £2,000).

This year the number of teams are being restricted to 20 to give everyone plenty of room to spread out and enjoy themselves. To register your team of six players for the evening, email: info@gscene.com. Tables will be issued on a first come, first served basis, by return email.

The Golden Quiz will be at Charles Street Tap, 8 Marine Parade, Brighton on Tuesday, May 21. Registration from 7pm for an 8pm start. £20 per team of six players. Pay Lola on the night. All entry money goes to the Rainbow Fund for distribution in the October Grants Round.

APPLICATIONS OPEN FOR PRIDE CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT FUND GRANTS

The Brighton & Hove Pride Cultural Development Fund, offering individual artists, groups and community organisations small grants, is open for applications till May 20.

Brighton & Hove Pride have earmarked up to £15,000 of Pride’s 2018 community fundraising to help artists participate in the Pride Arts & Cultural programme 2019 and to continue to promote Pride’s diverse programme of events.

WHAT CAN I APPLY FOR?

Awards of up to £250 are available to help individual artists or small community groups to cover the cost of developing a creative project for participation in Brighton & Hove Pride 2019. This can include costs for costumes, instruments, artist fees and venue hire for performance, rehearsal or studio space. There are also a small number of awards up to £1,000 for larger scale projects with broad community impact. Potential recipients can apply for multiple grants for different projects.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO APPLY?

• Individual Artists
• Local community groups
• Local voluntary or charitable organisations

WHAT IS THE CRITERIA?

In order to be considered for the grant, you should have a project in development and all applicants must:
1. Be based in Brighton & Hove (or have a connection to the city)
2. Be fully committed to cultural diversity and social inclusion in the arts
3. Be able to demonstrate a proven track record of your arts practice

WHEN IS THE DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS?

All applications for a Pride Cultural Development Fund Artists’ Small Grant Award must be received by Monday, May 20. A panel will select the winning entries and if successful you will be notified by email by the first week of June 2019. Decisions are final and there will be no system of appeal.

HOW DO I APPLY?

Complete the application form at https://form.jotform.com/91053094086961. All applications must be received no later than 5pm on Monday, May 20. Applications submitted after this deadline cannot be considered.

If you have any questions, email: artsandfilm@brighton-pride.org.
LEGSponsor BRIGHTon PRIDE CABARET BIG TOP FOR ANOTHER YEAR

The Cabaret Big Top, at the heart of the Brighton Pride Festival in Preston Park, will once again be sponsored by Legends in 2019.

Tony Chapman and his team at Legends’ support for Brighton & Hove Pride is the epitome of Brighton’s Community Spirit. From their financial support of the Legends Cabaret Big Top to their fundraisers for the Rainbow Fund, they are perfect example of how a venue’s support can make a real difference to LGBT+ people in the city.

Hosted by Brighton Belle, Miss Lola Lasagne, the Legends Cabaret Big Top features a rich palette of the very best of the UK’s LGBT+ cabaret scene and is your first stop for a riotous celebration of queer, camp entertainment!

Paul Kemp, Director of Pride, said: “Pride would like to thank Stephen Richards (AKA Lola) for arranging such an amazing cabaret line up each year and Tony Chapman of Legends. Tony has been a supporter of Pride and each year has invested back into our communities. We are truly grateful to Tony for all his support over the years”

To book tickets for Brighton Pride events, view: http://Brighton-Pride.org

TRANS PRIDE BRIGHTON CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS FOR 2019 BRIGHTON TNBI CONFERENCE

Trans Pride Brighton & Hove (TPBH) have taken over organising the annual Trans, Non-Binary and Intersex (TNBI) Conference! Following feedback from the wider TNBI communities that the conference should be TNBI-led, it was agreed amongst the city’s trans sub-group and partners, that it was in the best interest of the TNBI communities to make this happen.

Upon receiving confirmation of receiving the booking of the Sallis Benney Theatre in kind from University of Brighton, in addition to practical support from Brighton & Hove City Council, TPBH are now able to get the ball rolling with this new and exciting project.

They aim for this year’s conference to be even better, and most valuable to trans, non-binary and intersex communities, while including both grass-roots and academic interests.

The 2019 Conference will be curated by the newly appointed Conference Lead Committee Member of TPBH, Kate Hutchinson.

Kate says: “I’m really excited to join the Trans Pride Brighton team in this role. With Trans Pride becoming the host organisation for the conference we hope to highlight community voices that are far too often unheard and bring substantially more community input into the direction of the event.

“We would like to invite people from the TNBI communities to submit proposals for either a 20 minute presentation or ideas for a one hour workshop. Proposals should include a short outline of what you would like to talk about, a brief introduction about yourself in whatever form you think represents it well such as written, video, audio, multi-media etc.”

Submit your proposal to conference@transpridebrighton.org by Wednesday, May 1. Submissions are encouraged and particularly welcome from trans, non-binary and intersex people who are from the Black & Minority Ethnic communities, those with disabilities or identity as being neurodivergent, sex workers and other under-represented minorities or groups.

If you would like to join one of their Community Steering Group meetings in Brighton, view: https://bit.ly/2Ujdds9

Spaces are limited, so please only sign up if you plan on attending. Travel costs can be reimbursed via BACS for those travelling within the Sussex area. For more details, email: conference@transpridebrighton.org

Barber Blacksheep

Unisex Hairsalon

18 St Georges Road, Kemptown, Brighton BN2 1EB
01273 623 408
For almost two years the Brighton Museum has housed the UK’s largest collection representing trans lives; the Museum of Transology. The exhibition currently displays diverse artefacts, including everything from prosthetics to train tickets, donated by Brighton’s vibrant trans community.

This bold collection has achieved so much in terms of deconstructing myths surrounding the trans experience and promoting the representation of LGBT+ people in a museum setting. Unfortunately, though, the Museum of Transology will close in October this year. However, do not fear. The next exhibition in the Spotlight Gallery will continue to reclaim and uncover our local LGBT+ history.

The project, titled Queer the Pier, is a collaboration between curator E-J Scott, Brighton Museum. Queer in Brighton heritage project, and a work group of local LGBT+ volunteers.

BRIGHTON GAY MEN’S CHORUS SAY FAREWELL TO ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

After nine fantastic and successful years, Brighton Gay Men’s Chorus (BrightonGMC) bid farewell to Marc Yarrow. Marc’s tenure with the Chorus, first as Musical Director then Artistic Director, started in 2010. During his time as the musical lead for BrightonGMC they has grown in number and developed in reputation and professionalism.

Working with a talented team of professional musicians and a dedicated membership, Marc introduced the Chorus to a wide repertoire leading them in many successful performances at a wide variety of venues, including the Brighton Dome Concert Hall, The Brighton Theatre Royal, and the London Palladium.

Under Marc’s leadership the Chorus represented the UK in the international music festival Various Voices in Ireland and Germany, and won the Manchester Amateur Choral Competition in 2013.

The Trustees of BrightonGMC extend their heartfelt gratitude and thanks to Marc for his contribution over the years and wish him the best for his future endeavours and will follow his career with pride knowing that the Chorus helped him in his formative years. BrightonGMC was established in January 2005 and has about 100 members. It provides a space where people can celebrate music, enjoy the fellowship of other like-minded people and contribute to the local communities it’s a part of.

For more information, view: www.brightongmc.org/
The LGBT Community Safety Forum is an independent group of lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans (LGBT) volunteers in Brighton & Hove.

For more info visit: lgbt-help.com
call: 01273 855620 option 4, email: info@lgbt-help.com
or pop into The Rainbow Hub at 93 St James Street, Brighton, BN2 1TP

BRIGHTON & HOVE LGBT TRUST & CONFIDENCE SURVEY
YOUR COMMUNITY YOUR SAFETY IN YOUR HANDS

COUNTING ON YOU TO TELL US WHAT MATTERS
The idea for a ‘Trust and Confidence Survey’ came out of Brighton & Hove LGBT Community Safety Forum public meetings during 2012.

With a message from LGBT groups that Hate Crime was a significant factor in the City, where higher than average numbers of the LGBT community live and socialise, the groups wanted a survey to measure the baseline levels of trust and confidence in Police and Council services, to deal with this situation.

They were also mindful of a recent Police Survey: ‘Sexual Orientation and Transgender Related Incidents - Understanding Under Reporting’ and the ‘Count Me In Too’ survey report from 2007.

To take part in the Trust & Confidence Survey visit: lgbt-help.com/survey
For support completing the survey please CALL 01273 855620 Option 4 or email info@lgbt-help.com

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MPS VOTE COMPULSORY RELATIONSHIPS AND SEX EDUCATION INTO LAW

March 27 was an historic day as MPs voted 538 to 21 in favour of the Government’s new Relationships & Sex Education (RSE), which means it will, pending approval by the Lords, finally be compulsory in all schools in England from September 2020. 

Alex Phillips, RSE lead at Terrence Higgins Trust, said: ‘This is a historic day for both Relationships and Sex Education and for all young people across England. We now know that from September 2020 that RSE will finally be compulsory in all schools in England and that no more young people will be let down when it comes to learning about sex and relationships. 

‘However the fight isn’t over and we will continue to apply strong pressure to ensure that all lessons are fit for purpose. That includes being truly LGBT-inclusive, that HIV and sexual health are a core part of the curriculum and that schools are properly funded so that they can skil up their teachers and provide top-quality resources.’

Mo Wiltshire, Director of Education & Youth at Stonewall, the LGBT+ equality charity, said: ‘We’re delighted the Commons have approved the regulations for teaching Relationships Education and Relationships and Sex Education in England’s primary and secondary schools. 

‘Pending approval by the Lords, from September 2020 all secondary schools will be required to teach pupils about sexual orientation and gender identity, and all primary schools will be required to teach about different families, which can include LGBT+ families. 

‘Currently, two in five LGBT+ pupils are taught nothing about LGBT+ issues in school. While progress has been made, nearly half of LGBT+ pupils are still bullied for being themselves. 

‘These new subjects have the potential to deliver real change in how LGBT+ families, people and relationships are taught about. This will help foster greater inclusion, acceptance and understanding in our classrooms, playgrounds and school corridors. 

‘All students, whether they are LGBT+ or not, should have the time and space to learn about the diversity that exists and makes our world beautiful. 

‘It’s now essential the Government sufficiently invests in training and resources to support teachers to consistently deliver high-quality LGBT-inclusive teaching. 

‘We look forward to working with Government and our network of School Champions and Children and Young People’s Services Champions to help them deliver these subjects, and building on this best practice, we’ll work to ensure that the guidance for teaching these subjects is further strengthened when it is next reviewed in 2022.’

LOCAL CEOS RAISE OVER £9,000 FOR MAYOR’S CHARITY

Mayor’s Charity raises over £9,000 for four Brighton & Hove charities at CEO Spring Sleepout. On Saturday, April 6, armed with only warm clothes and sleeping bags to protect them against the night, 16 people took part in the Mayor of Brighton & Hove’s Charity CEO Spring Sleepout at the British Airways i360.

The event was raising money for four local charities: Off the Fence, Grace Eyre, Martlets and Rockinghorse. Among those spending the night under the stars with the Mayor, Cllr Dee Simson were Rob Reaks (Red7 Leisure), and David Bell (Joe Public Marketing) who between them raised £1,022 towards the final total of over £9,000.

The event started with a flight on the British Airways i360 and a bedtime story by local author, Peter James, reading the first chapter of his latest book to everyone taking part by Skype.

Everyone survived the night and was rewarded with bacon butties from Buddies first thing in the morning.

BRIGHTON & HOVE FRONTRUNNERS – SIX MONTHS ON AND STILL GROWING!

Brighton & Hove Frontrunners, an LGBT+ running club, recently celebrated their six month anniversary in the city. They marked the event by taking part in the Hove Prom Parkrun with two graduates of their first Couch to 5K course in their brand new purple club tops. The two runners were Helen Davies and Sam Vince, both of whom successfully completed the beginner’s course and went on to complete their first Parkrun in great times!

The group meet every Wednesday at 7pm on the seafront prom at the shelter behind the King Alfred Leisure centre in Hove. The club is always welcoming to new members and is open to all standards and abilities. Further Couch to 5K courses will be available dependent on interest.

For more info, email the Frontrunners: brightonandhovefrontrunners@gmail.com or follow them on Facebook and Instagram (just search Brighton & Hove Frontrunners).
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OLDER AND LGBT+? YOU’RE WELCOME HERE!

Many older LGBT+ people find themselves having to go ‘back in the closet’ when they enter supported living arrangements like nursing homes, but one group of care homes in Brighton & Hove are making sure this isn’t the case for their residents. Brighton-based LGBT+ charity Switchboard’s pioneering new LGBTQ Inclusion Award celebrates the first Nursing Home Group’s achievement of a Silver Award, joining the growing number of health and care settings across Sussex who have achieved an award for being welcoming to LGBT+ people.

Victoria Nursing Group are the first organisation of their kind of commit to making their service LGBT+ inclusive through a combination of training, and making changes to their care homes, policies, and practices. They have just been awarded a prestigious Silver Award by Switchboard for LGBT+ inclusion. This award means that their residents, regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity, will have a positive experience of their care and they will remain connected with the wider communities in the city.

There are an estimated one million LGBT+ people over the age of 55 in the UK. Evidence still suggests that older LGBT+ people feel unable to be open about their identities in health and social care settings. Working closely with Switchboard, Victoria Nursing Group has confronted this issue in all three of its Hove-based homes by training over 75% of staff in LGBTQ Awareness and Inclusion, as well as introducing tools like pronoun badges and building links with LGBT+ services and support groups in the city. LGBT+ residents will now see their identities reflected in things like reading materials and posters, as well as being able to talk to staff about their experiences and their needs.

Emma Sheriff, Victoria Nursing Group’s Care Quality Director, said: “We are delighted to be accredited the Silver level LGBTQ Inclusion Award. The award is important to us in terms of both our staff and residents recognising our commitment to equality and inclusion. The teams have worked extremely hard to achieve the Silver Inclusion Award. Staff have been incredibly supportive in assisting with the redesign of our equal opportunities monitoring form, coordinating training and speaking to staff about their understanding of our ‘preferred pronoun badges’.”

Daniel Cheesman, Switchboard’s CEO, added: “We are pleased to be able to award Victoria Nursing Group with the LGBTQ Inclusion Award and are encouraged to see how they have worked hard to involve staff and residents in making their homes LGBT+ inclusive. At Switchboard we are passionate about making positive changes for all LGBT+ people, including those who are in their older years who will have experienced a time where it was illegal to be themselves. This makes working with organisations such as Victoria Nursing Group so special as it is making a real difference in the lives of many.”

WORRIED ABOUT YOUR HEARING, OR SOMEONE ELSE’S?

Want to be more deaf aware in your workplace or social groups? During Deaf Awareness Week (May 6-12), Action on Hearing Loss will team up with Brighton & Hove Buses to urge people to be more deaf aware in their daily lives to make the city more inclusive and accessible for people who are deaf or have hearing loss.

Go along for a chat on Thursday, May 9 from 11am to 2pm at Bus Stop D, Churchill Square, Brighton. On board a stationary double-decker, they will be offering:

- Fee basic hearing screening
- Information and advice about hearing loss, tinnitus and hearing health
- British Sign Language taster sessions
- Demonstrations of the latest assistive technology products
- Information on accessible bus travel and the Helping Hand card

Hearing loss is an invisible, yet life-changing condition that can have a devastating effect on people’s lives. It is linked to isolation, depression, and cognitive decline, and can make the risk of developing dementia between two and five times more likely.

Action on Hearing Loss helps people confronting deafness, tinnitus and hearing loss to live the life they choose. They do this by funding biomedical research to find a cure for hearing loss, campaigning to change public perception and policy around hearing loss issues, providing residential support for people who are deaf with additional needs, driving the development of assistive technology products, and offering free, practical advice on how people can protect their hearing.

For more information on Action on Hearing Loss, view: www.actiononhearingloss.org.uk

DINE WITH THE STARS TO BENEFIT THE LGBT+ COMMUNITY SAFETY FORUM

Dine with the Stars presents a fundraising Dinner & Show to benefit the Brighton & Hove LGBT Safety Forum on Saturday, May 25. Treat yourself to a brilliant night out with a three-course dinner with coffee at the Waterfront Jury’s Inn Hotel, Kings Road, Brighton for just £29 per person. Hosted by three drag queens, Davina Sparkle, Mrs Moore and Kara Van Park, who will be introducing top tribute act Rob Taylor as Elton John then Olly Murs.

Menu choices include:

- Starter: Chicken liver pate with chutney & toasted croute OR tomato & mozzarella salad with fresh basil & pesto dressing (V)
- Main: Rosemary roasted chicken breast with roast potatoes, seasonal vegetables and a red currant jus OR Mediterranean vegetable tian with a tomato fondue (V).
- Desert: Chocolate tart with raspberry cream OR fresh fruit & sorbet (V). Meals followed by coffee. Gluten free, allergies and dietary requirements catered for.

Dine with the Stars benefit night for the LGBT Community Safety Forum is at the Waterfront Jury’s Inn Hotel, King Road, Brighton, on Saturday, May 25, 7.30pm till 1am. Tickets: £29pp. You can book as few or as many places as you like, just pop into the Rainbow Hub at 93 St James’s Street, Brighton to book your place or call 01273 725331.
ACTUALLY GMC RAISE £3,142.83 FOR HIV CHARITY

Samuel Cousins, Musical Director at Actually Community Interest Company (Actually CIC), and members of Actually Gay Men’s Chorus (Actually GMC), received a certificate of appreciation from Bill Puddicombe of the Sussex Beacon.

Actually GMC was set up with the specific aim of providing a place where gay men can socialise, have fun and develop their vocal skills in a unique environment. Over the past 14 years, Actually CIC and its subsidiaries have raised thousands of pounds for local charities, and recently Actually GMC were lucky to enjoy a reception with Cllr Dee Simson, Mayor of Brighton & Hove, to acknowledge the Chorus’ work for charity and its contribution to the city of Brighton & Hove.

The Sussex Beacon was selected by Actually GMC members to be its chosen charity for its 2018 concert season.

Chris Tippett, Chorus Representative and Director, said: “The boys were thrilled to raise a total of £3,142.83 through its fundraising concerts Let It Snow; Ovalion; True Colours and It’s ACTUALLY Christmas in 2018; and now, following a members’ vote, the Chorus will continue to fundraise for the Sussex Beacon throughout Actually’s 2019 productions.”

Alan Baser, Chair of Actually CIC, said: “We are a group of men from different backgrounds and ages brought together by music; everybody brings something unique and each of our personal stories enriches us all. Through our audiences’ generosity in 2018, and 2019, the Chorus is proud to continue to support the incredible work of the Sussex Beacon and give back to the Brighton & Hove LGBT+ communities.”

The Sussex Beacon charity offers specialist care and support for men, women and families living with HIV. Open every day of the year, the Sussex Beacon helps people manage with the everyday realities of living with this life-long condition that has no cure.

Julie Rawcliffe of the Sussex Beacon added: "The Sussex Beacon is proud to have been chosen, once again, as the charity of the year by Actually GMC. During 2018, the Chorus and their generous audiences raised an incredible £3,142.83 for the Beacon. This will pay for essential, specialist HIV care that is unavailable anywhere else. Treatment for HIV has greatly improved the lives of those living with the virus, however there are still some who experience daily challenges. It is this group to whom we provide healthcare, health management services and social support. The communities of Brighton & Hove have always been great supporters of the Beacon and we thank Actually GMC for continuing this tradition."

Actually’s fundraising calendar commences on Friday, June 21 and Saturday, June 22, with Actually GMC’s first production of the year: Showstoppers!, which will be performed at St Andrew’s Church, Waterloo Street, Hove. To book tickets for Showstoppers!, view: www.tickettailor.com/events/agmc

BEAR-PATROL RAISE £399.32 FOR THE RAINBOW FUND

Cllr Dee Simson (Mayor of Brighton & Hove) and the vehicle transport was donated by Lancing Driver Training which both helped to save profits being spent on expenses.

Danny Dwyer, founder of Bear-Patrol, said: “All in all the sale was an incredible success and mother nature was most certainly on our side. I can’t thank our volunteers and donors enough for their support, especially those helping on the day and look forward to doing it all again next year.”

If you’d like to make a donation of items for next year’s sale and/or enquire about future events, email Danny: info@bearpatrol.org.uk

In 2020 Bear-Patrol will be celebrating their 10th Anniversary Fundraising and are currently planning an exciting year of community fundraising events. The Rainbow Fund give grants to local LGBT+ /HIV organisations who deliver effective frontline services to LGBT+ people in the city of Brighton & Hove.

BIZARRE BAZAAR IS COMING!

On Monday, May 27 from 11am-4pm the sale moves to the Sussex Beacon Shop, 130 St James’s St, Brighton. If you’re able to donate any of the following items: leather/rubber/bondage gear, military/uniforms, boots; Rangers, DMs, cowboys, wellies etc; Sportswear: trackies, jackets, trainers, football/rugby kit/boots, shiny etc; Underwear: jocks, briefs, boxers etc; adult magazines, DVDS & books, erotic art etc; take them to either of the Beacon Shops in St James’s St or 72-73 London Rd, or to arrange a collection, call the St James’s St shop: 01273 682992.
Hookups = SQUIRT.org

Visit www.squirt.org to hook up today
STALEMATE FINALLY BROKEN AS PREP TRIAL PLACES IN LONDON CLINICS BOOSTED BY 60%

More Londoners to receive HIV prevention medicine PrEP.

In a boost to HIV prevention in the capital, London boroughs have agreed to provide over 4,000 extra places on the PrEP Impact Trial.

The trial, a national programme led by NHS England in partnership with Public Health England and local authorities, supplies PrEP (an HIV prevention medicine) free of charge to people considered to be at high risk of exposure to HIV.

The expansion, which will take place over the coming weeks, represents a 60% increase in the trial places available to Londoners.

London already accounts for 7,609 trial places – a higher figure than the rest of England combined, however, two third of sites in London are now closed to gay and bisexual men. The boost still leaves the capital lagging behind many other parts of England which have agreed to double places on the trial.

The PrEP trial expansion in the capital will also include the use of the innovative online service Sexual Health London, which will be an option for trial participants to use for their regular sexual health checks.

Cllr Ray Puddifoot MBE, London Councils’ Executive Member for Health & Care, said:

“Boroughs have a proud record on HIV prevention and we want PrEP to be available to every Londoner who needs it. PrEP is hugely important for protecting people’s health and preventing HIV transmission.

“We’ve played a key role in the success of the trial so far, rolling out the programme in sexual health clinics across the capital to ensure thousands of Londoners receive PrEP.

“We’re pleased to announce that boroughs will provide these additional places on the PrEP Impact Trial. Looking to the future, we’re keen for national partners in the Government and NHS to confirm funding arrangements for PrEP provision.

“While extra places on the PrEP Impact Trial represent a step forward, we ultimately want to see NHS-funded PrEP available to everyone at high risk of HIV exposure – as is the case in Scotland and Wales.”

PrEP is a key part of London’s HIV prevention strategy. Every time PrEP helps avoid a new HIV diagnosis, the NHS is potentially saved £360,000 in lifetime treatment costs.

The boroughs’ announcement follows discussions held with the NHS over resourcing of the additional places on the PrEP Impact Trial. Boroughs had previously expressed concern that the trial was being expanded without any additional investment, with potential repercussions for boroughs’ other sexual health services.

However, boroughs have now agreed to accommodate 4,000 extra places at a collective cost of £2.6 million to their sexual health budgets. The sustainability of London’s expansion of the PrEP Impact Trial will be monitored and boroughs will continue to push for a long-term funding arrangement for future provision.

London is home to an estimated 39,000 people living with HIV. Since 2014, when boroughs established the London HIV Prevention Programme, the capital has made significant progress in addressing this public health challenge.

The most recent figures from Public Health England revealed a substantial decrease in London HIV’s diagnosis rates of 21% in 2016-17, compared to the UK-wide decrease of 17%.

This has been achieved despite reductions in London’s public health grant. Between 2015-16 and 2018-19, London’s grant was reduced by 15% per head of population – the most substantial reduction of any region in England.

Last year saw London join the worldwide Fast-Track Cities initiative. London became one of the first global cities to meet the UN’s diagnosis and treatment targets and has pledged to achieve zero new HIV transmissions by 2030.

Debbie Laycock, Head of Policy at Terrence Higgins Trust, said: “Finally the stalemate on PrEP has been broken and some leadership is being shown. This is a welcome step in the right direction that will provide some relief to those in the capital who have been denied access to the trial. We welcome the acknowledgement by London Councils that PrEP must be available to everyone at high risk of HIV exposure and as such withholding access is simply not an option.”

“However this increase is still far short of the doubling of places we were promised by the Health Secretary Matt Hancock over 70 days ago and it won’t be long before we’re once again seeing gay and bisexual men being unable to access PrEP in the capital.

“London continues to outstrip every other part of the UK in the number of new HIV diagnoses each year so it’s a critical a sustainable solution for PrEP is found. This news is progress but this remains a job only half complete as places must be doubled to address the high demand seen for PrEP. We need urgent leadership on this from NHS England, the Department for Health & Social Care and councils across the capital because no one at risk of HIV should be turned away.”
The Mayor of Brighton & Hove, Cllr Dee Simson, and the Green MP for Brighton Pavilion, Caroline Lucas, attended the 10th Anniversary celebrations and Community Lunch for Lunch Positive.

Lunch Positive volunteers served meals to more than 300 people at the Community Lunch and 10th Anniversary celebrations during the BRIGHT ON LGBT+ Community Festival at the Phil Starr Pavilion on Saturday, March 30. Hot dishes served up by the volunteers included Mediterranean chicken and rice, roasted vegetable lasagne (veggie), Moroccan vegetable tagine (vegan) and sweet potato and chick pea korma (vegan), followed by a choice of a large range of cheeses and home-made cakes.

Gary Pargeter, Service Manager at Lunch Positive, said: "Thank you to everyone who came to the Community Lunch and Celebration on Saturday, March 30, and to those who sent the many kind messages of support. It was a wonderful event. The people we spoke to and our own volunteers all commented on the enjoyable atmosphere, the food, and the spirit of togetherness.

“It was great to be host to such a diverse crowd of people, and to also start this year’s celebration of 10 years of Lunch Positive. Thank you everyone who supports what we do, it is deeply appreciated, and a massive shout of appreciation to everyone who gives their time to help and volunteer for us!”

To join an inclusive, friendly and highly supportive volunteer team. The role involves making members feel welcome, spending social time together at the lunch club, and providing a supportive listening ear.

We’re flexible on availability, plenty of support and full training is given. To find out more please visit: www.lunchpositive.org

call: 07846 464 384

email: volunteer@lunchpositive.org

Lunch Positive
Community HIV Lunch Club

EVERY FRIDAY from 12 noon–3pm

DORSET GARDENS METHODIST CHURCH
DORSET GARDENS, BRIGHTON, BN2 1RL
FOUR LOCAL LGBT+ PROJECTS RECEIVE GRANTS FROM LGBT+ FUTURE FUND

**Consortium**, the national umbrella body for LGBT+ organisations, announced the successful recipients from the first round of its new LGBT+ Futures Fund, which includes four Brighton-based LGBT+ organisations. Twenty-four LGBT+ organisations across England, who undertake a range of work, from engaging young LGBT+ people through to several pride organisations, will share the total funding, with grants ranging from £1,000 to £19,000. Funding will support LGBT+ communities to be more visible and organisations supporting LGBT+ communities more sustainable.

Funding for the programme is thanks to money from the Government Equalities Office, who are investing in the LGBT+ sector as a result of their National LGBT Survey – the largest survey of LGBT+ people undertaken by any Government. The LGBT Action Plan details over 75 actions, including support for the infrastructure working with those LGBT+ people most in need.

Brighton-based organisations receiving funding include:

- **Allsorts Youth Project**: receive £12,525 to create a programme of work specifically aimed at improving BAME/POC inclusion.
- **Marlborough Theatre C.I.C & New Writing South**: receive £9,475 to stage *The Coast is Queer*, an LGBT+ writers’ festival in Brighton.
- **MindOut LGBTQ Mental Health Service**: receive a £10,961 sustainability grant to build the capacity and capabilities to plan the next three to five years.
- **The Clare Project**: receive £8,000 to create a TNB drop-in in Hastings, a dedicated opportunity for trans and non-binary communities.

Baroness Susan Williams, Minister for Equalities, said: “Local LGBT+ groups are incredibly important to the work of the Government Equalities Office and the advancement of equality in the UK. We’re giving these fantastic organisations the resources to tackle the real issues faced in their communities, and to provide training and development to grow and become more sustainable. This investment will be vital in making sure our LGBT+ action plan brings about real, lasting change across the whole country.”

Paul Roberts OBE, Chief Executive at Consortium, added: “This is one of the first dedicated pots of funding for LGBT+ communities in England. We are delighted to be working with the Government Equalities Office to invest in some amazing organisations. The funding will help support diverse parts of our LGBT+ communities to be more visible and to help those organisations supporting LGBT+ people in need become more sustainable.”

“Whilst a relatively small injection of money into the sector, we hope to make a big impact and we will be supporting both our grant recipients and other LGBT+ organisations to develop the skills and knowledge to get to the next level. We will also be making a further £200,000 available in the second round of the LGBT+ Futures Fund, launching in early May.”

“We hope this programme is just the start of longer-term support and funding for the LGBT+ sector, not only in England, but across the whole of the UK. Consortium will be working with other funders and stakeholders to look at how we can use this opportunity to leverage further new money to support LGBT+ people and communities.”

A spokesperson for Brighton-based Clare Project, said: “We’re absolutely delighted to be receiving the LGBT+ Futures Fund Grant to extend our TNB support service ‘TNB across East Sussex. Not only will this offer a chance to kick-start a sustainable support group and socialising opportunity for our community, but also enable us at the Clare Project to empower our service users into becoming volunteers”.

Projects funded will undertake their work up to March 2020, alongside further grantees that will be awarded following the second round of grant applications which will open on May 3.

For the full list of successful organisations receiving grants, view: www.lgbtconsortium.org.uk/Futures Recipients

RECORD CROWDS ATTEND TRADITIONAL EASTER BONNET PARADE CELEBRATIONS

Blue skies and searing temperatures brought record crowds to Western Street in Hove to support this year’s *East Bonnet Parade & Drag Races* organised by the Bedford Tavern and Grosvenor Bar. A record number of drag queens (21) entered the drag race competition won by Ella Phantitus (pictured below right) while the Easter Bonnet competition, judged by Kathy Caton from BBC Sussex, and Theatre Director Carole Todd, was won by Grace (pictured above centre) who was celebrating her 87th birthday and enters the competition every year.
BRIGHTON BEAR WEEKEND QUIZ RAISES £359 FOR RAINBOW FUND

Nineteen teams battled it out at the Brighton Bear Weekend Easter Quiz on Thursday, April 18 at the Cameford Arms.

Second place was a four-way tie between Backroom Boys, Mild & Bitter, Easter Bunnies and Easter Chicks, each with 46 points. Hip Hip and Bella’s Bitches came out top of the class with 51 points each. Hip Hip, made up of players from the Sea Serpents LGBT+ Rugby Club, won the tie breaker question and a box of chocolates, after narrowly missing out on the £300 cash prize.

The Quiz raised £359.70 for the Rainbow Fund who give grants to local LGBT organisations delivering effective frontline services to LGBT+ people in Brighton & Hove.

Graham Munday, Chair of Brighton Bear Weekend, said: “Special thanks to quiz master Ben Williams and the staff at the Cameford for giving us a lovely evening.”

Celebrate Volunteers Come and join us for an evening of information and inspiration at the LGBT+ VOLUNTEER FAIR

THURSDAY 6TH JUNE 2019
6.30-8.30PM FRIENDS MEETING HOUSE 58 SHIP ST, BN1 1AF

WORKING TO CONNECT LGBT+ SMALL GROUPS NETWORK

Working to Connect is Brighton’s network of LGBT+ and HIV+ community organisations. Some of us are charities, others are meet ups, others still are small grassroots groups, but we do all share one thing in common

Each of our organisations is volunteer-led and volunteer run, delivering vital support to those in need, whether it be a meal, companionship, mental health support or opportunities for socialising through sport and song.

Our member groups all depend on the time, skills, good will and determination of people within the communities we serve who volunteer with us. This event will showcase the work done by our member groups, celebrate the volunteers already involved, as well as providing guidance and opportunities to get involved as a volunteer.

Free food & refreshments will be provided by one of our member groups, Lunch Positive

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Now in its ninth year, the weekend continues to grow, attracting people from Brighton and the south coast, London, across the UK and Ireland! They’ve even sold tickets in Germany!

Matt Brooks, Brighton Bear Weekend (BBW) Digital Manager, said: “Tickets for the BeefMince club night only went on sale at the end of March, but we’ve already sold over one third of the online allocation for BeefMince. The Rialto is a really special venue. Following in the great traditions of night clubs in theatres – think Studio 54 in New York, the Fridge in Brixton or the Moulin Rouge in Paris, theatres provide a really great space for parties and the Rialto is no exception.”

BeefMince, the legendary London club night, takes a trip to the seaside from its legendary home, the Royal Vauxhall Tavern, to fill the Rialto with its usual crowd full of hotties, beards, cubs, bears and lovers of a good party! Talking of hotties, the full BBW 2019 Committee will be there to make sure the evening lives up to its reputation for raunch, high quality dance music and a whole lot of fun!

The evening will be a sell out, so don’t leave it until the last minute to try to get tickets. To buy tickets online, view: http://brightonbearweekend.com/shop

£200 PRIZE ANNOUNCED FOR MR BRIGHTON BEAR 2019

This year, BBW will host the first ever Mr Brighton Bear competition, which will take place at Subline on Friday, June 14. With a first prize of £200 in cash, get your entries in now – more details and online supplication can be found on the BBW website: www.brightonbearweekend.com

SPOTLIGHT ON HOTELS

For those travelling from outside of Brighton, the team have negotiated some great deals with a few of our favourite hotels and guest houses in town. You can find these on their website.

One of their favourites is the Red Brighton Blue hotel, situated in the heart of the ‘gay village’. Peter and Steve completely renovated the hotel in 2016 and now offer 11 en suite deluxe rooms, less than five minutes walk from the bars and Dorset Gardens, where the Saturday Garden Party is staged.

Get 10% off two-night bookings, and 20% off three/four-night bookings, when you book direct by phone or email at least seven days in advance and quote Brighton Bear Weekend.

For details of how to book and obtain your BBW 2019 discounts, visit: http://brightonbearweekend.com/shop

BBW 2019 Committee: left to right: Andy Tull, Matt Brooks, Jon Stone, Graham Munday, Alan Flack, Robin Tyler, Chris Sarson, David Broadbent and Mark Barbeary.

Breaking up can be difficult...

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For a free consultation to discuss your options, please contact Adam Douglas in our Family Law department on 01273 204411 ext 253. Or send him an email at adam@englisharts.co.uk.

For any information on our other services, please contact us at Englisharts Solicitors, Vallance Hall, Hove Street, Hove, East Sussex, BN3 2DE or email angela@englisharts.co.uk.
While both the police and council are content to work with the Community Safety Forum asked the question were charged with holding them to account trust and confidence between the LGBT+ organisations found it difficult working with communication and liaison coming from the police hasn’t been what it should be. During our new feature, Ten years ago this month It’s somewhat ironic that the month we commence our new feature, Gscene 10 and 20 years ago, that the cover of Gscene in May 2009 asked the question How Safe Are We?

In 2009 there was a complete breakdown of trust and confidence between the LGBT+ communities and both Sussex Police and Brighton & Hove Council. Both statutory organisations found it difficult working with Spectrum, the community organisation who were charged with holding them to account regarding our collective community safety.

Ten years on we find ourselves asking the same question. However, this time it’s different. While both the police and council are content to work with the Brighton & Hove LGBT Community Safety Forum, the quality of the communication and liaison coming from the police hasn’t been what it should be. During the last few weeks, the community has responded and put in place foot patrols of Community Safety Guardians to reassure both locals and visitors in St James’ Street, while our community organisations make their case for higher profile policing in St James’ Street to Sussex Police.

The findings of the Count Me In Too Research Project were presented in May 2009 at the Friends’ Meeting House launching the career of researcher Kath Browne onto the international stage. IDAHOBIT was staged in appalling weather at the Kiss Wall Statue on the seafront while, following prompting by Cllr Phelim Mac Cafferty, the City Council recognised the significance of the day by flying the Rainbow Flag over both Brighton and Hove Town Halls.

Romany Mark Bruce was in the final stages of sculpting ‘Tay’, the Brighton AIDS Memorial built following a public competition and paid for from community fundraising, while the talented and much missed journalist Richard Smith interviewed the bad boy of British gay journalism at the time, Paul Burston, about his new book The Gay Divorcee. Richard also managed to upset all our Tory readers in the same issue by sharing his fantasy of what he would do to Margaret Thatcher and what, given the chance, he would do to actor Matt Dillon and Nick Heyward from Haircut 100. Richard was one of the finest journalists of his generation and pushed the boundaries at every LGBTQ+ magazine he wrote for. I for one miss his honest straight talking.

Bars in 2009 that are no longer here, included the Aquarium Theatre Bar in Steine Street, the Kings Arms in George Street, the Caledonian Bar in Hove, the Starr Inn in Manchester Street, the much missed PV in Edward Street, the White Horse in Camelford Street, and the chicken coop next to Club Revenge, called Vavoom.

The club scene was kicking in 2009 with Wild Fruit’s Peep Show in May pulling in a crowd of 1,500 to West Street. The G Lounge in Providence Place lasted just a couple of outings while Sacrilege at Religion played to packed out Thursdays at Legends, while Dulcie Danger at Revenge packed out Thursdays at Girls on Top, and Fridays at Lollipop.

Twelve years ago this month In 1999, Gscene was still in its infancy and the inside of the magazine was printed in black and white. Big news in May 1999 was the jailing of the former Director of the Sussex AIDS Centre, Jim McManus, who received a 21 month prison sentence for stealing £15,000 from Northern Counties Trust, an AIDS charity he helped set up in Cleveland. The judge Michael Taylor told McManus that his defence had been a “tissue of lies,” and there were “no redeeming features” to his case.

The month’s big interview was with Paul Elgood, who was bidding to take a council seat for the Lib Dems in Brunswick & Adelaide ward. Asked by David Harvey how he would be different from previous openly gay councillors, he said: “The gay councillors in the past have been held back on gay issues by the party machine, whether it be Labour or Tory, but we are very different because of our open approach to local government. Even if only a few Lib Dems are elected onto the council we can act more independently and take up causes that are close to our hearts. As a gay man this will be one of the number one issues for me.”

Paul Elgood went on to be the king maker in two Labour administrations as three Lib Dem councillors fought the corner for LGBT+ people and groups in the city. He chaired the council’s equalities review in 2006 and commissioned the Brighton AIDS Memorial in 2008 with Gscene.

Gscene ran an aggressive campaign for the local elections in May 1999 making itself unpopular with the city’s political establishment by canvassing the views of all political candidates on the following questions:
1. Would you support the appointment of a paid worker post in the council to liaise with the LGBT+ communities?
2. Do you support the repeal of Section 28?
3. Do you support the lowering of the homosexual age of consent to 16?

Answers were published in the magazine, indicating to our readers where our friends and enemies were on the city council.

Big news in May 1999 on the commercial scene was the opening of Ruby’s in Providence Place (formerly Marilyn’s) by Danny La Rue and the arrival of the Amsterdam Hotel onto Brighton seafront. Sadly Ruby’s didn’t last very long but the Amsterdam Bar & Kitchen is still going strong today.

Regular Gscene columnists included health guru Toby Bowen, Michael Owers with his Alternative Lifestyles, and Rita Snatch (aka Terry Wing) who put the B into Bitch each month!

Bars in 1999 no longer with us, include: VATS Bar @ The Star of Brunswick in Hove, the Oriental Cabaret Bar in Hove, the Pink Pony in Church Street, the Hanbury Arms in Kemptown, and the legendary never to be replaced Zanzibar on St James’ Street.

Clublands big success was Sunday Sundae tea dance at Bar Centro. There was nothing quite like it and the vibe was never quite the same when it moved to its new home at The Escape. Legends, Club Revenge, Secrets and Wild Fruit reigned supreme as the places to be seen while the 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month were reserved for growns up to visit to the legendary Fudges cabaret dinners to see the very best drag queens on the scene. Happy days!

To read the May 2009 Gscene online, view: www.gscene.com/back-issues/
The end of March 2019 heralded the official closing of the Sea Serpents’ third rugby season. In that time we’ve improved as a club, and as individuals though the journey hasn’t always been a straight line improvement.

Our story began in November 2015, just after the Rugby World Cup had two matches at the Amex Stadium and perhaps a good time to harness the interest of our community. We met at the Camelord Arms thanks to Alistair and Tony’s invitation and some 50 people came to see what we were about. We probably didn’t know what a difference that evening was going to make to our lives and, hopefully, to the community of which we are a part.

Thinking about it became all about doing it - a group of the guys who had joined us on that first evening had to make the bigger step to physical activity, on a November morning, in Queen’s Park. There’s no hiding in such a public space! We were helped at this point in our evolution by our friends at the King’s Cross who trained together to being a formally from a bunch of friends (both new and old) Queen’s Park. There’s no hiding in such a constituted Club.

February came and our first match! This was against the Steelers 4th XV, and was a 0-25 loss. Not only was it our first match but our first real experience of contact rugby and mud. It was a really grotty day, with mud underfoot and cold rain. Despite this we came back for more, and there were more of us. We trained through the rest of the season, and through the summer. By September we were ready to start fully as a Rugby Club, with a season of matches planned. We were also able to play in our own kit, courtesy of sponsorship from the Camelord Arms.

That first full season was composed of friendly matches against sides from Sussex, and from other gay and inclusive sides in England. This season included our first win, against the Reading Renegades RFC. The games against Sussex clubs particularly helped our standard to improve and we ended the season with a tournament in Madrid with wins against three European sides.

The 2017-18 season saw us joining Sussex RFU, entering the league and welcoming a new kit sponsor, Bar Broadway. This was a hard season for us, and we were only just able to win against a Sussex side, East Grinstead, by 33-31 in the last match of the season. After this match, and two friendlies we won, we went to Amsterdam for our first Bingham Cup, the gay and inclusive worldwide tournament named after Mark Bingham, a member of the San Francisco Fog and part of the impetus behind the formation of the Gotham Knights, who was killed on flight United 93 on 9/11. There we won four out of six matches winning the Challenger Bowl, our first silverware.

This brings us to 2018-19, the season just ended. Our division changed from East Sussex to West Sussex, giving us a new series of competitors, but at the same level of competition. We’ve fared much better than our first hopes this season, winning seven league matches and three friendlies. Before the season ends we have four more friendly matches against Sussex clubs, gay and inclusive clubs and two touring sides from the West Country. These games will help us hone our tactics for matches in June in Dublin where we play in the bi-annual Union Cup.

We’re evolving as a Club, reminding ourselves that we’re here for a purpose beyond just enjoying ourselves, though that’s a major part of sport and of comradeship.

We’re looking to expand to properly fulfil our mission statement, which is to bring rugby to the LGBT+ communities where needed and to bring the LGBT+ communities to rugby. We’re improving and growing more than other clubs in Sussex and at county meetings they’re interested to hear what we’re doing different to them. One new thing will be to offer touch rugby over the summer. This is mixed and non-contact so anyone can join in whether male, female or non-binary, and LGBT+ or straight.

On Friday, May 10 from 7-9pm, there’s a Meet the Sea Serpents evening at the Amsterdam Bar & Kitchen so if you’re interested in either full contact rugby (but using touch for fitness) or touch in its own right for the summer (or if it’s popular throughout the year), come along, meet some of the members and have a chat about what we do.

Brighton & Hove Sea Serpents are Sussex’s first fully inclusive rugby club, encouraging gay, bisexual, and trans guys to learn, experience and play rugby in a non-judgmental atmosphere. We welcome anyone who shares our vision. Find out more by messaging our Facebook page, or email info@bhssrfc.com.

We’re the 2018 Bingham Cup Challenger Bowl Champions, and have been voted Brighton’s Favourite Sports Group at the Golden Handbags for the past two years.

We’re proud to be sponsored by Bar Broadway, and to be members of the Sussex RFU, the RFU and IGR - the body that encourages inclusive rugby around the world.
There’s something on my mind. It’s been on my mind since 2012 but it’s only something I’ve recently started feeling comfortable with says Tommy the Queer Historian.

Talking about my disability is hard when people tell me in a shocked voice, “What you’re disabled?” Or the judgement I get when I use my disabled railcard as the inspector looks me up and down to check I’ve not stolen it. I suppose they’re looking for the wheelchair or crutches but it always hurts.

Talking about something isn’t easy when it’s not so obvious to all. We need to start talking and opening up this conversation without the scrutiny that’s attached to it.

Everyday I, and the rest of my community, live a battle that’s laid out for others to decide our fate whilst we sit there and hope they’ve actually listened.

I’d been having what I was calling frequent blackouts for years, but in 2012 the doctor diagnosed me with dissociation. My blackouts mean that I lose time from my shortest of three minutes to my longest of six hours. My brain clocks out and I enter a disassociative state. It’s hard to explain what this feels like, but it’s like a really foggy day with someone in the distance but you can’t see them and you’re squinting so hard but the fog is so thick.

I also got diagnosed with bipolar disorder and severe anxiety. These things together mean that everyday, I’m scared when I wake. Sometimes I can’t leave the house for fear of people watching me. Some days I physically can’t leave my bed. Some days I can’t walk 100 metres without throwing up because that’s how my body deals with anxiety; and some days I can’t trust myself holding kitchen knives. Some days I lose hours and end up somewhere I don’t know, often without my shoes.

Talking about my disability is hard when people tell me in a shocked voice, “What you’re disabled?” Or the judgement I get when I use my disabled railcard as the inspector looks me up and down to check I’ve not stolen it. I suppose they’re looking for the wheelchair or crutches but it always hurts.

Talking about something isn’t easy when it’s not so obvious to all. We need to start talking and opening up this conversation without the scrutiny that’s attached to it.

Everyday I, and the rest of my community, live a battle that’s laid out for others to decide our fate whilst we sit there and hope they’ve actually listened. From the demeaning ATOS interview (where you have to ‘prove’ your disability in front of someone who isn’t qualified to assess you in order to keep your benefits) to Piers Morgan preaching to the morning crowd that if you’ve got legs, you’re not disabled and perpetuating the myth that we’re scroungers and lazy. Oh for him to live my life for one week.

And that’s why I’ve made my new theatre show, How Disabled Are You?. The show asks three disabled people who have never performed before (some with hidden disabilities, some who claim benefits) to take to the stage and read three interviews that I collated over a seven-month period.

These interviews are filled with pent-up aggression towards those who are reading them. It explores real attitudes towards people who claim benefits, drink out of Sports Direct mugs, and have disabilities that are often hidden from the eye.

But this is just the beginning of a very long conversation that needs to be had. It’s taken me seven years to be okay with the fact that I’ll always be disabled. It’s really tough to write that. We need a community of people behind us, a group of disabled people to make our conversation louder and if How Disabled Are You? is the start of that crescendo for one person, then my work here is complete.

How Disabled Are You? is at Junkyard Dogs: The Doghouse@ Brighthelm Centre, Brighton on May 3, 4, 17 and 18 at 4.30pm. Tickets £9.50/£8. Book online at: www.brightonfringe.org/whats-on/ Use gscene as the code and get 25% discount.
Information is correct at the time of going to press. Gsocene cannot be held responsible for any changes or alterations to the listings.

**WEDNESDAY 1**
- **AFFINITY BAR** Karaoke with Tommy Tanker (aka Pat Clutch) 7pm
- **BAR 7@CRAWLEY** Midweek Chill 7pm
- **BAR BROADWAY** Tabitha Wild’s Play Your Cards Right! 9pm
- **BASEMENT CLUB@LEGENDS** Ice: DJ Claire Fuller 11pm
- **BOUQUET** Student Sessions 9pm
- **BULLDOG** Great Light Cruise Night 8pm
- **CHARLES ST TAP** Drag With No Name’s Snakes & Knicksters 8.30pm
- **CROWN KEMPTOWN** Finland May Day: Finnish tunes, drinks & treats 6pm
- **MARINE TAVERN** Pink Pound 7pm
- **PARIS HOUSE** live music: Jack Kendon Trio 8pm
- **QUEEN’S ARMS** Sally Vate Show 10pm

**THURSDAY 2**
- **AFFINITY BAR** Lydia L’Showbies: Lydia L’Scabees performs homages to TV, film & musical theatre 10pm & 11pm
- **BAR 7@CRAWLEY** Weekend Warm-Up 9pm
- **BAR BROADWAY** Ross Cameron’s Big Quiz 8.30pm
- **BASEMENT CLUB@LEGENDS** Now That’s What I Call Legends with DJ Claire Fuller 11pm
- **BULLDOG** transvolve: camp, karaoke, queens + Wonda Starr & Sam Pink 8pm
- **CAMELFORD ARMS** £300 Big Cash Bank Holiday Quiz 9pm
- **CHARLES ST TAP** Throwback Thursday 9pm
- **GROSVENOR BAR** Abel Mabel’s Bingo 8.30pm

**FRIDAY 3**
- **AFFINITY BAR** DJ Liquid Gold 8pm
- **AMSTERDAM cabaret** Spice 9.30pm
- **BAR 7@CRAWLEY** 7 Upstairs 9pm
- **BAR BROADWAY** Jukebox 7pm
- **BASEMENT CLUB@LEGENDS** Glitter: DJ David Noakes 11pm
- **BOUQUET** Bank Hol Warm Up Roof Terrace Party with DJ Cee 8pm
- **BULLDOG** Friday Night Live: camp karaoke & DJ Glym-Sing 9pm, ShowTime with Donna Tryx 11pm
- **CAMELFORD ARMS** Friday Club 6pm
- **CHARLES ST TAP** Fabulous Friday: DJ Morgan Fabulous 9pm
- **CROWN KEMPTOWN** Disco 7pm

**SATURDAY 4**
- **AFFINITY BAR** Cabaret: Vicki Vivacious 6pm, karaoke 7pm
- **AMSTERDAM** Karaoke with Jason Thorpe 9.30pm
- **BAR 7@CRAWLEY** Submissive Saturday 9pm
- **BAR BROADWAY** Jukebox 4pm
- **BASEMENT CLUB@LEGENDS** Fusion: DJ Peter Castle 11pm
- **BRUNSWICK PUB** Bowesque: Bowie tribute night 8pm
- **BOUQUET** Bank Holiday All Day Roof Terrace Party: DJ sets + a live band 2pm

**AFFINITY BAR**
- 129 St James’s Street, BN2 1TH, Tel 01273 567935 www.affinitygaybar.com
- **OPEN** daily from 12pm - 12am. Mon (6 & 27) 1am. Fri (17) & Sat (18) 3am.
- **DRINK PROMOS** Thursday: £3.50 drinks including Fosters, double house gin/vodka/rum and house wine.
- **BANK HOLIDAY WEEKENDS** Mon (6) is CABARET with Son of a Tutu at 5pm followed by Pat Clutter’s KARAOKE from 6.30pm to 1am. Mon (27) CABARET at 5pm. Affinity Bar say: “Join us for a fantastic afternoon/evening with a great performer to be announced.” Stick around for Pat Clutter’s KARAOKE from 6.30pm till 1am.
- **ONE FOR THE DIARY** Fri (17 & 18) is Affinity Bar’s One Year Anniversary PARTY WEEKEND. Fri (17) is CABARET with Charlie Hides at 8pm, then Liquid Gold spins the high-RG tunes from 9pm. Sat (18) is CAMP CABARET with Pat Clutter at 6pm. Pat Clutter’s KARAOKE at 7pm. Affinity Bar say: “Join the weekend’s party with great cabaret, music, drink specials and much more!”
- **REGULARS** Wed is KARAOKE with Tommy Tanker (aka Pat Clutch) at 7pm.
- **Thur** is LYDIA L’SHOWBIES with Queen of Flea Lydia L’Sabees at 10pm & 11pm. Affinity Bar say: “The award-winning bimbo performs her greatest homages to TV, film & musical theatre plus: cheap drinks and shot specials to keep you lubricated.”
- **Fri** start your weekender in style with Liquid Gold spinning high-RG tunes from 8pm. Sat CAMP CABARET at 6pm. Vicki Vivacious (4), Miss Jason (11), Pat Clutter (25). KARAOKE follows at 7pm. Sun CAMP CABARET at 5pm. Spice (5), Pat Clutter (12), Son of a Tutu (19) and Aura Jay (26).

**AMSTERDAM BAR & KITCHEN**
- 11-12 Marine Parade, BN2 1TL, T. 01273 670976, www.amsterdambrighton.com
- **OPEN** daily from 11am - late.
- **FOOD** Mon-Fri 11am - 8pm, Sat 10.30am – 8pm. Sunday roasts 12.30pm till they run out, booking recommended: 01273 670 976. Full tea and coffee menu.
- **DRINK PROMOS** House wine £10.90 a bottle, two cocktails £15.
- **ONE FOR THE DIARY** CABARET FRIDAYS with top entertainers onstage at 9.30pm. Spice (3), Davina Sparkle (10), Miss Jason (17), Dave Lynn (24) and Kara Van Park (31). Kara Van Park is an all round entertainer who’s all about the brass. Bringing gitz, glamour and EUPHORIA to the Amsterdam stage for you! The Amsterdam say: “Get your weekend off to a great start with the marvellous Kara Van Park at the Amsterdam. Come along for some fabulous singing and great atmosphere!”
- **REGULARS** Saturday is KARAOKE with Jason Thorpe at 9.30pm. Get up and sing your heart out, or Jason might sing your favourite song for you! Sunday ENTERTAINMENT with Brighton’s best serenading you after lunch at 5pm. Chase Adams (5), Gabriella Parrish (12), Paul Middleton (19) and Jamie Watson (26).
BAR BROADWAY

- 10 Steine Street, BN2 1TE, Tel: 01273 609777, www.barbroadway.co.uk
- OPEN Mon–Thur 6pm–1am, Fri 5pm–3am, Sat 4pm–3am, Sun 4pm–1am (to 3am on Bank Holidays)
- DRINK PROMOT: Bottles of prosecco £15 on Sun 4–8pm.
- BANK HOLIDAY WEEKENDS Sun (5 & 26): Bank Holiday SHOWTUNE KARAOKE with hosts Sally Vate & Ross Cameron at 8.30pm. Select any song with a tenuous showtune link and show Brighton what you’ve got! You could even land a FIREPLACE SESSION spot on a Sunday later in the year.
- Mon (6 & 27): Bank Holiday PARTY JUKEBOX with upbeat songs from musicals and beyond from 6pm.
- EUROVISION WEEK Sun (12): The FIREPLACE SESSION presents Nicki French (UK 2000 entrant) performing her fave Eurovision songs and her own hits at 8.30pm.
- Mon (13): EUROVISION JUKEBOX request your faves from the last 63 contests and this year’s entries.
- Tue (14): EUROVISION SEMI FINAL 1 on the screens 7.45pm. Wed (15): EUROVISION REMIXED in the Broadw ay Lounge with DJ Cameron spinning remixes of your fave Eurovision songs 10pm.
- Sat (16): the EUROVISION SEMI FINAL 2 on the screens 7.45pm. The UK can vote in this semi final! Fri (17): it’s BIG EUROVISION QUIZ hosted & written by Chris Cooke from 7.45pm. Win an exclusive meet & greet, a signed framed pic & signed CD from a former UK Eurovision entrant, plus other Eurovision-themed prizes and beat the Eurovision egheads (Ross and Alasdair) for a chance to win £100! Then it’s EUROVISION REMIXED in the Broadway Lounge with DJ Cameron spinning remixes of your fave Eurovision songs.
- Sun (18): it’s the 64th EUROVISION SONG CONTEST hosted by Sally Vate & Ross Cameron from 8pm. Bar Broadway say: “The Broadway hosts are back together after Ross’ hiatus last year. Expect tears, tantrums, and a record breaking number of costume changes! Arrive early to secure a table. If you’d rather hear Graham Norton then pop into the Broadway Lounge!”
- ONE FOR THE DIARY Sun (19): The FIREPLACE SESSION presents sensational vocalist Paul Diello from 8.30pm.
- REGULARS Fri & Sat: BROADW AY JUKEBOX where you tw eet the w eekend playlist @barbroadwayuk #Jukebox!

Saturday Night Fever: DJ King Sol 7pm
- BULLDOG Wenda Starr presents Qeen of the Night karaoke, prizes & tunes 9pm
- CHARLES ST TAP Fierce DJs 9pm
- COVENT GARDEN HEALTH SPA @LONDON WC2 Total Fekkin Nude: naked party for all 9pm
- GROSVENOR BAR cabaret: Pooh La May 9.30pm
- LEGENDS BAR Pre-club DJ 7pm
- MARINE TAVERN Candi Reif’s Karaoke & Cabaret Party 8.30pm
- PARIS HOUSE live jazz: Amuse Manouche 4pm, DJ Andy the Dandy 8pm
- QUEEN’S ARMS QA Triple cabaret: Poppycock 6pm, Betty Swallows 8pm, Jade Justine 10pm
- REGENCY TAVERN Gabriella Parrish live 9pm
- SUBLIME Leathermen South 9pm
- THREE JOLLY BUTCHERS live football: Man City v Leicester 12.30pm, Cardiff v Crystal Palace 5.30pm
- ZONE cabaret: JP Christian 10pm

SUNDAY 5
- AFFINITY BAR cabaret: Spice 5pm
MAY LISTINGS

BAR 7 CRAWLEY
- 7 Pegler Way, Crawley, RH11 7AG, Tel: 01293 511177, www.7crawley.co.uk
- OPEN daily from 6pm.
- DRINK PROMOS Tue, Wed, Fri, Sat & Sun drink deals all night.
- BANK HOLIDAY WEEKENDS Sunday (5 & 26): EXTENDED KARAOKE from 6pm.
- REGULARS Fri is 7-UPSTAIRS with all-star DJs playing pop/dance/guilty pleasures at 8pm, free entry till 11pm. Sat is party time at SUBMISSIVE SATURDAY with tunes at 9pm, free entry till 11pm. Sun KARAOKE from 6pm.
- Tue is CREWSDAY with DJ Lewis Osborne from 7pm.

BOUTIQUE
- 2 Boyces St, West St, BN11AN, 01273 327607 www.boutiqueclubbrighton.com
- OPEN Wed from 9pm-late, Fri & Sat from 6pm-late. Sat (4 & 25) & Sun (5 & 26) from 2pm-late.
- BANK HOLIDAY WEEKENDS Sat (4) is DAY & NIGHT FEVER with DJ King Sol all-day roof terrace party with tunes and band from 2pm. Pop into bar 2 for free cocktail making sessions from 9pm. Sun (5) is SUNDAY FUNDAY all-day session with chilled roof terrace vibes from 2pm, karaoke with £5 pp, free b-tq 9pm. Sat (25) is Bank Holiday vibes with DJ King Sol and roof terrace party all-day & night from 2pm. Sunday Funday (26) with chilled vibes on the roof terrace from 2pm. Tunes and hedonism in the club. Boutique say: “Let’s make the last Bank Holiday in May one to remember!”
- REGULARS Wed is STUDENT SESSIONS with student tunes, prices and vibes 9pm.
- Fri is PARTY TIME with DJ CEE old school bangers 8pm. win a bottle of spirit & mixers, VIP table and free karaoke if your name’s pulled out of the hat (17) and shot drops every hour (31).
- SATURDAY NIGHT FEVER with party vibes and hefty beats from superstar DJ King Sol. quote Gscene on the door for free entry (11) and free cocktail making in bar 2 at 9pm and free entry for Stags & Hens before 11pm.

MONDAY 6
- AFFINITY BAR Bank Hol cabaret: Son of a Tutu 5pm. Karaoke with Tommy Tanker (aka Pat Clutcher) 6pm.
- BAR BROADWAY May Day Jukebox 6pm.
- BASEMENT CLUB@LEGENDS Bank Hol Glitter Curious: sing-along party with dinner at 7pm.)
- QUEEN’S ARMS John’s Birthday with Saski & Davina Sparkle 7.30pm.
- THREE JOLLY BUTCHERS live football: Huddersfield v Man Utd 2pm. Newcastle v Liverpool 4.30pm.

28 GSCENE OUT & ABOUT
Enjoy our large sea-facing terrace over the May bank holiday weekends! The perfect place to sit and have lunch, or just enjoy a cold beer or glass of wine when the sun’s out.

Full menu available:
- Sandwiches
- All day breakfasts
- Fish and chips
- Coffee, tea & cakes
- Sunday roasts

Coffee with a kick!
Maraska Coffee
Patron XO Cafe
Available assheet or to make a luxurious Espresso Martini!

KARAOKE SATURDAYS with Jason Thorpe - Starts 9:30pm

CABARET FRIDAYS
- 3rd Spice
- 10th Davina Sparkle
- 17th Miss Jason
- 24th Dave Lynn
- 31st Kara Van Park

Starts 9:30pm

SUNDAY SERENADE
- 5th Chase Adams
- 12th Gabriella Parrish
- 19th Paul Middleton
- 26th Jamie Watson

Starts 5:00pm

#bulldogbtn
31 St James Street Brighton
01273 696996

HAPPY HOUR
Monday to Friday: 4-7pm • Sunday: ALL DAY
KARAOKE 4 nights a week!

Drag Hosts with TEAM HIGHLIGHTS only at The All New Bulldogs

Monday
Glitter Ball

Kick off a brand new week with all your favourite music videos from the 60s, 70s, 80s, 90s, 00s! Indulge in nostalgia from the past with a night of classics • STUDENT DISCOUNT ALL NIGHT!

Tuesday
#Transolve

A night of Outrageous Camp, Karaoke and Queens with the fabulous SAM PINK & WONA STARR LIVE at 6pm! Bringing a heated up #getmischief in the Heart of Gay Brighton!

Wednesday
MAN UP

GREEN LIGHT CRUISE NIGHT

When the lights go green and specified artists play on the Screens selected drinks drop - inc shots specials & double up on house signs for just £1! Man Up and get involved!

Thursday
#Transolve

Kick starting the weekend off in style with a night of Outrageous Camp, Karaoke and Queens with the fabulous SAM PINK & WONA STARR LIVE from 8pm only in the Heart of Gay Brighton!

Friday
Friday Night Live!

SHOWTIME with DOMINA TRYX LIVE at 11pm
Karaoke Camp + your party fever with DJ GLYN SING from 9pm-3am

Saturday
Queen Of The Night

WONA STARR's Karaoke Camp + your party fever with DJ GLYN SING 9pm-3am
Prizes to be won - the title of Queen of the Night!

Sunday Funday

With BILLY RAIN & ALL DAY:

Regency Tavern
32-34 Russell Sq. Brighton • Tel: 01273 325 652
Open Sun-Wed 12pm-11pm • Thur 12pm-12am
Fri-Sat 12pm-2am • Dog Friendly!
Food: Mon-Sat 12-3pm • 6-9pm
Sunday Roasts 12-6pm • £2 for C19.95
Serving Delicious Pies & Pies!
**BULLDOG**
- 31 St James St, Brighton, BN2 1RF, Tel: 01273 696996. **#BulldogBTN**
- OPEN Mon from 4pm-midnight. Tue, Wed, Thur from 5pm-midnight. Fri & Sat from 12pm-3am. Sun from 12pm-midnight.
- DRINK PROMOS Mon-Fri 4–7pm. Sun all day. Student discount all night at Monday Mirror Ball (valid NUS card required). Green Light promos 8pm Wed.

**ONE FOR THE DIARY** Sat: Wonda Starr presents QUEEN OF THE NIGHT fun filled night with camp karaoke and all your fave party tunes from 9pm. Sat (18) is campastic EUROVISION SPECIAL. Bulldog asks: “Who’ll win prizes and the title of ‘Queen of the Night’ in the sing off comp of the scene?”

**REGULARS** Mon GLITTER BALL with 60s-70s tunes. Tue: #TRANSOLVE with outrageous camp karaoke, queens and the fabulous Wonda Starr and Sam Pink live from 8pm. Wed: GREEN LIGHT CRUISE NIGHT from 8pm. Bulldog says: “It’s a manned up night with a cruise feel so man up and get involved in the heart of gay Brighton! When the lights go green, and the specified artistes plays onscreen, selected drinks drop!”. Thur: #TRANSOLVE kicks the weekend with outrageous camp karaoke, queens and the fabulous Wonda Starr and Sam Pink live from 8pm. Fri: #FRIDAYNIGHTLIVE with camp karaoke and DJ Glynn-Sing 9pm. SHOWTIME with Domina Tryx, the Northern Diva darling from the Steel City at 11pm. End the weekend on a high at SUNDAY FUNDAY from 12pm.

**TUESDAY 7**
- UNION CLUB@LONDON SE1 Bank Holiday Starlock Naked: naked party 2pm; gay adult movie stars 5pm. Near Bottlelock Naked: underwear/jockstraps 6pm

**BAR 7@CRAWLEY**
- [Midweek Chill 7pm]
- [Bar Broadway] Chris Hannam’s Play Your Cards Right Night 9pm
- [BASEMENT CLUB@LEGENDS] Ice: DJ Claire Fuller 11pm
- [BOUTIQUE] Student Sessions 9pm
- [BULLDOG] Great Light Cruise Night 8pm
- [CHARLES ST TAP] Drink With No Name’s Snakes & Kn@ckers 8.30pm
- [CROWN KEMPTOWN] Songs of Smut & Sparkle with Marcia D’Arc 9pm
- [MARINE TAVERN] Pink Pound 7pm
- [PARIS HOUSE] Live music: Gabriel Garrick Trio 8pm
- [QUEEN’S ARMS] Strawberry’s Bingo 9pm
- [Three Jolly Butchers] Live football: Champions League Semi Final (2nd Leg) 8pm

**WEDNESDAY 8**
- [AFFINITY BAR] Karaoke with Tommy Tanker (aka Pat Chlumper) 7pm
- [BAR 7@CRAWLEY] Midweek Chill 7pm
- [BAR BROADWAY] Ross Cameron’s Big Quiz with prizes 8.30pm
- [BASEMENT CLUB@LEGENDS] Ice: DJ Claire Fuller 11pm
- [BOUTIQUE] Student Sessions 9pm
- [BULLDOG] Great Light Cruise Night 8pm
- [CHARLES ST TAP] Drink With No Name’s Snakes & Kn@ckers 8.30pm
- [CROWN KEMPTOWN] Songs of Smut & Sparkle with Marcia D’Arc 9pm
- [MARINE TAVERN] Pink Pound 7pm
- [PARIS HOUSE] Live music: Gabriel Garrick Trio 8pm
- [QUEEN’S ARMS] Strawberry’s Bingo 9pm
- [Three Jolly Butchers] Live football: Champions League Semi Final (2nd Leg) 8pm
- [VELVET JACKS] Quiz 7pm

**THURSDAY 9**
- [AFFINITY BAR] Lydiashowblyes: Lydia L’Scribblies performs homages to TV, film & musical theatre 10pm & 11pm
- [BAR 7@CRAWLEY] Weekend Warm-Up 7pm
- [BAR BROADWAY] Ross Cameron’s Big Quiz with prizes 8.30pm
- [BASEMENT CLUB@LEGENDS] Ice: DJ Claire Fuller 11pm
- [BOUTIQUE] Student Sessions 9pm
- [BULLDOG] Great Light Cruise Night 8pm
- [CHARLES ST TAP] Drink With No Name’s Snakes & Kn@ckers 8.30pm
- [CROWN KEMPTOWN] Songs of Smut & Sparkle with Marcia D’Arc 9pm
- [MARINE TAVERN] Pink Pound 7pm
- [PARIS HOUSE] Live music: Gabriel Garrick Trio 8pm
- [QUEEN’S ARMS] Strawberry’s Bingo 9pm
- [Three Jolly Butchers] Live football: Champions League Semi Final (2nd Leg) 8pm
- [VELVET JACKS] Quiz 7pm

**FRIDAY 10**
- [AFFINITY BAR] DJ Liquid Gold 8pm
- [AMSTERDAM] Cabaret: Davina Sparkle 9.30pm
- [BAR 7@CRAWLEY] 7 Upstairs 9pm
- [BAR BROADWAY] Jukebox 5pm
- [BASEMENT CLUB@LEGENDS] Glitter: DJ David Noakes 11pm
- [BOUTIQUE] Party: DJ Cee 7pm
- [BULLDOG] Friday Night Live: camp karaoke & DJ Glynn-Sing 9pm, Showtime with Domina Tryx 11pm
- [CAMELFORD ARMS] Friday Club 6pm

**SATURDAY 11**
- [AFFINITY BAR] Cabaret: Miss Jason 6pm; karaoke with Pat Chlumper 7pm
- [AMSTERDAM] Karaoke with Jason Thorpe 9.30pm
- [BAR 7@CRAWLEY] Submissive Saturday 9pm
- [BAR BROADWAY] Jukebox 4pm
- [BASEMENT CLUB@LEGENDS] Fusion: DJ Peter Castle 11pm
- [BOUTIQUE] Saturday Night Fever: DJ King Sol 8pm
- [BULLDOG] Wonda Starr pres Queewn of the Night camp, karaoke, prizes & tunes 9pm
- [CHARLES ST TAP] Fierce: DJs 9pm
- [COVENT GARDEN HEALTH SPA] Total Fekkin Nude: naked party for all 9pm
- [CROWN KEMPTOWN] Songs of Smut & Sparkle with Marcia D’Arc 9pm
- [GROSVENOR BAR] Cabaret: Miss Jason 9.30pm
- [LEGENDS BAR] Pre-club DJ 7pm
- [MARINE TAVERN] Candi Reif’s Karaoke & Cabaret Party 8.30pm
CHARLES STREET TAP
8 MARINE PARADE

MONDAY - THURSDAY
5-8pm COCKTAILS 4.95

SNAKES & KNACKERS
WITH THE DRAG
WITH NO NAME

THE £4000 NATIONAL DRAG
COMPETITION NOW IN ITS 15TH YEAR!
1st Heat: Thur 9th 8.30pm
2nd Heat: Thur 16th 8.30pm
3rd Heat: Thur 23rd 8.30pm
Brighton Final Heat Mon 27th 7.30pm
Hosted by Martha d'Arthur

241 BURGER ALL DAY TUESDAY

LOOSE-LEY WOMEN
- THREE FABULOUS ACTS -
- ONE AMAZING SHOW -

AWARD WINNING DJ'S
EVERY SATURDAY FROM 9

5th May
Titti la Camp

12th May
Lucinda
Lashes

19th May
Miss
Jason

26th May
Heart and Soul

Followed by Sally Vate's Rock & Roll Bingo
2for16 craft-club every Sunday from 5pm (excluding Bank Holiday Sunday)

WWW.CHARLES-STREET.COM FOR FULL MAY LISTINGS. 8-9 MARINE PARADE, BRIGHTON. 01273 624091
*ALL DRINKS OFFERS SUBJECT TO TERMS AND CONDITIONS AVAILABLE AT THE BAR. NOT IN CONJUNCTION WITH ANY OTHER OFFER AND MAY BE WITHDRAWN AT ANY TIME WITHOUT NOTICE. R.O.A.R., L.D. & SEARCH CONDITION OF ENTRY.
MAY LISTINGS

CHARLES STREET TAP
- 8 Marine Parade, BN2 1TA. Tel: 01273 624091, www.charles-street.com
- OPEN daily from 10am.
- FOOD daily from 10am – 10pm, inc. breakfasts from 10am; 2-4-1 burgers Tue till 10pm; choose any 2 burgers and get cheapest free. Sticky Wings Wed. 10 chicken of cauliflower vegan wings for £3, fresh homemade Sunday roasts for £9 from 12pm, hand carved roast beef or turkey, roast pork with crackling, nut roast, and roast lamb shank £11.
- DRINK PROMOS all cocktails £4.95 Mon - Thur 5 - 8pm, £4 a pint craft/cask world beers (everything except Fosters & cider) on Mon, bottles of prosecco £15 all night & half price drinks 5 - 9pm on Fri, Sunday Craft Club: any two craft cans or bottles £6 from 6pm

- BANK HOLIDAY WEEKENDS Mon (6) LOOSE-LEY WOMEN with 3 top cabaret acts: Mrs Moore, Martha D’Arthur and Sally Vate from 7.30pm. free. Mon (27) is DRAG IDOL 2019. The Brighton Heat Finale with the incredible Martha D’Arthur and Sally Vate from 7.30pm. Who will go on to represent Brighton at the semi-finals in London? You’ll have to pop along to find out!

- ONE FOR THE DIARY Wed is DRAG WITH NO NAME’s SNAKES & KN@CKERS weekly night of silly games, terrible tasks and madcap missions from 8.30pm. Charles Street Tap say: “She’s back and this time she’s got something brand new – a chaotic board game where EVERYONE plays but only one team can win! And more than anything else, it won’t make sense till you play; and even then... probably not!”

- ONE FOR THE DIARY Thu: the Brighton Heats of DRAG IDOL 2019 kick off with host Sally Vate from 8.30pm. Heat 1 (9), Heat 2 (16) and Heat 3 (23). Now in its 15th year, the National Drag competition has launched the careers of incredible professional paid gigs at all participating venues!

- REGULARS Sunday CABARET with host Sally Vate from 7.30pm. Titi La Camp (5), Lucinda Lashes (12), Miss Jason (19) and Heart & Soul (26).

THE CROWN KEMPTOWN
- 24 Grafton Street, Kempstown BN2 1AQ Tel: 07949590001, http://tinyurl.com/CrownKemptown
- OPEN Mon (6 & 27), Tue - Sun 3pm. closed Tue (28). The Crown Kempstown is a dog friendly pub.
- DRINK PROMOS daily specials, pop in for more info.
- ONE FOR THE DIARY Wed (1) is FINLAND MAY DAY with Finnish music, drinks and treats from 6pm, free entry.

- FESTIVAL FRINGE Mon (6) - Sun (12) is SONGS OF SMUT & SPARKLE with drag artist Marcia D’Arc performing original comedy parodies of popular songs at her funy, pink piano. 5pm. 7.30pm. 100% of which goes to the artist. Wed (22) - Mon (27) is JACK CHERRY & FRIENDS FROM THE FRUIT BOWL, a romp of bizarre happenings exploring the completely fabricated lives of the colourful and controversial, from 7.30pm Wed - Fri, 3pm Sat - Mon. £6. 100% of which goes to the artists.

- REGULARS Fri (3, 17 & 31): DISCO tunes with tunes from 6pm

- CHARLES ST TAP cabaret: host Mrs Moore + Lucinda Lashes 7.30pm; Sally’s Rock & Roll Bingo 8.30pm, roasts 12pm CROWN KEMP TOWN Songs of Smut & Sparkle with Marcia D’Arc 9pm
- UNION CLUB@LONDON SE1 Stark Bollock Naked: naked party 2pm; gay adult movie stars: Drew Dixon & John Strip 5pm; Near Bollock Naked: underwear/pajab party 6pm
- LEGENDS BAR cabaret: Lola Lasagne 3.30pm, roasts 12.30 – 4pm
- MARINE TAVERN roasts 12.5pm; Drag Open Mic: Stephanie Van Clitz 9pm
- PARIS HOUSE live music: Sam Chara, Tim Young & Theseus Gerard 6pm
- QUEEN’S ARMS Sun Funday double cabaret: Davina Sparkle 6.30pm & 10pm
- REGENCY TAVERN roasts 12-6pm
- SUBLINE Guilty Pleasures: DJ Screwpusul 9pm
- THREE JOLLY BUTCHERS Pre Home Match Warm Up with Pie & Pint £9 12pm; live football: Premiership Final £3

MONDAY 13
- AFFINITY BAR All Day Karaoke 12pm; Karaoke with Tommy Tanker (aka Pat Clutzer) 7pm
- BAR BROADWAY Eurovision Jukebox 6pm
- BASEMENT CLUB@LEGENDS Glitter Curious: sing-along party with Patrick Cawley & Maria Gardener 11pm
- BULLDOG Monday Night Minor Ball 4pm
- CHARLES ST TAP Gaymers Night. canopies, board/card games 8.30pm
- LEGENDS BAR Miss Jason’s Monday Madness 9.30pm
- PARIS HOUSE Live jazz: Nils Solberg-Mick Hamer Trio 2pm, Sharp Nines 8pm
- QUEEN’S ARMS Wine Tasting 7.30pm, Kara Van Park’s Musical Mondays 9pm
- REGENCY TAVERN Smuts Open Mic 8pm

TUESDAY 14
- AFFINITY BAR Free Jukebox 12pm
- BAR 7@CRAWLEY karaoke 7pm
- BAR BROADWAY Eurovision Semi Final 1 7.45pm
- BULLDOG #transolve: camp, karaoke, queens + Wonda Starr & Sam Pink 8pm
- MARINE TAVERN Curry & Quiz with Nat 7.30pm
- PARIS HOUSE Live blues: Scott Booth 8pm
- QUEEN’S ARMS Trans Action with Poppycoco 9.30pm

WEDNESDAY 15
- AFFINITY BAR Karaoke with Tommy Tanker (aka Pat Clutzer) 7pm
WHATS ON THIS MONTH
LONDON & BRIGHTON

THURSDAY 2nd BRIGHTON HORSE FAIR 900pm
The Brighton Sauna 75 Grand Parade Brighton BN2 9J

SATURDAY 4th TFN (Naked Party) 9pm-2am
Covent Gdn Health Spa 29 Endell St, Covent Garden WC2H 9BA

SUNDAY 5th SBN & NBN 2pm-10pm
New Location UNION 66 Albert Embankment Vauxhall SE1 7TW
Martin Biggs & Austin Sugar on stage 5pm

SATURDAY 11th TFN (Naked Party) 9pm-2am
Covent Gdn Health Spa 29 Endell St, Covent Garden WC2H 9BA
SUNDAY 12th SBN & NBN 2pm-10pm
New Location UNION 66 Albert Embankment Vauxhall SE1 7TW
Drew Dixon & John Strap on stage 5pm
THURSDAY 16th BRIGHTON SBN 800pm
The Brighton Sauna 75 Grand Parade Brighton BN2 9JA

SATURDAY 18th LONDON HORSE FAIR 9pm-2am
New Location UNION (Back Ent) 66 Goding St Vauxhall, SW11 5AW
SUNDAY 19th SBN & NBN 2pm-10pm
New Location UNION 66 Albert Embankment Vauxhall SE1 7TW
Yoshi Kawasaki & Orson Deane on stage 5pm

SATURDAY 25th TFN (Naked Party) 9pm-2am
Covent Gdn Health Spa 29 Endell St, Covent Garden WC2H 9BA
SUNDAY 26th SBN & NBN 2pm-10pm
New Location UNION 66 Albert Embankment Vauxhall SE1 7TW
Lex Anders & James Castle on stage 5pm

THURSDAY 30th LONDON N-BODY BOYS POOL PARTY 730pm
Covent Gdn Health Spa 29 Endell St, Covent Garden WC2H 9BA

BRIGHTON SBN
THURSDAY 16th BRIGHTON SBN 800pm
The Brighton Sauna 75 Grand Parade Brighton BN2 9JA
Live show on Stage 10pm

UNION

SPORTS PARTY
GROSVENOR

- 16 Western Street, Hove, BN1 2PG, www.thegrosvenorbar.com
- OPEN daily from 11am-3am
- DRINK PROMOS Mon–Fri from 3–6pm all pints £3.30.

ONE FOR THE DIARY Sat (18): Flags at the ready for the Grosvenor’s EUROVISION PARTY at 8pm, followed by CABARET with the sensational Dave Lynn! Drag queen of drag queens and star of stage and screen, Dave has been bringing his distinctive cabaret shows to audiences for more years than he would care to remember. Expect sheer glamour, song and caustic wit that hits the spot every time!

REGULARS Thurs is ABEL MABEL’S BINGO at 8.30pm. Fri is CABARET with top acts at 9.30pm: Davina Sparkle (3, 17 & 31), Stephanie Von Clitz (10) and Miss Jason (24). Sat enjoy top-flight CABARET at 9.30pm: Pooh La May (4 & 25) and Miss Jason (11).

PARIS HOUSE World Music: Trio Cubane 8pm
- QUEEN’S ARMS Brighton’s Leading Ladies cabaret: Miss Jason 10pm
- REGENCY TAVERN Karaoke/Open Mic with Jason Thorpe 9pm
- SBNL@BRIGHTON SAUCIA Stark Bollock Naked (SBN) South Coast: strictly naked party for guys aged 18-80 with DJs + 2 XXX gay adult movie stars 9pm, free membership @ www.jamiehp.co.uk
- SUBLINE Brace Yourself 9pm

FRIDAY 17
- AFFINITY BAR 1 Year Anniversary Party Weekend: cabaret: Charlie Hides 8pm; DJ Liquid Gold 9pm
- AMSTERDAM cabaret: Miss Jason 9.30pm
- BAR 7@CRAWLEY 7 Upstairs 9pm
- BAR BROADWAY Big Eurovision Quiz with Chris Cooke & Eurovision prizes 7.45pm
- BASEMENT CLUB@LEGENDS Now That’s What I Call Legends: DJ Claire Fuller 11pm
- BULLDOG #transforme: camp, karaoke, queers + Wanda Star & Sam Pink 8pm
- CAMELFORD ARMS £300 Big Cash Quiz 9pm
- CHARLES ST TAP Drag Idol Heat 2 with host Sally Vate 8.30pm
- GROSVENOR BAR Abel Mabel’s Bingo 8.30pm
- MARINE TAVERN Throwback Thursday 80s Night 8pm

SATURDAY 18
- AFFINITY BAR 1 Year Anniversary Party Weekend: cabaret: Pat Clutcher 6pm; karaoke with Pat Clutcher 7pm
- AMSTERDAM Karaoke with Jason Thorpe 9.30pm
- BAR 7@CRAWLEY Submissive Saturday 9pm
- BAR BROADWAY Eurovision live: Sally Vate & Ross Cameron or Graham Norton’s commentary upstairs 8pm
- BASEMENT CLUB@LEGENDS Fusion: DJ Peter Castle 11pm
- BOUTIQUE Saturday Night Fever: DJ King Sol 8pm

GROSVENOR BAR Cabaret: Davina Sparkle 9.30pm
- LEGENDS BAR Brighton Belles: local cabaret stars & guests 9pm
- MARINE TAVERN Eurovision Party with Lazy Susan 9pm
- PARIS HOUSE DJ Havox 9pm
- QUEEN’S ARMS Big Friday Cabaret: Pat Clutcher 10pm
- REGENCY TAVERN CABA Regency: students/graduates perform 8.30pm
- SUBLINE Filth full fetish party 10pm
- ZONE cabaret: Toby Redfern 10pm

JAMIE HP EVENTS

Visit www.jamiehp.co.uk for free membership, discount entry/special invites.

BRIGHTON

- BRIGHTON SAUNA 75 Grand Parade, BN2 9JA
- ONE FOR THE DIARY Are you brave enough for the stable? Thur (2) is BRIGHTON HORSE FAIR, a private night of strict rules, role-play and fetish! Simply decide which role you’d like to play, the stallion, the stable lad or the bound and gagged mare, and turn up at the appropriate time: 9pm Mares & Stable Lads, 9.20pm Stallions. To apply, visit www.jamiehp.co.uk
- Thur (16) is SBNL on the South Coast with DJs playing sexy commercial sounds and filthy tribal beats, with XXX show from adult stars at 10pm. SBNL London events usually attract over 400 clubbers: a mixed crowd of single boys, gay couples, groups of gay lads, bi men and guys of all ages, from 18-80. Dress code: strictly naked, although fetish accessories may be worn. Entry: £13 members, £15 guests. Claim free membership and save on entry cost by visiting www.jamiehp.co.uk

LONDON

- UNION CLUB 66 Albert Embankment, London, SE1 7TP
- BANK HOLIDAY Monday 6 & 27; Special Bank Holiday SBNL v NBN from 2pm
- ONE FOR THE DIARY Every Sunday: SBNL (Stark Bollock Naked) with an enormous play space from UKRed and tunes from 2pm, gay adult movie stars on stage from 5pm: Martin Biggs & Austin Sugar (5). Drew Dixon & John Strap (12), Yoshi Kawasaki & Orson Deane (19) and Lex Anders & Korar Darver (26). Stick around for NBN (Near Bollock Naked) from 6pm. Entry: members £14, guests £17, includes locker and first drink. Join online: www.jamiehp.co.uk
- COVENT GARDEN HEALTH SPA 29 Endell St, London WC2H 9BA
- ONE FOR THE DIARY Every Saturday is the Total Fekkin Nude party, everyone invited from 9pm.

THURSDAY 16
- AFFINITY BAR Lydia L’Showbies: Lydia L’Scabbes performs homages to TV, film & musical theatre. 10pm & 11pm
- BAR 7@CRAWLEY Warm-Up 7pm
- BAR BROADWAY Eurovision Semi Final 2 and UK can vote! 7.45pm
- BASEMENT CLUB@LEGENDS Now That’s What I Call Legends: DJ Claire Fuller 11pm
- BULLDOG #transforme: camp, karaoke, queers + Wanda Star & Sam Pink 8pm
- CAMELFORD ARMS £300 Big Cash Quiz 9pm
- CHARLES ST TAP Drag Idol Heat 2 with host Sally Vate 8.30pm
- GROSVENOR BAR Abel Mabel’s Bingo 8.30pm
- MARINE TAVERN Throwback Thursday 80s Night 8pm
Get ready... she's back...

MISS JASON
Mad Mondays
from 9.30pm

SATURDAY 16TH MAY
Eurovision Party

WINE PROMO
buy a bottle & get the second half price
monday-friday from 12pm till 11pm

Bank Holiday Mondays
6th May
Dave Lynn & Maisie Trollette

27th May
JLo

Every Friday from 9.30pm
THE BRIGHTON BELLES
featuring Brighton’s favourite cabaret stars and their guests

Sunday Roast 12.30-4pm & Cabaret 3.30pm
5th Kandi Kane
12th Lola Lasagne
19th Miss Penny
26th Drag With No Name

31-34 Marine Parade | Brighton | Tel: 01273 624462
LEGENDS BAR
- OPEN daily from 11-5am.
- FOOD: Mon-Sat 8am-5pm. Sunday lunch 12.30-4pm; choose from beef, belly pork, chicken supreme or wholesome roast nut with roast potatoes, a seasonal vegetables, homemade Yorkshire pudding and real stock gravy. Make sure you leave some space for one of the moreish desserts.
- DRINK PROMOS: Buy 1 bottle of wine get 2nd half price. Mon-Fri 12-11pm.
- BANK HOLIDAY WEEKENDS: Mon (6) is CABARET with Dave Lynn & Maisee Trollette at 3.30pm. Pat Clutcher Does MISS JASON’S MONDAY MADNESS at 9.30pm. Mon (27) CABARET with JLO & Miss Jason & Lola Lasagne at 3.30pm. Miss Jason says: “Working with Lola is great fun and she has the same wicked streak as me, but she’s slightly more politically correct so I try to make her say naughty things! Expect glamour on the night and as for antics you’ll have to wait and see, I do what comes into my mind, which depends on how much I’ve had to drink! The more raucous the crowd the more I like it, but Lola is the disciplinarian so I leave crowd control to her! She has the experience, she was a cattle herder when she was a girl. Come and see what happens, we’re both strong girls and like to get our own way!” Stick around on Mon (27) for Davina Sparkle Does Miss Jason’s MONDAY MADNESS at 9.30pm.
- ONE FOR THE DIARY: Sat (18) is the EUROVISION PARTY from 8pm.
- REGULARS: Friday is the BRIGHTON BELLES live at 9.30pm. Sunday CABARET at 3.30pm. Kandi Kane (5). Lola Lasagne (12). Miss Penny (19) and Drag With No Name (26). Miss Jason’s MONDAY MADNESS at 9.30pm.

LEGENDS BASEMENT CLUB
- OPEN: Mon-Wed Sun 11am.
- DRINK PROMOS: £2 drink deals on Mon & Fri. £2.50 drinks all night on Sun.
- ONE FOR THE DIARY: Mon is GLITTER CURIOUS, a queer sing-along party with curators Patrick Cawley & Maria Gardner at 11pm, free entry, cheap drinks and fabulous giveaways with tonnes of surprises in store for all; (6 & 27) are Bank Holiday specials.
- REGULARS: Sat it’s FUSION with DJ Peter Castle spinning chart/club remixes. Sun it’s POPICANDY with DJ Claire Fuller’s pick & mix of new and retro pop tunes. Wed it’s ICE with DJ Claire Fuller hitting the dancefloor with chart/house/60s. Thur it’s NOW THAT’S WHAT I CALL LEGENDS with DJ Claire Fuller taking you on a journey through the 70s/80s/90s. Fri it’s GLITTER with DJ David Noakes sparklinjg up the dance floor with chart/dance.

BULLDOG: Wedona Starr pres Queen of the Night camp, karaoke, prizes & tunes 9pm
- CHARLES ST TAP: Fierce: DJs 9pm
- COVENT GARDEN HEALTH SPA: Total Fekkink Nude: naked party for all 9pm
- GROSVENOR BAR: Eurovision Party 8pm; cabaret: Dave Lynn 11pm
- LEGENDS Bar: Eurovision Party 8pm
- MARINE TAVERN: Candi Reill’s Karaoke & Cabaret Party 8.30pm
- PARIS HOUSE: And All That Jazz: Paul Richards Trio 4pm; DJ Andy the Dandy 9pm
- QUEEN’S ARMS: OA Triple cabaret. Poppycock 6pm. Betty Swallows 8pm. Kara Van Park 10pm
- REGENCY TAVERN: Eurovision Party with Billie Gold 8pm
- ROTTINGDEAN CLUB: Eurovision Party 8pm
- SUBLINE: The Men’s Room: DJ Screwpulous 9pm

- BULLDOG: Monday Night Mirror Ball 4pm
- SUBLINE: Cum in Your Pants underwear party 9pm

SUNDAY 19
- AFFINITY BAR: Cabaret: Son of a Tutu 5pm
- AMSTERDAM: cabaret: Paul Middleton 5pm; roasts 12pm-till gone
- BAR 7 @ CRAWLEY: karaoke 6pm
- BAR BROADWAY: Fireplace Sessions pres. Paul Diello 6.30pm
- BASEMENT CLUB: Pop!Candy: DJ Claire Fuller 9pm
- BULLDOG: Sunday Funday 12pm
- CAMELFORD ARMS: Bear Bash: free food/raffle 5pm; roasts/select menu

- REGENCY TAVERN: roasts 12-6pm
- SUBLINE: Cum in Your Pants underwear party 9pm

MONDAY 20
- AFFINITY BAR: All Day Karaoke 12pm; Karaoke with Tommy Tanker (aka Pat Clutcher) 7pm
- BAR BROADWAY: Classics Jukebox 6pm
- BASEMENT CLUB: Glitter Curious: sing-along party with Patrick Cawley & Maria Gardner 11pm
- BULLDOG: Monday Night Mirror Ball 4pm
- CHARLES ST TAP: Gaysers Night: consoles, board/card games 8.30pm
10 SHOWS A WEEK! OPEN TILL 1AM SUN-THUR & TILL 2AM FRI & SAT OPEN FROM 5PM MON-FRI FROM 2PM SAT & SUN

**MADONNA AT 9PM**
KARA VAN PARK'S MUSICAL MONDAYS
MON 13 MAY WINE TASTING 7.30PM

**BANK HOLIDAY MON 6 MAY**
JOHN'S BIRTHDAY WITH SASKI & DAVINA SPARKLE 7.30PM CALL IN FOR A DRINK WITH JOHN!
BANK HOLIDAY MONDAY 27 MAY DOUBLE SHOW AT 6.30PM & 10PM

**NEW! TUESDAY AT 9.30PM**
TRANS ACTION WITH POPPY COCK TUE 7 MAY CLOSED FOR PRIVATE FUNCTION

**WEDNESDAY AT 10PM**
THE SALLY VATE SHOW WED 22 MAY PAT CLUTCHER

**THURSDAY 10PM**
BRIGHTON’S LEADING LADIES
2 MAY SPICE
9 MAY DAVE LYNN
16 MAY MISS JASON
23 MAY LOLA LASAGNE
30 MAY LAURA NIXON

**FRIDAY 10PM**
QA BIG FRIDAYS
3 MAY DRAG WITH NO NAME
10 MAY FANNY BURNS
17 MAY PAT CLUTCHER
24 MAY ALLAN JAY
31 MAY JENNIE CASTELL

**SATURDAY**
THE QA TRIPLE CABARET AT 6PM / 8PM / 10PM
4 MAY POPPY COCK 6PM
BETTY SWOLLOCKS 8PM
JADE JUSTINE 10PM

11 MAY JOE BLACK 6PM
BETTY SWOLLOCKS 8PM
COSMIC 10PM

18 MAY POPPY COCK 6PM
BETTY SWOLLOCKS 8PM
KARA VAN PARK 10PM

25 MAY JOE BLACK 6PM
BETTY SWOLLOCKS 8PM
LUCINDA LASHES 10PM

**SUNDAY**
FUNDAY DOUBLE 6.30PM & 10PM
5 MAY JASON LEE
12 MAY DAVINA SPARKLE
19 MAY MRS MOORE
26 MAY JASON LEE

OPEN FROM 5PM MON-FRI FROM 2PM SAT & SUN
**MAY LISTINGS**

**MARINE TAVERN**
- 13 Broad St, BN2 1TJ, Tel: 01273 905578, [www.marinetavern.co.uk](http://www.marinetavern.co.uk)
- OPEN daily from 12pm.
- FOOD daily from 12-9pm. CURRY & QUIZ £1 on Tue from 7.30pm (quiz starts 9pm), roast £8 every Sunday 12-5pm, booking advised.
- DRINK PROMOS Wed from 7pm. PINK POUND night with drinks from £1.
- ONE FOR THE DIARY: Sat is CANDI RELL'S CABARET & KARAOKE at 8.30pm.
- REGULARS: Fri JUKEBOX DISCO at 8pm (3, 24 & 31), Linda Gold’s EUROVISION DRAG CONTEST at 9pm (9) and EUROVISION PARTY with Lazy Susan at 9pm (17).
- Sun is OPEN MIC with Stephanie Von Clitz from 9pm.

**PARIS HOUSE**
- 21 Western Rd, BN3 1AF, T: 01273 724195, [www.parishousebrighton.com](http://www.parishousebrighton.com)
- OPEN daily from 12pm, FOOD served 12pm–close every day.
- ONE FOR THE DIARY: Sat and ALL THAT JAZZ at 4pm: Amuse Manouche (4), Lawrence Jones Trio (11), Paul Richards Trio (18) and Jorge’s Hot Club (25). Andy the Dandy DJ at 9pm, free entry.
- REGULARS: Free live music all week: Mon jazz at 2pm with Nils Solberg-Mick Hamer Trio, at 8pm: Geoff Simpkins Trio (6), Sharp Nines (13), Embraceable Few (20) and Sara Osklag Trio (27). Tue at 8pm: Smokeystack (7). Scott Booth (14), Yellow Funk Machine (21) and John Crampton (28). Wed at 8pm: Jack Kendon Trio (1), Gabriel Garrick Trio (8), Becky Rork Trio (15), Jon Gilhooly Trio (22) and Tractor Factor (29). Thu world music at 8pm: Pollite Boogaloos (2), Tres Amigos (9). Trio Cubana (16). Babou with Abraham de Vega (23) and Son Guarachando (30). Fri: PARTY TIME with DJ Havoxx at 9pm. Sat at 6pm: Fleur de Paris (5), Sam Chara. Tim Young & Theeuse Gerard (12), Marilyn du Sax (19) and Dave Williams & band (26).

**QUEENS ARMS**
- 7 George St, BN2 1RH, T: 01273 696873, [www.theqabrighton.com](http://www.theqabrighton.com)
- OPEN Mon–Fri from 9pm, Sat & Sun from 2pm, closed Tue (7) for private party.
- BANK HOLIDAY WEEKENDS: Sat (4) is QA TRIPLE CABARET with Poppycock at 6pm. Betty Swollocks at 8pm and Jade Justine at 10pm. SUNDAY FUNDAY (5): double cabaret with Jason Lee at 6.30pm & 10pm. Mon (6) is John’s Birthday with cabaret from Saski and Davina Sparkle at 7.30pm. Sat (25) is QA TRIPLE CABARET with Joe Black at 6pm. Betty Swollocks at 8pm and Lucinda Lashes at 10pm. SUNDAY FUNDAY (26): double cabaret with Jason Lee at 6.30pm & 10pm. Mon (27) for double cabaret with Kara Van Park at 6.30pm & 10pm. The QA: “Kara Van Park brings her West End vocals and showbiz anecdotes to you! Expect beautiful diva ballads and West End/Broadway hits!”
- ONE FOR THE DIARY: SUNDAY FUNDAY: Double cabaret at 6.30pm & 10pm. Davina Sparkle (12) and Mrs Moore (19). The QA: “Davina Sparkle, the Voice of a Thousand Fags and Beast from (Hove) East, is back for two shows on May 12, live on our wooden erection of Joy. How utterly delightful!”
- REGULARS: Kara Van Park’s MUSICAL MONDAYS at 9pm. Mon (13) new Wine Tasting event 7.30pm. Tue is TRANS ACTION with host Poppycock at 9.30pm. Wed the SALLY VATE SHOW at 10pm. Pat Clutcher takes the reins at 10pm. Thur CABARET with BRIGHTON’S LEADING LADIES at 10pm. Spice (2), Dave Lynn (9), Miss Jason (16), Lola Lasagne (23) and Laura Nixon (30) – QA BIG FRIDAY CABARET at 10pm. Drag With No Name (3). Fanny Burns (10). Pat Clutcher (17). Allan Jay (24) and Jennie Castell (31). Sat QA TRIPLE CABARET at 8pm. 8pm & 10pm. Joe Black. Betty Swollock’s & Cosmic (11) and Poppycock. Betty Swollocks & Kara Van Park (18).

**CROWN KEMPSTOWN**
- Jack Cherry & Friends from the Fruit Bowl 7.30pm
- MARINE TAVERN Pink Pound 7pm
- PARIS HOUSE live music: Jon Gilhooly Trio 8pm
- QUEEN’S ARMS Pat Clutcher Show 10pm
- SUBLIME Hump Day 9pm
- VELVET JACKS Quiz 7pm

**THURSDAY 23**
- AFFINITY BAR: Lydia L’Showbies: Lydia L’Scabies performs homages to TV, film and musical theatre 10pm & 11pm
- BAR 7@CRAWLEY: Weekend Warm-Up 7pm
- BAR BROADWAY: Ross Cameron’s Big Quiz with prizes 8.30pm
- BASEMENT CLUB@LEGENDS: Now That’s what I Call Legends: DJ Claire Fuller 11pm
- BULLDOG #trans:camp: karaoke, queens + Wonda Starr & Sam Pink 8pm
- CAMELFORD ARMS: £300 Big Cash Bank Holiday Quiz 9pm
- CHARLES ST TAP: Drag Idol Heat 3 with host Sally Vale 8.30pm
- CROWN KEMPSTOWN: Jack Cherry & Friends from the Fruit Bowl 7.30pm
- GROSVENOR BAR: Abel Mabel’s Bingo 8.30pm
- H-PARTYBOYS POOL PARTY: @UNION CLUB: LONDON SE1 fit 18-40-year-olds in towels, trunks or nothing 7.30pm. apply: jamiehp.co.uk
- MARINE TAVERN: Throwback Thursday 80’s Night at 8pm
- PARIS HOUSE: World Music: Babou with Abraham de Vega 8pm
- QUEEN’S ARMS: Brighton’s Leading Ladies cabaret: Lola Lasagne 10pm
- REGENCY TAVERN: Karaoke/open mic
**REGENCY TAVERN**

- 32-34 Russell Sq, Brighton BN1 2EF T: 01273 325 652, [www.regencytaVERN.co.uk](http://www.regencytaVERN.co.uk)
- **OPEN** Sun-Wed from 12-11pm, Thu from 12pm-12am, Fri & Sat from 12pm-1am
- **FOOD** Tue-Sat from 12-8pm, bookings recommended for Sunday roasts 12-6pm two for £19.95
- **ONE FOR THE DIARY** Sat (18) is the EUROVISION PARTY with the sensational burlesque dancer and singer Billie Gold at 8pm.
- **REGULAR!** Thur (2, 9, 16 & 23) is OPEN MIC/KARAOKE with Jason Thorpe at 8pm; (30) is Jason’s GAME SHOW BONANZA at 8pm. Fri (3, 17 & 31) is CABA-REGENCY with the best talent that Brighton’s student and recently graduated community has to offer from 8.30pm. The Regency say: “Caba-Regency is the intimate, breath-taking cabaret night – you won’t believe what you’re hearing!”
- Sat with CABARET at 9pm, free entry all night. This month’s line-up: Gabriella Parrish (4), Allice Ordinary for Simon’s Birthday (11) and Chris Hide (25).
- Mon (13 & 27) is SMUTS OPEN MIC night at 8pm.

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**MAY LISTINGS**

**ROTTERDAM DEAN CLUB**

- 89 High St, Rottingdean, BN2 7HE, Tel: 01273 309529 [therottingdeanclub](http://therottingdeanclub)
- **FOOD** served daily, ask at the bar for full menu.
- **MEMBERSHIP** The Rottingdean Club is a members’ bar in the heart of the village with regular entertainment, great food, welcoming staff, a large garden with lager and cider on draught and free Wi-Fi. For membership details email bar@therottingdeanclub.co.uk. The Rottingdean Club says: “We’re a private members’ bar where there’s always a warm welcome. We offer the comforts of a traditional pub with modern standards of service and superb food!”
- **ONE FOR THE DIARY** Fri (3) with songstress Nikki Red playing songs to get you moving from 8.30pm.
- **ONE FOR THE DIARY** Thur (9) is NICK’S BIG MUSIC QUIZ from 7pm.
- **ONE FOR THE DIARY** Sat (11) with Rosebud singing everything from 40s-now. 60s soul and rock & roll from 8pm.
- **ONE FOR THE DIARY** Sat (18) is the EUROVISION PARTY with the contest shown on the big screen from 8pm. Rottingdean Club say: “Come as your favourite singer/group/duo from any Eurovision Song Contest throughout the years and get a free glass of fizz. We will be doing a sweepstake on the evening too. Its all a bit of camp fun as we watch the UK slide further and further away from a win as per usual!”

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**FRIDAY 24**

- **AFFINITY BAR** DJ Liquid Gold 8pm
- **AMSTERDAM** cabaret: Dave Lynn 9.30pm
- **BAR 7@CRAWLEY** 7 Upstairs 9pm
- **BAR BROADWAY** Jukebox 5pm
- **BASEMENT CLUB@LEGENDS** Glitter: DJ David Noakes 11pm
- **BOUTIQUE** Party with DJ Cee 7pm
- **BRUNSWICK PUB** Epicene: Paul Dielio pres iconic women in music 8pm
- **BULLDOG** Friday Night Live: camp karaoke & DJ Glynn-Sing 9pm, ShowTime with Domina Tyx 11pm
- **CAMELFORD ARMS** Friday Club 6pm
- **CHARLES ST TAP** Fabulous Friday: DJ Morgan Fabulous 9pm
- **CROWN KEMPTOWN** Jack Cherry & Friends from the Fruit Bowl 7.30pm
- **GROSVENOR BAR** cabaret: Miles Jason 9.30pm
- **LEGENDS BAR** Brighton Belles: local cabaret stars & guests 9pm
- **MARINE TAVERN** Jukebox Disco 8pm
- **PARIS HOUSE** DJ Havocx 9pm
- **QUEEN’S ARMS** Big Friday Cabaret: Allan Jay 10pm

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**SATURDAY 25**

- **AFFINITY BAR** cabaret: Pat Clutterch 6pm, karaoke with Pat Clutterch 7pm
- **AMSTERDAM** Karaoke with Jason Thorpe 9.30pm
- **BAR 7@CRAWLEY** Submissive Saturday 9pm
- **BAR BROADWAY** Jukebox 4pm
- **BASEMENT CLUB@LEGENDS** Fission: DJ Peter Castle 11pm
- **BOUTIQUE** Bank Holiday Roof Terrace Party: DJ King Sol 2pm
- **BRUNSWICK PUB** Epicene: Paul Dielio pres iconic women in music 8pm
- **BULLDOG** Wonda Starr pres Oween of the Night camp, karaoke, prizes & tunes 9pm
- **CHARLES ST TAP** Fierce: DJs 9pm
- **COVENT GARDEN HEALTH SPA** @LONDON WC2 Total Feakin Nude: naked party for all 9pm
- **CROWN KEMPTOWN** Jack Cherry & Friends from the Fruit Bowl 3pm
- **GROSVENOR BAR** cabaret: Pooch Lay May 9.30pm
- **LEGENDS BAR** Pre-club DJ 7pm
- **MARINE TAVERN** Cand Rudi’s Karaoke & Cabaret Party 8.30pm

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**SUNDAY 26**

- **AFFINITY BAR** cabaret: Aura Jay 5pm
- **AMSTERDAM** cabaret: Jamie Watson 5pm, roasts 12pm-till gone
- **BAR 7@CRAWLEY** Bank Holiday Extended Karaoke 7pm
- **BAR BROADWAY** Bank Holiday Showtime Karaoke: Sally Vate & Ross Cameron 8.30pm
- **BASEMENT CLUB@LEGENDS** Pop/Candi: DJ Claire Fuller 9pm
- **BOUTIQUE** Sunday Funday Bank Holiday Roof Terrace Party with shot drops & tunes 2pm
- **BRUNSWICK PUB** Epicene: Paul Dielio pres iconic women in music 8pm
- **BULLDOG** Sunday Funday 12pm
- **CAMELFORD ARMS** Bear Bash: free food/raffle 8pm, roasts/select menu 12pm-till gone
- **CHARLES ST TAP** cabaret: host Sally Vate & Heart & Soul 7.30pm, roasts 12pm
- **CROWN KEMPTOWN** Jack Cherry & Friends from the Fruit Bowl 3pm
- **UNION CLUB@LONDON SE1** Stark Bollock Naked: naked party 2pm, gay adult movie stars: Lee Anders & Korar Danver 5pm, Near Bollock Naked: underwear/jockstrap party 6pm
- **LEGENDS BAR** cabaret: Drag With No Name 3.30pm, roasts 12.30-4pm
- **MARINE TAVERN** roasts 12.5pm, Drag Open Mic: Stephanie Von Clitz 9pm
- **PARIS HOUSE** live music: Dave Williams & band 6pm
- **QUEEN’S ARMS** Sunday Funday double cabaret: Jason Lee 6.30pm & 10pm
- **REGENCY TAVERN** roasts: 12-6pm
- **SUBLINE** Sussex Beacon Bizarre Bazaar 2pm, Guilty Pleasures: DJ Screwupulous 9pm
- **THREE JOLLY BUTCHERS** live football: League 1 Play-Off Final 12pm
- **ZONE** cabaret: Chris Hide 6pm

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**FRI, SAT, SUN**

- **SUBLINE Club Silencio: Apocalypse Cow A Post-Nuclear American Tragedy 8pm**
- **ZONE cabaret: Stone & Street 10pm**
- **SUBLINE Club Silencio: Apocalypse Cow: A Post-Nuclear American Tragedy + Eat America 8pm**
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- **ZONE cabaret: Stone & Street 10pm**
QUEEN’S ARM S
M ARINE TAVERN
59 North Rd, BN1 1YD, Tel: 0127 3 60857 1,
129 St James’ St, BN2 1TH, T: 0127 3 624100,
BAR BROADW AY
AFFINITY BAR

D ’Arthur & Sally Vate

THREE JOLLY BUTCHERS
129 St James’ St, BN2 1TH, Tel: 0127 3 60857 1,
D ’Arthur & Sally Vate

THREE JOLLY BUTCHERS

WEDNESDAY 29

TUESDAY 28

MONDAY 27

FOOD Sun (12) from 12.30pm. Pre-Home Match Warm Up with Pie & Pint £9 before Brighton match.

LIVE SPORT Live football on the big screens - see listings for fixtures.

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THE ZONE

- SUBLINE Brace Yourself 9pm
- SUBLINE Steam 9pm
- AFFINITY BAR DJ Liquid Gold 8pm
- AMSTERDAM cabaret: Kara Van Park 9.30pm
- BAR 7@CRAWLEY 7 Upstairs 9pm
- BAR BROADWAY Jukebox 5pm
- BASEMENT CLUB@LEGENDS Glitter: DJ David Neakes 11pm
- BOUTIQUE Party with DJ Con 7pm
- BULLDOG Friday Night Live: camp karaoke & DJ Glynn-Sing 9pm. ShowTime with Domina Tryx 11pm
- CAMELFORD ARMS Friday Club 6pm
- CHARLES ST TAP Fabulous Friday: DJ Morgan Fabulous 9pm
- CROWN KEMPTOWN Disco 6pm
- GROSVENOR BAR Cabaret: Davina Sparkle 9.30pm
- LEGENDS BAR Brighton Belles: local cabaret stars & guests 9pm
- MARINE TAVERN Jukebox Disco 8pm
- PARIS HOUSE DJ Havoxx 9pm
- QUEEN’S ARMS Big Friday Cabaret: Jennie Castell 10pm
- REGENCY TAVERN CABA Regency: students/graduates perform 8.30pm
- SUBLINE Steam 9pm
- ZONE cabaret: Spice 10pm

GSCENE OUT & ABOUT 41
**WEDNESDAY 1**

**PORTSMOUTH**
- **HAMPSHIRE BLVD** Big Navy Night Out with Aura Jay’s karaoke 9pm

**SOUTHAMPTON**
- **BOX BAR** Beauty and the Balls Bingo: host Miss Disney & prizes 6pm; Bella Black’s karaoke 10.30pm
- **EDGE** Bar 150: DJs Missy B & Lee Harris 10pm

**THURSDAY 2**

**PORTSMOUTH**
- **HAMPSHIRE BLVD** Big Navy Night Out with Aura Jay’s karaoke 9pm
- **BOX BAR** Double Trouble Quiz: drag hosts Aura Jay & Bella Black 8pm
- **EDGE** Get Dirty: DJ Liam Searle 10pm

**FRIDAY 3**

**PORTSMOUTH**
- **HAMPSHIRE BLVD** We Love Fridays: DJ Toby Lawrence 9pm

**SOUTHAMPTON**
- **BOX BAR** GLOW: DJs 10pm
- **EDGE** GLOW: DJs & UV lights 11pm

**SATURDAY 4**

**PORTSMOUTH**
- **HAMPSHIRE BLVD** Blank: DJs Missy B & Rob Davis 9pm

**SOUTHAMPTON**
- **BOX BAR** The Big One: DJ KT 11pm
- **EDGE** The Big One: DJs Darcy Buckland & Neil Sackley 10pm

**SUNDAY 5**

**PORTSMOUTH**
- **HAMPSHIRE BLVD** 90s–Now 9pm

**SOUTHAMPTON**
- **EDGE** Boat Party: Official After Party/ Southampton Pride Fundraising event + Aura Jay’s Cabaret & Karaoke 10pm

**MONDAY 6**

**PORTSMOUTH**
- **HAMPSHIRE BLVD** 20Something: DJs Lee Harris & Luke Ennor 9pm

**SOUTHAMPTON**
- **BOX BAR** The Big One: DJ KT 11pm
- **EDGE** The Big One: DJs Adam Fester & Trick 10pm

**TUESDAY 7**

**PORTSMOUTH**
- **HAMPSHIRE BLVD** Cherry’s Bingo & cabaret 8pm

**SOUTHAMPTON**
- **BOX BAR** Time Out DJs 11pm
- **EDGE** Time Out: DJ Black Featheron 11pm

**WEDNESDAY 8**

**PORTSMOUTH**
- **HAMPSHIRE BLVD** Big Navy Night Out with Aura Jay’s karaoke 9pm

**SOUTHAMPTON**
- **BOX BAR** Double Trouble Quiz: drag hosts Aura Jay & Bella Black 8pm
- **EDGE** Bar 150: DJs Missy B & Lee Harris 10pm

**THURSDAY 9**

**PORTSMOUTH**
- **HAMPSHIRE BLVD** A Night on the Lashes: Lucinda Lashes + karaoke & tunes 9pm

**SOUTHAMPTON**
- **BOX BAR** GLOW: DJs & UV lights 11pm

**FRIDAY 10**

**PORTSMOUTH**
- **HAMPSHIRE BLVD** We Love Fridays: DJ Toby Lawrence 9pm

**SOUTHAMPTON**
- **BOX BAR** GLOW: DJs 10pm
- **EDGE** GLOW: DJs & UV lights 11pm

**SATURDAY 11**

**PORTSMOUTH**
- **HAMPSHIRE BLVD** Blank: DJs Missy B & Rob Davis 9pm

**SOUTHAMPTON**
- **BOX BAR** The Big One: DJ KT 11pm
- **EDGE** The Big One: DJs Adam Fester & Trick 10pm

**SUNDAY 12**

**PORTSMOUTH**
- **HAMPSHIRE BLVD** 90s–Now 9pm

**SOUTHAMPTON**
- **EDGE** Aurora Jay’s Cabaret & Karaoke 10pm

**MONDAY 13**

**PORTSMOUTH**
- **HAMPSHIRE BLVD** 20Something: DJs Lee Harris & Luke Ennor 9pm

**SOUTHAMPTON**
- **EDGE** Mates Rates: DJ Darcy Buckland 10pm

**TUESDAY 14**

**PORTSMOUTH**
- **HAMPSHIRE BLVD** Cherry’s Bingo & cabaret 8pm

**SOUTHAMPTON**
- **BOX BAR** Time Out DJs 11pm

**WEDNESDAY 15**

**PORTSMOUTH**
- **HAMPSHIRE BLVD** Big Navy Night Out with Aura Jay’s karaoke 9pm

**SOUTHAMPTON**
- **BOX BAR** Beauty and the Balls Bingo: host Miss Disney & prizes 6pm; Bella Black’s karaoke 10.30pm
- **EDGE** Bar 150: DJs Missy B & Lee Harris 10pm

**THURSDAY 16**

**PORTSMOUTH**
- **HAMPSHIRE BLVD** A Night on the Lashes: Lucinda Lashes + karaoke & tunes 9pm

**SOUTHAMPTON**
- **BOX BAR** Double Trouble Quiz: drag hosts Aura Jay & Bella Black 8pm
SUNDAY 26TH MAY

SMIRNOFF PARTY

LOADS OF GIVEAWAYS / DRAG HOSTS / DJ’S

VIP Tickets given out throughout May.

OPEN 3-5AM
£5 ENTRY TILL MIDNIGHT £7 AFTER
HAMPSTEAD TERRACE PO1 2QN PORTSMOUTH

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25TH SATURDAY

Hoe Down

Dj Rob Davis

OPEN 9-5AM
£5 ENTRY TILL MIDNIGHT £7 AFTER
HAMPSTEAD TERRACE PO1 2QN PORTSMOUTH

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SUNDAY 5TH MAY

BOAT PARTY

OFFICIAL AFTER PARTY

PLUS

CABARET VS KARAOKE

WITH

AURA JAY

OPEN FROM 9PM
£3 ENTRY B4 MIDNIGHT £5 AFTER
FREE ENTRY FOR BOAT PARTY TICKET HOLDERS B4 MIDNIGHT!

IN SUPPORT OF SOUTHAMPTON TRUST

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SNATCH THE CROWN

DRAG COMPETITION

WIN A SLOT ON THE MAINSTAGE AT THIS YEAR’S SOUTHAMPTON PRIDE AND A CASH PRIZE!

TO ENTER EMAIL:
SNATCH@THEEDGESOUTHAMPTON.COM

HEAT 1
7TH JUNE

HEAT 2
14TH JUNE

HEAT 3
21ST JUNE

THE FINAL
28TH JUNE

£5 TO WATCH / SHOW TIME 20:00 - 22:00
**THE EDGE & BOX BAR**

- Compton Walk, SO14 0HB. Tel: 023 8036 6163; www.theedgesouthampton.com
- OPEN The Edge: 10pm everyday.
The Box Bar: 7pm Tue–Sat
- FOOD Box Bar: 7–10pm Tue–Sat
- HAPPY HOURS The Box Bar: 2–4–1 cocktails 7–late Tue, Thur & Fri (till 8pm on Wed & Sat). The Edge: £1.50 shots & £2 house doubles on Mon, £1.50 drinks on Wed, half price drinks till midnight on Thur, £1.50 singles/£3 doubles on Sun.

**ONE FOR THE DIARY**

Sunday (5) is BOAT PARTY: Official After Party and fundraising event for Southampton Pride, plus Aura Jay’s KARAOKE and CABARET.

**REGULARS**

- Sunday is CABARET V KARAOKE with drag host Aura Jay.
- Monday is MATES RATES with DJ Darcy Buckland.
- Tuesday is TIME OUT with DJ Black Featheron spinning the best pop/chart tunes.
- Wednesday is BEAUTY & THE BALLS BINGO with host Miss Disney and prizes every round from 6pm. KARAOKE after with Bella Black 10.30pm. Stick around for BAR 150 with DJs Missy B. & Lee Harris from 10pm.
- Thursday is DOUBLE TROUBLE QUIZ with drag host duo Aura Jay & Bella Black at 7pm. Edge/Box Bar say:

> “Someone is in trouble and we have to find out who... Aura Jay and Bella Black team up to bring you the sassiest Quiz Night on the South Coast... It has to be seen to be believed!”

Stick around for GET DIRTY with DJ Liam Searle on the decks. Friday is GLOW with UV lights and guest DJs every week! Saturday is THE BIG ONE from 10pm with three bars, two dance floors & DJs: Darcy Buckland & Neil Sackley (4), Adam Foster & Trick (11), King K & Trick (18) and Phil Marriott, Darcy Buckland & KT (25).

**TUESDAY 21**

- **HAMPShIRE Blvd** Cherry’s Bingo & cabaret 8pm

**SOUTHampton**

- **BOX BAR** Time Out DJs 11pm
- **EDGE** Time Out: DJ Black Featheron 11pm

**WEDNESDAY 22**

- **HAMPShIRE Blvd** Big Navy Night Out with Aura Jay’s karaoke 9pm

**SOUTHampton**

- **BOX BAR** Beauty and the Balls Bingo: host Miss Disney & prizes 6pm. Bella Black’s karaoke 10.30pm
- **EDGE** Bar 150: DJs Missy B & Lee Harris 10pm

**THURSDAY 23**

- **HAMPShIRE Blvd** A Night on the Lashes: Lucinda Lashes + karaoke & tunes 9pm

**SOUTHampton**

- **BOX BAR** Double Trouble Quiz: drag hosts Aura Jay & Bella Black 8pm
- **EDGE** Get Dirty: DJ Liam Searle 10pm

**FRIDAY 24**

- **HAMPShIRE Blvd** We Love Fridays: DJ Toby Lawrence 9pm

**SOUTHampton**

- **BOX BAR GLOW: DJs 10pm**
- **EDGE GLOW: DJs & UV lights 11pm**

**SATURDAY 25**

- **HAMPShIRE Blvd** Hoe Down: DJ Rob Davis + c*ck rodeo, decor & giveaways 9pm

**SOUTHampton**

- **BOX BAR** The Big One: DJs 7pm
- **EDGE** The Big One: DJs Phil Marriott, Darcy Buckland & KT 10pm

**SUNDAY 26**

- **HAMPShIRE Blvd** Bank Hol Smirnoff

Party: DJs, drag hosts & giveaways 9pm

- **EDGE** Aura Jay’s Cabaret v Karaoke 10pm

**MONDAY 27**

- **HAMPShIRE Blvd** Cherry’s Bingo & cabaret 8pm

**SOUTHampton**

- **BOX BAR** Time Out DJs 11pm
- **EDGE** Time Out: DJ Black Featheron 11pm

**TUESDAY 28**

- **HAMPShIRE Blvd** Big Navy Night Out with Aura Jay’s karaoke 9pm

**SOUTHampton**

- **BOX BAR** Beauty and the Balls Bingo: host Miss Disney & prizes 6pm. Bella Black’s karaoke 10.30pm
- **EDGE** Bar 150: DJs Missy B & Lee Harris 10pm

**THURSDAY 29**

- **HAMPShIRE Blvd** A Night on the Lashes: Lucinda Lashes + karaoke & tunes 9pm

**SOUTHampton**

- **BOX BAR** Double Trouble Quiz: drag hosts Aura Jay & Bella Black 8pm
- **EDGE** Get Dirty: DJ Liam Searle 10pm

**FRIDAY 30**

- **HAMPShIRE Blvd** We Love Fridays: DJ Toby Lawrence 9pm

**SOUTHampton**

- **BOX BAR GLOW: DJs 10pm**
- **EDGE GLOW: DJs & UV lights 11pm**

**SATURDAY 31**

- **HAMPShIRE Blvd** A Night on the Lashes: Lucinda Lashes + karaoke & tunes 9pm

**SOUTHampton**

- **BOX BAR** Double Trouble Quiz: drag hosts Aura Jay & Bella Black 8pm
- **EDGE** Get Dirty: DJ Liam Searle 10pm

**FRIDAY 31**

- **HAMPShIRE Blvd** We Love Fridays: DJ Toby Lawrence 9pm

**SOUTHampton**

- **BOX BAR GLOW: DJs 10pm**
- **EDGE GLOW: DJs & UV lights 11pm**
**DANCE MUSIC**

**BY QUEEN JOSEPHINE & KATE WILDBLOOD**

**ALBUMS**

1. Time to grab some ribbon and a large pole (ooh missus!) and spin like a May Queen as we provide a soundtrack to ensure the sunshine comes out. Be it the deep tribal vibes of *Body Language Vol 21* - mixed and compiled by Djuma Soundsystem on Get Physical, the addictive Afrobeat’s of Taxi Sampler 01: Rhythms & Vibes From the Spirit of Young Africa on Python Syndicate or the stunning genre feast that is Benjamin Fröhlich’s debut Amiata on Permanent Vacation, you’ll be dancing all month long.

Bring Noah Souder-Russo’s self-released urban journey, the sublime *Therapy Is Expensive*, to the party and you’ll not regret it.

Tone Arise Recordings and Warner/Chappell Production Music and the smiles will be as warm as the spring days that lie ahead.

If you want May to sparkle from first till last then you need these beauties in your life: the divine delight of Carl Craig’s Detroit Love’s second compilation Detroit Love Vol 2 with its funk-ridden roots, the disco delicious adventure of Seamus Haji Presents Disco Wax.

**In The House Volume 2** on Big Love and the must-cover cover wonder of Undercover Lovers by Psychemagik on Bandcamp. Enjoy.

**Catch Wildblood and Queenie in May at Bitch, Please!** (Tempest Inn 3rd & 31st), *Block* (17th), Eleven Seven (the Eddy 18th) and Alfresco Festival (23rd-26th), 1BTN 101.4FM www.1btn.fm

Enjoy.

**DJ PROFILE: DJ KING SOL**

With the merry month of May upon us, and the glorious prospect of what is definitely going to be a fabulous spring and summer, it’s time to slip into your prancing poolside sliders and head off to the dancefloors! And what better place to start off your shimmering wiggles than at Boutique in Brighton? It’s all rather a treat sipping a cocktail in a purple hued VIP booth underneath the chandeliers upstairs, though it won’t be long before you’re trotting downstairs to shake what your mama gave ya. This month in keeping with the sparkling crown jewel that is the promise of the happy season I, Queen Josephine, have decided to make it a right regal edition of the DJ column as I have a little chat with another member of the DJing royal family. Ladies and gentlemen, please be upstanding for the marvellous DJ King Sol.

Hello there King, how are you? I am fine, thank you!

Where are you DJing these days? You can find me at Boutique on Saturdays and at the Hub on Fridays, both in Brighton.

Any other exciting projects going on at the moment? Not at the moment – I’m far too busy enjoying my DJing.

What music is rocking your world these days? I’m really loving urban vibes and afrobeats tunes!

Most memorable gig and dream gig? Best one ever has to have been the Halloween Festival at Carnevil which was at the Cannon Place Warehouse in Brighton.

Guilty pleasure? These aren’t really ‘guilty’ but they all give me pleasure - music, dancing and DJing!

Describe yourself in two words... Free Spirit.

**CURRENT TOP TUNES**

(1) *HOT CHIP Hungry Child Domino* The boys are back with an anthem destined for legendary status.

(2) *PEGGY GOU Starry Night Gudu Records* An own label launch track that ensures we remain star struck forever.

(3) *CHRISTINE & THE QUEENS Comme Si* (HDijon remix) *Because Music* The queen of pop meets the queen of house - perfection.

(4) *CRAZY P The Witness Walk Don’t Walk Limited* The P do it again and we can’t stop pressing play.

(5) *CINTHIE & stev.a.int.Learn Good For You & Me Beste Modus* House of the kind your turntable was created for.

(6) *BUTCH LE BUCH Depend On You Camp Stick* Another stone-cold classic rework from our favourite disco devotee.

(7) *THE CHEMICAL BROTHERS Got To Keep On* (Midland Remix) *Virgin* Delivering the goods again Midland brings the style to the brotherhood.


(9) *DANIEL STEINBERG Facing The Truth Arms & Legs* Infectious vocal cut that ensures life sounds better with Daniel.

(10) *STRAWBERRY MANSION (IF You) Feel Like Dancing Drop Records Ltd* Bouncing bass equals pure dancefloor joy as the boys get down with us.

**WILDBLOOD & QUEENIE’S MAY 12”**

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Instagram: djkingsol
M E M B E R S O N L Y

D R E A M  M A P S

the UK. In his live performances, described as "fantastic," he has played at festivals around the world and at the V&A Museum and Eden Project in contemporary chemistry' (The Guardian, UK) from his groundbreaking critically acclaimed albums, including 2016's outstanding group of musicians with interactive visual projections come together? Resound share their music, but what happens when you bring such radically different voices together? Marcia D'Arc sings comedy parodies of popular songs, sung live at her furry, pink stage piano. Includes naughtily nuanced numbers and titillating titbits from this lewd yet lovable character.

B R I G H T O N F R I E N D S C U R R I E

Vicky Gould

Epicene, the gender-blending celebration of iconic women in music, will have emotional journey down a musical memory lane; professional party man and drag king Vicky Gould plays songs about prostitutes, cocaine, DFS and Paypal, to get cash in hand for his mounting child support payments.

D R E A M  M A P S L I V E

Depot, Lewes (Thu 9): Kino-Teatr, St Leonards-on-Sea (Fri 10), Ropetackle, Shoreham (Fri 17).

PHILIP CLEMO'S D R E A M  M A P S

LIVE. Clemo builds complex sound worlds, exploring form, improvisation, orchestration, ambience and electronics, and has released six critically acclaimed albums, including 2016's Dream Maps. In his visual work he explores perception, abstraction, and where the boundaries of familiarity begin to break down. His work has been shown at film festivals around the world and at the V&A Museum and Eden Project in the UK. In his live performances, described as 'a powerful piece of contemporary chemistry' (The Guardian, UK), Clemo performs with an outstanding group of musicians with interactive visual projections come from his ground-breaking Breath Project.

T H E C R O W N

Grafton Street, Brighton

SONGS OF S M U T A N D S P A R K L E

( Mon 6–Sat 11). Marcia D'Arc sings comedy parodies of popular songs, sung live at her furry, pink stage piano. Includes naughtily nuanced numbers and titillating titbits from this lewd yet lovable character.


( Wed 22–Mon 27). A romp of bizarre happenings that explores the completely fabricated lives of the colourful and controversial. A series of absurdist and satirical monologues with music and 'interpretative dance'.


( May 30 & 31, Jun 1). After successfully bribing the Edinburgh Festival 2018 for a four star review, the self-help group 'Jane McDonald Anonouyous' cruises into Brighton Fringe for three nights. Come to a meeting, sign up to the 'cruisettes' and celebrate your obsession with everything that is the 'Wakefield One.' 'I mean, I've been cruising many, many times but this is the biggest thing I've ever seen' Jane McDonald. 'There's so much to commend about this debut... it will be exciting to see what McLachlan will offer as he grows in confidence as a performer' The Wee Review.

T H E  L O L W O R D

Ditchling Road, Brighton

Like comedy? Like queer folk? Then you'll love this mixed bill of up and coming sketch and stand-up stars. As seen on BBC Three and at Bestival and London Pride. 'Smart, insightful, hilarious, completely relatable' Diva.

H E L P !  I T H I N K  I M I G H T B E F A B U L O U S

Having racked up four Fringe awards around the world, Alfie Ordinary returns with his critically-acclaimed solo show. A coming of age story in drag, set in a queer utopia with a soundtrack of the Village People, Whitney Houston and the Sugababes, this feel good show will leave you feeling fabulous.

A superb display of intellectual flamboyancy' The Adelaidian: 'A cleverly handled commentary on society's obsession with masculinity' Vada Magazine.

B R I G H T O N  B R A T G R A P E A N G E T

(Wed 29). Kings, queens, club kids, and exhibitionists share the stage for a night of talent, drag, wigs styled for the gods, and fierce entertainment. Expect famous and infamous judges, special guests, prizes, and performers from Brighton's exploding scene.

H O T  G A Y  T I M E  M A C H I N E

(May 29–Jun 1). Join multi-award-winning duo Zak Ghazi-Torbati and Toby Marlow on a time-travelling adventure through their fabulous lives as fabulous gay men. Full of outrageous dances and hilarious original musical numbers' (The Stage), this show covers all the most important moments of a gay man's life, from coming out to your mum to navigating the naked politics of the school locker room.

B R I G H T O N  U N I T A R I A N  C H U R C H

New Road, Brighton

PRIDE TO YOUTH: D R A G  I T  O U T

(Fri 3). A fun, fabulous and flamboyant cabaret-style drag event in the heart of Brighton to celebrate the young LGBT+ community. Enjoy lipsyncs, drag races and much, much more. Expect the unexpected from this interactive and all-inclusive event.

C A R O L I N E  O F  B R U N S W I C K

Ditchling Road, Brighton

THE L O L W O R D

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C H E E K P U B L I S H E R S

THE CROWN

PRIDE TO YOUTH: D R A G  I T  O U T

(Brighton's exploding scene.

C A R O L I N E  O F  B R U N S W I C K

Ditchling Road, Brighton

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M A G W I T C H

( Mon 3–Thur 21). A solo show about Charles Dickens' villain from Great Expectations.


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BLEACH Exeter Street, Brighton  

efore a successful 2018 run of ‘Professional Breakup Artist’. Unites all our queer hearts together in a fun, thought-provoking, laugh-until-your-stomach-hurts evening’ Diva.

KOMEDIA  
Gardner Street, Brighton  

1. BENT DOUBLE (Sun 5). A gay-friendly, irreverent night of fun and frolics hosted by Zoë Lyons (Mock The Week and Michael McIntyre’s Comedy Roadshow). Headliner Raymond & Mr Timpkins Revue with Steph Banley and Graine Maguire.

JUNKYARD DOGS: THE DOGHOUSE  
Brighthelm Centre, North Road  

1. BLEACH (Fri 3 & Sat 4). Tyler Everett sells his body to hungry punters on a nightly basis. But on a regular working night turning tricks, things are about to take a sinister turn, leaving Tyler questioning whether living in London is really worth the price of rent. A darkly humorous, soul-jolting one-man show about sex, violence and city living.

ONCA  
St George’s Place, Brighton  

1. I Know What You Are (Wed 15–Sat 18). French counter tenor Adrien Mastrosimone sings the songs of Edith Piaf and tells her life story. He shares with us how it relates to his life when he was growing up as a gay man in the south of France.  

25/THE DECRIMINALISATION MONOLOGUES (Wed 15–Sat 18). The evening consists of two short plays. In The Special Friend, Mark moves from 1980s London to rural Ireland for love but, when tragedy strikes, finds he basically has no rights. I Know What You Are has Moira finding her career threatened by blackmail. Does she just submit to it? Or fight back? Funny, sad, angry and inspiring, these stories chart the struggles and challenges for gay & lesbian people in Ireland at a time when to be gay was to be a criminal. Acting Out were winners of the National GALA Award for Irish Arts & Literature 2017.

THE OLD COURTROOM  
Church Street, Brighton  

1. THE MILKMAN’S ON HIS WAY (Sat 4 & Sun 5). Growing up gay, as a teenager, just when everyone else is becoming involved with the opposite sex, you’re alone in having to hide your feelings. It’s impossible to talk to anyone. It’s not something you want to blurt out to your parents, your teachers or the boy you fancy. The only salvation is to find people like yourself. And that’s a big step. Adaptation of David Rees’ coming-out novel.

RIALTO THEATRE  
11 Dyke Road, Brighton  

1. DIETRICH: NATURAL DUTY (Fri 3–Mon 6). An intoxicating one-(wo)man show. It is 1942. On the battlefields of North Africa in a gold, sequin gown, Marlene Dietrich takes to the stage to fight the war her way with an irresistible mix of songs, sex and sympathy. This spectacular mixture of theatre, cabaret and drag takes us through the Weimar Republic, the Golden Age of Hollywood, the Rise of Hitler - a world on the edge of collapse - and a long journey back to Berlin where it all began. ‘A faultless performance’ Gscene; ‘An absolute tour de force, Peter Groom’s take on legendary tectonic beauty Marlene Dietrich is literally breathtaking’ The Gay UK.  

2. THE GEMINUS (Wed 8, Tue 21–Thur 23). A reimagining of Joseph Conrad’s The Secret Sharer, which brings out its gay subtext and its themes of love, trust, isolation and sexuality in an unsettling, yet poignant romance. This intense story of adventure and self-discovery on the high seas sees George Hotson falling in love with an ambiguous stranger who takes control of his ship and his life.

3. PIER AND QUEERS (Sat 4–Mon 6 & Sat 11). Over 200 years of history from a LGBT+ perspective, including Regency Dandies, 1950s lesbian and gay life and political activism. We encounter prominent historical figures as well as extraordinary unsung heroes: a pioneering doctor who passed as a man decades before women were allowed to practice medicine, a 19th century lesbian diarist, an Edwardian ‘drag king’, and an early ‘same-sex’ marriage. Meet Regency Square.

SWEET WERKS  
Middle Street, Brighton  

1. A UNIFYING THEORY OF GAY (Mon 6–Thu 9). For decades, science has been fascinated by the LGBT+ community. What makes gay people gay? How does sexuality
ARTS
BY MICHAEL HOOTMAN

affect one’s behaviour, appearance, or ability to raise children? Join scientist Cerys Bradley, a part-time comedian and full-time bisexual, as they look at the science conducted on the LGBT+ community, and try to answer a much more important question; why is science so obsessed with us?

1. GROOMED (Wed 22 & Thu 23).
   The show weaves three compelling narratives: a betrayed schoolboy, a Japanese soldier and the inventor of the saxophone, into a revealing and profoundly human statement. This is startling and powerful theatre, sometimes shocking but not for one moment depressing. Based on performed by Patrick Sandford’s real life experience it sees the author use his craft as a writer to share his childhood experience of being groomed.

ST GEORGE’S CHURCH
St George’s Road, Brighton

1. OPENING UP WITH THE BRIGHTON GAY MEN’S CHORUS (Fri 3 & Sat 4). The Brighton Gay Men’s Chorus return to the Brighton Fringe festival with their customary wry look at life. This year, they look at what happens when a couple need to put their relationship back together to continue on true love’s journey. To help, the Chorus need to sing some love songs and the odd disco classic! Expect songs by Donna Summer, Neil Sedaka, Diana Ross and the Righteous Brothers to name a few.

THE WARREN
Victoria Gardens, Brighton

1. IRIS PRIZE (Thur 2). There are five programmes of short films on offer featuring award-winners from the annual Iris Prize LGBT+ Film Festival, alongside moving depictions of queer intimacy, explorations of gender, and a timely selection of LGBT+ stories for young people. These diverse short films from 12 countries offer an honest window into modern queer life, representing the very best of current LGBT+ filmmaking.

CLASSICAL NOTES
BY NICK BOSTON

REVIEWS

1. Johannes Pramsholmer & Roldán Bernabé, Sonatas For Two Violins, Audax ADX137114. On his latest release, violinist Johannes Pramsholmer is joined by fellow violinist from his Ensemble Diderot, Roldán Bernabé for a fascinating collection of French 18th century sonatas for two violins. Louis-Gabriel Guillemain’s (1705-1770) bright Sonata Op. 4 No. 2 which opens the disc immediately sets the tone here, with a sweetness of tone beautifully matched between the two players, and the frequent double-stoppings in both parts make this often sound like at least three of four violins are at play. The gentle Largo is given a delightfully graceful touch, and the dancing Allegro to finish has stylish poise.

Jean-Marie Leclair’s (1697-1764) Sonata Op. 12 No. 6 has beautiful colours in the delicate ornamentations, and Pramsholmer & Bernabé excel particularly in the quirky fugal writing of its second movement. But the highlight of the disc has to be a sequence of pieces by Jean-Pierre Guignon (1702-1764), which were performed by Guignon and fellow virtuoso Jean-Joseph Mondoville. These are dazzlingly virtuosic sets of variations, based on tunes such as an air by Rameau (Les Sauvages), and the famous Spanish tune used by many composers as the source for variation, Les Folies D’Espagne, or La Folie. Here, the variations build in complexity and difficulty, so that by the end, both violinists are engaged in rapid leaping and fiendish double-stopping.

Étienne Mangean’s (c.1710-c.1756) Sonata Op. 3 No. 6 restores some calm briefly with its stately opening movement, and pulsed Adagio, but the final Chaconne is full of rich stops and rapid runs, bringing this wonderful collection to a highly pleasing conclusion.

1. ARNOLD BAX Private Passions Somm SOMMCD0193. Pianist Mark Bebbington has recorded a disc of works by Arnold Bax (1883-1953), along with a premiere recording of Harriet Cohen’s (1895-1967) Russian Impressions. The disc opens with Bax’s Sonata in E flat major, which was never performed publicly in Bax’s lifetime. He wrote it in 1921, but the densely textured work went on to form his First Symphony, so the piano version was laid to one side. It opens explosively with weighty, dramatic exclamations, although it subsides into relative calm, before slowly building back up in intensity. Bebbington manages the thick textures and chromatic colours with great clarity, and paces the ebb and flow of the dynamic shifts with great control, and the watery ripples of the opening of the slow movement are captivating. Again, the music builds to a phenomenal climax, before a beautifully soft and tender conclusion. The weighty chordal opening to the finale gives way to a sprightly chromatic theme, and

CINEMA

1. You can see a live triple bill from the Royal Ballet (Thur 16), including Christopher Wheeldon’s Within the Golden Hour, with music by Vivaldi and Bosco, Crystal Pite’s Flight Pattern, with music by Górecki, and a new work by Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui.

2. Poulenc’s Dialogues des Carmelites (Sat 13) is showing live from the Met Opera, conducted by Yannick Nézet-Séguin, with Isabel Leonard and Karita Mattila. In a range of local cinemas, including: Duke of York’s/Duke’s at the Komedia, Brighton, Cineworld Eastbourne, and the Connaught Cinema, Worthing. Check for times.
Concerts

Brighton Festival
www.brightonfestival.org, 01273 709709

All Saints Church
Hove, allsaints-hove.org
1. Two great concerts from young musicians: the BRIGHTON YOUTH ORCHESTRA (Sun 12) present a Fiesta Of Music From Around The World, including music by John Williams, Sibelius, Berlioz, Brahms and Grace Williams, and the BRIGHTON FESTIVAL YOUTH CHOIR (Fri 17) perform Under The Moon, a programme of eclectic music from classical to jazz, including Dvorák, and Mancini’s Moon River. Early music vocal ensemble STILE ANTICO (Fri 17) join forces with the Syrian oud player, Rihab Azar for Songs Of Longing & Exile, with music by John Dowland and Giles Swayne.

Brighton Dome
1. The BRITISH PARA ORCHESTRA (Mon 6) present an immersive experience of boundary-breaking orchestral experience in The Nature Of Why, with music by Goldfrapp’s Will Gregory.
2. Eye To Eye (Sat 11 & Sun 12), a mother and child story, includes music by Howard Skempton, jazz interludes from trumpeter Byron Wallen, and a 100-voice Chorus of women and children.
3. BRITTEN SINFONIA (Mon 20), conducted by Thomas Adès, performs an all-Beethoven concert, including the first two Symphonies and less well-known Nemasfeier Overture.
4. CHINEKE! ORCHESTRA (Thu 23) perform music by Copland, Ibert, Gershwin and Weill.
5. Lunchtime concerts include the MARMEN QUARTET (Fri 10) playing Haydn and Debussy; baritone MARCUS FARNSWORTH (Wed 15) singing Schubert and Britten;
6. Brahms’ Piano Quartet No 2 from the ZOFFANY ENSEMBLE (Tue 21).

Brighton Fringe
www.brightonfringe.org 01273 917272

The Chapel Royal
North Street, Brighton
1. Three lunchtime concerts: Bach on period instruments (Tue 7); Beethoven from the LUDLAY STRING QUARTET (Tue 14); and GERSHWIN’s Rhapsody In Blue (Wed 15).

St Michael & All Angels Church
Victoria Road, Brighton
1. Violinist BENEDICT CRUFT (Sat 4 & Sun 5) performs Bach’s solo violin music, and is joined by violinist GEORGE ROBERTSON and cellist ANTHONY PLEETH (Fri 17, Fri 24) for two concerts of music by Bach, Schubert and Beethoven.
2. In two piano recitals, SIMON BALLARD (Fri 10) plays Schubert, Ries, Dvořák and Smetana, and STEFAN WARZYCKI (Sat 1 June) plays the Chopin/Godowsky Études for left hand.
3. Violinist ELLIE BLACKSHAW with pianist DAVID ELWIN (Sat 11) plays Beethoven and Frank Bridge; violinist ANDREW ROBERTS and pianist RACHEL FRYER (Sat 18) perform Suk, Rautavaara, Beethoven and Debussy.

Bach, Schubert & Beethoven in Brighton
www.brightonfestival.org
1. Pianist JONATHAN POWELL (Sat 25) plays Granados and Szymanowski, and is joined by soprano BETTY MAKHARINSKY (Mon 27) to perform songs from Russia, Poland and France.
2. New chamber choir, BRIGHTON16, directed by Matthew Jelf (Fri 31 May, Sat 1 June), performs Frank Martin’s Mass For Double Choir, and Howell’s Requiem.

St Paul’s Church
West Street, Brighton
1. MOOT (Music Of Our Time) In three concerts, MOOT continues its celebrations of Leonard Bernstein at 100, with soprano JENNIFER SGROE (Tue 7) performing songs by Bernstein and a UK premiere by Jessica Rudman. Flautist REBECCA GRIFFITHS also performs works by Marta Ptaszynska and Shulamith Ran.

Brighton Unitarian Church
New Road, Brighton
1. Cellist ANNA LITVINENKO and pianist CRAIG WHITE (Tue 14) perform Bernstein, Kaija Saariaho, Shostakovich and another UK premiere, from Marcel Chytrynski.
2. Finally, singer/composer POLINA SHEPHERD (Tue 21) is joined by friends in a tribute to Bernstein, with music by the man himself, as well as Ravel, Stravinsky and Copland.

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**ALL THAT JAZZ**

**BY SIMON ADAMS**

**RALPH ALESSI Imaginary Friends** (ECM). Trumpeter Ralph Alessi’s first ECM quartet album, *Baida* (2013) was a beautiful but tentative affair, his second *Quiver* (2016) more assured. But both felt as if he was slightly in awe of his new record label, perhaps also a tad too reticent in pushing himself forward. This confident third set, however, is a transformation, helped in part by the larger quintet format with which he’s played since 2010. Alessi has known saxophonist Ravi Coltrane since they were students together in California in the late 1980s and they’re a well-matched pair, Alessi’s restraint balanced by the more assertive approach of Coltrane. Pianist Andy Milne is an equal contributor, his often minimal lines an echoing delight. The nine tracks are all of a kind, slow-to medium-paced soundscapes played with quiet confidence. Alessi’s work here is both heartfelt and moving, grand in its sweeping operatic scope. On this, the orchestra’s debut set, the band performed, I found it intensely moving.

**Church Friends’ Meeting House**

**BRIGHTEN UNITARIAN CHURCH**

**PHOENIX BRIGHTON**

Brighton, www.phoenixbrighton.org

As part of the Brighton Fringe: Phoenix Brighton OPEN STUDIOS (May 17–19) is a chance to explore six floors of artists’ studios, meet professional artists and see where their creativity happens. Whether you’re an art lover or simply curious, you’re sure to find something to intrigue and inspire you. With guided tours, special activities for children, and a chance to put your feet up in their new café!

**THE BRIGHTON FRINGE HIGHLIGHTS**

**Herbie’s Jazz Breakfast** (May 5–June 2), Spiegeltent

**Julie Roberts & Michael Hinton: Jazz In The Afternoon** (May 10), Friends’ Meeting House

**Barb Jungr: Bob, Brel & Me** (May 15), Komedia

**Round Midnight: The Magic & Music Of Thelonious Monk** (May 17), Brighton Unitarian Church

**Swingin’ At The Spiegel** (May 18), Spiegeltent

**A Scattering Of Jazz Jewels!** (May 31), Brighton Unitarian Church

**South London Jazz Orchestra Big Swing Face** (June 1), St Nicholas Church

For May I’ve come up with a selection of exhibitions including the many visual experiences throughout Brighton & Hove from the Fringe (www.brightonfringe.org) and the Festival (www.brightonfestival.org) so make a start on what will be a busy cultural month!

**ART MATTERS**

**BY ENZO MARRA**

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**THE SPIRE**

St Mark’s Chapel, www.thespirearts.org

**HARRY CLAYTON WRIGHT: THE FORTNIGHT** (May 5–18), Harry presents a fortnight of durational performances in collaboration with the Spire. Every day a new work, character, act or ritual is created and performed in front of audiences over an eight-hour period. No day the same. The only constant is Harry.

**FABRICA**

Brighton, www.fabrica.org.uk

**SERGE ATTUKWEI CLOTTEY: CURRENT AFFAIRS** (until May 27) is an incredibly beautiful yet politically charged display of works. Ghanaian artist Serge Attukwei Clottey’s large-scale Afrogalloism pieces are meticulously fashioned from discarded 20–25 litre yellow jerry cans. These vessels, imported into Ghana from Europe carrying fuel oil, are often repurposed to carry potable water by people struggling with Ghana’s water shortages. This unhealthy practice was especially true during the era of President Kufuor (giving them the popular local name, ‘Kufuor gallon’). Attukwei Clottey’s use of these plastic cans in his art touches on global issues of plastic waste and access to basic services, but also promotes his greater philosophy of exploring personal and political narratives rooted in histories of colonialism, trade and migration. Taking over Fabrica’s spacious unconverted Regency chapel, the exhibition also highlights Attukwei Clottey’s twin roles as artist and community activist, and presents his film and performance work.
You Will Be Safe Here (Bloomsbury) by Damian Barr. This second novel from Damian Barr is set in South Africa in the second Boer War, where more civilians died in British camps than did soldiers on the battlefields, and follows the story of young mother Sarah, who after having her home burnt to the ground by British soldiers, is taken by force to Bloemfontein concentration camp where, as the British promise, ‘they will be safe’. Barr gives insight into concentration camps - the train journey, disease outbreaks and random wretched violence - but here we are in a different war, a different time and it’s the British who run and control these camps and destroy these lives. Barr has an astonishing ability to link a profound moment with the commonplace, his prose can be almost choking on occasion, the way it notes deeply uncomfortable horrific happenings with pure observations of the everyday. The contracts of cruelty and kindness is played out relentlessly. The second half switches to modern day South Africa and the story of gay white South African boy, Willem Brandt, only 16 and sent to a camp to ‘straighten and sort him out’; a paramilitary camp, run by a company with the aim of making money from the destruction of difference. In echoes of Barr’s first book, and his own experiences, its post-industrial setting floods the book with colours and senses which root it in the present day. Both narratives combine and weave together to show how early European and particularly British cruelty, camps and ideologies continue in South Africa today in these camps, still open and running and causing the deaths of young men in their escalating brutality. Barr is an author to reckon with and these twin stories combine into a novel of brilliant conviction.

The Little Book of Queer Icons (Summersdale) by Samuel Alexander. Eponymous and rather sweet, this lovely pocket-sized book reminds us of the inspiring true stories behind groundbreaking risk-takers and game-changing queers. The book gives us a portrait, their ‘superpowers’ and some of the fascinating stories behind these inspiring 38 queer icons, each micro chapter has quotes capturing their essential values and drive, and also lists their achievements. You can flick it open, learn a few new things, feel part of something bigger and feel the energy in the LGBT+ movement. Whether they’re activists, sports people, scientists or superstars, every one of these people has been a trailblazer in their field, and this book aims to highlight their achievements and have them celebrated the world over. Bold and beautiful aims. You’ll be empowered and inspired by their extraordinary life stories, their awesome achievements and their wonder-words of wisdom with this pocketbook of remarkable people, and I was also introduced to a few new, at least to me, queer superheroes.

Parables (Alnpete Press) by Sapphira Olson. From an author whose apparent life history is as almost as extraordinary as the work she produces, this is a deceptively simple collection of stories from taking us into a series of places instantly familiar and yet utterly strange. Her own story may be the first, these other parables often posed as conversation are intriguing and thought-provoking stories, of the interaction between the mundane and the divine. They are of faith, about faith, with a understanding and respect for queer intersectional identities. They pose and hint at answers or accommodations with some contradictory ideas. Allegories that link future and past with imagination reaching out beyond the horizon, intended to help illuminate the meaning of one’s life to the reader. It’s a wonderful crossover of sci-fi, philosophy, magical realism and insight written with a warmth and humour that reminded me of Jonathan Bach’s work. Charming and profound, this is a perfect book for a Sunday afternoon when the mind needs to wander and a beguiling narrative aches to be found.

Love’s Portrait (Bold Strokes Books) by Anna Lerner. This is a charming lesbian romance novel, which follows art curator Molly Goode’s deepening attraction to Georgina Wright, the museum’s aloof benefactor. They work together on identifying the provenance of a 19th-century portrait of a female social activist, but passions soon flare as the women uncover the heartbreaking story of doomed lesbian love behind the watercolour painter and her muse. As their own passion intervenes and love blossoms, they face uncomfortable truths and a curious twist or two, and we learn if history will repeat itself or if Molly and Georgina will find a way for their love to triumph in spite of facing some challenges about their own selves, privilege and expectations of love. Perfect rainy Sunday afternoon reading material.

The Death of Baseball (Cloud Lodge Books) by Orlando Ortega-Medina. This book, rather depressing in narrative but stunning in characters and prose, links us into the intertwined narratives and lives of ‘Clyde’ Koba, who struggles to escape the ghost of his brother and his alcoholic father. ‘Clyde’ Koba stumbles through his first love and finds strength in the belief that he is the reincarnation of Monroe and Raphael Dweck, born on Yom Kippur, teen genius, artist par-excellence, sex addict and kleptomaniac, who believes that he has a special purpose in God’s plan. But he can’t shake his doubts, urges, or the trail of trouble and ruin that follow in his wake. He finds himself scouring Israel’s swirling sands and purple skies in search of the path of righteousness, and finds true love, filmmaking, and James Dean. Then the story jumps to a decade later, Raphael and ‘Marilyn’ find each other wandering the littered, plastic-bright streets of Hollywood and set out to make a documentary about the transmigration of souls. Their role playing goes too far, they find themselves past the point of no return in their quest to prove who and what they are to their families, God, the world, and themselves. Ortega-Medina brings a convincing passionate story of lives and dependencies, switching style and focus throughout to keep a sense of pace and engagement till the last page.
**THE WHITE REINDEER** (Eureka blu-ray). This is a beautifully filmed fantasy made in Finland during the early 1950s. A newlywed woman goes to a local shaman to get some help with her lovelife, but instead gets turned into a white reindeer vampire. Soon afterwards a number of young men are found dead in Evil Valley with reindeer tracks leading away from the corpse. Although it has much in common with the werewolf film it does suffer from the fact that a reindeer, even with creepy music playing, tends to look cute rather than terrifying. Still, it’s a very atmospheric production and if you set your expectations for ‘fairy tale’ rather than the ‘horror’ it’s occasionally billed as, it’s gripping and Mirjam Kuosmanen is great as the woman trying to come to terms with her dark side.

**T-shirts, £35** with all profits to the Brighton Rainbow Fund, (Thread Menswear, 9 Dukes Ln, Brighton, or www.Farfield.uk)

**Gay Icon Cards, £2.75** each (Prowler, 112-113 St James’s St, Brighton, 01273 603813)

**Beeswax Architectural Candle, £32** (Workshop 13a Prince Albert St, Brighton, 01273 731340)

**Snake Corkscrew, £18.50** (England At Home, 22b Ship St, Brighton, 01273 205544)

**Cork Fish Trivet, £12.95** (Inhouse Space, 28 Gloucester Rd, Brighton, 01273 682845)
From the moment we’re born, Western humanity is force-fed the need for an ideal relationship. Boy babies are referred to by their extended families as potential heartbreakers. Two-year-old girls are paired off with potential boyfriends by the childminder. It’s even said that Princess Diana was selected as a suitor for a then teenage Prince Charles when she was three. And if you’re a little weirded out by that, don’t be. Chances are you had been paired off for marriage at least once, twice, three times a gayby before your fifth birthday.

Of course it doesn’t end there. The social orchestration of our need to be partnered is just beginning and is about to gather speed. Teenage years can be a miserable quest in the search for a love that will tear us apart throughout years eight, nine and 10 but will barely be a memory by the time we reach our 16th birthday. As a secret homo in my own adolescent 1980s, I desperately threw myself at willing short-lived straight romances not only as a cover, but because to not have a girl or boyfriend was an alien concept. A social abnormality, and I already had one of those which was more than enough to contend with.

Perhaps it’s due to collective boredom but we all get on the ‘but who will I marry?’ bus. Only this one is unlike all other busses. It doesn’t have any stops. Getting married and having children, getting divorced and then getting married again and possibly again and again is a cycle into which we’re funnelled through hundreds of years of expected behavioural normality. The Westernised are quick to critique the idea of an arranged marriage and yet we spend our lives being set up and arranged by our families and then in-turn our friends when our families have given up hope or interest. Even we, the great gays in the sky with all the LGB+ social and political progress, have bought into this cycle of a heteronormative and obsessive partnered pattern of life. It may not be what we want

but it’s as others expect and so we had better get to it so as not to disappoint.

Five, ten, 20 years in, those who are seemingly happily married jump ship but not to have some time out alone. Immediately they launch into another long termer for without another I am none. Affairs emerge and the new is exchanged for the tedious as it’s not considered a norm to meet new people in one’s life and to be consumed with any depth of feeling for them. That would be weird right? And so we f**k them as the intense emotions are confused with a quizzical ‘perhaps this is the love of my life?’ and all previous histories are abandoned for a total consumption of the new adventures. The template, now cut husband number two, is discarded some years later as the pattern repeats. I don’t absolve the protagonists in such a narrative of any responsibility, but rather understand their complete lack of emotional intelligence having been force-fed ‘it takes two baby’ since Daddy’s singular sperm got lucky with the ovulation cycle.

As parents we start the cycle again. Obsession over who our offspring or siblings’ offspring will bring home. Those of us without children constantly asked about why, will, when you do it too? Do what? Force a human in my care into all of this shit? And the singular meanwhile is the pariah. The loner, the recluso, the socially awkward occasional member of the group who either ‘can’t get’ or ‘can’t keep’ and whose friendship circle make it their mission to pair them off as only then is it the end and only at the end can we stop and IS ANYBODY ELSE EXHAUSTED?

In a life only concerned with finding and permanently fixing to the other, when are we taking the time to foster and nurture a relationship with ourselves? The one individual we’re guaranteed to lay on the pillow with every night of our lives is the self. It’s of significantly greater importance that we’re content with that individual before we offer our bed to another, however fleeting the visit.

I’m endlessly irritated by the American Indian proverb: never judge a man until you have walked a mile in his shoes. In reality, we should worry less about the soles under another’s foot when we’ve spent the last 20 years flapping around in a size 11 when in reality, we’re a probably a 10 if not actually a nine. Only when your shoes fit should you begin to venture outside and whatever you do try not to speak until you’re sure you won’t inflict your damage onto another. If you can’t love yourself, how the hell you going to love somebody else - can I get an Amen up in here?

And there we get to the rub. To care about oneself, to put me first to only do what it is the singular individual wants to do, is considered selfish and to be selfish considered an abnormality. Whilst I appreciate there’s a good selfish and another kind altogether, to be a little selfish in order to care about our own well-being, and relationship to ourselves, is underrated. Being alone and taking time out to deliberately spend time with ourselves is an idea that’s ironically undermined from the moment the umbilical cord is cut. We’re instantly free only to be immediately shackled to the ideals set by another to whom we can’t yet even speak. We spend our lives force-feeding babies, then children, young people, and in-turn our communities, what it is that we want them to eat, think and believe. What a total f**k up.

And whilst I go and make my husband (who is possibly getting my suitcase out of the loft) a cup of tea, let me assure you that this hasn’t been a political cry for the Thatcherite ideals of Individualism. Individualism itself is a broken response to the idea of anyone behaving outside the parameters of a social norm.

Do what you want to do, but do it kindly. But to only do as others expect? Well if you’re comfortable with that, I think that’s a shame. “The Westernised are quick to critique the idea of an arranged marriage and yet we spend our lives been set up and arranged by our families and then in-turn our friends when our families have given up hope or interest”
I cite the biography of one Dr Kate Godfrey-Faussett on the Pioneer Pathway site, an organisation programme for young people to develop new skills in today’s harsh world. Unlike the La Manif pour tous French youth website I wrote about in June 2013, who welcomed everyone from gays to blacks to Asians but deliberately left out Muslims, the Pioneer Pathway is also about goodness to our beloved young people. Yes, black young people, Asian young people and white young people. As long as they’re not gay that is.

The same old rhetoric applies and through the site Godfrey-Faussett will lead you on a ‘solution-focused’ approach to creating awareness and change. Taking you from stickyness to breakthrough by offering ‘Emotional Intelligence’ and transitional analysis. Okay, I’m over the buzzwords too. Perhaps if I was a parent I might be glad of getting my cross-dressing once-was daughter out of her room and her misery and in with some proper youths.

Godfrey-Faussett believes that the West has a totalitarian endeavour to indoctrinate our children (Yes OUR children) in sexual ideologies. Thus far she’s been spreading the old rhetoric (Thatcherism word insert) homosexuals to young people. Don’t know about you, but I fought long and hard for this nonsense not to be reincorporated back into the classroom. Back then it was just the Christian right. Now it’s just the religious right and the ‘I believe I’m right’. Even if she thinks she is only respecting Muslim laws. No idea where the other Muslim antagonists might be. Are there any? Hands up please.

I suspect it’s because Godfrey-Faussett is a white convert that makes her this angry. That she’s somehow giving voice to women who have none. Perhaps we need the privilege of a white face to represent the UK Muslim community? Personally, I much prefer Khakan Qureshi, the LGBTI activist, who is not only trying to protect the voice of a queer community, but is having to relay again and again that not all Muslims and Asians and everyone who isn’t white, are terrorists. A salvo too easily utilised by the racist right.

Godfrey-Faussett is, let’s face it, a straight woman in a hijab. A symbolism as an insult to entire race. Being a ‘Dr’ doesn’t qualify her either. (I bought mine online for 150 bucks). She represents yet another strain in the screwed up history of the British here and now, where the white right wingers piggyback any cause they can and change its language. (Did we once call it cultural imperialism? Post colonial reappropriation?) Just like the white people who don’t live anywhere near Israel, are not Jewish but rail as Neo-Zionist at any given moment - far, far away from any frontline. Fudging the new grey areas between Zionism (hostility towards Palestinians) and anti-semitism (hostility towards Jews) and dangerously calling both the same.

I’m bored with anyone white or otherwise getting away with this. Why not we now see women from these communities make the statements on behalf of these communities? Not privileged women from thousands of miles away. And please don’t pull the fact that the diasporic women of these communities are too repressed. This is supposed to be England - if you need to give them voice fight it collectively from within. As we should have done with Brexit. This is/was supposed to be a place where all women are protected regardless of race or creed. That is what we’ve been fighting for, so why not stop denying women of colour or culture that? Or perhaps it falls within the race for Brexitean white-supremacy and the new absence of the European Bill of Human Rights which has voided all this (together with itself, via the ‘popular’ vote.) Because of this, it seems that no woman will be free in a Future Britain, and nobody is fighting for her now, remember that.

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"Godfrey-Faussett calls LGBTI rights taught in school ‘a social engineering programme to corrupt our children’... I fought long and hard for this nonsense not to be reincorporated back into the classroom. Back then it was just the Christian right. Now it’s just the religious right and the ‘I believe I’m right’"
That I'm really happy.

I found someone who isn't out to beat them up or kill them, and for each other, they were the unspoken rules!

But then one day I noticed the new bartender and something inside me clicked. Falling in love has nothing to do with sexuality or gender, when something is right, it's right. I'm pleased to say that just about as I got older, I really wanted to share my life with someone, but found the gay scene so tricky. I, like most of the other men in the Bulldog pub, cruised: we weren't there to chat and to get to know each other, they were the unspoken rules!

Another biker and I survived in a single room, shared house with two other blokes and an incontinent cat. For years after that I was happy being single, playing the field was what I wanted.

As I got older, I really wanted to share my life with someone, but found the gay scene so tricky. I, like most of the other men in the Bulldog pub, cruised: we weren't there to chat and to get to know each other, they were the unspoken rules!

But then one day I noticed the new bartender and something inside me clicked. Falling in love has nothing to do with sexuality or gender, when something is right, it's right. I'm pleased to say that just about all of the family members of my generation and beyond have also found someone who isn't out to beat them up or kill them, and for that I'm really happy.

Top tip: if you want to test any relationship, buy a camper van and travel Europe. If you can survive that, you have a partner for life.

It's important for our friends to believe that we're unreservedly frank with them, and essential to friendship that we're not.
and before I know it, I'm home with a few things I've clung on to for at least five years at decluttering so not buying anything ever is now the only way left. Chipping away at what I have by using, wearing, reading or eating is all I can do in the never ending quest to achieve the minimalist surroundings I know I really belong in. The trouble is that having always been a bit poor and very frugal, charity shops are a kind of beacon that enable me to shop for things I like and not spend much money. That's completely different to being materialistic, it's just more like being really helpful and I also get almost what I want.

But I do fall into the trap of thinking the too tight item of clothing is really going to fit me after the first 'I only need to lose a couple of pounds' there never seemed quite the right time to try anything on again.

Something has to change, and it's clearly not going to be my body shape or size. Then there's always the fashions, the sparkly boob tube heyday may have gone forever for all I know.

What I haven't taken into account of though is that for some months I've actually been volunteering for a charity. What started off as being something hopefully useful for a good cause is now causing me some anxiety. After my shift has finished I just can't help but have a little perusal over what's been donated and before I know it, I'm home with a few more books to go on shelves that simply don't have the room. My rule of one in one out has fallen by the wayside and there are furtive little stacks in corners. Friends are sent home with not one but 10 recommendations, and encouraged to take their time before bringing them back, but this cunning ruse doesn't last. The dutiful and thoughtful friends come back with them. Though I should be glad really, many of my best books have disappeared along with the borrowers.

Luckily my squirrelling tendencies have finally been curbed when it comes to clothes, there really isn’t any room and even I draw the line at having (more) piles of clothes everywhere. What never ceases to amaze me though is what people think it’s acceptable to donate. Bag emptying duty is not for the faint hearted. Much of it looks (and smells) like the bottom of a laundry basket, those things that aren’t yet deserving of a wash and another wear, and after sixth months in the depths of the pile aren’t missed in the wardrobe. Kind though the donations may be intended, the ripped, stained and broken are no use to anyone and only end up in recycling.

One person’s junk just becomes another one’s displeasure. I have yelped at unearthing big grey knickers. It wasn’t the bigness that was the problem, just that it made the greyness and general wear and tear so much more obvious. I wasn’t convinced they’d been washed but didn’t check to make sure – the outside was telling enough, but they were neatly folded at least.

Some people obviously think that having a clear out for a charity is just saving themselves a trip to the dump, or possibly they donated the wrong bag and it really was all the laundry. Quick tip for those unable to decide what is good to get rid of is if whether anyone would even wear it let alone pay money for it. However, I have in the past had a silver lining rather than a stained one – I once bought a pair of jeans from a boot sale I loved and was able to overlook the balls of tissues in the pockets as there was a fiver tucked in there as well!

On the quest to find bargains don’t though go thinking you’ll find something to take to the Antiques-with-hot-Fiona Roadshow or sell on. Most charities have expert eyes on anything really worth something or collectable and it’s put straight on eBay, as it should be. The one thing you can get cheaper than ever now are of course CDs which I still buy, though have been noticing the little piles slowly growing with some dismay.

I suppose if I were really disciplined, I would digitise all the music and maybe I should get rid of the books and get a Kindle – I find myself look protectively at my 1970s Penguin boxset of Adventures in Moominland - well, I could keep special items of course. Then I’d have lots of space with nothing on the floor, or the shelves, or to actually see.

Perhaps my problem is not the having of ‘stuff’, just the keeping of it all. I would really be sad to lose the books and music, I honestly don’t know if or when I want to revisit them, and if I do I want it to be in their original form. I just need more shelves. And boxes. And ingenious little units that can spin and tuck away. Then I wouldn’t have to get rid of anything.

I think my new rule will also be to actually take something with me when I go to my volunteering, and not bring anything back. As the saying almost goes, charity shops begin at home.

“Some people obviously think that having a good clear out for a charity is just saving themselves a trip to the dump, or possibly they donated the wrong bag and it really was all the laundry”
I never wanted to get married. Just as well considering I grew up in a time where people like me didn’t have that privilege, or for that matter, any rights at all. I often thought I would just have to find a man and settle down one day, but he would have to be very understanding, for I could never love him physically, although I would try and at least bare him children. Failing that I’d become a nun. Sounds like something from the past or the frightening visions of a dystopian novel, but I’m only talking 30 odd years ago in London. There are quite a few people in the world who would rather like a return to those bad old days.

Not all gay love runs along heteronormative lines. Here in Brighton, I’m surrounded by homosexual men who live in blissful coupledom, yet enjoy the freedom of sexual roaming provided they keep it discrete. Traditionally, men are said to be better at decompartmentalising emotional stuff from physical wants and needs. That said, I recently tried to counsel a man whose boyfriend has been ‘popping up’ on Grindr behind his back. There are no secrets in this city-come-village.

I don’t know about young lesbian relationships. They are almost invisible. There are literally no young lesbian couples in my social circle, and very few in the bars and pubs I frequent. Either these young women are not going out on the scene, or they are running a mile when they see me coming! I’ve mentioned Grindr for homosexuals, but the female equivalent has hardly made a dent in our daily cultural language... I think it might be called Scissr? We’re amazing, we must all hook up telepathically, or in Robert Dyas.

I met my love 27 years ago in a Hammersmith nightclub. I wasn’t looking for love, just a good time. I was 24, she was 25. We danced, she bought me a drink (good move), we got talking... and now we’re in our 50s. We’ve shared life’s ups and downs and face the future hand in hand. Some people will doubtless be thinking “pass the sick-bag”, but I think a lot of our problems as gay people stem from a fear of vulnerability. Gay people are often just too damn scared to expose ourselves to more hurt and rejection, instead they embrace trivial and ephemeral encounters.

“Gay people are often just too damn scared to expose ourselves to more hurt and rejection, instead they embrace trivial and ephemeral encounters”

Here in Brighton, nobody blinks an eye at any relationship. I recently bumped into an old friend who asked after another long-term lesbian couple we both know. “Oh,” I said “Joan is now with a former straight woman with kids, and Jane is now Jeremy, living in a ménage a trois with a transvestite drug dealer and a Bulgarian prostitute in Eastbourne”. My friend looked mortified and cried, “Eastbourne?!”
I HAVE A PHOBIA

There’s more to these eight legged freaks than meets the eye. Through the lens of a sufferer, Ray A-j welcomes you to the terrifying world of arachnophobia, and the very real fear of spiders.

Long. Dark. Hairy. Eight legs come crawling towards you, like a swamp creature emerging from the black depths of an oily lagoon. Hurting closer and closer, with all the force of a bullet, it sprints towards you - its next victim. Buried beneath a thick husk of piercing eyes, the legs lunge at you, each hair on end, quivering in excitement at the thought of grasping its prey. You’ve nowhere to go, nowhere to run, nowhere to turn. The creature, wild with fury and dagger like pincers that tease danger as they burst out of its face, has backed you into a corner. There’s no escape now.

What will you do? How will you free yourself from this monster’s grip?

With one swift move you lift your leg and - squeulch. The spider’s dead.

Okay, so we’ve all seen a spider right? They’re hairy, tiny annoying things that insist on crawling all over your house and settling in rent free as an extra lodger. As spooky looking as they are, they’re not a problem. It’s easy enough just to pick one up, take it on a ride to the window, and throw the little thing out into nature, never to be seen again. At least, for us non-sufferers. But for people with arachnophobia, living with a spider in your house is a very different story.

“I have a fear of spiders. If I see one, I just run out of the room,” a sufferer that was brave enough to share their story with me confessed. “The bigger it is, the more I shake or have a panic attack with images of those hell creatures flashing in my head. And, if I find a spider in my room, I won’t sleep there for a few days or more. One time this big spider was on my Harry Potter book, so then to me it was basically cursed. I would have thrown it out right there and then because a spider had been near it.”

“I’ve had it since I was about five. I woke up on a sofa in my family’s hut in Maine and there was a daddy long-legs on my blanket, looking at me in the moonlight. It sent me screaming. It was 3am. We have to visit the hut every summer when we’re in the US, and last time the motorboat we use was broken in the night so we had to go out in the dark and sort it out. My brother was actually laughing at me while we were trying to move it, because THERE WERE FIVE COLOURFUL SPIDERS IN THAT BOAT AND THERE WAS NO ESCAPE AND I WAS DYING, TRULY DYING.”

Having such an extreme reaction to a spider, and ultimately developing a fear of those tiny little monsters, is understandable. With eight speedy little legs, razor sharp pincers, an abundance of menacing eyes, and penchant for poisoning their victims while they’re still alive and wriggling, these little arachnids are the perfect predator. When you write their characteristics down on paper, the concoction sounds horrific. And that’s just the regular money spider, let alone the eight legged freaks complete with actually deadly poison that you might find in places like Australia.

As the sufferer I spoke to explained, it’s not just spiders that can send arachnophobes into a fit of panic. Scorpions, ticks, daddy long-legs, even mites, can become problematic. Anything with eight legs is an enemy.

And it’s not just seeing an arachnid that can trigger a victim of the phobia either. Much like other phobias, merely thinking about the eight legged creature can bring on a panic attack or dizziness. As the sufferer themselves said: “If you get a picture of a spider in front of me though, you’re dead.”

For most, entering a room can become an arduous task. What if one is waiting for you, hidden right behind that door? What if one suddenly leaps from the ceiling and into your mouth? Anything old or decrepit is a no no. Lofts or attics are havens for them and the perfect backdrop to hide in. Every room must be checked, every corner, every crevice in case a spider may lurk there. For some, bathrooms are the worst place to go. Showers are filled with panic, in case an eight legged monster flows out of the shower head or crawls up from the plug and find its way onto their skin. Even TV shows, films, or books have to be checked for fear of images of the spindly creatures popping out.

Although some sort of cure is on offer in the way of CBT (cognitive behavioural therapy), this isn’t a viable option for all sufferers. For the sufferer I spoke to, CBT could cause problems of its own: “The treatment for it is first seeing pictures, then being close to or even holding small spiders, then someday maybe even big ones. Some people actually like spiders when they come out of therapy. But I’m not going to ruin my day each week. I’ll be stuck with this until I suddenly am brave.”

Ultimately, this phobia may be more common then some we’ve previously explored, but it doesn’t make it any less powerful. And although it may seem a little odd to be frightened of something so small and ultimately harmless to us, with their pincers and scatty scurrying, I think we can all agree there’s some rationality in finding them a little unnerving. After all, there’s a reason so many horror films feature them.

So the next time you hear a shriek or see someone jump up at the sight of a spider, consider just how terrifying that little spider could actually be. Lend that sufferer a hand. And for goodness sake, don’t laugh at them.

“Showers are filled with panic, in case an eight-legged monster flows out of the shower head or crawls up from the plug and find its way onto their skin”
Interesting topic this month - relationships. A subject I ponder on a lot. I believe that a relationship, whether it be friendship or romantic, between organisations or work colleagues, parent and child or any other of the myriad forms possible, is an entity in itself. The ‘space’ between the parties that is created when a relationship forms has a life of its own. It comes into existence where there was previously nothing. And yet it is ‘nothing’. It has no substance.

In my Christian background, I’ve been taught that this is where ‘God’ lies. In a relationship. It kind of makes sense to me that when two people come together in a romantic relationship, the third ‘being’ that manifests, the relationship itself, is of equal value to the other two parts. The human beings and the third entity form a trinity, which is the basis of Christian teaching. This is one reason I can’t let go of my faith even though the Catholic church has hurt me deeply as a trans person. Because the fundamental tenets and teaching that I’ve received in adulthood make sense to me, and this is just one example.

If then, two people in a romantic relationship fail to understand that the third party, that which lies between them, is of equal value and worthy of respect and nurture, then the relationship is likely to fail. Perhaps not immediately, but in the longer term, this is certainly true. Successful long-term relationships are built on a foundation of commitment to continue to love in spite of faults and failings once passion has died, and where investment in the relationship is equal and equally respectful. In my life I have a number of friends and relatives living in what I would call successful relationships. But they’re few in number. Statistically we’re all more likely to suffer with repeated relationship failure, because modelling a good relationship is hard work, and most of us have unfortunately not seen or experienced a sound or committed model. We just don’t know how.

My therapist has pointed out to me on numerous occasions that the stuff of relationships transcends gender or sexuality. And he’s right. The problems and baggage each of us bring into our romantic relationships aren’t gendered, they just are. So a successful queer relationship will look similar to a successful straight one and when there are issues, they’ll be the same. Mostly these are to do with power, and the struggle to hold onto oneself in the face of intimacy with another. For a relationship to work, neither party can afford to lose their sense of self, and yet a delicate balance must be struck, where power is shared out equally so that the relationship itself is balanced. In this scenario each person can grow in potential, until they’re the best person they can be. If we want it to, a relationship can be edifying. It can bring us to our knees, to a deep understanding of our brokenness, since we’re all broken, and at the same time to a bottomless place of joy, knowing that another person can love us despite all of our transgressions.

Unless each party is willing to do the work needed to look at themselves rather than their partner for solutions to any problems experienced, there’s no way forward for a relationship on the rocks. My father is the person who has taught me most about relationships, and marriage in particular. It matters not that his is heteronormative and mine isn’t. What he taught me is that you can’t change another person. Ever. Each of us can only change ourselves, and even that’s incredibly hard work, requiring both humility and willingness, good psychotherapy, and in my case, a lot of time spent in prayer and meditation. We need to be humble enough to listen to our partner’s experience of being our partner, the impact on them of our words and actions, and be prepared to examine ourselves with microscopic honesty in order to find and weed out any behaviours that sabotage the relationship. Such behaviours are the cause of most issues. Behaviours that often have their roots in childhood, in the inevitable learned adaptations we all make in response to trauma.

Very few people grow up without traumatic experiences; it’s rare for a human to navigate early childhood without some experience of trauma. Physical violence, sexual abuse, emotional neglect, hunger, smacking, erosion of self-esteem, natural disaster, parental mental ill-health or disability, breakdown of parental relationship, alcoholism, all of these and more, often in combination, provoke responses in a child which are then carried into adulthood. Every person reacts and is shaped differently by their early childhood, and unlearning such behaviours takes dedication and hard work.

I believe child sexual abuse, which is devastatingly common, is the most damaging of all trauma. It robs a child of their ability to trust, their sense of self, their capacity to have a healthy relationship. Child sexual abuse above all creates a barrier to intimacy that is nigh on impossible to break. If there is denial of the impact, or repressed memory, it’s harder still to face the music and deal with the consequences. Some of us have multiple unintegrated parts of our psyche, born of dissociation. This stems from the self-protective mechanisms our brains use to store traumatic memories separately from happier ones. It’s a healthy mechanism in the event of trauma, but unless recognised and integrated in psychotherapy, will manifest as what looks like different personalities in the same person. We’re often unaware of this until someone close to us points it out. Others will become hardened by the psychic pain they experience, evolving into incredibly self-reliant but angry people, unable to trust, losing faith in humanity and in relationships.

Many use drugs and alcohol to numb their unbearable feelings, or repeated attempts at ‘geographical cure’, making the mistake that travelling to other countries, moving house, or even leaving a relationship, will fix the problem. But it won’t; our pain goes with us until we confront it and start to heal, which we can do through our relationships if we would only hold on tight.

SAM TRANS MAN

Hold on tight! Dr Samuel Hall on relationships: laying the foundations, maintaining them, and having faith.

TNB is a drop-in group for anyone who identifies as trans, non-binary, or questioning and/or exploring their gender identity or variance.

It is a safe space both organised and facilitated by trans and/or non-binary people, and offers a great opportunity to socialise. TNB also hosts an informal platform for resources, information and discussion surrounding topics that affect the community.

6-8pm, the third Thursday of the month at Café Domenica, Preston Road, Brighton
The part relationships play in our mental health can be huge. The quality and quantity, the connection and affection, or lack of it, play a key role in our day to day wellbeing. Issues with relationships is one of the most frequent reasons for people contacting MindOut. Below is an account by one of the Work It Out peer support group members, which shows some of the struggles people have and how peer support can help.

Two years ago I attended a MindOut peer support group for the first time. It took me about a year to finally contact MindOut and go along. I always found reasons not to, kept changing my mind and making excuses.

It wasn't because I was shy, I'm really not, in fact I'm quite the opposite! I didn't feel nervous about meeting new people either, I actually like meeting new people. Socialising and networking are two things I'm good at, in fact I've made a career out of doing just that, running networking events for corporate businesses.

I actually think the reason was because I was embarrassed, I certainly felt shame. I didn't want to own up to being an absolute emotional mess or being depressed. I didn't want other people to think I was a failure and wasn't coping. I didn't want to be judged about pretty much everything outside of work just falling to pieces. I was broke, I was drinking way too much and I had no real friends and no relationship.

I guess not being in a relationship was the biggest problem for me. I felt ugly, old, unloved and not cared about. These were my issues and I hid them well, I had done for years. People's perception of me was the complete opposite - fun, sorted, confident, lots of friends and a pick of hot guys to have fun with or to have a relationship with if I chose.

I worked hard to present as someone who had everything, when in fact I had nothing. Getting older, in addition, started to cause me a lots of distress, it depressed me further and I started to find life somewhat unbearable. I knew I needed help. I needed to feel less isolated with my problems. I desperately wanted to feel connected to others and to try to turn things around for myself.

Finally, I made it to my first group, which was called Work It Out for people who were juggling their mental health problems with holding down paid work. I chose this group specifically because I wanted to talk about the one area of my life which was a success, I wanted to tell people how good I was at my job. I needed approval and admiration. I thought that this would be the way to build my confidence, I could also continue to hide!

I didn't realise that the theme of the group was just that, a theme... something all members shared in common, but the content of what people talk about each week in the group could pretty much be anything relevant or important to them.

Very quickly the theme of relationships emerged and I was engaged instantly. I arrived ready to boast about how good I was at my job, but ended up sharing just how desperately lonely I was in life. I couldn't seem to build relationships and friendships and if I do they turn out to be a disaster, toxic at best.

Others in the group had similar experiences, which I didn't expect. Some who didn't directly relate to my issues were helpful and kind and they listened, they didn't judge me. Over several weeks of working together we talked and listened to each about so many personal and sensitive issues, some good, some bad, but either way we heard each other and we worked hard to be supportive and to be there for each other.

At times it was challenging too, some feedback was hard to hear, but was always constructive, I honestly think it helped me grow. Based on what I shared a group member suggested I think about my need to find a perfect man who would sort all my problems out. It really helped me give some attention to what I expect from a partner, and at times friendships, and it did begin a further journey for me of self-discovery and taking responsibility.

I have taken so much from what I learned in the group about how to invest in people and in friendships. I have been able to make changes in how I approach new relationships.

If you or someone you know would like to talk to us about thoughts, feelings or experiences of relationship issues or any other mental health concerns, please do get in touch. Talking to a MindOut worker can be a helpful way to explore how you are feeling and to think about what support or help you might like. Our peer support service can be a good way to meet others with similar experiences, identities or dealing with similar issues as you.

"I have taken so much from what I learned in the group about how to invest in people and in friendships. I have been able to make changes in how I approach new relationships"
WHALE OF A GOOD TIME

I recall one day in April, I was 10 and it was one of those Easters where the sun comes out and shines so hard and strong that the whole family would decant down to Porthcawl, the Brighton of South Wales, to our caravan, anchored in the dunes alongside a golden sandy beach stretching out across to the shimmering mirage of England.

We would go out with Grandmother Ivy in the morning, she dressed – as always – in her pink housecoat with the many pockets and shiny black kitchen boots; us in our brown knitted swimming costumes, utterly useless when wet. The wool would chaff, stretch and we’d stuff them with bladder wrack seaweed to stay up. We didn’t complain, it was the 1970s and complaining hadn’t been invented yet. At low tide, trawling Ivy like ducklings, my sisters and I head out into the rock pools with yellow plastic buckets shaped like upside-down castles and an eagerness to hunt for Lapa (as Ivy called them), limpets, which she would kick off the rocks with a swift staccato surgical strike and we would run after and pop in the buckets.

With brimming buckets we’d return and Ivy would fry them up, the sauce of garlic, ground pepper, marigarine and lemon juice, served up in their shells. No pickled whelks for us, or common cockles, but this traditional Portuguese treat. As a child I didn’t think it strange, but as I got older and noticed that no one else ate them I asked Ivy about where she’d learned to cook them. It was always wise to ask Ivy where she’d learned something as she could clamp up tighter than a limpet clinging to a rock if asked for information directly.

She’d worked in the docks in Cardiff in the late 1930s, politically aware and fabulously connected with the burgeoning Labour movement, had been asked to work on protecting the shipping conveyes during the Second World War and had ended up in the Azores, a tiny volcanic archipelago in the middle of the Atlantic. Working on early hydroponic technology using her grasp of tides, displacement and her ability to spot whales, an unlikely talent honed during time at sea. As a child I didn’t think it strange, but as I got older and noticed that no one else ate them I asked Ivy where she’d learned to cook them. It was always wise to ask Ivy about where she’d learned to cook them.

Ivy believed, as did Melville, that it was better to get into bed with a sober cannibal than with a drunk Christian so I’m pretty sure nothing ever happened, but on the back of the photo was written in her precise copperplate handwriting, “Call me Ishmael, but be exquisite and never explain.”
**LGBT SERVICES**

- **ALLSORTS YOUTH PROJECT**
  Drop-in for LGBTQ or unsure young people under 26
  Tues 5.30–8.30pm | 01273 721211 or email info@allsortsyouth.org.uk

- **BRIGHTON GEMS**
  Social group for gay men over 50 with several events
  every month inc meeting at Dorset Gardens 2nd Monday of month 2.30pm last Fri of month 7–9pm.
  For info email info@brightongems.com or www.brightongems.com

- **BRIGHTON & HOVE POLICE**
  Report all homophobic, biphobic or transphobic incidents to: 24/7 assistance call Police on 101 (emergencies 999)
  Report online at: www.sussex.police.uk
  LGBT team (not 24/7):
  - LGBT@sussex.pnn.police.uk
  - LGBT Officer: PC James Breeds: Tel: 101 or 558168

- **BRIGHTON & HOVE LGBT SAFETY FORUM**
  Independent LGBT forum working within the communities to address and improve safety and access issues in Brighton & Hove
  01273 655620 or info@lgbt-help.com
  www.lgbt-help.com

- **BRIGHTON & HOVE LGBT SWITCHBOARD**
  Help-line with email & webchat facility
  01273 204 050
  Opening times see www.switchboard.org.uk/brighton

- **LESBIAN & GAY AA**
  12-step self-help programme for alcohol addictions:
  Sun, 7.30pm, Chapel Royal, North St, Bhn (side entrance).

- **LGBT+ MEDITATION GROUP**
  Meditation & discussion, every 2nd & 4th Thu.
  5.30–7.30pm, Anahata Clinic, 119 Edward St, Brighton.
  07789 861 367 or www.bodhitreebrighton.org.uk

- **LUNCH POSITIVE**
  Lunch club for people with HIV. Meet/make friends, find peer support in safe space. Every Fri, noon–2.30pm,
  Community Room, Dorset Gdns Methodist Church, Dorset Gdns, Brighton. Lunch £1.50.
  07846 484 384 or www.lunchpositive.org

- **MCC BRIGHTON**
  Inclusive, affirming space where all are invited to come as they are to express their spirituality without judgement.
  01273 515572 or info@mccbrighton.org.uk
  www.mccbrighton.org.uk

- **MINDOUT**
  Independent, impartial services run by and for LGBTQ people with experience of mental health issues.
  24 hr confidential answerphone: 01273 234839 or email info@mindout.org.uk and out of hours online chat www.mindout.org.uk

- **NAVIGATE**
  Social/peer support group for FTM, transmasculine & gender queer people, every 1st Wed 7-9pm & 3rd Sat of month 1-3pm at Space for Change, Windlesham Venue, BN1 3AH.
  https://navigatebrighton.wordpress.com/

- **PEER ACTION**
  Regular low cost yoga, therapies, swimming, meditation & social groups for people with HIV.
  contact@peeraaction.net or www.peeraaction.net

- **RAINBOW FAMILIES**
  Support group for lesbian & gay parents
  07951 082013 or info@rainbowfamilies.org.uk
  www.rainbowfamilies.org.uk

- **RAINBOW HUB**
  Information, contact, help and guidance to services for LGBT+ communities in Brighton, Hove and Sussex at Rainbow Hub drop in LGBT+ one-stop shop: 93 St James Street, BN2 1TP. 01273 675445 or visit www.therainbowhubbrighton.com

- **SOME PEOPLE**
  Social/support group for LGB+ people with Dementia
  - Volunteering opportunities 01273 234 009
  - One Body One Boyfriend/Featherly
  Formerly The Gay Christian Movement.
  Contact: Nigel Nash nigelnash@me.com
  www.onebodyonefaith.org.uk

- **THE VILLAGE MCC**
  Christian church serving the LGBTQ community.
  Sundays 6pm, Somerset Day Centre, Kempount
  07476 667353 www.thevillage mcc.org

- **HIV PREVENTION, CARE & TREATMENT SERVICES**

  - **AVERT**
    Sussex HIV & AIDS info service 01440 212020
    or email confidential@avert.org

  - **BRIGHTON & HOVE CAB HIV PROJECT**
    Money, benefits, employment, housing, info, advocacy.
    Appointments: Tue–Thur 9am–4pm, Wed 9am–12.30pm
    Brighton & Hove Citizens Advice Bureau, Brighton Town Hall.
    01273 233990 ext 520 or www.brightonhovecab.org.uk

  - **CLINIC M**
    Free confidential testing & treatment for STIs including HIV, plus Hep A & B vaccinations.
    Claude Nicola Centre, Sussex County Hospital, on Weds from 5–8pm.
    01273 864 721 or www.brightonsexualhealth.com

  - **LAWSON UNIT**
    Medical advice, treatment for HIV+, specialist clinics, diet & welfare advice, drug trials. 01273 664 722

  - **SUBSTANCE MISUSE SERVICE**
    Pavilions Partnership.
    Info, advice, appointments & referrals 01273 731 900.
    Drop-in: Richardson House, Richmond Rd, Brighton, Mon–Wed & Fri 10am–4pm, Thu 10am–7pm,
    Sat 10am–9pm, The Drive, Hove 01273 680714 Mon & Wed 10am–12pm & 1pm–3pm, Tue & Thu 10am–4pm info & advice only (no assessments), Fri 10am–1pm, 10am–3pm
    - Gary Smith (LGBT) Support: 07884 476634 or email gsmith@pavlions.org.uk
    For more info visit weblink: pavilions.org.uk/services/treatment-recovery-options/

- **SUSSEX BEACON**
  24 hour nursing & medical care, day care
  01273 946222 or www.sussexbeacon.org.uk

- **TERRENCE HIGGINS TRUST SERVICES**
  For more info about these free services go to the THT office, 61 Ship St, Brighton, Mon–Fri, 10am–5pm
  01273 764200 or info.brighton@tht.org.uk

  • **Venue Outreach:** info on HIV, sexual health, personal safety, safer drug/alcohol use, free condoms/lubricant
  • **The Bushes Outreach Service:** at Duke’s Mound: advice, support, info on HIV & sexual health, and free condoms & lube
  • **Notreach** (online/mobile app outreach in Brighton & Hove): info/advice on HIV sexual health/local services. THT Brighton Outreach workers online on Grindr, Scruff, & Squirt
  • **Condom Male:** discreet, confidential service posts free condoms/lube/sexual health info to men who have sex with men without access to East Sussex commercial gay scene

  - **Positive Voices:** volunteers who go to organisations to talk about personal experiences of living with HIV
  - **Fastest** (HIV testing): walk-in, (no appointment) rapid HIV testing service open to MSM (Men who have sex with Men). Anyone from the African communities, male and female sex workers and anyone who identifies as Trans or non-binary. We now offer rapid 15 minutes results for HIV/Syphilis: Mon 10am–8pm, Tues–Fri 10am–5pm, Thurs 10am–8pm (STI testing available)
  - **Sauna Fastest at The Brighton Sauna** (HIV testing): walk-in, (no appointment) rapid HIV testing service for men who have sex with men, results in 20 minutes: Wed–6pm (STI testing available)
  - **Face2Face:** confidential info & advice on sexual health & HIV for men who have sex with men, up to 6 one hour appointments
  - **Specialist Training:** wide range of courses for groups/individuals, specific courses to suit needs
  - **Counselling:** from qualified counsellors for up to 12 sessions for people living with/affected by HIV
  - **What Next?** Thurs eve, 6 week peer support group work programme for newly diagnosed HIV+ gay men
  - **HIV Support Services:** info, support & practical advice for people living with/affected by HIV
  - **HIV Welfare Rights Advice:** Find out about benefits or benefit changes. Advice line: Tue–Thur 1.30–2.30pm, 1-2-1 appts for advice & workshops on key benefits

- **TERRENCE HIGGINS EASTBOURNE**
  Web support & info on HIV, sexual health & local services via netreach and myhiv.org.uk
  Free condom postal service contact Grace Coughlan on 07584068590 or grace.coughlan@tth.org.uk

- **SEXUAL HEALTH WORTHING**
  Free confidential tests & treatment for STIs inc HIV, Hep A & B vaccinations. Wabling based: 0845 111345645

- **NATIONAL HELPLINES**
  - **NATIONAL LGBT DOMESTIC ABUSE HELPLINE** at galop.org.uk and 0800 999 5428
  - **SWITCHBOARD** 0300 330 0630
  - **POSITIVELINE** (EDDIE SUMMAR TRUST)
    Mon–Fri 11am–10pm, Sat & Sun 4–10pm 0800 1696806
  - **MUNLERS** 02075 825226
  - **NATIONAL AIDS HELPLINE** 08005 67123
  - **NATIONAL DRUGS HELPLINE** 08007 76600
  - **THT AIDS Treatment phoneline** 08459 470047
  - **THT direct** 0845 1221200
THE BASEMENT CLUB
BELOW LEGENDS BAR

GLITTER CURIOUS
your favourite queen party
FREE ENTRY
MON

SHOTS £2
SELECTED DRINKS £2.50
11pm - 3am

ICE
11pm - 3am / free entry
W

SELECTED DRINKS £2.50
11pm - 3am
TH

NOW! IT'S WHAT I CALL LEGENDS
It's a retro 70's, 80's & 90's party with DJ Claire Fuller

F

Glitter
friday night disco
drinks PROMO from £2
11pm - 4am // free entry

FUSION
saturday night dance party
dj peter castle
11pm - 4am | free entry all night
5a

POP!CANDY
sugar coated pop with DJ Claire Fuller
11pm-5am
free entry
5u

prices & promos may be subject to change - deals exclude certain products - mixer from gun - T&C's apply