A SPECIAL TRIBUTE ISSUE TO GSCENE'S FOUNDER AND BRIGHTON LGBTQ+ CHAMPION, JAMES LEDWARD
FEATURE
14 JAMES HENRY LEDWARD

In this special commemorative issue we remember James through the experiences of his family, friends and some of the many people he helped, supported and encouraged over his years at the vanguard of LGBTQ+ campaigning. The range of tributes highlights the diversity of James’s reach in the community, his ability to communicate and negotiate with organisations at all levels and his warmth and kindness as a friend.
Happy New Year Everyone from our Three Great Places...

Like us at all venues

If you ♥ The Camelford you’ll also ♥ Paris House and Three Jolly Butchers
THE FABULOSO COUNTDOWN TO PRIDE 2020 BEGINS NOW!

Brighton & Hove Pride 2020 marks 30 years of campaigning, protest and a celebration of diversity in Brighton & Hove.

2020 is set to be a special year for Brighton & Hove Pride, marking 30 years of campaigning, protest and a celebration of diversity in Brighton & Hove. This year, Pride have worked with local trans activist and artist Fox Fisher to create the branding for the FABULOSO weekend that incorporates representation from all diverse communities. FABULOSO is about celebrating YOU and a range of Pride related artwork will appear over the next few months in the run up to this year’s festival.

Pleasure Gardens at the Old Steine will open the weekend on Friday, July 31 offering an array of free entertainment across the weekend. The Pride Village Party in Kemptown also returns with businesses coming together to celebrate Pride and raise additional funds for the Brighton Rainbow Fund and Social Impact Fund.

Alongside the weekend festival, various events will take place across the city in the lead up to Brighton & Hove Pride including a 30 Years Of Queer exhibition at Jubilee Library and a host of soon to be announced diverse cultural experiences, supported by the Pride Cultural Development Fund. The Pride Community Dog Show will also return in Preston Park in the weeks leading up to the Pride weekend event.

FUNDRAISING

Brighton & Hove Pride is a time to come together to celebrate and embrace diversity and inclusion in our great city. Their sole ethos is to promote respect within our community and support local charities and causes through fundraising. As recently announced, Brighton and Hove Pride 2019 raised £217,432.50 for local good causes. This means that in the last six years, Pride has raised over £920,000 for neighbouring charities, projects and community groups through the Brighton Rainbow Fund. Pride Social Impact Fund and Pride Cultural Development Fund.

TICKETS

Tickets for Pride 2020 events are available now: www.pride-tickets.org and Fabuloso on the Park on Sunday offers discounted community tickets. For all info, visit www.brighton-pride.org

Brighton & Hove Pride is the UK’s biggest Pride Festival operated by Brighton Pride CIC, a not for profit community organisation. All ticket revenue raised goes directly to the operational and running costs of producing the Pride Festival, Pride LGBTQ+ Community Parade, Pride Village Party and community fundraising.

WAD 2019 FUNDRAISER TOTALS

1. For the Martin Fisher Foundation, the WAD Service raised £203 and the morning flashmob raised £28.60.
2. The Sussex Beacon collected £255 in their street collections during the day.
3. The Terrance Higgins Trust fundraisers, held in LGBTQ+ venues in the gay village, raised the following: Charles Street Tap raised £791.75; Bar Revenge raised £386.77; Subline raised £2,618.80 and Legends raised £134.86.
4. At the WAD Concert, this year organised by the Brighton Gay Men’s Chorus, a truly impressive £4,682.14 was raised, which includes £1,587 from the refreshments sold on the night and £257.48 from the bucket collection. All monies from the WAD Concert go to support Lunch Positive, the HIV charity who run a weekly lunch club every Friday for people living with or affected by HIV.

WAD CHOIRS CONCERT

For the 13th successive year, Brighton & Hove’s LGBTQ+ choirs and musicians joined forces for the WAD Choirs Concert, which as ever was of the very highest quality. This annual event in St Mary’s Church, Kemptown, is an extraordinary coming together, an act of remembrance and awareness, as well as a fundraiser for Lunch Positive, the Brighton HIV charity who run a weekly lunch club every Friday for people living with or affected by HIV.

The atmosphere in the church was certainly one of warmth and love and each performing group gave their all to engender that with outstanding moments throughout the evening. Performing this year were Actually Gay Men’s Chorus, Brighton Gay Men’s Chorus, Rainbow Chorus, Resound Male Voices, the Sweet Chilli Singers and Oukulele. The evening was hosted and compered by Juno Dawson, bestselling novelist, screenwriter, journalist and School Role Model for Stonewall.

Surprise guest singers were three MDs of some of the city’s choirs, Aneesa Chaudhry, Joe Paxton and Samuel Cousins, who were given a thunderous reception by an appreciative audience after joining voices for stunning renditions of Karl Jenkins’ Benedictus and César Franck’s Pans Angelicus. The choirs returned to the stage to sing together and had chosen a rich melody of Bernstein’s Tonight and Somewhere, which closed the evening in suitable style filling the huge acoustic vaults of St Mary’s with stunning rolling wave of sound and hope. Oukulele added a cheeky charm and campiness to an exceptional evening entertainingly held together by Juno Dawson.

The WAD Choirs Concert was a fundraiser for Lunch Positive. A truly amazing amount of £4,682.14 was raised and it is testament to the hard work put in by many people to ensure this event goes ahead each year.

For more info visit: www.lunchpositive.org
BRIGHTON WAD MEMORIAL CANDLELIGHT VIGIL

The annual World AIDS Day (WAD) Candlelight Vigil took place in New Steine Gardens in the shadow of the Brighton AIDS Memorial on Sunday, December 1 at 6pm, where the names of those lost to HIV/AIDS over the last 35 years were read out. This year marks the 10th Anniversary of the inauguration of the AIDS Memorial Statue ‘TAY’ and sculpture Romany Mark Bruce gave a moving speech about its creation and inspiration. Dr Gillian Dean from the Martin Fisher Foundation shared her insights into HIV care in the city and reaching the goals for zero transmissions; Rev Heather Leake Date then spoke of the impact, influence and legacy of James Ledward, Gscene editor, on the city’s HIV sector.

Following the three speakers, the stand in Mayor of Brighton & Hove led representatives from over 30 Brighton & Hove community organisations, along with local MPs, in the reading of the names at the Brighton AIDS Memorial. There was a very large attendance at this year’s event with many people staying to place their candle of remembrance at the base of the Memorial.

Dedicated volunteers from the Rainbow Hub helped set up in record time and Lunch Positive made sure that hot drinks and a warm space was available throughout the event and during the afternoon on the brisk but sunny Sunday.

The event is organised by the Brighton & Hove WAD Partnership made up of Avert, Brighton & Hove City Council, Gscene, Lunch Positive, Sussex Beacon, the Sussex Community Foundation NHS Trust, Peer Action, B&H HIV Chaplaincy, Martin Fisher Foundation and the Rainbow Hub.

All money donated at the Vigil goes to the Brighton Rainbow Fund who give grants to LGBTQ+/HIV organisations who deliver effective frontline services to LGBTQ+ people in the city. Photos: simonpepperphotography.com
DECLINE IN HIV INFECTION

Public Health England (PHE) published its annual HIV report in November and outlined a continuing decline in the number of new HIV diagnoses in the UK. The report outlines a 29% decline from the diagnoses reported in 2015 and a 6% decline relative to those in 2017. This overall decline is driven by the trend in new HIV diagnoses among gay, bisexual and other men who have sex with men, which have decreased by 39% since the 2015 peak. During the same period, the number of new HIV diagnoses have also declined by 24% among people who acquired HIV through heterosexual contact.

While the decrease in new diagnoses has been observed among all gay and bisexual men, the steepest declines have been observed in gay and bisexual men who are aged between 15-24 (47% decrease) and resident in London (50% decrease). Outside London, large declines were also seen in both the West and East Midlands and Scotland. Again in heterosexual adults the steepest recent declines have been seen in adults resident in London, a 40% decrease from 2015 to 2018 although the figures have plateaued since 2017.

The range of a combination of prevention strategies has been critical to the decline in HIV infection since 2012 including recommendations for very frequent HIV testing for those having unprotected sex, a shift to earlier and immediate prescription of antiretroviral drugs for those diagnosed, and the dramatic success of pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) largely available from late 2015.

PHE also reported that people living with HIV who are diagnosed late, have been unaware of their HIV infection for around three to five years, as a result have a 10-fold greater risk of dying within a year compared to those diagnosed promptly. Furthermore there is the potential for increasing the risk of onward transmission. Sixty per-cent of the late diagnosis population are heterosexual men and 59% are aged 50 and older.

While the proportion of people living with HIV and diagnosed late has reduced by almost 10% in all areas of the UK over the past decade, considerable opportunity for improvement remains. PHE reported the drop in new infections and also those diagnosed late is greater in urban metropolitan areas, particularly London.

In 2018 the UK continued to achieve the UNAIDS 90-90-90 target with 93% of those living with HIV diagnosed, 97% of those on HIV treatment and 97% of them with HIV undetectable. The ageing nature of the HIV population continues to be an area of interest for PHE with more than 40% of people receiving specialist HIV care now aged 50 or over, compared to less than 20% in 2007.

RECORD NUMBER FOR WORLD AIDS DAY COMMUNITY LUNCH!

Lunch Positive hosted a Community Lunch on World AIDS Day, bringing people together to share friendship and a supportive time together. The lunch was held at Dorset Gardens Methodist Church and was put together by the entire Lunch Positive volunteer team of over 30 people.

Volunteers prepared and cooked a traditional Sunday roast dinner which was enjoyed by over 150 diners. Local politicians, including Lloyd Russell-Moyle, Caroline Lucas, Phelim Mac Cafferty and Alex Phillips, all attended and spent time with members and volunteers. Volunteers and participants of local community groups and charities also came along and joined in the event. The lunch also marked the 10th anniversary of Lunch Positive in the community, having supported hundreds of people with HIV and volunteers having given over 60,000 hours of time to support their peers.

The World AIDS Day Community Lunch will become a regular annual event, repeated this year on Sunday, November 29 when the entire local community will be invited to go along, commemorate, and celebrate the lives of people with HIV.

Gary Pargeter, Lunch Positive Service Manager, said: “Thank you to everyone who came along and supported this community event and the amazing contributions of our volunteers who gave so much to make it a success. Lunch Positive is based on community support, and the record numbers that turned out, shared conversation, made new acquaintances and friendships was truly inspiring. The feedback we received was wonderful, all reflecting the contributions of people with and affected by HIV in our community. We look forward to seeing everyone again this year as part of the important and meaningful World AIDS Day activities. Thank you everyone, so much!”

Lunch Positive are looking for kitchen volunteers, so if you’re interested please contact Gary on 07846 464384 or email info@lunchpositive.org

For more info about Lunch Positive visit: www.lunchpositive.org
Photos: simonpepperphotography.com

ANGELICA’S 85TH BIRTHDAY BASH

Local scene personality Angelica celebrated their 85th Birthday Bash at the Amsterdam Bar & Kitchen, Brighton on Saturday, November 23 with cabaret from Stephanie Von Clitz and tunes courtesy of DJ Linda Bacardi.
FREE EVENTS
“BACK TO THE FUTURE”...
PRIDE LGBTQ+ COMMUNITY PARADE
PRIDE PLEASURE GARDENS
PRIDE COMMUNITY DAY & DOG SHOW
30 YEARS OF QUEER EXHIBITION

FUNDRAISING EVENTS
FABULOSO PRIDE IN THE PARK
PRIDE VILLAGE PARTY

BRIGHTON-PRIDE.ORG
JESS WOOD MBE RETIRES AFTER 20 IMPACTFUL YEARS AT ALLSORTS

November 2019 saw the retirement of Allsorts Youth Project’s co-founder, Jess Wood MBE, following 20 years of listening to, supporting and connecting children and young people who are LGBTQ+ or unsure of their gender identity and/or sexual orientation. Awarded the MBE in the 2012 New Year’s Honours List for services to LGBTQ+ young people, Jess has made a lasting impact on LGBTQ+ communities locally, regionally, and nationally. Since co-founding Allsorts in 1999, alongside James Newton, Jess has guided the organisation from strength to strength in her position as Director.

James Newton said: “There’ve been few people I’ve ever met who were able to employ logic and reason so effectively. Jess’s been one of the most wonderful, funny, creative, determined and energetic people I’ve ever known.”

At Allsorts’ 2019 AGM, they celebrated 20 years of vital LGBTQ+ youth work and community outreach that would not have been accomplished by if it weren’t for her passion, drive and commitment. Jess said: “We’ve had so much fun and achieved so much and as with any youth project it’s the children and young people that are the heart of everything that makes Allsorts so fantastic! I will treasure my memories of individual young people who have triumphed over terrible adversity in their lives and with the help of Allsorts, have been able to flourish.”

Alongside the appointment of new CEO, Katie Vincent, Allsorts has reached over 6,900 people through their youth groups, one-to-one support, parents/carers’ groups and training and education services, in 2019 alone. Katie said: “My task is clear, to build on the foundations of our reputation and reach, and expand our services. Jess’ creativity, spirit and energy is something that has constantly inspired me and will continue to drive the project & our mission forward.”

Allsorts, its young people and supporters thank Jess for her invaluable contributions to the LGBTQ+ community, and wish her all the best with her PhD at the Prince’s School of Traditional Arts in London.

More info: www.allsortsyouth.org.uk

GRIEF ENCOUNTERS LGBTQ+ BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT PROJECT

Following a successful pilot last year, the Brighton Rainbow Fund has supported Switchboard to continue their Grief Encounters peer support group for LGBTQ+ people who have experienced a bereavement.

Grief can affect LGBTQ+ communities in more complex ways, as they face a number of additional challenges when it comes to bereavement in addition to universal experiences of grief, pain and sadness. This can include discrimination, a failure to acknowledge our relationships, estrangement from our families, legal and financial issues, and exclusion from discussions and decisions made by family members and health care professionals.

The Grief Encounters peer support group is open to all members of the LGBTQ+ community whatever age, circumstances or whether the loss was recent or some years ago. Loss, as well as being the loss of wives, husbands and partners, can also include parents, family members, friends and colleagues. At a time when so many people in our local LGBTQ+ communities have experienced a great loss, it’s important to recognise the importance of looking after ourselves, looking after one another, and seeking help and support to enable us to do so. Grief can affect us in unexpected ways and at different times. It can be unpredictable and sometimes hard to recognise. It can hit us all at once, unfold piece by piece or sneak up on us after time has passed and life has moved forward.

Groups start in January, May and September 2020, run for six weeks, are led by experienced LGBTQ+ practitioners and provide a confidential, safe and supportive space for LGBTQ+ people. The groups meet from 7-8.30pm at Possability Place, 14 Windlesham Ave, Brighton BN1 3AH.

If you would like to join the next group (Jan 13 – Mon Feb 17), please call Switchboard to set up a meeting on 01273 23409 or email grief.encounters@switchboard.org.uk

More info: www.switchboard.org.uk

CRAWLEY LGBT TO HOLD FIRST PRIDE

Crawley LGBT, a group committed to not only to raising awareness of equality but also providing educational and advisory services to the local LGBTQ+ community, will be hosting the first ever Crawley Pride at Goffs Park on Saturday, August 29 from 12pm. Organisers will be uniting the town with a range of festivities and activities.

More info: www.allsortsyouth.org.uk

www.engleharts.co.uk

Breaking up can be difficult...
Bar Broadway

Where Musicals Take Centre Stage

10 Steine Street, Brighton, BN2 1TE

Happy New Year

Instagram: barbroadwayuk
BBW RAISE FUNDS FOR BRIGHTON RAINBOW FUND

Bear-a-oke at Bar Broadway and Santa’s Coming at Subline kicked off the Christmas festivities for the Brighton Bear Weekend (BBW) team last month, raising funds for the Brighton Rainbow Fund in the process! Drag superstar, Candy Rell, hosted the wannabe singers for an evening of fun and song in the ever-friendly Bar Broadway. Graham Munday, Chair of BBW, said: “Song implies a harmonisation of tune and verse that frankly didn’t happen that often! Nevertheless, much fun was had, and it got everyone in the mood for Santa’s Coming, a few metres around the corner at Subline.”

Around 120 bears and friends packed into the festively decorated subterranean club, Subline, to toast the festive season. The highlight of the night was the ‘strip’ auction, where people paid money to watch sexy Dave the Bear strip to his thong! The auction raised a stunning £180 and overall the evening raised £885, which will be donated to the Brighton Rainbow Fund who give grants to local LGBTQ+ /HIV organisations that deliver effective frontline services to LGBTQ+ people in the city. On behalf of the BBW team, Graham Munday thanks Candy Rell, Dave the Bear and the staff at both venues for helping to make this a successful kick-off to the 2020 BBW events season! Special thanks go to Steve from Subline and Alasdair and Michael at Bar Broadway for their kind donation of £100.

Can you help make all this happen? Putting on events throughout the year takes some doing, especially the 15–20 events BBW hope to run over the course of the Bear Weekend from Thursday, June 18 to Sunday, June 21, 2020. BBW need all sorts of skills, from social media activation to AV production, event management to putting up tents! It’s not all glamorous, but you’ll be working with a crowd of guys who are fun, sociable, hard working and committed. Everything BBW do is aimed at making people’s lives better. From just the joy of getting a few hundred bears together in Dorset Gardens, or their hugely popular Club night, to raising several thousand pounds for the Brighton Rainbow Fund. Volunteering is fun, great for meeting new people and can help give you a sense of purpose and satisfaction. If you’re interested: www.brightonbearweekend.com/volunteer

And a date for your diaries: BBW will be holding a Volunteer Introduction Meeting on Monday, February 17 at 7pm at the Old Ship Hotel in Brighton. Do go along and meet the team!
COMMUNITY FOOD VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

MAKE A DIFFERENCE TO 100s OF PEOPLE THIS YEAR!

Lunch Positive HIV lunch club, supper group, peer-support groups

We’re looking for people interested in food preparation, cooking, or kitchen working

- Various days and shifts available
- No experience necessary – full training given
- Travel expenses paid
- Great team to work with!

To find out more or arrange to come along for a chat, please contact volunteer@lunchpositive.org • 07846 464384 • www.lunchpositive.org
**Mr Subline 2019**

Each year, **Subline**, the subterranean club, invites the bold and the beautiful of Brighton (and surrounding areas) to step up and compete for the crown of **Mr Subline**. This year, nine contestants were put through their paces by **Pat Clutcher**. **Narcis** and former Subline barman **David** lip-sync battled for third place. **George** from Affinity Bar took second place, and **Paul Austin** won the coveted title so fame and fortune awaits!

The serious side to all this frivolity is that, with great pride, Subline use the night to collect for **Terrence Higgins Trust** (THT), whose important work on HIV and sexual health benefits many people in the community. When Subline asked for donations to the Prize Pool for Mr Subline, the response from local businesses and individuals was so overwhelming that they also had enough prizes to hold a raffle on the night; and between the door money and raffle tickets almost £2,000 went into the kitty.

**Steven Lee**, owner of Subline, says: “After Mr Subline, we still had a handful of the most outstanding prizes ‘in the bank’ - artwork from Sid Spencer, a deep-cleaning day from Danny Dwyer, a musical-chef-experience from Jason Thorpe, and an amazing meal and champagne (anywhere) offer from Peter Shapcott - so I decided that we would auction these off at our first ever Subline Quiz Night on December 2.”

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**Subline Quiz Night raises £565 for THT**

Open to all genders, Subline’s first ever Quiz Night was hosted by one-time Mr Subline, **Ian Sinclair**, and it was the perfect opportunity to get people bidding for the final top prizes; and Subline were thrilled to garner another £565 for **THT**. **Steven Lee**, owner of Subline, says: “Pooling it all together across the two nights, we’re delighted to donate £2,526 to THT - I can’t offer enough thanks to EVERYONE who contributed a prize, their time, or their money to help us get there.”

At the next Subline Quiz Night on **Monday, January 6**, there will be a prize draw for the **James Ledward Memorial Fund**, part of the **Brighton Rainbow Fund** and **ring-fenced to aid homelessness charities**. Host Ian will batter you into submission with his trivia questions, while Steven will offer relative succour with picture and music rounds. Even if they prove too challenging, you can at least enjoy the halftime sandwiches! Each month’s quiz winners be get to nominate the charity for the following month.

Subline’s **Monthly Quiz Night** for the **James Ledward Memorial Fund**, part of **Brighton Rainbow Fund**, at **Subline, 129 St James’s St, Brighton BN2 1TH** on **Monday, January 6, 7pm**. quiz **8pm**. £2 per player goes into the prize fund, and the winning team gets a chance to claim the cash pot in a final test; fail, and it rolls over for next month (and they receive a consolation bottle).

**Railway Club raise £336 for One Sight**

**Railway Club Brighton** raised £336 for **One Sight**, an independent non-profit organisation, which is dedicated to eradicating the global vision care crisis, at their **Christmas Quiz** last month. The event, which was in partnership with **Sunglasses Hut**, saw people battle it out for sacks of prizes, including designer sunglasses for the overall winners. Extra points were given for those wearing Christmas jumpers and the festive frolics helped to get people in the Christmas spirit!

For more info: **www.onesight.org**

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**Lauren Harries Live at Le Village**

The iconic **Lauren Harries** will be performing at **Le Village**, Brighton’s newest LGBTQ+ hotspot, on **Sunday, January 26 from 10pm**. Lauren, best known as the child star with an eye for an antique on the **Terry Wogan Show**, and more recently for her appearance on **Celebrity Big Brother**, will be tearing up the Le Village stage with songs, including her own hits **I Am Woman** and **Upadudo**.

Lee Cockshot, owner of Le Village Brighton, says: “We are pleased to be able to bring Lauren to Brighton! Expect the unexpected at what is going to be a camp show with Lauren’s chart songs. Arrive early as it’s going to be busy!”

Lauren Harries live at **Le Village, 2-3 High St, Brighton, BN2 1RP** on **Sunday, January 26 from 10pm**.
Two continents. 35 countries. One love.

Greater Fort Lauderdale invites everyone under the sun to the very first Pride of the Americas. Join hundreds of thousands of individuals who together will bring global attention to LGBT+ advocacy. All are welcome to fly your flag high, make an impact and radiate life - because who you are is worth celebrating. Make your plans at sunny.org/PrideAmericas.
JAMES HENRY LEDWARD
September 5, 1954–October 3, 2019

How better to remember James than through the experiences of his family, friends and some of the many people he helped, supported and encouraged over his years at the vanguard of LGBTQ+ campaigning? Over the next few pages, tributes to James have been collated in groups to reflect his life and work, as prefaced with snippets from the eulogy compiled by Michael Hydes, Village MCC Pastor.

Just to provide context on James’ life in Brighton for those who may not already be aware, he moved here in 1984 and discovered over the ensuing decade that there was little or no funding for LGBTQ+ organisations from the City Council, which prompted him to found Gscene in 1995 and successfully attempt to redress the balance. His efforts won him fifth place on the So Brighton & Hove Power List in 2010, one place ahead of Green Party doyenne Caroline Lucas, with the magazine also citing his work with Sussex Police in creating the Anti-Victimisation Unit.

The following highlights the diversity of James’ reach in the community, his ability to communicate and negotiate with organisations at all levels and his warmth and kindness as a friend.

JAMES’ FAMILY

On September 5, 1954, Vera and Percy Ledward rushed to the Sefton general hospital on Smithdown Road in Liverpool and James was welcomed into the world. He had an elder half-brother, Leslie, and a younger sister, Rosalyn (Roz). When asked what James was like as an older brother, Roz said: “He was very bossy, and he was a dreadful torment. At Christmas he used to steal all the Bar Sixes out of my selection boxes.” When Roz was a teenager she was often sent to stay with her brother because he was the only one who could control her, and he’d take her to parties and the theatre. James was never closeted, even in the 1970s, and Roz always deeply respected him for that. With James what you saw was what you got, a deeply caring man who knew how to party.

Rosalyn Thomas
(James’ Sister)

James was born on a Sunday and, as the nursery rhyme says, “...the child who is born on the Sabbath Day is bonny and blithe, merry and gay”. Never was a truer word spoken – he was handsome, merry and definitely gay.

As his sister, I can confirm he was the apple of his mother’s eye. Whenever he came home the red carpet was always well and truly laid out for Golden Balls, as I have always fondly referred to him. During my teens when our mum thought I was going off the rails, I was dispatched to London to stay with James for the summer holidays. James was like a third parent and would try to straighten me out. On reflection I can’t imagine he volunteered for this role but I have nothing but fond memories of my time spent in London, going to restaurants, theatres and concerts. Frankly, as a teenager, these were all the things I really didn’t want to do, but as I look back I realise how lucky I was.

I spent a number of school holidays following him around, doing odd jobs around his printing company.

James was always, as he continued throughout his life, a very generous person. He never appeared to be driven or influenced by money. I always felt from a young age that helping people was his goal. He was a big man with a big heart who had a big appetite for life, for people and good food.

As far back as I remember James was openly gay. This was a brave and potentially dangerous lifestyle choice but again James never backed away from doing the right thing. I always respected him for this. Over the years his decision to support the underdog/the oppressed/the bullied has led to assault, threats and verbal abuse. He has challenged government ministers, local government officials, senior police officers and other groups when he felt there had been an injustice.

James is a much-loved uncle to Emma and Rachael, who both adored him. Brother-in-law to Neil. They would often share a drink and put the world to rights over many topics, in particular politics. He is great-uncle to Lucas James, who is named after him. Also Bonnie, Dottie and Arthur. Over the last 10 years, we had again grown closer and we had spent several holidays abroad together. Visiting and spending weekends in Brighton to see him.

On one particular visit James introduced Besi. When I met Besi I immediately realised that James had found his love and his soul mate. I am grateful for the time they had together.

I can tell you that as recently as September, on our last holiday together (the week before he passed away), he told me by way of casual comment that he had refused to be recommended for an honour from the Queen. He told me that he could never accept anything like this as it might impact on people’s perception of his impartiality.

This was a classic James view of life and his role.

When I attended his funeral and heard so many stories of James’ impact on the gay and trans communities, both locally and further afield, I was delighted but not surprised. His capacity to see a problem and get involved to try to help solve it was James all over. I am so very proud of him, his achievements and his legacy through Gscene and the many other projects he helped establish to assist the gay community.

James will be greatly missed by his family, friends and everyone whose life he touched. With much love from your sister Rosalyn xx
JAMES’ EARLY MUSIC CAREER
As James grew up he attended what is now the St Margaret’s Church of England Academy. He became a Cross Guild choirboy and since the school was affiliated with the Cathedral, James became a part of the Cathedral Choir. They sang everywhere from high mass to old people’s homes and it’s here that his love for music was born. As soon as he left school James applied to the Royal College of Music in London. James loved London. He lived in Tooting for a while, and then bought a place on Streatham Hill.

Anne Aylor
(Musica Rara Colleague)
I considered James Ledward to be much more than a friend. I met him in London in 1975 when I worked at Musica Rara, a bow-fronted shop on Great Marlborough Street that sold brass and wind music of the 17th and 18th centuries. I was a secretary and he was the part-time packer while he attended the London School of Music studying the oboe. We soon bonded over our despair over our impossible employer. James made going into work on a scooter with an enormous stuffed animal so much easier with the arrival of the first Flutewise. Simon insisted on having a big party. My husband was not happy, he said no one would come. The very first person to turn up, very early, was James. I will also never forget the day my husband and I witnessed w hat a huge impact he had on the Brighton LGBTQ+ com m unity, respected and loved by many, he did so much good work.

FROM MUSICIAN TO PUBLISHER
James was a concert-level oboe player and pianist, and a fair hand as a conductor too – you can imagine the doors that opened for him. Life was good. But then tragedy struck and, aged just 32, James had a stroke. A career playing the oboe and piano at concert level was over just as it was beginning. Such a setback would destroy lesser men but James didn’t give up. He loved music and was determined to share that passion with others, so he started the Nova Music Company, editing and printing sheet music. He probably gave away as much as he sold. He couldn’t abide unfairness so anywhere children couldn’t access sheet music he sent it free of charge. Over the years thousands of children learned music through the gifts that James gave.

At this point James decided to leave London and make Brighton his home.

Liz Goodwin
(Flutewise Magazine)
It was with great sadness I learnt of the death of my friend and most amazing mentor, James Ledward. James played a huge role in the life of Flutewise during all of the years we produced a magazine and I think it is fair to say he taught me virtually everything I know about printing, publishing and marketing. James studied oboe and conducting at the London College of Music and the Royal Academy of Music and when I first met him he had a flourishing music publishing and printing business in Hove. I was introduced to him by our mutual friend, Simon Hunt, a flute player and publisher. This was over 30 years ago when I was setting up Flutewise. Simon insisted on taking me to the print works in Goldsmith Mews, Farm Road, Hove, as he said if I just went there on my own I would never cross the threshold. He was right. It looked like, and was, organised chaos. I met James and his small team – Robin who worked the printing press, Julian who was in charge of cutting and folding and Duncan who did arranging and later typesetting. This was before the technology we have now. Words and music were typeset, I used to have to prepare everything using printed out sheets from a typewriter and then cut and paste them together in a draft of what I wanted things to look like, leaving room for photos and drawings. We used lots of drawings in those days as they were easier to print than photos. Once I produced my draft, James would take over and get it ready on huge negative plates for printing after I had proof read it. Life got a stressful and at the same tim e hilarious journey.

It was thanks to him we got our beautiful cat, Dopp y. I rem em ber after an education show in London, James was too tired to drive and insisted I took over the wheel of this ancient van. I couldn’t move the gear stick – it was a stressful and at the same time hilarious journey. I will also never forget the day my husband and I were celebrating a wedding anniversary. I had insisted on having a big party. My husband was not happy, he said no one would come. The very first person to turn up, very early, was James with the biggest bouquet of flowers I have ever seen, he could hardly get them through the door. It was the start of a lovely celebration.

There are so many memories and so much to be grateful for. I was talking to Robin who said he expected James to always be there. We always expected everyone to be there in our lives always, but sadly, this isn’t true. I am just so thankful and happy to have had James in my life, without him I doubt Flutewise magazine would have developed.

Thanks to James for everything.

The printing press was an ancient Heidelberg, it printed from negative plates and most of the world at that time had switched to positive. I’ve got a ‘job bag’ containing these huge A2 metal plates up in my loft of one of the magazines. I remember well Robin and James having to run the press all night on more than one occasion to print music when we had those huge Barbican events in the 1990s. Happy days.

There were lots of scary days too in the production of the Flutewise magazine – the day we forgot to put a date on the cover, the time a ‘spot colour’ looked like it hadn’t printed, one time when I opened an inspection copy and found the wrong photos (that was James winding me up with a rogue copy), the time the Post Office lost an entire print run... I could go on. James gently supported me through it all and each tim e we produced a magazine I learnt a bit more.

James went on to produce Impact and Gscene magazines and he was a leading figure in the Brighton LGBTQ+ community, respected and loved by many, he did so much good work. He was a good friend away from publishing. It was thanks to him we got our beautiful cat, Dopp y. I rem em ber after an education show in London, James was too tired to drive and insisted I took over the wheel of this ancient van. I couldn’t move the gear stick – it was a stressful and at the same time hilarious journey.

It was thanks to him we got our beautiful cat, Dopp y. I rem em ber after an education show in London, James was too tired to drive and insisted I took over the wheel of this ancient van. I couldn’t move the gear stick – it was a stressful and at the same time hilarious journey.

I will always miss you, my beloved brother.
but the world over. I’ve enclosed a photo of mine and Mick’s wedding, which we were so thinly at times it was hard, but he was always there for everyone, whoever you were. James (Dad), thank you for giving yourself to us all. Take it easy now, happy knowing that you made a difference and achieved so much in your way too short life, not just in Brighton but the world over. I’ve enclosed a photo of mine and Mick’s wedding, which we were so proud to have you at. We will all love and miss you forever.

Big-Daddy hugs and kisses from us all, until we see your wonderful mischievous smile again. Goodnight, god bless James Henry Ledward.

Jaq Bayles
(Gscene Contributor)

One of my most enduring memories of James is of him turning up at my home with an unfeasibly large bunch of flowers following the death of my first dog. His visit was totally unexpected, massively appreciated and serves as a reminder of what an empathic, caring and intuitive friend he was. His own dogs have been often mentioned among these tributes and I recall his deep affection for Mr Scouse and Doris in the early years I knew him, back in the 1990s in the Portland Road office. I had left work to go to university and responded to an ad for a freelance sub-editor at Gscene as I was looking for some paid gigs to help me through the study. He duly called me up and invited me to an interview. By the time I left, having been genially ‘insulted’ several times by this big bear of a man, I had agreed to be volunteer women’s editor – James had an astonishing ability to bring people round to his way of thinking and make them see the benefit of giving back to the community in whatever way best served them and it. From that day on he was never less than a pillar of strength of his compassion.

Maria Kinsey
(Your Little Rottweiler)

As the cheeky Mr Ledward would say I’ve been lucky to work with him for the last 21 years. Starting at Portland Road – a delightful workplace with icicles hanging from the trees and plants that had pushed their way through the roof in parts. We were joined on occasion by other ‘colourful characters’ and we all collated and printed Gscene and James’ music books. Never a dull moment is a good description. I moved from the igloo to become James’ ‘Little Rottweiler’ (his words), basically chasing money owed for Gscene adverts to pay the bills, which I’m still doing.

Printing ceased at Portland Road and along with Michele and Vince (now replaced by Graham) and James’ dogs, we moved to a basement in Hove. This office, in contrast, had no air con at first and unexpected visitors trotting down the stairs were often treated to the vision of a topless James sat at his computer. Visitors ranged from high-profile people to others maybe down on their luck, looking for a friendly face, for a chat, advice, or even a bit of money to get by, and they knew if James was there he would help.

Working alongside James you quickly realised what a gifted, special person he was, juggling so many plates at once, spreading himself so thinly at times it was hard, but he was always there for everyone, whoever you were.

Michael Hoolman
(Gscene Arts Editor)

About quarter of a century ago I turned up at the Gscene office clutching a film review I’d bashed out on an old typewriter. James gave it a quick read, took the cigar out of his mouth and said: “Well kid, you’ve certainly got moxie, I’ll give you that.” Thus began my career as an arts journalist, though it’s possible my memory has slightly romanticised our initial encounter. Over the last few years I saw him on a monthly basis when he’d fill me in on the latest goings-on in gay Brighton. He was passionate about countering all forms of injustice and taking to task those who weren’t acting in the community’s best interests. But his good work wasn’t all about politics and righting institutional wrongs. A year or so ago he had a letter from an older gay man in Eastbourne who wrote to the magazine asking if there was any service to help people such as himself experiencing social isolation. He didn’t simply get a letter explaining what was – or, as it happened, wasn’t – available. James drove to Eastbourne a number of times to visit him and try to get some kind of support set up. The fact that a man as busy as James could take the time and trouble to help one person shows the strength of his compassion.

Kind, decent, funny and a tireless activist, James was a true force of nature.

Micheèle Allardyce
(Gscene Designer)

Long before I knew James I’d pick up copies of Gscene to read his editorials. I admired his forthright campaigning style and grew to respect his opinions and through him I felt more engaged with the politics of Brighton’s LGBTQ+ communities. Then along came an opportunity to work for James as a designer for Gscene. “It’s not very glamorous here,” he said at my interview, probably thinking I wouldn’t last more than a few months after having previously worked in London for a club music magazine. The Gscene office was in an old factory building on Portland Road at the time – trees growing through the roof, no heating, a herd of unhoused dogs, ancient computers and long hours for not much pay. But I didn’t care because I really liked working for such an inspiring editor as, I soon discovered, did many others.

He was passionate about community politics and a master of the long game. For 18 years I overheard tantalising snippets of gossip and intriguing phone calls as he selected his targets and plotted his course, chuckling to himself as he thought of awkward freedom of information questions to ask the council, holding to account the police or statutory organisations who he didn’t think were fulfilling their duties.

James had an incredibly sharp intellect but lacked short-term memory due to having a stroke. This gave him licence to make things up and not think he was right. Things changed for the good in Brighton for the LGBTQ+ community because of James. He got things done and made things happen. He was my big gay dad and I loved him. I feel lucky to have worked for such a great man.
Besi (James’ Husband)

Our first meeting in Antalya almost did not happen as we were both standing outside different terminals and our phones didn’t work. James thought I had stood him up and I thought he had stood me up – we couldn’t have been more wrong. A text managed to make it through saying that he was outside Burger King. It’s funny how our stories begin.

On that week we spent together, it didn’t take long for me to realise that he was the man I wanted to spend the rest of my life with. He was handsome, with sparkling eyes and a gorgeous smile. His cheekiness and sense of humour were adorable and it was impossible not to fall in love with him. Not forgetting, of course, his fancy signature shirts, which he would call “Versace darling”.

James didn’t tell me about Gscene until I moved to Brighton. As a public person he knew that it wasn’t going to be easy for me to be his partner and he was trying to protect what we were going to build together for the next nine years of happiness.

On one occasion some months later I remember going for dinner and people would come to say hello to James, referring to him as “number 5”, which puzzled us both. We soon discovered he had been listed as number five in SO magazine’s list of most powerful people in Brighton & Hove – above politicians, the chief of police, and senior council members etc.

James was so well known in Brighton that, while he was interviewing an Oscar-winning actress in a local coffee shop, people would stop for a quick chat or gossip with him without paying any attention to the well-known actress. After the third intervention the actress said to James: “I thought I was the well-known star, but clearly not as much as you.”

Although such a public person, James kept our personal lives, which he was very protective of, relatively private. He could understand me just by looking at me and would never leave the house without a big hug. Regardless of how stressful my day was, this hug made that all disappear instantly. Eventually he would say: “You’ve got so big I can’t reach my hands.” I miss that hug so very much.

James enjoyed life to the full. His positivity despite his health was an inspiration and he would never complain. Just one week before he passed, we were in Lanzarote spending time with his beloved sister Rosalyn and her husband Neil. James had a weak spot for Rosalyn who he adored, along with her husband Neil, their daughters Emma and Rachael and their children.

James was eternally young in spirit and he loved a good party – his face would sparkle when food and drinks were served by Butlers With Bums. He enjoyed socialising and had techniques for handling people in any circumstances, which were fascinating to observe.

High principles taught by his family made James so respected in our city. He could not be corrupted and those who tried discovered quickly what a mistake that was. Nothing he did was money oriented but driven by the human will to help. James was loyal to everyone who had earned his trust, and valued honesty above all. His dedication to our communities was incredible to witness. He always had time for anyone in need and he loved helping people, even when he was on holiday. James would always be there, listening to their stories and moving every stone behind the scenes to make sure the help was provided, even when it meant he had to put pressure on authorities.

James always kept his promises, including the one he made five years ago when we were married. We promised to live the rest of our lives together, and he did spend the rest of his life with me.

I had the best nine years of my life and I am privileged to have spent those with the most extraordinary person who made me the happiest man. I hope I did the same.

James. You have made me who I am today and everything I know is because of you.

The memories we have made will last with me forever. Life without you is not the same and words cannot express how much I miss you.

Me and Kevin keep looking for you every time we get back from our day and hoping these past few weeks are only a bad dream, but we will be alright knowing you are looking over us.

My darling James, love of my life, you are missed so much. The last words we said to each other were: “I love you,” and you know that I will always love you my angel James.

Thank you

Besi, Rosalyn and the Gscene team would like to thank all those who came to and supported James Ledward’s funeral and memorial service. Many people helped and contributed beforehand and on the day itself but special mention goes to Carole Todd for her planning and stage management, Funeral Director Chris Sarson and to the Reverends Michael Hydes and Andrew Woodward. Thank you all so very much.
I first met James nine years ago, when he interviewed me for the job of Gscene sub-editor and ‘listings inputter’. From the off, I realised that James was special – a man who cared deeply for our LGBTQ+ communities; a man laced with integrity; a man with a huge heart, infectious laugh and a twinkle in his eye. Over the years I got to know James better; he was someone I looked up to for honest advice and support, and was the beating heart of the LGBTQ+ communities. Simply irreplaceable. I’ll miss you, James – sleep well. xxx

Mr Masey
(Former Gscene Contributor)

Many years ago I wrote to James about something I had read in Gscene which I disagreed with. He offered to meet me, which I thought was quite amazing. When we met he asked me if I would like to put my views across and write for Gscene as a regular contributor, which I also thought was amazing. It helped me to become a contributor to many publications since. James was a very generous man – always happy to help, always looking to see how things could be improved for people, always happy to stand up for those without a voice. And he was never afraid to challenge anyone. He was a fantastic human being. xxx

Sid
(Former Gscene Contributor)

I met James about six years ago just as myself and my husband Kevin adopted our two kids. He sat laughing at the stories I told and suggested I write for Gscene. I was nervous, I’d never written for a magazine before but he encouraged me and gave me a full page every month to share my stories of becoming Dad & Daddy. I miss having James at the end of a phone or email. He was helping me with a new idea before he passed, which I will continue in the New Year in his honour. God Bless you James, you kind and gentle man. x

Brian Butler
(Gscene Contributor)

I’m a relative latecomer to the wonderful friendship James Ledward could offer. We met in April 2017 in the Camelford Arms where I was introduced as a possible theatre critic. He didn’t question my credentials or ask to see examples. He just set me to the task of reviewing the upcoming Brighton Fringe. That started a daily contact of 100% support and encouragement, letting me branch out into full-length interviews then choir and film reviews. His political sensitivity steered me through the minefield of LGBTQ+ affairs and his passing has left an enormous hole in my life.

BRIGHTON FRIENDS & COLLEAGUES

Peter Storrow
(Business Partner)

To lose my pal after so many years is serious grief indeed, particularly considering the splendid association he had with his partner Besi, with whom he made the legal tie, which I was most happy to see happen. Apart from my family there are only three people I would fly back from the Far East for, James was one. The accolades for a gracious, kind, thoughtful and always hard-working person will, I am sure, be many, however I am not mindful to add to the long list such as I would be able to. Sufficient to say, a sad loss.

Roger Wheeler
(Friend and Gscene Contributor)

I met James in 1984 in a rather notorious gym called Shape in Devonshire Place, Brighton – it’s long gone now. We were sitting in the Jacuzzi, which James called the Queen of Soups as it was men-only day and there were quite a few gentlemen sitting very close to each other. James was the original fun guy and a great party animal; all this was long before he became the great campaigner for our community and Gscene. James became a very good personal friend; Besi’s arrival in his life was fantastic and made James a very happy man. When you experience real love you know it. My wonderful husband, Mike Wall, died exactly eight weeks before James, which makes this all the more poignant for me. We both enjoyed regularly contributing to the magazine. James was never one to decline an invitation and we have some very fond memories of him at our parties, and in particular of a barbecue on our allotment on Whitehawk Hill. We both thought of him as a friend rather than the famous (infamous) man who knew everyone and whose middle name was ‘networking’. I was often told off by him for not supporting the gay community enough – it just wasn’t us, but he would have none of it. “You’re typical of the gay chattering classes of Kemptown. Yes please, another glass of champagne.”

My emotions about the loss of James are strongly connected with those of my husband Michael who, of course, has left the biggest hole in my life. Now James has left us, who am I going to ask for advice and how will I know about all the latest gossip, none of which could ever be published? James came to my house for a chat just a week before he died – he was his usual caustic, witty self although I realised that things were not good. Of course I feel the loss of both James and my beloved Michael extremely deeply, but their love lives on.

Grief, I’ve learned, is really just love. It’s all the love you want to give, but can’t. All that unspent love gather together in the corners of your eyes, the lump in your throat, and in that hollow part of your chest. Grief is just love with no place to go.

Michael James

James gently wove himself into the fabric of my life like the finest of healing gold threads. Through the tangled, knotted mass of bruised hopes and dreams he invisibly spread his magic. I was unaware at first. In the early days he was that lovely man who tirelessly delivered Gscene to the local hotels from his van. We came together during the terrible pre-Pride era when he fought off all those commercial control freaks who were ripping the life and soul out of our Gay Pride annual festivities. Sadly we lost the word ‘gay’ at that time. However, we were left with the word ‘pride’. And pride is what I feel knowing this wonderful, tireless human being. I watched from the sidelines on many an occasion where, like the Lone Warrior, he launched into battle on behalf of our community.

He understood I was on my own path to recovery and could only offer him help when I was feeling better. And so gently, imperceptibly over the years we bonded. I began to trust once more. I trusted him and his judgements. Whenever I could, I gave him my backing. Over time I came
to love and cherish his husband. We shared meals with friends and birthday parties too.

He was as mischievous as any imp when the occasion required it. He loved a battle, an inheritance from his childhood. He was fearless, as many a person in authority can attest to. He openly challenged all forms of homophobia from wherever it came – the council, the police, the local paper or any religious organisation. Particularly those within the gay community who put their commercial concerns above all else.

James was the once in a lifetime champion of our local community. We can best honour his achievements by now supporting those who have to take up the job of guiding us through what might well be some of the worst years yet.

I look forward to seeing the James Ledward name on my local bus and a huge pink plaque somewhere in a very visible public space.

Chris Gull
(Brighton Rainbow Fund Chair)

James and I were friends for more than 30 years, and in almost daily contact over the last six years because we ‘ran’ the Brighton Rainbow Fund, which he co-founded 10 years ago, as trustees. I moved to Valencia nearly four years ago, so most of those chats were via video messaging. Fun fact, for most of the year James worked in his office topless and no, I never asked why.

I was honoured to have been asked to talk about his immense contribution to our LGBTQ+ communities at his packed funeral, and what follows is most of what I said then.

How to sum up James’ achievements in a short space? Well here are a few milestones, some of which go back to the 1990s: Project Zorro, setting up and chairing the original LGBT Community Safety Forum, Gscene, the Golden Handbags, the AIDS memorial, and of course the Brighton Rainbow Fund. There are plenty of other projects that he was instrumental in seeing through to fruition, by encouragement and putting the right people in touch with each other. From his early days in Brighton he was able to see what needed to be done, and wasn’t afraid to speak truth to power.

So who can replace him? The answer is, thanks to James, simple. You. Well more precisely... Us. James has left us, as a community, in pretty good shape. There is much work to do in this ever-changing world, but his achievements are the resource to allow us to continue without him. We are his greatest legacy.

You may well know the 12th century quote about sitting on the shoulders of giants, well James is our very own giant. Many of the tributes to James describe him as inspirational. We can all take that inspiration to fill the gap that James has left in our community. As individuals we can be inspired to be kind and respectful, be inspired to speak truth to power. Those who have the privilege of financial stability can be inspired to donate, or fundraise. Those with the privilege of time can be inspired to volunteer. Be inspired to use the privilege of a skill or talent to mentor, support and encourage, to benefit those who need it. Reach out to those within our communities who are lonely and isolated.

James achieved much by bringing people, organisations, businesses, politicians, together, so be inspired to work together.

It takes a village...

We are James’ greatest legacy, and the greatest tribute we can give to him is to carry on, and build on that legacy.

Andrew Kaye
(Journalist & Latest TV presenter)

On a personal level I’ll miss his sense of humour and witty cut downs. He was a larger than life personality and our community will never be quite the same without him.

Rest in peace James, an advocate, champion and true community hero.

Paul Kemp
(Brighton & Hove Pride Managing Director)

On one particular trip to Rotterdam the schedule was so packed that somehow the PR team forgot to feed us. Late one night James left us at the hotel reception and went in search of food. The next morning at breakfast he looked exhausted and when quizzed he explained why. Having set off from the hotel he spotted the iconic Golden Arches that in his mind spelled ‘burger’. But as he reached his goal he couldn’t find his Maccy D. He set off again and spotted another, but again it was a fall, the signage had led him astray.

It happened a few more times and eventually he gave up. It was only the following morning that he realised the signs he had followed were not McDonald’s but the Rotterdam Metro. He made up for it at the breakfast buffet, but later that morning when we were offered a boat trip around the container port he stood his ground and refused, insisting that we were fed instead.

We went on many of those trips. In Dublin we decided to do the Guinness experience and ended up in the restaurant where we started with a dozen oysters each followed by the steak and Guinness pie. When the blue-eyed colleen came to ask for our dessert order James, without pause for breath, ordered another dozen oysters.

Over the years I have, as I am sure most of you have, enjoyed some of the best nights out, best meals, best parties and concerts and chats and support.

James will be remembered for his tireless work supporting the LGBTQ+ scene, his campaigning and fearless approach to righting wrongs.
If there was a problem James was on it, we all know that and right now I’m sure we’re wondering who, if anyone, can step into that role.

I’m confident that the appearance of James at any meeting would have put a smile on the face of anyone in the community he so loved – and equally struck fear into the hearts of our adversaries. But today, let us all remember that smile, that rosy cheeked and cheeky grin, that ability to find the good in people and the fun in life.

Here’s to the man who put the heart into our city, our community and our lives. James Ledward should now read James Legend.

Maria Baker
(Friend and Brighton Rainbow Fund Grants Panel member)

In 1995, I was running a mixed bar called Marilyn’s and I was doing my best masquerade as a heterosexual woman. James, being ever the journalist, came to see what was going on in the back streets of Brighton. Before long he was busy helping me with my advertising and became a regular visitor to what was, at the time, one of Brighton’s few late-night venues.

As our business relationship grew so did our friendship. James was the first person I told I was a lesbian, standing in Revenge, both a little worse for wear, he was a little shocked but, as always with James, he was immediately supportive and years later he was the best man at my ‘big gay wedding’. I miss the bones of him every day. The loss to our community is immeasurable.

Sleep well my big old bear until we dance again.

David Hodgson
(Former partner)

He told me he was a printer when we first met in 2001 and while that was loosely true, it was quickly apparent there was a bit more to it. I rapidly learned that nothing was done by halves in Ledworld (as I called it, never really caught on) and that made James an enthralling man to be around, though of course things were a little chaotic. He had evidently decided early in life that most normal rules, including a number of inconvenient laws, many elements of social etiquette and all zonal parking restrictions, did not apply to him (if I add housework to that list, it will probably not surprise you). The result of this was though I’ve never argued more with anyone ever (mother included), I’ve also never lived as fast or laughed as hard (though to my shame, the one that sticks in my mind was him falling off a chair in Charles Street. In my defence he laughed as much as anyone).

More importantly, however, I’ve lost count of the occasions he made me truly proud. Magazine aside, James is rightly remembered for his wider contribution to the LGBTQ+ community. People think a community just happens but it was really hard work – mostly unglamorous meetings just about every weekend for years, and that took conviction, commitment and real doggedness to face down the indifferent or downright hostile attitudes that existed at that time with some of our civic partners. As well as the huge efforts to create and maintain the Safety Forum and the AVI in a period when homophobia and hate crimes often went unchallenged, there were numerous other challenges to preserve a community – the struggles holding Pride to account during its more troubled past, the peacekeeping with feuding bar managers, fending off intimidation from crackpot right-wing groups, legal action from people who should have known better, moaning councillors on the phone at all hours... and on... and on... James didn’t miss a beat through any of this, his soft skills were sharp as a razor to steer a path through all the egos and bullshit that came with the territory.

But there was a lot of fun along the way. Whatever the social setting or subject, the twinkling eyes and mischievous smile could be activated at will and a drink or two shoe horned into proceedings, which invariably ended with him holding court, often to a completely different group of people to the ones who were there originally. This played out not just in Brighton but pretty much everywhere, and I have fond memories of karaoke in Liverpool, drag bars in Rio, on stage with Barry Manilow in Vegas or drunk in a jeep on a New Zealand beach with Claire Sweeney. He led a fantastically full life, and not by chance, he made it all happen and I’m forever grateful I got to be part of it during those years.

I’ve not grieved more than I did in the days and weeks after October 3rd and it’s still far from my mind. That’s as it should be, I’m grateful to be reminded, though I hope the balance will tilt over the years from sadness to remembrance to celebration. I sincerely hope too that Brighton will find a fitting way to remember James. He deserves that for the changes he helped to bring to this town.

James, I’ll miss you. The only problem with the Brighton you helped to shape is that you were such a vital part of it. I wish you hadn’t left quite so soon, I wasn’t ready. Rest easy big man.

Lola Lasagne
(Stephen Richards)

One of my first experiences of James was shouting down a microphone at him as I thought taking pictures of a cheque presentation for the Sussex Beacon more important then a venue opening, and he wasn’t doing it. We met for lunch the following week and a friendship was born.

When I moved to Brighton, 21 years ago, I wanted to be an active part of the community
James was a close friend. I’m sure others will tell you about his great achievements, the projects he started, the people he helped and lives he changed, but to me he was just a friend with a car full of half-empty cardboard boxes, a beautiful husband and a dog with separation anxiety issues.

We’d meet for lunch once a month normally, just after the magazine had gone online. He’d pick me up, even though I’m only five minutes from the scene, and we’d eat in one of the advertisers venues to show support. We’d munch away and catch up on all the gossip from the scene and beyond. Afterwards, he’d drive me home and we’d sit in the car for just as long, sharing all those worries that we couldn’t talk about in a bar and with other people.

It’s very easy to underestimate the impact he has had on the Brighton LGBTQ+ community over the decades and I believe that it will take more than one person to replace all the good work that he did. He was a community guardian who strongly believed that we’re better when working together. I, like many, miss him.

Lez Ingham
(Artist)

I’d known James for years but got to know him a little more over the last three after we cooked up a plan for me to donate a painting and auction it at a Bear-Patrol’s Hibernation Lunch, held annually at the Old Ship Hotel in Brighton. James told me how funding had been slashed across the board for the LGBTQ+ community and that they were struggling to keep charities afloat. Since that first meeting in his car, parked on Palmeira Square in Hove, we’ve raised £8,500 with three paintings.

James was one of those extraordinary people who never ceased to amaze me; his endless energy and passionate conviction for all things gay and glitzy. His wicked sense of humour was infectious, as was his smile that could light up a room. I knew he wasn’t well, he struggled with his health, and I’d feel helpless when he’d tell of his latest visit to the hospital. This never curtailed his determination to sort out the endless problems, deadlines or meetings he’d have, in fact I think, on reflection, it kept him going.

In the spring of this year I was violently attacked in broad daylight, by a man who’d been stalking me. James was the first one to contact me offering support, he was incredibly upset and asked if it was related to my sexuality. He gave me advice and directed me to someone who would advise me through the long process of bringing the attacker to court. I always looked up to James as a father figure, in fact my secret nickname for him was ’Big Daddy’. I felt safe with James Ledward.

Gscene outlived all contenders over the years, bringing glitz and glamour, as well as offering a local and international political view. James had his finger on the pulse of all things gay. This year I was offered two tickets for the beginning of Glyndebourne’s opera season, and I couldn’t think of anyone more deserving than James. He had to cancel and reschedule meetings but he came with me. He loved it – champagne and a picnic on the lawns, on a beautiful spring day. I’m so pleased he was able to attend, as watching him enjoying himself without having to answer his phone for several hours was a treat for us both.

Carole Todd
(Theatre Director & Choreographer)

My lasting memory is of James turning up at my little house, with or without Besi and Kevin, so I could accompany him to a choir concert, a local theatre production, a Safety Forum meeting, a show I directed or choreographed, particularly at Above The Stag, or even just a Sunday roast and a spot of cabaret. James would always take the short cuts and back roads. These would generally take twice as long as the normal route but the journey reflected James’ ability to weave in and out of various situations, problems and confrontations and arrive at a successful conclusion, still with those twinkling eyes and that cheeky grin.

James first honoured me by inviting me to design the lighting at last year’s Golden Handbags, but the ultimate honour was, two days before he passed, he made sure I visited the hospital so he could ask me face to face (through the tears) to oversee the funeral. He just sent me five song titles and told me who he wanted to sing what. Typically, he very cleverly gave me information and had given additional detailed info to Chris Sarson of the Co-op Funeral Group, Father Andrew, Rev Michael, et al. We had to get together, communicate our info and work as a team to make the event the very best we could. So typical of James to give us all a little piece of the jigsaw and place us in a situation so we had to work alongside each other to achieve the end result.

I, like everyone, miss him so much but we will endeavour to be kind and non-judgemental as you encouraged us to be. RIP dear man.

Graham Munday
(Brighton Bear Weekend Chair)

James was a close friend. I’m sure others will tell you about his great achievements, the projects he started, the people he helped and lives he changed, but to me he was just a friend with a car full of half-empty cardboard boxes, a beautiful husband and a dog with separation anxiety issues.

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Wendy Walton
(Brighton Centre former Head of Marketing)

I first met James in the early 1990s when I was head of marketing at the Brighton Centre. James was one of the first, and most enthusiastic, attendees on what became an annual press jaunt to visit Holiday On Ice in Europe, in advance of its arrival in Brighton. There are too many hilarious memories to recount here – but James was at the heart of all of them. Over the years we became good friends, even when I moved from Brighton a decade ago. James and lovely Besi visited me in the Cotswolds. James was a truly extraordinary human being. He had the ability to make you feel important; he was generous, funny, naughty and simply one of the greatest men I ever met.
Connection and looking after each other – and I truly hope that will be his legacy.

I recently talked all things Brighton Rainbow with Sally Vate, Dave Lyn, Lola Lasagne, Miss Jason & Davina Sparkle. It’s up to us now to pick up the baton of community activism, and it was important to him that the scene businesses worked together.

Tony Chapman
(Legends Hotel, Bar & Basement Club owner & Revenge Club former owner)

It was a privilege to have known James Ledward for the last 30 years. His dedication, especially during the early years, was crucial. He took on the establishment and fought our corner when the police and council were not as accommodating as they are today. Brighton Pride today is an enormous success due to the stewardship of Paul Kemp, but in the beginning Pride was on seriously shaky ground. Had it not been for James’s dedication and hard work Pride wouldn’t have developed into what it is – for that alone we owe him a great debt.

James worked tirelessly for little reward and I can’t imagine anyone would ever be able to fill his shoes. James will be solely missed by the whole community; I will personally miss his guidance, his invaluable input and, most of all, his friendship.

Andy Feest
(Queens Arms former Landlord)

I met James back in 1995 and, if I remember correctly, we advertised in the very first issue of Gscene. He was someone I took an instant liking to. Many, many times we had conversations about the Brighton gay scene and I often sought his invaluable advice. He was so passionate about everything we ever spoke about and it was important to him that the scene businesses worked together. He set up the Gay Business Forum to meet every month, discussing the issues of the day, which were often resolved thanks to James’ input.

I believe Brighton’s gay scene is what it is today because of James. He was a truly inspirational man, someone who will be in my heart forever.

Chris Marshall
(Charles Street Tap General Manager)

I first met James 13 years ago when I took over the reins at Charles Street. He told me over lunch that I may be used to running gay venues in other cities, but I’ve never really had to deal with the politics of a scene quite like we have in Brighton. I was very dismissive when he said this – but how right, as always, he was. James became such an incredible confidant and advisor to myself, a problem solver and a protector of the community through all this time, someone whose aim was for us to come together and become stronger. I really don’t think it’s hyperbole to say his legacy has been felt by everyone in the Brighton LGBTQ+ community and will continue to be so for years to come.

His contribution to LGBTQ+ Brighton is immeasurable. He was such a positive force – one that can’t be replaced.

But most of all for me... I’ve lost a wise, dear friend who was a joy to be around and whose smile and twinkle in his eye I so sorely miss.

Michael McGarrigle
(Bar Broadway co-owner)

James was so helpful to Alasdair and I when we opened Bar Broadway five years ago. I knew instantly that we were going to be friends. I always felt good after meeting James, whether it was out on the scene, on St James’s Street or at one of the many public meetings about St James’s Street. He always greeted me with a cheery smile and always had a funny quip. This is what I’m going to miss the most about him.

Marc Silver
(Travel Agent)

About a year ago I was about to open an LGBTQ+ travel agency and reached out to James to promote the business in Gscene. After a few conversations he quickly became a mentor in the early stages of the business becoming a reality. As a new start-up, the knowledge James gave was very well received – he gave great advice as well as an ear to chew, which he loved. Then we come up with a proposal for a Rainbow Crossing in Brighton. Again I leaned on James with his

Business Advisor

A consummate businessman himself, James understood the vital ins and outs of Brighton & Hove politics and became an often invaluable advisor to business people in the city, whether they were just starting out and seeking to gain exposure or were established and looking to evolve.

Kathy Caton
(Brighton Gin founder, BBC Sussex & Radio Reverb presenter, community activist)

I got to know James through interviewing him for the Out In Brighton radio show and podcast (Radio Reverb). He was an absolute joy to interview because there was no question he ran away from, he was always frank in his answers, and never afraid to publicly hold others to account. We became really good friends when I was running the Brighton Trans-formed project, where he was spectacularly helpful with not only introductions but solid support – he could instantly see how significant the project was and how important it was that it was done ‘right’. Afternoons of coffee became evenings of wine, often with scurrilous gossip and always a twinkle in his eye, and much putting the world to rights. I had such admiration for everything he did behind the scenes, not least in knocking heads together when necessary and facilitating many a “just sort it out” conversation. An absolute hustler in the best sense. In addition to long nights in the pub I kept interviewing him over the years, most recently talking all things Brighton Rainbow Fund for BBC Sussex. It’s up to us now to pick up the baton of community activism, connection and looking after each other – and I truly hope that that will be his legacy.

Bartenders

Andy Feest
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Nick Ford
(Photographer)

I’m not that good with words but this photo that I took means a lot to me as it sums up his love for his community, his diplomacy skills and caring nature. When James asked me to shoot the Panto cover a year or two ago, I felt compelled to also get a shot of him with the Drag Queens. I’m so glad that it’s a cracker. Miss him so much.
local knowledge and political understanding of Brighton to try to make this a reality. James’ advice was key at this early stage, as we planned the political approach needed for such an idea to become reality. Unfortunately this came at the same time as James was nearing his end, of which he never let on. James was a true champion of the Brighton Rainbow Crossing right to the end, and also myself in a mentoring role. James you were a star, a big multi-coloured star. Thank you for the advice and wisdom you gave to me, I will be forever grateful. Keep shining Brighton up there.

COMMUNITY CHAMPION
No one had as much of an insight into – and arguably influence on – the LGBTQ+ community as James, who encouraged the establishment of several organisations, seemed omnipresent when it came to attending the important events and, indeed, was the architect of the Golden Handbag Awards, recognising achievements in the field, whether as individuals or as part of a greater group.

Colin Barton
(Sussex ME Society Chairman)
We are so sorry about the sudden passing of James who was an important part of our community and a friend to many. I well remember after I was diagnosed with ME in the 1980s and decided with my partner David that we wanted to do something as there was little in the way of understanding of the illness or professional help available. I called James and we had a number of discussions about how we could get dialogue going with the health authorities in a similar way to those working on behalf of people affected by HIV. James was a great help and continued over the years to support our organisation and assist with ME awareness through Gscene magazine. We will miss him.

Finola Brophy
(Rainbow Chorus Trustees Chair)
James Ledward was extraordinary and gave so much to the LGBTQ+ community. He edited Gscene, created and was Trustee of the Brighton Rainbow Fund and more. James loved music and avidly supported all the LGBTQ+ choirs in the city. While I was Chair of the Rainbow Chorus we became good friends. He came to most performances, especially our community ones. We shared a passion for developing and improving networks and understanding, especially around respecting difference. He encouraged the establishment of Working To Connect, the smaller LGBTQ+ and HIV groups network. He was a wise man, using wicked Liverpudlian humour, deep intelligence, sensitivity and warmth to challenge and support folk. James enjoyed life to the full, supported by his husband Besi. We all stand on the shoulders of giants and I know his spirit and legacy lives on.

Affy Wajid
(LGBTQ+ BAME community activist, Calabash at Pride organiser and Go Bang DJ)
What can you say about James that hasn’t already been said? Kind, funny, cheeky, dynamic, determined, dignified, influential, political, a fighter, a leader, a worker, an activist, selfless, supportive, caring and above all my friend. James was all of these things, and more. Brighton, not just the LGBTQ+ community, will miss his witty and cheeky sense of humour and his tireless commitment to fighting for what’s right. I have had the privilege of working closely with James over the years. I for one will really miss him.

Steve Ashfield
(Brighton GEMS)
James will be remembered as someone who was always prepared to help individuals and support/social groups. I remember a Bank Holiday Monday when he could easily have been at home resting. Instead, he was contacting me asking for an update on Brighton GEMS. He was so knowledgeable about the scene and determined to find answers to problems. Where he saw something was wrong, James was willing to try to help put things right. We all owe him so much for all his hard work. When we walk down St James’ Street, I know who we should be thinking about.

Jenni Tellyn
(Rainbow Families)
I’ve been involved with Rainbow Families in Brighton for some years and I wanted to share with you a picture taken at our Christmas party in 2015. James kindly agreed to be Father Christmas for us and even had his own outfit. Here he is holding my littlest, Bibi (Tellyn-Clarke,) who was his little elf helper on the day. I love the picture as it sums up his great big heart, his kindness and community spirit.

Michael Hydes
(The Village MCC Pastor)
My husband, Chris, and I had lived in the US for more than doubled in size. I was humbled when James asked if I would deliver his Eulogy, and I’m sad that we didn’t get more time. It was James who taught me that Brighton’s LGBTQ+ community is full of politics, but if you hold to your truth, no matter how inconvenient, you can’t go too far wrong. I miss him so very much.

Renv Heather Leake Date
(Sussex Ecumenical HIV Chaplaincy)
James was a tremendous support to many of the organisations with which I’m involved, including the HIV Chaplaincy, Lunch Positive, the Martin Fisher Foundation, HIV & Sexual Health services, and the World AIDS Day Community Partnership. He wielded his influence and power constructively, fairly and for the benefit of the community, enabling a huge diversity of voices to be heard and championed. A warm, funny, caring, committed activist, and an entrepreneur with a passion for social justice, James always sought to include everyone, to support and work with allies, to build bridges, and to reconcile groups. Thank you, James, for the pleasure and privilege of knowing you.

Gary Pargeter
(Lunch Positive Service Manager)
There’s so much that I could say about James. I hope that most will have been said while he was living, and will continue to as time moves on. I’ll recount just a simple conversation we shared about Brighton, the gay scene and how things had changed, as they do with the passage of time. We talked about the ‘glamour’ and the high camp of the gay scene here 20, 30 years ago, the characters that we all knew, and the wonderful intimacy of a much smaller social scene. We reflected on the many, seemingly incalculable number of friends and people we knew that had died through AIDS, and the impact on ‘what could have been’ if those people hadn’t been lost. As part of that, I felt comforted.
But, reflecting James’ outlook it wasn’t maudlin. It was celebratory and acknowledged the impact and potential on our times now. James concluded on the needs, challenges, and opportunities for our LGBTQ+ youth; “We must support that to its fullest!” I was inspired, and I hope we will...

Richard Jeneway
(Lunch Positive Trustee)

Since James passed away I’ve read many outstanding tributes spoken from the heart and reflected at the funeral, which was truly an emotional service. I had the pleasure of knowing James for 10 years. He was drawn to my guide dog at an event in Brighton and from there we met to talk about an idea I and some others had for a new community wellbeing service for people with HIV, which would include yoga and therapy events along with some social events, but aimed specifically at the HIV community. I’m proud to say James gave this his support, but not lightly – he spoke honestly and plainly while encouraging the project to grow.

James visited us in Rottingdean, often mainly to sit on the sofa and have a chat. Sometimes we would talk about his work at Gscene and the Brighton Rainbow Fund, and also as a key voice standing up for LGBTQ+ rights and a staunch supporter of the work of our voluntary and community sector. He’s been a great friend to Switchboard for many years and he will be very sorely missed.

In the few short months I’ve been in post, it was immediately clear to me what an important advocate and friend of the community James was. I saw him working tirelessly at Pride and Trans Pride over the summer, taking photos and chatting to everyone and then reporting it all in Gscene, and again playing such an important role in the Brighton Rainbow Fund grants process, without which so many vital services could not exist. He was obviously so loved and respected, and not afraid to stand up and voice his opinions in order to improve the lives of people in our communities. I don’t know what the community is going to do without him, his loss is going to be felt far and wide for a very long time to come. My heart is with his family and his many friends.

Daniel Cheesman
(Switchboard former CEO)

I was really sad to hear about the death of James. During my time at Switchboard I developed a relationship with him that was built on both trust and respect. James supported Switchboard’s rebrand and development of new services and he saw the gap in terms of the lack of support for older LGBTQ+ people and encouraged Switchboard along with others to provide services to meet those needs. James was a real advocate for the LGBTQ+ voluntary sector, a critic at times, but more importantly a friend and supporter – he will be missed.

David Derrick
(CD295, Critical Incident Inspector)

I started working with James about 10 years ago, I had only been an Inspector a few years so was still learning the ropes. I agreed to do an interview with James about some progressive LGBTQ+ work we were doing. I remember sending my first email to James, who quickly emailed back and sternly told me off for trying to dictate what we would speak about. After licking my wounds, eventually we met and spoke about how we could work together better with a joint ambition to improve services for LGBTQ+ people. Over the following couple of years the work we achieved was recognised internationally as we were invited by the US Government Aid agency to help drive similar ambitions in South America, which I was fortunate to do. As well as this, James helped the police on countless occasions regarding other crimes and matters against LGBT people and how we could work together as a community to support communities. James never gave up on this initiative, just not from a policing perspective but across the statutory community. He was always close by to be a ‘critical friend’ and, despite advising the police, he was never afraid to say what he thought if it meant others would benefit. The supportive role he played allowed me and my team to provide a better, more educated, informed service and therefore benefited communities and the police.

James was everywhere in the LGBTQ+ community and he did this without appearing oppressive. His nature was always kind, caring, with a primary ambition to help anyone he could, especially those without a voice. Over the years James became a friend and his presence and advice will be greatly missed.

Rory Finn
(Trans Can Sport)

I’m not sure when I first met James. Certainly his reputation preceded him by a long mile, and I have to confess I had strong opinions about him despite not having met him in person. I regarded him as a powerful man who could make or break people. I knew that forming a good working relationship with him would be key to...
achieved the change I wanted to see in the city. My first interactions were when I was involved in what was then TFM Brighton. I needed Gscene to give a voice to the concerns of the trans community. We were upset that no politicians had attended our annual Transgender Day of Remembrance. I sent James a copy of the letter we sent to the leader of the council and fellow leaders of the political groups at the time. Being a political man, I hoped James would understand our desire for them to be held to account.

When I took on the job of being the police LGBTQ+ liaison, I knew it would be political. Centre stage was James. He was passionate about the role and would remind me, every time we met, about his involvement in its creation. He would tell me anecdotes about how he held various police chiefs to account. It would be fair to say I feared him for the power he had, especially through the magazine. I knew that he had taken due diligence to investigate me before I started the job and I knew his feelings about the police would colour the community’s. I would nervously read through every issue for any articles about the police. After a time James agreed we could have a regular police column to communicate community safety information. When a former Brighton Commander wanted to know the backstory of the LGBTQ+ community and Brighton Police, it was to James I turned. He very kindly left me alone in a room stacked full of Gscene back issues to get the perspective I needed.

Towards the end of my time working for the police James would call me up. I’d nervously return his call, expecting a grilling about something, but instead he’d pick my brains about the trans and wider LGBTQ+ community and who was causing what nuisance and to whom. I realised that after all this time, I’d come to respect and like James and I sensed he felt the same way about me too.

AJ Paterson

I’ll never ever forget James giving me a voice to share my story in Gscene, The Pain of Prayer. Because of James, who listened, and the lovely journalist who interviewed me, I’ve continued to heal. So James, thank you for your kindness.

Robert Pattinson

James is a massive loss to our LGBTQ+ community – he must be the most respected man, a LGBTQ+ champion. He gave our community a voice and was respected far and wide. When he spoke to people in authority they listened. He did so much good in the world and will be very sadly missed.

James represented the whole of our community, which is why I chose to use Gscene cuttings to make an A1 poster for every year since 1998. I was in a copy of Gscene in July 2012 when James came to my flat to see my posters. I started to do the posters as I was housebound for years. When James came to see me I was very unwell and he spent three hours with me having a good old chat about our LGBTQ+ community. I’m now much more healthy thanks to the NHS and LGBTQ+ charity organisations that helped me. The posters filled my time with happy memories. I’ll be making the 2019 poster as a tribute to James once the January 2020 Gscene is published so I can include that. The posters list the good times, the sad times and show how the LGBTQ+ community has changed. But they also show the great work James did at Gscene representing our LGBTQ+ community.

Mark R Machan

I’m so grateful to James, who I asked earlier in the year for a piece to be written on the late film director Derek Jarman. He kindly arranged a feature to be written on Derek’s life, which was cut short by HIV in 1994, I helped to arrange with English Heritage for Derek to be awarded a blue plaque on his previous home in Butler’s Wharf, Bankside, London, with the help of Peter Tatchell back in February, to coincide with the 25th anniversary of Derek’s sad passing. It was a real pleasure to work with James on marking this anniversary, I am forever grateful for all his help. He will be missed.

He had such a big caring heart and to me he was a guardian angel. I was housed and put with the right people at the hospital for my health all because of James.

One day I said my dream would be to interview Beverley Knight, and I’ll never forget what he said: “If she says yes then we can run the interview.” A project of my own. I spoke to Beverley and got the interview published – he was so proud of me as it was all done by myself without help. Then he asked me to write a story about my mental health in last month’s edition. I didn’t even have to think about it – I wanted to tell people my story and was honoured that James had approached me.

I’ll always treasure James and what he has done for me and our community. He’s gone from being a guardian angel on earth to a guardian angel in the sky. He will be forever in my thoughts.

Alice Denny: Cup Of Joe

(POET, ACTIVIST & FRIEND)

That familiar cheerful walk I used to take from my flat’s flaking pink back door along the path past George’s Cup of Joe, the café in St George Street where you so often sat taking time to meet a friend or two to chew the fat or contented on your own to think, to wave and smile to please delighted passers-by can never be the same now that I know.

And anyway, (Things change) since I left the town some time ago my door’s been painted sort of muddy grey (How strange) and ‘though I rarely get the chance to pass there anymore once not long ago, visiting, I did and there as large as life you sat I might have guessed at your usual pavement table in the sunlit patch with which you and Cup of Joe seemed always blessed offering the warmest hug and kindest smile of welcome for me as so many times before to tempt me to an unplanned Cup of Joe, to laugh, to chat, to rest a while watch seagulls soar, beneath our hallowed Kempston sky. We said farewell that day, yet still I so wish I’d had the chance to say “Goodbye”
Information is correct at the time of going to press. Gscene cannot be held responsible for any changes or alterations to the listings.

**TUESDAY 31**
- **AFFINITY BAR** NYE Party: cabaret with Vicki Vivacious & Lovinia Belle 8pm
- **ALL NEW BULLDOG** NYE Extravaganza with karaoke 9pm
- **AMSTERDAM** NYE Party with DJ 9pm
- **BAR 7@CRAWLEY** NYE Black & White Party 9pm
- **BAR BROADWAY** NYE: Traditional Hogmanay with Tabitha Wild 9pm
- **BASEMENT CLUB@LEGENDS** NYE Countdown to 2020: DJs Claire Fuller & Peter Castle 9pm
- **CAMELFORD ARMS** NYE Party 8pm
- **CHARLES ST TAP** Black Ties & Tiaras NYE Party: host Joan Bond, giveaways & tunes 9pm
- **FALLEN ANGEL** NYE 4pm
- **GROSVENOR BAR** NYE Party with Davina Sparkle 9pm
- **LEGENDS BAR** NYE Countdown to 2020: DJs Claire Fuller & Peter Castle 9pm
- **MARINE TAVERN** NYE Party with Candi Rell 8pm
- **PARIS HOUSE** NYE Roaring 20s Party with live music from Sam Chara & Marilyn du Sar 8pm; Andy the Dandy DJ 12am
- **QUEEN’S ARMS** NYE 5pm, NYE Party with Kara Van Park 10pm & 11.45pm
- **RAILWAY CLUB** NYE Party: DJ 8pm
- **REGALIERS@LEGENDS** NYE Countdown to 2020 by Cabaret Plants
- **REGENCY TAVERN** NYE Masquerade with Stephanie Von Clitz 8.30pm
- **SUBLINE** New Year Shindig 9pm
- **VELVET JACKS** NYE Fancy Dress Party: shots, prizes & nibbles 9pm
- **LE VILLAGE** NYE Party with Pat Clutcher 8pm
- **ZONE** Sally Vate’s NYE Bonanza 9pm
- **LEGS BAR** New Year’s Day cabaret 3.30pm
- **MARINE TAVERN** Pink Pound 7pm
- **QUEEN’S ARMS** Sally Vate’s New Year Hangover Show 10pm
- **REGENCY TAVERN** New Year’s Day 12pm
- **SUBLINE** closed for New Year’s Day
- **LE VILLAGE** New Year’s Day cabaret 9pm

**WEDNESDAY 1**
- **AFFINITY BAR** New Year’s Day karaoke with Tommy Tanker (aka Pat Clutcher) 8pm
- **ALL NEW BULLDOG** Green Light Cruise Night New Year’s Day Special 8pm
- **BAR BROADWAY** Rhys & Jennie 7pm
- **BASEMENT CLUB@LEGENDS** New Year’s Day Now That’s What I Call Legends: DJ Claire Fuller 11pm
- **CAMELFORD ARMS** New Year Hangover Party 12pm
- **CHARLES ST TAP** New Year’s Day breakfasts 11am
- **LEGENDS BAR** New Year’s Day cabaret 3.30pm
- **MARINE TAVERN** Pink Pound 7pm
- **QUEEN’S ARMS** Sally Vate’s New Year Hangover Show 10pm
- **REGENCY TAVERN** New Year’s Day 12pm
- **SUBLINE** closed for New Year’s Day
- **LE VILLAGE** New Year’s Day cabaret 9pm

**THURSDAY 2**
- **AFFINITY BAR** Dave Lynn, guests & games 9pm
- **ALL NEW BULLDOG #Transolve** Thursday: camp karaoke & queens with Macarena & Sam Pink 8pm
- **BAR BROADWAY** Ross Cameron’s Big Quiz: cash/boozy prizes 8pm
- **CAMELFORD ARMS** £300 Big Cash Quiz 9pm
- **CHARLES ST TAP** Throwback Thursday 9pm
- **GROSVENOR BAR** Camp Bingo 8.30pm
BAR BROADWAY

10 Steine Street, BN2 1TE, Tel: 01273 609777, www.barbroadway.co.uk
OPEN Mon-Thur from 6pm-1am, Fri from 5pm-3am, Sat from 4pm-3am, Sun from 4pm-1am.

- **IYEP** (31) Dec is Bar Broadway’s Traditional HOGMANAY with Tabitha Wild guiding you from the teens to the roaring 20s from 9pm. **Wed (1)** is New Year’s Day with Rhys & Jennie performing live from 7pm.
- **ONE FOR THE DIARY** Sunday (26) is FIREPLACE SESSIONS presents Men Talk Health Musical Therapy with top acts onstage from 8.30pm. Bar Broadway say, “We have our annual fundraiser for the amazing charity that is Men Talk Health. It’s going to be an amazing day and we have some amazing acts giving up their time to perform on the day!”
- **REGULARS** Sun. FIREPLACE SESSIONS presents top acts at 8.30pm: Ella (5), Chris Hibbert’s Brighton Swansong (12) and Paul Middleton (19). Paul Middleton is a London-based singer with a unique, beautiful voice and uninhibited love for music. His renditions of popular songs have seen him tour over England, Ireland, Germany, Spain, Belgium and the USA. He has had two number ones in the LGBTIQ+ music charts and, even though he’s a world-class singer and entertainer, he’s probably one of the nicest guys in showbiz. **Mon** is now JAM AWAY THE MONDAY BLUES from 9pm. **Tue** is Bar Broadway’s PIANO SING-ALONG from 9pm. **Wed** is now IT’S ALL FUN & GAMES with Sally Vate – An Introduce to Shade from 9.30pm. **Thur** is the BIG QUIZ with Ross Cameron, cash/boozy prizes at 8pm. **Fri & Sat** ONLINE JUKEBOX with a mix of musical anthems, all chosen by you at www.broadwayjukebox.com. Bar Broadway say: “The online jukebox is back for you to control the weekend’s playlist! You click, we play – and that includes our weekend anthems. It’s also now easier to use with a nifty search facility!”

FRIDAY 3
- **AFFINITY BAR** Wigs & Beads Karaoke with drag hostess 8pm
- **ALL NEW BULLDOG** Fri Night Live: camp karaoke DJ Glyn-Sing 9pm. Show Time: Domina Tryx 11pm. karaoke till 3am
- **AMSTERDAM** cabaret: Miss Jason 9.30pm
- **BAR 7@CRAWLEY** TGIF Madness: resident/guest DJs 7pm
- **BAR BROADWAY** Jukebox 5pm
BAR 7 CRAWLEY
7 Pegler Way, Crawley, RH11 7AG, Tel: 01293 511177, www.7crawley.co.uk
OPEN daily from 6pm, extended opening hours on NYE, closed New Year’s Day.
DRINK PROMOS Tue, Wed, Fri, Sat & Sun drink deals all night

NYE Tuesday (31) Dec is the BLACK & WHITE NYE PARTY with merriment till midnight and after.

ONE FOR THE DIARY Saturday (1) Feb live CABARET with the sensational Sandra on stage at 9pm.

REGULARS Friday & Saturday party time with alternate DJs and karaoke from 9pm. Kirsty Anderson, Michael Adams, Jazzy Jane, Charlie Eaton and Patrick Crawley.

Sunday SOCIAL KARAOKE with hosts from 6pm. Tuesday is CREWSDAY from 7pm.

BASEMENT CLUB@LEGENDS Night Shift: DJ David Noakes & Trick 11pm
CAMELFORD ARMS Friday Club 6pm
CHARLES ST TAP Fabulous Friday: DJ Morgan Fabulous 9pm
GROSVENOR BAR cabaret: Davina Sparkle 9.30pm
LEGENDS BAR Brighton Belles: local cabaret stars & guests 9pm
MARINE TAVERN Jukebox Disco 9pm
PARIS HOUSE DJ Havoox 9pm
QUEEN’S ARMS Big Friday Cabaret: Son of a Tutu 10pm

SUBLINE Steam 10pm
THE VILLAGE karaoke 8pm: cabaret: Ruby Murry 10pm; DJ 11pm
ZONE cabaret: Chris Hide 10pm

SUNDAY 4
AFFINITY BAR camp cabaret: Miss Jason 6.30pm, karaoke 8pm
ALL NEW BULLDOG Wonds Starr’s Queen of the Night: camp cabaret with prizes 8pm
AMSTERDAM Karaoke 9.30pm
BAR 7@CRAWLEY Party Night: alternate DJs 7pm
BAR BROADWAY Jukebox 4pm
BASEMENT CLUB@LEGENDS Fusion: DJ Peter Castle 11pm
CHARLES ST TAP Fierce DJ 9pm
GROSVENOR BAR cabaret: Pooch La May 9.30pm
LEGENDS BAR Pre-club DJ 7pm
MARINE TAVERN Candi Rell’s Karaoke & Cabaret Party 9pm
PARIS HOUSE All That Jazz: Jorge’s Hot Club 4pm; Andy the Dandy DJ 9pm
QUEEN’S ARMS QA Triple cabaret: Poppycoc 6pm, Betty Swollows 8pm. Lela Lasaghe & Mrs Moore perform at Alex’s 30th Birthday Party 10pm
REGENCY TAVERN cabaret: Ruby Murry 9pm

SUBLINE Men’s Room 10pm
THREE JOLLY BUTCHERS Pre-home match warm-up: pie & pint deal: Brighton v Sheffield Weds 12pm; live football: Rochdale or Boston v Newcastle 12.30pm, Wolves v Man Utd 5.30pm
LE VILLAGE karaoke 8pm
QUEEN’S ARMS QA Triple cabaret: Poppycoc 6pm, Betty Swollows 8pm. Lela Lasaghe & Mrs Moore perform at Alex’s 30th Birthday Party 10pm

SUNDAY 5
AFFINITY BAR cabaret: see Facebook for act 5pm
ALL NEW BULLDOG Sunday Funday 12pm; karaoke with Mandy 5pm

AMSTERDAM cabaret: Jason Lee 5pm; roasts 12pm–till gone
BAR 7@CRAWLEY karaoke 6pm
BAR BROADWAY Fireplace Sessions present Ella 8.30pm
BASEMENT CLUB@LEGENDS Glitter Curious: sing-along party with Patrick Crawley & Maria Gardner 11pm
CAMELFORD ARMS Bear Bash: free food/raffle 5pm, roasts/select menu 12pm–till gone
CHARLES ST TAP cabaret, host Sally Vale & Davina Sparkle 7.30pm; Sally’s Rock & Roll Bingo 8.30pm; roasts 12pm
LEGENDS BAR cabaret: Dave Lynn 3.30pm; roasts 12.30–4pm

ALL NEW BULLDOG
31 St James’s Street, Brighton, BN2 1RF, tel 01273 696996, #BulldogBTN
OPEN Mon from 4pm–midnight, Tue–Thu from 3pm–midnight, Fri & Sat from midnight–3am. Sun from midnight–midnight, NYE from 3pm–3am.
DRINK PROMOS Mon–Fri from 4–7pm. Sun from 12–4pm. Wed Green Light drink promos when the lights go green and a specified artist plays on the screens.

NYE Tuesday (31) Dec is the all new BULLDOG NYE EXTRAVAGANZA with karaoke from 9pm till 3am. Wed (1) is the GREEN LIGHT CRUISE NIGHT New Year’s Day Special from 8pm.

ONE FOR THE DIARY Saturday (25) is Wonda Starr’s QUEEN OF THE NIGHT BURNS NIGHT SPECIAL with tartan wrapped queens, camp karaoke and outrageous entertainment from 9pm.

REGULARS CAMP KARAOKE 5 nights a week!
#TRANSOLVE TUESDAYS with The Macarena and Sam Pink bringing camp, karaoke and queens from 8pm.
Wednesday is GREEN LIGHT CRUISE NIGHT from 8pm. When the lights go green and a specified artist plays on the screens selected drinks drop.
#TRANSOLVE THURSDAYS with The Macarena and Sam Pink bringing camp, karaoke, queens from 8pm. FRIDAY NIGHT LIVE with camp karaoke and party faves from DJ Glynn-Sing at 9pm, then SHOWTIME with Domina Tryz at 11pm followed by karaoke till 3am. Saturday is Wonda Starr’s QUEEN OF THE NIGHT with outrageous 1, fab prizes and all your favourite party tunes/flow fillers from 9pm. ALL NEW SUNDAY FUNDAY from 12pm. camp karaoke from Mandy at 5pm. MONDAY GLITTER BALL: classic camp videos from 1970s–00s at 4pm.
All new Bulldog say: “It’s time to start all over again with Monday Glitter Ball! Expect all your favourite music videos through the decades and a few campastic faves playing all the way till midnight! It’s another #geinfvinelduse in the heart of Gay Brighton.”
### Bar & Kitchen

71-12 Marine Parade, Brighton BN2 1TL | Tel: 01273 670 976
www.AmsterdamBrighton.com

#### KARAOKE SATURDAYS with Guest Hosts - Starts 9:30pm

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>3rd</th>
<th>Miss Jason</th>
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<td>10th</td>
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#### CABARET FRIDAYS

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<tr>
<td>12th</td>
<td>Jamie Watson</td>
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<td>19th</td>
<td>Gabriella Parrish</td>
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<td>Jason Lee</td>
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#### SUNDAY SERENADE

Starts 9:30pm

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### JANUARY DRINKS PROMOS

- Pravha £4 a pint, selected bottled beer £3.50
- House spirit and house mixer £3 single, £5 double
- Two cocktails for £15
- And our house wine is only £11.90 a bottle!

Saturday 25th January - drop us a line to book!

**Burns Night Supper at The Amsterdam**

Haggis, neeps & tatties and fantastic Scottish whiskies

Free shot of single malt for anyone wearing a kilt!

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### Simon Pepper

www.simonpepperphotography.com

### ARTISTS HEADSHOTS / MODELS & FITNESS COMMERCIAL / CORPORATE / CELEBRITY / DRAG WEDDING / EVENTS / LIVE GIG & CONCERT PHOTOGRAPHY, DESIGN & EDITING SERVICES

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### Bulldog Brighton

31 St James Street, Brighton 01273 696996

#### The All New Bulldog Brighton

A fresh new friendly atmosphere and environment for everyone to enjoy in the Heart of Gay Brighton. Unique events and top entertainment with our fabulous and friendly team throughout the week in Brighton’s ‘new look’ oldest Gay Bar

#### HAPPY HOUR

Monday to Friday: 4-7pm • Sunday: 12-4pm

**Camp Karaoke 5 nights a week!**

Drag Hosts with TEAM FIERCE only at the All New #BulldogBTN

#### Monday

**Glitter Ball**

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

Open 5pm till Midnight

#### Tuesday

**#Transvolve**

A night of Outrageous Camp, Karaoke and Queers with the fabulous SAM PINK & WONDA STARR LIVE at 8pm • bringing a head up #Transvolve in the Heart of Gay Brighton

Open 3pm till Midnight

#### Wednesday

**Man Up**

**GREEN LIGHT CRUISE NIGHT**

Mid week meet 6pm till Midnight

Open 3pm till Midnight

#### Thursday

**#Transvolve**

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

Open 3pm till Midnight

#### Friday

**Friday Night Live!**

SHOWTIME with DOMINA TROY live at 11pm

Karaoke Camp + your party faves with DJ GLYN-SING 5pm-3am

Open Midday till 3am

#### Saturday

**Queen of The Night**

WONDA STARR’s Karaoke Camp + your fave floor fillers 9pm-3am

Prizes to be won in the title of Queen of the Night

Open Midday till 3am

#### Sunday

**Sunday Funday**

12 till 4pm • Camp Karaoke 5 till midnight!

Open Midday till Midnight
JANUARY LISTINGS

CAMELFORD ARMS

- 30-31 Camelford St, BN2 1TA, Tel: 01273 622386, www.camelfordarms.com

OPEN daily from 12pm. NYE till late, New Year’s Day from 12pm.

FOOD Mon - Sat 12-9pm; seniors’ lunch Wed 2-3.30pm. 2 courses £9.50.

Sunday roasts and select menu served from 12pm till gone. NYE from 12-6pm.

New Year’s Day from 12-9pm. Sat (25) haggis, neeps & tatties from 12pm. The Camelford is dog friendly.

NYE: Tuesday (31) Dec is NYE LATE NIGHT PARTY from 8pm, free entry. Wed (1) NEW YEAR HANGOVER PARTY from 12pm. Bloody Mary anyone?

ONE FOR THE DIARY Saturday (25) is the BURNS NIGHT SPECIAL with haggis, neeps, tatties and regular menu from 12pm.

REGULARS: Thursday: the BIG CASH QUIZ with a £300 cash prize, free sarnies and great atmosphere from 9pm. Sun: the BEAR BASH with free food and a raffle at 5pm.

MARINE TAVERN
- Roasts 12-6pm
- Live music: The Leekston Monster, 50mL Gin of the Month & Fever Tonic £5

PARIS HOUSE
- Live music: Sally’s Social Mondays 9pm
- Quiz with Ian Sinclair, raising funds for James Leppard Memorial Fund 7pm
- THREE JOLLY BUTCHERS live football: Middlesbrough v Spurs 2pm, Liverpool v Everton 4pm
- LE VILLAGE: Stephanie Von Clitz’s Drag Open Mic 8.30pm; cabaret: Electric Blue 10pm, stripper/DJ midnight: 13-6pm

MONDAY 6

AFFINITY BAR all day karaoke 12pm
- Karaoke with Tommy Tanker (aka Pat Clutcher) 7pm
- ALL NEW BULLDOG Monday Glitter Ball: 70s-00s tunes 4pm
- BAR BROADWAY Jam Away the Monday Blues: 9pm
- CHARLES ST TAP: Gaymers Night. consoles/board games: 8.30pm
- LEGENDS BAR Miss Jason’s Mad Mondays: 9.30pm
- PARIS HOUSE live jazz: Nils Solberg-Mick Harner Trio 2pm, the Alex Bondonno Trio 8pm

QUEEN’S ARMS
- Sally’s Social Mondays 9pm
- Quiz with Ian Sinclair, raising funds for James Leppard Memorial Fund 7pm
- THREE JOLLY BUTCHERS live football: Arsenal v Leeds 7.55pm
- LE VILLAGE: Karaoke/open mic with George Martin Marino 8.30pm

TUESDAY 7

AFFINITY BAR Free Jukebox 12pm
- ALL NEW BULLDOG # Transvolve Tuesday: Macarena & Sam Pink bring camp, karaoke & queens 8pm
- BAR 7 @ CRAWLEY: Crewsday 7pm
- BAR BROADWAY Piano Singalong 9pm
- MARINE TAVERN Curry & Quiz with Nat 7.30pm
- PARIS HOUSE: Live blues: Yellow Funk Machine 8pm
- QUEEN’S ARMS OA’s Got Talent: Poppycock & guest judges 9.30pm
- RAILWAY CLUB: Lindy hop 7pm
- LE VILLAGE: Switch with Kryan Shayne & guest 10pm

WEDNESDAY 8

AFFINITY BAR Karaoke with Tommy Tanker (aka Pat Clutcher) 7pm
- ALL NEW BULLDOG Green Light Cruise Night 8pm
- BAR 7@CRAWLEY: Midweek Chill 7pm
- BAR BROADWAY: It’s All Fun & Games with Sally Vate 9.30pm
- BASEMENT CLUB@LEGENDS: Now That’s What I Call Legends: DJ Claire Fuller 11pm

LEGENDS BAR: A Bit of Midweek Sparkle. Davina Sparkle & friends 9.30pm
- MARINE TAVERN Pink Pound 7pm
- PARIS HOUSE: Paris House Jazz Jam Session 8pm
- QUEEN’S ARMS: Sara Van Park’s West End Wednesdays 10pm
- SUBLINE: Hump Day 9pm
- LE VILLAGE: Dave Lynn & guest 10pm

CHARLES STREET TAP

- 8 Marine Parade, BN2 1TA, Tel: 01273 624091, www.charles-street.com

OPEN daily from 10am. New Year’s Day from 11am.

FOOD served daily from 10am-10pm, including: breakfasts from 10am (New Years Day from 11am). Tue: 4 chicken wings or vegan cauliflower wings £1. Wed: build your own burger from £5 – beef, chicken or vegan; homemade Sunday roasts for £9 from 12pm: hand carved roasts: beef, pork with crackling, nut roast, roast lamb shank £11.

DRINK PROMOS: In January, it’s all about the discounting with all cocktails £4.95 Mon - Thur 5-8pm. £4 a pint of craft beer and spritz long drinks all night from 5pm on Mon, 50ml Gin of the Month & Fever Tonic £5 all day on Thur, bottles of Prosecco £15 all night & half price drinks 5-9pm on Fri. Sunday Craft Club: any two craft cans or bottles £5 from 5pm.

NYE Tuesday (31) Dec is the BLACK TIE & TIARAS NYE PARTY, a fabulous night of glitter and glam decadence with the regal Joan Bond on hosting duties, the best chart & dance anthems, and generous giveaways galore from 8pm, free entry but limited pre-bookings available for £5 including a comp glass of bubbly.

REGULARS: Monday: come in from the cold and gear out at GAYMERS NIGHT with Nintendo, Playstation and Xbox retro video game goodness, plus everything from board games, card games and tournaments, from 8.30pm. Charles Street Tap say: “Everyone welcome and if you’ve got a game you want to play bring it along – it’s all about the fun!” THROWSBACK THURSDAY: pull shapes to 00s guilty pleasures and 90s retro anthems from 9pm. Saturday is FIERCE with top award-winning DJs spinning your favourite dance and house anthems on rotation from 9pm.
CHARLES STREET TAP
8 MARINE PARADE
MON - THURSDAY
5-8PM COCKTAILS 4.95
MON - FRI 12-4PM
LUNCH & SOFT DRINK 3.50

MONDAYS FROM 8.30>
gaymers night>
draught craft & spritz long drink £4

FRIDAYS FROM 9>
Fabulous Fridays
prosecco bottles £15 all night
1/2 price drinks 5-9pm
PIZZA & A PINT 10.00
ALL DAY EVERY DAY

5th January Davina Sparkle
12th January Pat Clutcher
19th January Lady Imelda
26th January Lola Lasagne

cabaret sundays from 7.30pm
followed by Sally Vate’s Rock & Roll Bingo

FRESHLY MADE SUNDAY ROASTS FROM £9
with Yorkshire Pudding, Parsnip Crisps, Golden Roast Potatoes, Buttery Mash, Seasonal Veg & Lashings of Red Wine Gravy! Choose from Beef, Turkey, Loin of Pork, Lamb Shank or Veg Butternut Squash & Apricot Roast
Sundays from noon - Bookings advised

WWW.CHARLES-STREET.COM FOR FULL JANUARY 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 MAYBE WITHDRAWN AT ANY TIME WITHOUT NOTICE. R.O.A.R. I.D. & SEARCH CONDITION OF ENTRY
JANUARY LISTINGS

FALLEN ANGEL
- 24 Grafton Street, Kemp Town BN2 1AQ Tel: 07949 590 001
- OPEN Tue–Fri from 4pm, Sat from 3pm, Sun from 2pm, closed New Year’s Day. Welcoming to everybody, Fallen Angel is a quirky little pub in the heart of Kemp Town. Expect a chilled, relaxed and cozy atmosphere, friendly staff and chic, classy décor. Fallen Angel is a dog friendly pub.
- FOOD Get food delivered to the pub from Curry Leaf Kemp Town with 10% discount on all orders, or Alfonso Pizza Kemp Town.
- NYE Tue (31) Dec is the NYE PARTY from 4pm.

THURSDAY 9
- AFFINITY BAR Dave Lynn, guests & games 9pm
- ALL NEW BULLDOG #Transolve Thursday: camp karaoke & queens with Macarena & Sam Pink 8pm
- BAR BROADWAY Ross Cameron’s Big Quiz: cash/boozy prizes 8pm
- CAMELFORD ARMS £300 Big Cash Quiz 8pm
- CHARLES ST TAP Throwback Thursday 9pm
- GROSVENOR BAR Camp Bingo 8.30pm
- MARINE TAVERN Throwback Thursday 80s Night 8pm
- PARIS HOUSE World Music: Son Guaranachando 8pm

FRIDAY 10
- QUEEN’S ARMS Leading Ladies cabaret: Spice 10pm
- REGENCY TAVERN Open mic 8pm
- SUBLINE Brace Yourself 9pm
- LE VILLAGE Themed Nights: see Facebook for info 9pm
- AFFINITY BAR Wigs & Beads Karaoke with drag hosts 8pm
- ALL NEW BULLDOG Fri Night Live: camp karaoke DJ Glyn-Sing 9pm: Show Time: Domina Tryx 11pm, karaoke till 3am
- CAMELFORD ARMS Friday Club 6pm
- CHARLES ST TAP Fabulous Friday: DJ Morgan Fabulous 9pm
- GROSVENOR BAR cabaret: Lavinia Belle 9.30pm
- LEGENDS BAR Brighton Belles: local cabaret stars & guests 9pm
- MARINE TAVERN Jukebox Disco 9pm
- PARIS HOUSE DJ Havoc 9pm
- QUEEN’S ARMS Big Friday Cabaret: Miss Penny double show 8pm & 10pm
- REGENCY TAVERN CABA Regency 8.30pm
- SUBLINE Dirty Tackle sportskit night 10pm

SATURDAY 11
- THREE JOLLY BUTCHERS live football: Sheffield Utd v West Ham 8pm
- THE VILLAGE karaoke 8pm: cabaret: Trudy Styles 10pm: DJ 11pm
- ZONE cabaret: Topside Redmen 10pm
- AFFINITY BAR camp cabaret: Pat Clatcher 6.30pm: karaoke 9pm
- ALL NEW BULLDOG Wanda Star’s Queen of the Night: camp karaoke with prizes 9pm
- AMSTERDAM Karaoke 9.30pm
- BAR 7@CRAWLEY Party Night: alternate DJs 7pm
- BAR BROADWAY Jukebox 4pm
- BASEMENT CLUB@LEGENDS Fusion: DJ Peter Castle 11pm
- CHARLES ST TAP Fierce DJs 9pm
- GROSVENOR BAR cabaret: Terry Tour 9.30pm
- LEGENDS BAR Pre-club DJ 7pm
- MARINE TAVERN Candi Reill’s Karaoke & Cabaret Party 9pm
- PARIS HOUSE All That Jazz: Monday Boys Trio 4pm, Andy the Dandy DJ 9pm
- QUEEN’S ARMS QA Triple cabaret: Poppycocx 6pm, Betty Swallowlocks 8pm, Miss Jason 10pm
- REGENCY TAVERN cabaret: Spice 9pm
- SUBLINE Men’s Room 10pm
- THREE JOLLY BUTCHERS live football: Crystal Palace v Arsenal 12.30pm, Spurs v Liverpool 5.30pm
- LE VILLAGE karaoke 8pm, Scandalous: DJ Stephanie Starlet 10pm
- ZONE cabaret: Sally Vate 10pm

SUNDAY 12
- AFFINITY BAR Double Cabaret Extravaganza: Dave Lynn 5pm, Spice 9pm
- ALL NEW BULLDOG Sunday Funday 12pm, Mandy’s karaoke 5pm
- AMSTERDAM cabaret: Jamie Watson 5pm, roasts 12pm–till gone
- BAR 7@CRAWLEY karaoke 6pm
- BAR BROADWAY Firepace Sessions pres Chris Hibbert’s Brighton Swansong 8.30pm
- BASEMENT CLUB@LEGENDS Glitter Curious: sing-along party with Patrick Cawley & Maria Gardiner 11pm
JANUARY LISTINGS

LEGENDS BAR
- OPEN daily from 11-5am, all day New Year.
- FOOD breakfasts & lunch served Mon-Sat from 11am-5pm; breakfasts from 11am on Sunday, then lunch 12.30-4pm; choose from beef, belly pork, chicken supreme or nut roast served with roast potatoes, veg, homemade Yorkshire pudding and real stock gravy. Make sure you leave room for dessert!
- DRINK PROMOS Mon-Fri 12-11pm buy one bottle of wine and get the second bottle half price; Spring Promo: double-up on house spirit & mixer for £1.
- NYE Tuesday (31 Dec) is the NYE PARTY over two floors with DJs Claire Fuller & Peter Castle dragging you into a new decade with the best tracks of 2019, £5. Wednesday (1) is NEW YEAR’S DAY NOW! THAT’S WHAT I CALL LEGENDS with DJ Claire pulling you out of the post-NYE blues. Basement Club say: “Recover from NYE with DJ Claire takes you on a journey through the decades!”
- ONE FOR THE DIARY Sunday is the GLITTER CURIOUS queer sing-along party curated by Patrick Caswely & Maria Gardner with promos, surprises, performances, giveaways and more from 11pm, free entry. Glitter Curious is a non-pretentious queer pop sing-along bringing together scene icons, industry workers, and students to create a new sense of community and responsible clubbing with a spontaneous anything goes feel! Expect an amazing safe space venue, a glorious hostess and super popular DJ playing everything from Ariana to ABBA, Beyonce to Bowie, and Calvin to Christina! Patrick Caswely says: “Glitter Curious is an LGBTQ+ community event; a non-pretentious, camp and sexy pop night! We want to bring together every iconic pop moment and all of the camp classics with a burst of fresh new pop talent all presented in their purest most sing along original glory!”
- REGULARS Saturday is FUSION with DJ Peter Castle spinning chart & club remixes. Wednesday is NOW THAT’S WHAT I CALL LEGENDS with DJ Claire Fuller taking you on a journey through the decades. Thursday (30) is ULTRA – UV PARTY with DJ Claire Fuller playing tracks to make you GLOW. Basement Club say: “Our big once a month UV party! Come dressed in your best glow in the dark clothes and get your face painted w ith UV paint for a night of ULTRA fun! Gonna be fun!” Friday is NIGHT SHIFT with superstar DJ David Noakes & guest DJ Trick spinning pop/dance tracks.

LEGENDS BASEMENT CLUB
- OPEN Free entry all night: Wed-Sun & Thur (30) at 11pm, NYE from 9pm, New Year’s Day from 11pm.
- DRINK PROMOS Mon & Fri drinks from £2, Wed & Sun various deals on. Drink deals may differ over New Year.
- NYE Tuesday (31 Dec) is the NYE PARTY with DJs Claire Fuller & Peter Castle over two floors from 9pm. £5 entry. Wednesday (1) is NEW YEAR’S DAY NOW! THAT’S WHAT I CALL LEGENDS with DJ Claire pulling you out of the post-NYE blues. Basement Club say: “Recover from NYE with DJ Claire takes you on a journey through the decades!”
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CAMELFORD ARMS Bear Bash: free food/raffle 5pm. roasts/select menu 12pm- till gone.
- CHARLES ST TAP cabaret: host Sally Vate & Pat Clutcher 7.30pm. Sally’s Rock & Roll Bingo 8.30pm. roasts 12pm.
- LEGENDS BAR cabaret: Charlie Hides Show 3.30pm. roasts 12.30-4pm.
- MARINE TAVERN roasts 12-5pm.
- PARIS HOUSE live music: Sam Chara & band 6pm.
- QUEEN’S ARMS Sunday Funday cabaret: Martha D’Arthur performs at Sid’s Birthday Party 5.30pm & 10pm.
- REGENCY TAVERN roasts 12-6pm.
- SUBLIME Gig-Free tunes 9pm.
- THREE JOLLY BUTCHERS live football: Bournemouth v Watford 2pm, Aston Villa v Man City 4.30pm.
- LE VILLAGE Stephanie Von Clay’s Drag Open Mic 8.30pm. cabaret: Topside Redfern 10pm, stripper/DJ midnight.
- MONDAY 13
- AFFINITY BAR all day karaoke 12pm. karaoke with Tommy Tanker (aka Pat Clutcher). 7pm.
- ALL NEW BULLDOG Monday Glitter Ball: 70s-80s tunes 4pm.
- BAR BROADWAY Jam Away the Monday Blues 9pm.
- CHARLES ST TAP Gaymers Night: consoles/board games 8.30pm.
- LEGENDS BAR Miss Jason’s Mad Mondays 9.30pm.
- PARIS HOUSE live jazz: Nils Solberg-Mick Harner Trio 2pm. Geoff Simkins Trio 8pm.
- QUEEN’S ARMS Sally’s Social Mondays 9pm.
- LE VILLAGE karaoke/open mic with George Martin Marino 8.30pm.
- TUESDAY 14
- AFFINITY BAR Free Jukebox 12pm.
- ALL NEW BULLDOG #Transolve Tuesday: Macarena & Sam Pink bring camp. karaoke & queens 8pm.
- BAR 7@CRAWLEY Crewsday 7pm.
- BAR BROADWAY Piano Singalong 9pm.
- MARINE TAVERN Curry & Quiz with Nat 7.30pm.
- PARIS HOUSE live blues: Smoke Stack 8pm.
- QUEEN’S ARMS QA’s Got Talent: Poppycock & guest judges 9.30pm.
- RAILWAY CLUB Lindy hop 7pm.
- LE VILLAGE Switch with Kryan Shayne & guest 10pm.
MARINE TAVERN
- 13 Broad St, BN2 1TJ, Tel: 01273 905578, www.marinetavern.co.uk
- OPEN daily from 12pm.
- FOOD daily from 12-9pm. Curry & Quiz with Nat £1 on Tue from 7.30pm (quiz starts 9pm), roasts £8 each Sunday 12-5pm. booking advised.
- DRINK PROMOS Wed from 7pm: Pink Pound Night with drinks from £1 and free raffle.
- NYE Tue (31) Dec is the NYE PARTY with Candi Rell at 9pm.
- REGULARS Sat is CABARET & KARAOKE with Candi Rell at 9pm. THROWBACK THURSDAY with 80s tunes from 8pm.
- Fri is JUKEBOX DISCO from 9pm.

WEDNESDAY 15
- AFFINITY BAR Karaoke with Tommy Tanker (aka Pat Clutcher) 7pm
- ALL NEW BULLDOG Green Light Cruise Night 8pm
- BAR 7@CRAWLEY Midweek Chill 7pm
- BAR BROADWAY It’s All Fun & Games with Sally Vate 9.30pm
- BASEMENT CLUB@LEGENDS Now That’s What I Call Legends: DJ Claire Fuller 11pm
- LEGENDS BAR A Bit of Midweek Sparkle: Davina Sparkle & friends 9.30pm
- MARINE TAVERN Pink Pound Night 7pm
- PARIS HOUSE Live jazz: Paul Richards Trio 8pm
- QUEEN’S ARMS Kara Van Park’s West End Wednesdays 10pm
- SUBLINE Hump Day 9pm
- LE VILLAGE Dave Lynn & guest 10pm

THURSDAY 16
- AFFINITY BAR Dave Lynn, guests & games 9pm
- ALL NEW BULLDOG #Transvolve Thursday: camp karaoke & queens with Macarena & Sam Pink 8pm
- BAR BROADWAY Ross Cameron’s Big Quiz: cash/boozy prizes 8pm
- CAMELFORD ARMS £300 Big Cash Quiz 9pm
- CHARLES ST TAP Throwback Thursday 9pm
- GROSVENOR BAR Camp Bingo 9.30pm
- MARINE TAVERN Throwback Thursday 80s Night 8pm
- PARIS HOUSE World Music: Abraham de Vega & Babou 8pm
- QUEEN’S ARMS Leading Ladies cabaret: Pat Clutcher 10pm
- REGENCY TAVERN Open mic 8pm
- SUBLINE Brace Yourself 9pm
- LE VILLAGE Themed Nights - see Facebook for info.

FRIDAY 17
- AFFINITY BAR Wigs & Beads Karaoke with drag hostess 8pm
- ALL NEW BULLDOG Fri Night Live: camp karaoke DJ Glyn-Sing 9pm. Show Time: Domina Tryx 11pm. Karaoke till 3am
- AMSTERDAM cabaret: Davina Sparkle 9.30pm
- BAR 7@CRAWLEY TGIF Madness: resident/guest DJs 7pm
- BAR BROADWAY Jukebox 5pm
- BASEMENT CLUB@LEGENDS Night Shift: DJ David Noakes 11pm
- CAMELFORD ARMS Fri Club 6pm

SATURDAY 18TH JANUARY
- BIRTHDAY PARTY For Our President’s 100th Birthday
- NEW MEMBERS ALWAYS WELCOME

THURSDAY Camp Bingo at 8.30pm
- FRIDAY CABARET at 9.30pm
  3rd Davina Sparkle
  10th Lavinia Belle
  17th Jason Lee
  24th Sally Vate
- SATURDAY CABARET at 9.30pm
  4th Pooh La May
  11th Terry Tour
  18th Davina Sparkle
  & Robert’s Birthday Bash
  25th Miss Jason
PARIS HOUSE
● 21 Western Rd, BN3 1AF, T: 01273 724195, www.parishousebrighton.com
● OPEN daily from 12pm, closed New Year’s Day.
● FOOD served daily from 12pm–close.
● NYE Tuesday (31) Dec is the NYE ROARING 20S SPECIAL with live music from Sam Chara and Marilyn du Sax at 8pm. Andy the Dandy DJ takes you into 2020 with top tunes from midnight till late.

● ONE FOR THE DIARY Saturday is AND ALL THAT JAZZ with live jazz at 4pm: Jorges Hot Club Trio (4), Monday Boys Trio (11), Lawrence Jones (18), Gabriel Garrick & band (25); Andy the Dandy DJ at 9pm, free entry.

● REGULARS FREE LIVE MUSIC EVERY NIGHT: • Sun at 6pm: Lo Polodoro (5), Sam Chara & band (12), Marilyn du Sax (19) and Dave Williams & band (26). • Mon JAZZ with the Nils Solberg-Mick Hamer Trio at 2pm; then at 8pm the Alex Bondonno Trio (6), Geoff Simkins Trio (13). Oli Howe Trio (20) and Chris Coul & band (27). Tue at 8pm: Yellow Funk Machine (7). Smoke Stack (14). Triveversion (21) and Jazz & Blues Open Mic (28). • Wed at 8pm: Paris House Jazz Session (8), Paul Richards Trio (15), Sam Cariese & band (22) and Christian Brewer & band (29). • Thur WORLD MUSIC at 8pm: Son Guarancho (9), Abraham de Vega & Babou (16), Trio Cubana (23) and Pollito Booglaoo (30). • Fri. PARTY TIME with DJ Havox at 9pm.

SATURDAY 18
● CHARLES ST TAP Fabulous Friday: DJ Morgan Fabulous 9pm
● GROSVENOR BAR cabaret: Jason Lee 9.30pm
● LEGENDS BAR Brighton Belles: local cabaret stars & guests 9pm
● MARINE TAVERN Jukebox Disco 9pm
● PARIS HOUSE DJ Havox 9pm
● QUEEN’S ARMS Big Friday Cabaret: Sandra 10pm
● REGENCY TAVERN CABA Regency 8.30pm
● SUBLINE Filth Full Fetish party: all genders welcome 10pm
● THE VILLAGE karaoke 8pm; cabaret: Candi Reil 10pm; DJ 11pm
● ZONE cabaret: Pat Clutcher 10pm

AMSTERDAM Karaoke 9.30pm
BAR 7@cRAWLEY Party Night: alternate DJs 7pm
BAR BROADWAY Jukebox 4pm
BASEMENT CLUB@LEGENDS Fusion: DJ Peter Castle 11pm
CHARLES ST TAP Fierce DJs 9pm
GROSVENOR BAR Robert’s Birthday Bash with Davina Sparkle 9.30pm
LEGENDS BAR Pre-club DJ 7pm
MARINE TAVERN Candi Reil’s Karaoke & Cabaret Party 9pm
PARIS HOUSE All That Jazz: Lawrence Jones 4pm, Andy the Dandy DJ 9pm
QUEEN’S ARMS QA Triple cabaret: Poppycock 6pm, Betty Swollows 8pm, Dr Beverly Ballcrusher 10pm
RAILWAY CLUB Railway Club President’s 100th Birthday Party 7pm
REGENCY TAVERN cabaret: Kara Van Park 9pm
SUBLINE Men’s Room 10pm
THREE JOLLY BUTCHERS Pre home match warm-up: pie & pint deal: Brighton v Aston Villa 12pm; live football: Newcastle v Chelsea 3.30pm

SUNDAY 19
● AFFINITY BAR camp cabaret: Pat Clutcher 6.30pm; karaoke 9pm
● ALL NEW BULLDOG Wonders Starr’s Queen of the Night: camp karaoke with prizes 9pm
● AMSTERDAM cabaret: Gabriella Parrish 5pm, roasts 12pm–till gone
● BAR 7@cRAWLEY karaoke 6pm
● BAR BROADWAY Fireplaces Sessions pres Paul Middleton 8.30pm
● BASEMENT CLUB@LEGENDS Glitter Curious: sing-along party with Patrick Cawley & Maria Gardner 11pm
● CAMELFOORD ARMS Bear Bash: free food/raffle 5pm, roasts/select menu 12pm–till gone
● CHARLES ST TAP cabaret: host Sally Vate & Lady Imelda 7.30pm, Sally’s Rock & Roll Bingo 8.30pm, roasts 12pm

THE QUEENS ARMS
● 7 George St, BN2 1RH, T: 01273 696873, www.theqabrighton.com
● OPEN Mon–Fri from 5pm, Sat & Sun from 2pm, NYE from 5pm.
● DRINK PROMOS Mon–Fri from 5–9pm, Sat & Sun from 2–6pm.

● NYE Tuesday (31) Dec is the NYE PARTY from 5pm with Kara Van Park on stage at 10pm & 11.45pm, free entry all night. ● Wednesday (1) is Sally Vate’s HANGOVER SHOW from 10pm.

● REGULARS New for Monday is Sally’s SOCIAL MONDAYS with Sally Vate from 9pm. ● Wednesday is new Kara Van Park’s WEST END WEDNESDAYS from 10pm. ● Thursday is cabaret with LEADING LADIES at 10pm. Vicky Vivacious (2), Spice (9), Pat Clutcher (16), Davina Sparkle (23) and Drag With No Name (30). Brighton’s misleading lady, Pat Clutcher (16) brings you a heady mix of showtunes, pop, banter and more! The QA say: “It’s Sunderland’s 300th best export! Pat Clutcher takes to our stage and hopefully stays on it for the duration of her show. She’s here to entertain and spread salacious gossip - how delightful!” ● QA BIG FRIDAY CABARET with acts at 10pm: Son of a Tutu (3), a double show from Miss Penny at 8pm & 10pm (10), Sandra (17), Topside Redfern (24) and Cherry Liquor (31). Sat is QA TRIPLE CABARET with a triptych of top acts on stage: every week it’s Poppycock at 6pm, Betty Swollows at 8pm, then different acts every week at 10pm. Lola Lasagne & Mrs Moore perform at Alex’s 30th Birthday Party (4), Miss Jason (11), Dr Beverly Ballcrusher (18) and Dave Lynn (25). ● SUNDAY FUNDAY CABARET with lashings of top acts at 6.30pm & 10pm. Poppycock (5), Martha D’Arthur performing at Sid’s Birthday Party (12), Fanny Burns (19) and Cosmic (26).

● PICS FROM THE QUEENS ARMS
● THE QUEEN S ARM S 300th best export! Pat Clutcher takes to our stage and hopefully stays on it for the duration of her show. She’s here to entertain and spread salacious gossip - how delightful!”
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MONDAY</td>
<td>Sally’s Social Mondays 9 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>TUESDAY</td>
<td>QA’s Got Talent 9.30 PM Hosted by Poppycock</td>
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<tr>
<td>WEDNESDAY</td>
<td>Kara Van Park’s Westend Wednesday 10 PM NEW</td>
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<td>THURSDAY</td>
<td>Leading Ladies 10 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>SATURDAY</td>
<td>QA Triple 6 PM Poppycock 8 PM Betty Swollocks Followed by 10 PM Show Lola Lasagne + Mrs Moore (Alex 30th B’Day Party)</td>
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<tr>
<td>QA BIG FRIDAYS</td>
<td>10 PM New Year’s Day 1st Sally Vate Hangover Show 3 Jan Son of a Tutu 10 Jan Miss Penny 8 PM &amp; 10 PM 17 Jan Sandra 24 Jan Topsie Redfern 31 Jan Cherry Liquor</td>
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<tr>
<td>SUNDAY</td>
<td>Fun Day Shows at 6.30 PM &amp; 10 PM 5 Jan Poppy Cock 12 Jan Martha D’Arthur 19 Jan Fanny Burns 26 Jan Cosmic</td>
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</tbody>
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**Open Mon - Fri from 5 PM • Sat & Sun from 2 PM**

**Happy Hours:** 5 PM - 9 PM Weekdays • 2 PM - 6 PM Weekends

For more information, visit [www.theqabrighton.com](http://www.theqabrighton.com)
THE RAILWAY CLUB
- 4 Belmont, Dyke Road, BN1 3TF, Tel: 01273 326862
- OPEN Mon-Wed from 5–11pm, Thur from 11am–11pm. Fri from 3–11pm, Sat from 12–11pm (or till midnight for special events).
- MEMBERSHIP: The Railway Club is a welcoming members’ club with snooker, billiards, darts and table tennis all available to members. Perfect for groups, parties or meetings, the Railway Club is friendly and spacious so pop in and join up! Bookings now being taken for parties in 2020, contact the club for more info.
- DRINK PROMOS: every Fri & Sat.
- NYE: Tuesday (31) Dec is the NYE PARTY with a DJ from 8pm.
- ONE FOR THE DIARY: Saturday (18): the Railway Club are holding a birthday party for their PRESIDENT’S 100TH BIRTHDAY from 7pm, all welcome to celebrate this milestone.
- REGULARS Tuesday: Swing into the Railway Club for LINDY HOP from 7pm.

THE REGENCY TAVERN
- 32-34 Russell Sq, BN1 2EF T: 01273 325 652 www.regencytavern.co.uk
- OPEN Sun-Wed from 12–11pm, Thur from 12pm–12am, Fri & Sat from 12pm–1am. New Year’s Day from 12–6pm.
- FOOD: Mon–Fri from 12–3pm & 5–9pm. Sat & Sun from 12–9pm. Wed from 12–6pm it’s 2 PieMinister pies for £10. Sun from 12–6pm two roasts for £19.95, booking recommended.
- DRINK PROMOS: Tue from 6–9pm 20% off selected drinks.
- NYE: Tuesday (31) Dec is the NYE MASQUERADE PARTY with host Stephanie Von Clitz from 8.30pm.
- ONE FOR THE DIARY: Wednesday (22) is the SMUTS (Sussex Musical Theatre Society) take over from 8pm. Regency Tavern say: “This incredibly talented group of performers are gracing our stage at the Regency for a whole evening of Musical Theatre,Disney and much, much more.”
- REGULARS: Thursday is OPEN MIC KARAOKE at 8pm.
- Friday (10 & 24) is CABAREGEGY from 8.30pm.
- Saturday CABARET with top acts on stage at 9pm. Ruby Murry (4), Spice (11), Kara Van Park (18) and Davina Sparkle (25).

MONDAY 20
- LEGENDS BAR: cabaret: Miss Jason 3.30pm, roasts 12.30–4pm
- MARINE TAVERN: roasts 12.5pm
- PARIS HOUSE: live music: Marilyn du Sax 6pm
- QUEEN’S ARMS: Sunday Funday cabaret: Fanny Burns 6.30pm & 10pm
- REGENCY TAVERN: roasts 12–6pm
- SUBLINE: Guilt-free tunes 9pm
- THREE JOLLY BUTCHERS: live football: Burnley v Leicester 9pm
- LE VILLAGE: Stephanie Von Clitz’s Drag Open Mic 8.30pm, cabaret: Vicki Vivacious 10pm, stripper/DJ midnight; roasts 12–6pm

TUESDAY 21
- LEGENDS BAR: cabaret: Miss Jason’s Mad Mondays 9.30pm
- PARIS HOUSE: live jazz: Nils Solberg-Mikl Harmer Trio 2pm, Oli Howe Trio 8pm
- QUEEN’S ARMS: Sally’s Social Mondays 9pm
- LE VILLAGE: Karaoke/open mic with George Martin Marino 8.30pm

WEDNESDAY 22
- AFFINITY BAR: Karaoke with Tommy Tanker (aka Pat Clutcher) 7pm
- ALL NEW BULLDOG: Green Light Cruise Night 8pm
- BAR 7@CRAWLEY: Midweek Chill 7pm
- BAR BROADWAY: It’s All Fun & Games with Sally Vate 9.30pm
- BASEMENT CLUB@LEGENDS: Now that’s What I Call Legends: DJ Claire Fuller 11pm
- LEGENDS BAR: A Bit of Midweek Sparkle: Davina Sparkle & friends 9.30pm
- MARINE TAVERN: Pink Pound 7pm
- PARIS HOUSE: live jazz: Sam Carlese & band 8pm
- QUEEN’S ARMS: Kara Van Park’s West End Wednesdays 10pm
- REGENCY TAVERN: SMUTS takeover 8pm
- SUBLINE: Hump Day 9pm

THURSDAY 23
- AFFINITY BAR: Dave Lynn, guests & games 9pm
- ALL NEW BULLDOG: Transvolve Thursday: camp karaoke & queens with Macarena & Sam Pink 8pm
- BAR BROADWAY: Ross Cameron’s Big Quiz: cash/boozy prizes 8pm
- CAMELFORD ARMS: £300 Big Cash Quiz 9pm
- CHARLES ST TAP: Throwback Thursday 9pm
- GROSVENOR BAR: Camp Bingo 8.30pm
- MARINE TAVERN: Throwback Thursday 80s Night 8pm
- PARIS HOUSE: World Music: Trio Cubana 8pm
- QUEEN’S ARMS: Leading Ladies cabaret: Davina Sparkle 10pm

REGULARS: Tuesday: Swing into the Railway Club for LINDY HOP from 7pm.

MONDAY 20
- AFFINITY BAR: all day karaoke 12pm, karaoke with Tommy Tanker (aka Pat Clutcher) 7pm
- ALL NEW BULLDOG: Monday Glitter Ball: 70s-00s tunes 4pm
- BAR BROADWAY: Jam Away the Monday Blues 9pm
- CHARLES ST TAP: Gaymers Night: consoles/board games 8.30pm

LEGENDS BAR: Miss Jason’s Mad Mondays 9.30pm
PARIS HOUSE: live jazz: Nils Solberg-Mikl Harmer Trio 2pm, Oli Howe Trio 8pm
QUEEN’S ARMS: Sally’s Social Mondays 9pm
LE VILLAGE: Karaoke/open mic with George Martin Marino 8.30pm

TUESDAY 21
AFFINITY BAR: Free Jukebox 12pm
ALL NEW BULLDOG: Transvolve Tuesday: Macarena & Sam Pink bring camp, karaoke & queens 8pm
BAR 7@CRAWLEY: Crewday 7pm
BAR BROADWAY: Piano Sing-Along 9pm
MARINE TAVERN: Curry & Quiz with Nai 7.30pm
PARIS HOUSE: live funk: Ziveversion 8pm
QUEEN’S ARMS: QA’s Got Talent: Poppycock & guest judges 9.30pm
RAILWAY CLUB: Lindy hop 7pm
THREE JOLLY BUTCHERS: live football: Sheffield Utd v Man City 7.30pm, Chelsea v Arsenal 8.15pm

LE VILLAGE: Switch with Kryan Shayne & guest 10pm

WEDNESDAY 22
AFFINITY BAR: Karaoke with Tommy Tanker (aka Pat Clutcher) 7pm
ALL NEW BULLDOG: Green Light Cruise Night 8pm
BAR 7@CRAWLEY: Midweek Chill 7pm
BAR BROADWAY: It’s All Fun & Games with Sally Vate 9.30pm
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REGULARS: Tuesday: Swing into the Railway Club for LINDY HOP from 7pm.
Regency Tavern

32-34 Russell Sq Brighton • Tel 01273 325 652
Open Sun-Wed 12pm-11pm • Thur 12pm-12am
Fri-Sat 12pm-1am • Dog Friendly!

Happy Hour 20% off Beer & Spirits Tue 6-9pm
Food Mon-Fri 12-3pm 5-9pm Sat-Sun 12-9pm
Sunday Roasts 12-6pm • 2 for £19.95
PMINISTER PIES & SIDES 2 for £10 Wed 6-9pm!

Thursdays 8.30pm
Open Mic & Karaoke

Friday 9pm
10th & 24th Capt Regency

Wednesdays 22nd 9pm
Smuts Take Over Brighton Uni

Saturdays 9pm
Cabaret
4th Ruby Murry
11th Spice
18th Kara Van Park
25th Davina Sparkle

Le Village

2-3 High St, Brighton, BN2 1RP
Open: Mon-Thur noon-1.30am • Fri-Sun 11am-2.30am
Luxury Beer Garden • Dog Friendly
Now Serving Food During The Week

Monday 8.30pm
Karaoke & Open Mic
With George Martin Mario

Tuesday Switch 10pm
Kryan Shayne & Guest

Wednesday 10pm
Dave Lynn & Guests

Thursday Theme Night 9pm
Girls/Chavs/Bears/T Party
See Our Facebook Page For More Details

Fabulous Fridays
Karaoke 8pm • Cabaret 10pm • DJ Till Close
3rd Ruby Murry
10th Trudi Styles
17th Candi Rell
24th Davina Sparkle
31th Sally Vate

Saturday 10pm-2am
Karaoke From 8pm • DJ Till Close

Scandalous
With DJ Stephanie Starlet

Sunday Roasts 12-6pm £10
Drag Open Mic
Stephanie Von Clitz 8pm
Stripper @ Midnight • DJ Till Close
5th Electric Blue
12th Topsie Redfern
19th Vicky Vivacious
26th Laureen Harris

Marine Tavern

Cabaret & Karaoke
From 8.30pm Every Saturday
With Candi Rell

Sunday: Traditional Roasts 12-3pm
Best Quality Beef/Chicken/Lamb/Net Roast
Best Value Roasts £8.99 • Starters & Desserts from £2.95
Marine Tavern 13 Broad Street Brighton
Tel 01273 905578 • Open Daily Noon-1am

Now Serving Food During The Week.
ONE FOR THE DIARY Mon (6) is the second instalment of the SUBLINE QUIZ NIGHT with host Mr Ian Sinclair, cash & booze prizes, and a raffle raising funds for the James Ledward Memorial Fund, part of Brighton Rainbow Fund, from 7pm. £2 per person, all welcome. Subline say: “It’s going to be a regular fixture, held on the first Monday each month, with fundraising, half-time sarnies, music and picture rounds, spot prizes, and a final test for the victorious team to decide whether the cash pot is theirs, or if it rolls over. The winning team will also have the honour of nominating the charity for next month’s quiz...”

REGULARS Wed is HUMP DAY, all welcome & free entry for members. Thur is BRACE YOURSELF men’s night, free entry. Fri events: kick-start the weekend at STEAM from 10pm. £3/£5 entry; DIRTY TACKLE (10) is sports kit night, free entry in kit or £5. FILTH FULL FETISH PARTY (17) is for all genders, advance tickets recommended. The Filth Full Fetish Party is the party your mother warned you about – something darker, more raw... filthier. The organisers say: “We hope to send you on a sensation-override every time you come to our night. We want to be there when you fulfil your life long fantasies, safe your creative drive, evolve your sexuality and realise new desires over and over again...” Sat turn up the heat at MEN’S ROOM. £3/£5 entry. Sun is GUILT FREE PLEASURES, free for members or £5. CUM IN YOUR PANTS on Sun (26) at Subline’s monthly underwear party, £3 members or £5.

REGENCY TAVERN Open mic 8pm
SUBLINE Brace Yourself 9pm
THREE JOLLY BUTCHERS live football; Wolves v Liverpool 8pm
LE VILLAGE Themed Nights - see Facebook for info 9pm

FRIDAY 24
AFFINITY BAR Wigs & Beads
Karaoke with drag hostess 8pm
ALL NEW BULLDOG Fri Night Live: camp karaoke DJ Glyn-Sing 9pm. Show Time: Dominia Tryx 11pm, karaoke till 3am

AMSTERDAM cabaret: Dragg With No Name 9.30pm
BAR 7@CRAWLEY TGIF Madness: resident/guest DJs 7pm
BAR BROADWAY Jukebox 5pm
BASEMENT CLUB@LEGENDS Night Shift: DJ David Noakes 11pm
CAMELFORD ARMS Club Night 6pm
CHARLES ST TAP Fabulous Friday: DJ Morgan Fabulous 9pm
GROSVENOR BAR cabaret: Sally Vale 9.30pm
LEGENDS BAR Brighton Belles: local cabaret stars & guests 9pm

MARINE TAVERN Jukebox Disco
9pm
PARIS HOUSE DJ Havoxx 9pm
QUEEN’S ARMS Big Friday Cabaret: Topsy Redfern 10pm
REGENCY TAVERN CABANA Cabaret 8.30pm
SUBLINE Steam 10pm
THE VILLAGE karenko 8pm: cabaret, Davina Sparkle 10pm. DJ 11pm
ZONE cabaret: Stone & Street 10pm

SUNDAY 25
AFFINITY BAR camp cabaret: Pat Clutcher 6.30pm. karaoke 9pm
ALL NEW BULLDOG Wonda Starr’s Queen of the Night Burns Night Special: camp karaoke with prizes 9pm
AMSTERDAM Burns Night Supper: haggis, neeps & tatties, Scottish whiskies & free shot of single malt for anyone wearing a kilt 6pm
BAR 7@CRAWLEY Party Night: alternate DJs 7pm
BAR BROADWAY Jukebox 4pm
BASEMENT CLUB@LEGENDS Fusion: DJ Peter Castle 11pm
CAMELFORD ARMS Burns Night: haggis, neeps & tatties 12pm
CHARLES ST TAP Fierce DJs 9pm
GROSVENOR BAR cabaret: Miss Jason 9.30pm
LEGENDS BAR Pre-club DJ 7pm
MARINE TAVERN Candi Rel’s Karaoke & Cabaret Party 9pm
PARIS HOUSE All That Jazz: Gabriel Garrick & band 4pm. Andy the Dandy DJ 9pm
QUEEN’S ARMS QA Triple cabaret:

POPPYCOCK 6pm, Betty Swollocks 8pm, Dave Lynn 10pm
REGENCY cabaret: Davina Sparkle 9pm
SUBLINE Men’s Room 10pm
LE VILLAGE karaoke 8pm
ZONE cabaret: Sally Vate 10pm

MARINE TAVERN Jukebox Disco
9pm
PARIS HOUSE DJ Havoxx 9pm
QUEEN’S ARMS Big Friday Cabaret: Topsy Redfern 10pm
REGENCY TAVERN CABANA Cabaret 8.30pm
SUBLINE Steam 10pm
THE VILLAGE karenko 8pm: cabaret, Davina Sparkle 10pm. DJ 11pm
ZONE cabaret: Stone & Street 10pm

SUNDAY 26
AFFINITY BAR cabaret: Son of a Tutu 5pm
ALL NEW BULLDOG Sunday Funday 12pm, camp karaoke with Mandy 5pm
AMSTERDAM guest singer 5pm; roasts 12pm-til gone
BAR 7@CRAWLEY karaoke 6pm
BAR BROADWAY Fireplace Sessions pres MTH Musical Therapy 8.30pm
BASEMENT CLUB@LEGENDS Glitter Curious: sing-along party with Patrick Cawley & Maria Gardner 11pm
CAMELFORD ARMS Bear Bash: free food/raffle 5pm, roasts/select menu 12pm - till gone
CHARLES ST TAP cabaret: host Mrs Moore & Lola Lasagne 7.30pm, Sally’s Rock & Roll Bingo 8.30pm, roasts 12pm
LEGENDS BAR cabaret: Pat Clutcher 3.30pm, roasts 12.30-4pm
MARINE TAVERN roasts 12.5pm
PARIS HOUSE World Music: Dave Williams & band 6pm
QUEEN’S ARMS Sunday Funday cabaret: Cosmic 6.30pm & 10pm
REGENCY TAVERN roasts 12-6pm
SUBLINE Cum in Your Pants underwear party 9pm
**LE VILLAGE** Stephanie Von Clitz’s Drag Open Mic 8.30pm; cabaret: Lauren Harries 10pm; stripper/DJ midnight; roasts 12-6pm

**MONDAY 27**
- **AFFINITY BAR** all day karaoke 12pm; karaoke with Tommy Tanker (aka Pat Clutch) 7pm
- **ALL NEW BULLDOG** Monday Glitter Ball: 70s-00s tunes 4pm
- **BAR BROADWAY** Jam Away the Monday Blues 9pm
- **CHARLES ST TAP** Gaymers Night: consoles/board games 8.30pm
- **LEGENDS BAR** Miss Jason’s Mad Mondays 9.30pm
- **PARIS HOUSE** live jazz: Nils
- **LE VILLAGE** karaoke/open mic with George Martin Marino 8.30pm

**TUESDAY 28**
- **AFFINITY BAR** Free Jukebox 12pm
- **ALL NEW BULLDOG** #Transvolve Tuesday: Macarena & Sam Pink bring camp, karaoke & queens 8pm
- **BAR BROADWAY** Piano Sing-Along 9pm
- **MARINE TAVERN** Curry & Quiz with Nat 7-30pm
- **PARIS HOUSE** Jazz & Blues Mic Night 8pm
- **QUEEN’S ARMS** QA’s Got Talent: Popycock & guest judges 9.30pm
- **RAILWAY CLUB** Lindy hop 7pm
- **LE VILLAGE** Switch with Kryan Shayne & guest 10pm

**WEDNESDAY 29**
- **AFFINITY BAR** karaoke with Tommy Tanker (aka Pat Clutch) 8pm
- **ALL NEW BULLDOG** Green Light Cruise Night 8pm
- **BAR 7@CRAWLEY** Midweek Chill 7pm
- **BAR BROADWAY** It’s All Fun & Games with Sally Vale 9.30pm

**MONDAY 6 JANUARY**
**SUBLINE QUIZ NIGHT**
All Welcome – Doors 7pm – Cash & Booze Prizes £2 Per Person – Brighton Rainbow Fund Raffle

**FRI 10 JANUARY**
**DIRTY TACKLE**
Sports Kit Night – Doors 10pm – Free Entry in Kit/£5

**FRI 17 JANUARY**
**FILTH**
Full Fetish Party All Genders Advance Tickets Recommended

**SUN 26 JANUARY**
**CUM IN YOUR PANTS**
Underwear Party – Doors 9pm – Members £3 or £5
LE VILLAGE

2-3 High Street, Brighton, BN2 1RF. Tel: 01273 681634

OPEN Mon-Thu from noon-1.30am, Fri-Sun from 11am-2.30am.

FOOD served all week including Sunday roasts from 12-6pm: chicken, beef, pork and nut roast, with all the trimmings. Ask at the bar for dessert of the day!

DRINK PROMOS Monday Madness with selected drinks 99p all day.

NEW YEAR Wed (1) New Year’s Day CABARET with a top act at 8pm.

ONE FOR THE DIARY Sunday is DRAG OPEN MIC with Stephanie Von Clitz at 8.30pm, then CABARET at 10pm. Electric Blue (5), Topsie Redfern (12), Vicki Vivacious (19) and Lauren Harries (26). Stay put for a stripper at midnight, then a DJ till close!

REGULARS Mon: KARAOKE & OPEN MIC hosted by George Martin Marino from 8.30pm. Tue is SWITCH with Kryan Shayne & guest at 10pm. Wed is CABARET with the doyenne of drag Dave Lynn and guests at 10pm. Thur is THEMED NIGHT, from girls, chavs, bears, trans – see Facebook for more info. Fri KARAOKE from 8pm, then CABARET at 10pm: Ruby Murry (3), Trudi Styles (10), Candi Rell (17), Davina Sparkle (24) and Sally Vate (31). Stick around for tunes till close! Sat KARAOKE from 8pm, then it’s SCANDALOUS with DJ Stephanie Starlet from 10pm.

BASEMENT CLUB@LEGENDS Now That’s what I Call Legends: DJ Claire Fuller 11pm

LEGENDS BAR A Bit of Midweek Sparkle: Davina Sparkle & friends 9.30pm

MARINE TAVERN Pink Pound 7pm

PARIS HOUSE live music: Christian Brewer & band 8pm

QUEEN’S ARMS Kara Van Park’s West End Wednesdays 10pm

SUBLINE Hump Day 9pm

LE VILLAGE Dave Lynn & guest 10pm

THURSDAY 30

AFFINITY BAR Dave Lynn, guests & games 9pm

ALL NEW BULLDOG #Transvolve Thursday: camp karaoke & queens with Macarena & Sam Pink 8pm

BAR BROADWAY Ross Cameron’s Big Quiz: cash/booby prizes 8pm

BASEMENT CLUB@LEGENDS Ultra UV Party: DJ Claire Fuller 11pm

CAMELFORD ARMS £300 Big Cash Quiz 9pm

CHARLES ST TAP Throwback Thursday 9pm

GROSVENOR BAR Camp Bingo 8.30pm

MARINE TAVERN Throwback Thursday 80s Night 8pm

PARIS HOUSE World Music: Polillito 8pm

QUEEN’S ARMS Leading Ladies cabaret: Drag With No Name 10pm

REGENCY TAVERN Open mic 8pm

SUBLINE Brace Yourself 9pm

LE VILLAGE Themed Nights - see Facebook for info 9pm

FRIDAY 31

AFFINITY BAR Wigs & Beads Karaoke with drag hostess 8pm

ALL NEW BULLDOG Fri Night Live: camp karaoke DJ Glyn-Sing 9pm, Show Time: Domina Tryx 11pm; karaoke till 3am

THE ZONE

33 St James’ St, BN2 1RF. Tel: 01273 682249. www.zonebrighton.co.uk

OPEN Sun-Thu from 11am, Fri & Sat from 10am. NYE till 2.30am.

DRINK PROMOS every day, excluding Fri & Sat from 7pm-close.

NYE: Tue (31) Dec is Sally Vate’s NYE PARTY from 9pm till 2.30am. free entry. Sally Vate the Northern bird with the liver of a house brick, says, “The season to be jolly, and what better place to be jolly and full of festive merriment than joining me to see the year out and welcome 2020 in? Expect the usual uplifting humour and songs to get you into the party mood!”

ONE FOR THE DIARY Saturday CABARET with sensational acts at 10pm Davina Sparkle (4), Sally Vate (11), JP Christian (18) and Sally Vate (25).

REGULARS Friday with top CABARET at 10pm: Chris Hide (3), Topsie Redfern (10), Pat Clutcher (17), Stone & Street (24) and Billie Gold (31).

AMSTERDAM cabaret: Kara Van Park 9.30pm

BAR 7@CRAWLEY TGIF Madness: resident/guest DJs 7pm

BAR BROADWAY Jukebox 9pm

BASEMENT CLUB@LEGENDS Night Shift: DJ David Noakes 11pm

CAMELFORD ARMS Friday Club 6pm

CHARLES ST TAP Fabulous Friday: DJ Morgan Fabulous 9pm

GROSVENOR BAR cabaret 9.30pm

LEGENDS BAR Brighton Belles: local cabaret stars & guests 9pm

MARINE TAVERN Jukebox Disco 9pm

PARIS HOUSE DJ Havox 9pm

QUEEN’S ARMS Big Friday Cabaret: Cherry Liquor 10pm

SUBLINE Steam 10pm

LE VILLAGE karaoke 8pm, cabaret: Sally Vate 10pm, DJ 11pm

ZONE cabaret: Billie Gold 10pm
**SOLENT LISTINGS**

**PORTSMOUTH**
- **Hampshire Boulevard**
  - Tel: 02392 297509
  - Open: Sun & Mon 9pm-2.30am, Wed & Thurs 7pm-2.30am, Fri & Sat 7pm-3am
  - Happy Hours: Sun all night, Wed & Thurs 7pm-12am, Fri & Sat 7pm-12am

**SOUTHAMPTON**
- **Box Bar & Edge**
  - Compton Walk, SO14 0BH, Tel: 023 8036 6163
  - www.theedgesouthampton.com
  - Box Bar: Open: daily at 4pm
  - Happy Hours: 4-6pm & 6-10pm daily
  - Food: 4-10pm daily
  - Edge: Open: Sun, Tue & Thurs 11pm-4am: Wed 10.30pm-4am: Fri & Sat 11pm-5am

**SOUTHAMPTON**
- **Hampshire Blvd**
  - NYE Party with DJ Luke Emor & drag hosts
  - 9pm

**THURSDAY 2**
- **SOUTHAMPTON**
  - **Hampshire Blvd**
    - Night on the Lashes: Lucinda Lashes, karaoke & tunes 8pm
  - **Southampton**
    - **Box Bar**
      - Quiz Queens: drag hosts Aura Jay & Bella Black 8pm
  - **Southampton**
    - **Edge**
      - Mates Rates: DJ Darcy Buckland 10pm

**SUNDAY 5**
- **Portsmouth**
  - **Box Bar**
    - Quiz Queens: drag hosts Aura Jay & Bella Black 8pm
  - **Hampshire Blvd**
    - 90s-Now 9pm

**MONDAY 6**
- **Portsmouth**
  - **Box Bar**
    - Quiz Queens: drag hosts Aura Jay & Bella Black 8pm
  - **Edge**
    - Get Dirty: DJ Liam Searle 10pm

**TUESDAY 7**
- **Portsmouth**
  - **Hampshire Blvd**
    - We Love Fridays: DJ Toby Lawrence 9pm
  - **Southampton**
    - **Box Bar**
      - Candy Floss DJs 11pm
    - **Edge**
      - Mates Rates: DJ Darcy Buckland 10pm

**WEDNESDAY 8**
- **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 8pm: Bella Black’s karaoke 10.30pm
    - **Edge**
      - Bar 150: DJs Missy B & Lee Harris 10pm

**THURSDAY 9**
- **Portsmouth**
  - **Hampshire Blvd**
    - Night on the Lashes: Lucinda Lashes karaoke & tunes 9pm

**FRIDAY 10**
- **Portsmouth**
  - **Hampshire Blvd**
    - We Love Fridays: DJ Toby Lawrence 9pm
  - **Southampton**
    - **Box Bar**
      - Haus of Edge DJs 7pm
    - **Edge**
      - Haus of Edge: DJs Craig Law & KT + win £50 bar tab 10pm

**SATURDAY 11**
- **Portsmouth**
  - **Box Bar**
    - The Big One 7pm
  - **Edge**
    - The Big One: DJs Rob Davies & KT 10pm

**SUNDAY 12**
- **Portsmouth**
  - **Hampshire Blvd**
    - Blank: DJs Missy B & Rob Davies 9pm
  - **Southampton**
    - **Box Bar**
      - Beauty and the Balls Bingo: host Miss Disney & prizes 8pm: Bella Black’s karaoke 10.30pm
    - **Edge**
      - Bar 150: DJs Missy B & Lee Harris 10pm

**MONDAY 13**
- **Portsmouth**
  - **Hampshire Blvd**
    - Student Mondays with Bella Black, DJs & giveaways 9pm
  - **Southampton**
    - **Edge**
      - Mates Rates: DJ Darcy Buckland 10pm

**FRIDAY 24TH JAN**
- **Bar 150**
  - Every Wednesday from 10pm
  - £1.50 Drinks
  - DJ Missy B & DJ Lee Harris
  - Karaoke with drag host Bella Black

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**The Edge**

**Haus of Edge**

**Fridays**
- Win £20 bar tab at midnight
- DJ Craig Law & DJ Kit
- Cocktails from £3 from 10pm

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**SOUTHAMPTON**
- **Box Bar**
  - 023 8036 6163

**WEDNESDAY 8**
- **Portsmouth**
  - **Box Bar**
    - Cherry’s Bingo & cabaret 7pm
  - **Southampton**
    - **Box Bar**
      - Candy Floss DJs 11pm
    - **Edge**
      - Candy Floss: DJ Audio K9 11pm

**THURSDAY 9**
- **Portsmouth**
  - **Box Bar**
    - We Love Fridays: DJ Toby Lawrence 9pm
  - **Southampton**
    - **Box Bar**
      - Haus of Edge DJs 7pm
    - **Edge**
      - Haus of Edge: DJs Craig Law & KT + win 50 bar tab 10pm

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**SOUTHAMPTON**
- **Box Bar**
  - We Love Fridays: DJ Toby Lawrence 9pm

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**SOUTHAMPTON**
- **Box Bar**
  - Haus of Edge: DJs Craig Law & KT + win £50 bar tab 10pm

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**SOUTHAMPTON**
- **Box Bar**
  - The Big One 7pm
  - **Edge**
    - The Big One: DJs Rob Davies & KT 10pm

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**SOUTHAMPTON**
- **Box Bar**
  - The Big One: DJs Rob Davies & KT 10pm
THE EDGE & BOX BAR
SOUTHAMPTON

- Compton Walk, SO14 0HJ. Tel: 023 8036 6163, www.theedgesouthampton.com
- OPEN The Edge: daily from 10pm, closed New Year’s Day. The Box Bar: Tue–Sat from 7pm, closed New Year’s Day.
- DRINK DEALS The Box Bar: daily from 7pm–midnight (till 8pm on Wed) 2–4–1 cocktails; The Edge: Mon £1.50 shots & £2 house doubles, Tue 2 candyfloss cocktails £5, Wed £1.50 drinks, Thur half price drinks till midnight, Fri cocktails from £5, Sun £1.50 singles/£3 doubles.
- ONE FOR THE DIARY Monday is MATES RATES in the Box Bar with Darcy Buckland, free entry. Edge says: “We’re turning our least favourite day into the best, with Mates Rates deals on a load of drinks! We’ve also got DJ Audio K9 playing everyone’s favourite dance-floor bops!”

- REGULARS Sun: KARAOKE with drag host Aura Jay. Tue: CANDY FLOSS with DJ Audio K9 pop classics. Wed: BEAUTY & THE BALLS BINGO with host Miss Disney prizes every round in the Box Bar at 8pm. BAR 150 with DJs Missy B. & Lee Harris at 10pm; KARAOKE with Bella Black at 10.30pm. Thur: QUIZ QUEENS with drag host duo Aura Jay & Bella Black at 8pm, then GET DIRTY with DJ Liam Searle in the club. Fri: HAUS OF EDGE regular theme night, DJs Craig Law & KT and £50 bar tab giveaway. (24) is NON-STOP NICKI MINAJ Sat: THE BIG ONE from 10pm with 3 bars, 2 dancefloors & DJs: Morgan Fabulous & Trick (4), Rob Davies & KT (11), Forse & Neil Sackley (18) and Claire Fuller & Trick (25).

- STUDENT MONDAYS
- WEDNESDAY 22
- SOUTHPHOM
- HAMPSHIRE BLVD Big Navy Night Out with Aura Jay’s karaoke & tunes 8pm
- SOUTHAMPTON
- BOX BAR Beauty and the Balls Bingo: host Miss Disney & prizes 8pm; Bella Black’s karaoke 10.30pm
- EDGE Bar 150: DJs Missy B & Lee Harris 10pm

- FRIDAY 24
- SOUTHPHOM
- HAMPSHIRE BLVD We Love Fridays: DJ Toby Lawrence 9pm
- SOUTHAMPTON
- BOX BAR Hauss of Edge DJs 7pm
- EDGE Hauss of Edge: DJs Craig Law & KT + win £50 bar tab 10pm

- SATURDAY 25
- SOUTHPHOM
- HAMPSHIRE BLVD Night on the Lashes: Lucinda Lashes, karaoke & tunes 9pm
- SOUTHAMPTON
- BOX BAR Quiz Queens: drag hosts Aura Jay & Bella Black + cash prize 8pm
- EDGE Get Dirty: DJ Liam Searle 10pm

- SUNDAY 26
- SOUTHPHOM
- HAMPSHIRE BLVD 90s-Now 9pm
- EDGE The Big One: DJs Claire Fuller & Trick 10pm

- MONDAY 20
- SOUTHPHOM
- HAMPSHIRE BLVD Student Mondays with Bella Black, DJs & giveaways 9pm
- SOUTHAMPTON
- EDGE Mates Rates: DJ Darcy Buckland 10pm

- FRIDAY 17
- SOUTHPHOM
- HAMPSHIRE BLVD We Love Fridays: DJ Toby Lawrence 9pm

- SOUTHPHOM
- BOX BAR Candy Floss DJs 11pm
- EDGE Candy Floss: DJ Audio K9 11pm

- HAMPSHIRE BLVD Big Navy Night Out with Aura Jay’s karaoke & tunes 8pm

- WEDNESDAY 22
- 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 8pm; Bella Black’s karaoke 10.30pm
- EDGE Bar 150: DJs Missy B & Lee Harris 10pm

- FRIDAY 24
- SOUTHPHOM
- HAMPSHIRE BLVD We Love Fridays: DJ Toby Lawrence 9pm
- SOUTHAMPTON
- BOX BAR Hauss of Edge DJs 7pm
- EDGE Hauss of Edge: DJs Craig Law & KT + win £50 bar tab 10pm

- SATURDAY 25
- SOUTHPHOM
- HAMPSHIRE BLVD Night on the Lashes: Lucinda Lashes, karaoke & tunes 9pm
- SOUTHAMPTON
- BOX BAR Quiz Queens: drag hosts Aura Jay & Bella Black + cash prize 8pm
- EDGE Get Dirty: DJ Liam Searle 10pm

- SUNDAY 26
- SOUTHPHOM
- HAMPSHIRE BLVD 90s-Now 9pm
- EDGE The Big One: DJs Claire Fuller & Trick 10pm

- MONDAY 20
- SOUTHPHOM
- HAMPSHIRE BLVD Student Mondays with Bella Black, DJs & giveaways 9pm
- SOUTHAMPTON
- EDGE Mates Rates: DJ Darcy Buckland 10pm

- THURSDAY 30
- SOUTHPHOM
- HAMPSHIRE BLVD Night on the Lashes: Lucinda Lashes, karaoke & tunes 9pm
- SOUTHAMPTON
- BOX BAR Quiz Queens: drag hosts Aura Jay & Bella Black + cash prize 8pm
- EDGE Get Dirty: DJ Liam Searle 10pm

- FRIDAY 31
- SOUTHPHOM
- HAMPSHIRE BLVD We Love Fridays: DJ Toby Lawrence 9pm
- SOUTHAMPTON
- BOX BAR Hauss of Edge DJs 7pm
- EDGE Hauss of Edge: DJs Craig Law & KT + win £50 bar tab 10pm
Jennifer Saunders stars in Richard Eyre’s production of the Noel Coward classic. Novelist Charles Condomine and his second wife Ruth are literally haunted by a past relationship when an eccentric medium, Madame Arcati, inadvertently conjures up the ghost of his first wife, Elvira, at a séance. When she appears, visible only to Charles, and determined to sabotage his current marriage, life, and the afterlife, get complicated.

KOMEDIA
Gardner St, Brighton
Box office: 0845 293 8480

BENT DOUBLE (Sun 5). A gay-friendly, irreverent night of fun and frolics hosted by Jen Brister ‘Brister uses anger to quite stunning comedic effect’ Skinny; featuring headliner Nina Benjamin (3 Non-Blondes and Twisted Tales) ‘The Comedy Assassin’ The Voice; with Maureen Younger ‘If you’ve been lucky enough to see her perform you’ll be

BLITHE SPIRIT
Theatre Royal, New Rd, Brighton,
Box office: 08448 717650

BLITHE SPIRIT (Wed 22–Sat 25). Jennifer Saunders stars in Richard Eyre’s production of the Noel Coward classic. Novelist Charles Condomine and his second wife Ruth are literally haunted by a past relationship when an eccentric medium, Madame Arcati, inadvertently conjures up the ghost of his first wife, Elvira, at a séance. When she appears, visible only to Charles, and determined to sabotage his current marriage, life, and the afterlife, get complicated.

CAROLINE OF BRUNSWICK
Ditchling Rd, Brighton,
www.wegottickets.com

NOT ANOTHER DRAG PUB QUIZ (Thur 2) with Max Legroom and naff prizes! Your general knowledge won’t save you now!

FUNNY GIRLS (Fri 10). Julie Jepson hosts a monthly night of fabulous female funnies, with stand-up, musical comedy, characters and impro.

SLEEP PARALYSIS (Sun 19). Join host Fuchsia Von Steel and her guests for a unique blend of glamour, grotesque and comedy in an unforgettable evening.

AL START
The Brunswick, Holland Rd, Hove, tickets: www.gokidmusic.com

AL START: GO KID MUSIC CLUB - BEACH PARTY (2pm, Sat 4). Celebrate the turn of the decade with fantastic live music, funny games, stories and...UKULELES! Join Al Start at her exclusive Beach Party! Dig out your Bermuda shorts, wear your Hawaiian shirt, your beach clothes and bring your ukulele to learn how to strum a few classics. Grown ups can sip beach cocktails while kids frolic in the waves... ok, well maybe not waves. Suitable for all ages, ideal for 4-9 years. Tickets: £7/Family or Group of four for £25/Compass Card holders £5 (carers free).

ARTS MATTERS BY ENZO MARRA

James Ledward by Enzo Mara

JOHN GRANT
Attenborough Centre, University of Sussex, Falmer, Box office: attenboroughcentre.com

JOHN GRANT (Tue 28). Across four albums: Queen of Denmark in 2010, 2013’s Pale Green Ghosts, 2015’s Grey Tickles, Black Pressure and his fourth solo album Love is Magic, John Grant has established himself as “a unique songwriting talent” The Guardian. From this turbulent life he’s forged a collection of often brutal diatribes and confessions, where humour, fear, anxiety and anger overlap as Grant, with trademark candour, exposes the recesses of his soul.

ARTS BY MICHAEL HOOTMAN

GO KID MUSIC CLUB
Saturday 4th January 2pm
The Brunswick House
JAMES LEDWARD

I first met James in 2001 when I began managing Open Door. Relatively new to Brighton, I had arrived at Open Door at a difficult time in its history, and James was immediately supportive at the same time as passionate that such community-based HIV services be preserved. He was always ready to offer an ear, as well as strong opinions about how services should be run, and money should be spent. If he thought anything was wrong, he would always speak out, but equally he would be just as vocal in tackling voices of dissent if he felt they were unjust. On your side, he was definitely a force to be reckoned with. When Open Door sadly closed in 2008, I know he played a supportive role in making sure that many of the services continued, and he and Gscene have always been particularly supportive of Lunch Positive, which goes from strength to strength.

Since moving to Brighton in 2000, I’d rekindled my passion for classical music, joining various choirs and attending orchestral and chamber concerts again, having put all of that to one side when my day job in the voluntary sector, and volunteering in HIV organisations took over. When I left Open Door in 2007, it was James that asked me, over a drink one evening, whether I’d be interested in writing a classical music column for Gscene. I’d never have thought of this myself, and wasn’t sure whether Gscene readers would be at all interested in such a thing, but it’s been a great pleasure to explore a wealth of classical concerts and recordings, and hopefully bring some of these to new listeners via the column. It’s also led me on to concert reviewing for Bachtrack.com, writing concert programme notes and articles, and it was a strong factor in leading me back to music study, completing an MA in Music in 2009. It was only much later that I learned about James’ own musical background, and I wish I’d talked more with him about this. But I can only thank him for leading me back music, to what’s once again become a central part of my life. I’d always been so impressed by James’ mission with Gscene to show the breadth of LGBTQ+ life, our communities and our passions, and it’s been a privilege to be part of that. His impact on so many of our lives can’t be overestimated, and I for one will forever be grateful for his influence on my own musical journey.

CINEMA

And the Royal Ballet perform Tchaikovsky’s The Sleeping Beauty live (Thur 16).

You can also see Berg’s Wozzeck (Sat 11) live from the MET Opera, with Elza van den Heever and Christopher Ventris, conducted by Yannick Nézet-Séguin.

In a range of local cinemas, including: Duke’s at the Komedia/Duke of York’s, Brighton, Cineworld Eastbourne, The Depot, Lewes and the Connaught Cinema, Worthing.

REVIEWS

1 IVANA GAVRIĆ & THE SOUTH BANK SINFONIA HAYDN’S PIANO CONCERTO NO. 11 (Rubicon RCD1038). Pianist Ivana Gavrić gives a spritely performance of Haydn’s Piano Concerto No. 11, with the Southbank Sinfonia, conducted by Karin Hendrickson. Her opening Vivace is full of energy, the slow movement has delightful grace and a sensitive touch, and the finale is lively, played with great poise and wit. Gavrić was inspired by the possibility that this finale might have been based on a Bosnian folk melody. The melody’s origins may in fact be less authentic than we might hope, but nevertheless this led Gavrić to approach friend and collaborator Cheryl Frances-Hoad (b.1980) to write a piano concerto using a Bosnian folk song, this time definitely an authentic tune, the unofficial anthem of Sarajevo (where Gavrić was born), ‘Kad ja podoh na Bentbašu’. First Gavrić includes six French pieces written to mark the 100th anniversary of Haydn’s death, as well as Frances-Hoad’s Stolen Rhythm, written a further 100 years later, in 2009. Debussy’s Hommage à Haydn is beautifully rich, essentially a short set of variations, whereas Dukas’ Prélude élégiaque is sensuously liquid, and Gavrić’s touch is delicate and warm in both, and in the brief but delightful Menuet sur le nom d’Haydn by Ravel which follows. Frances-Hoad’s sparky Stolen Rhythm follows, and although again brief, it has an energetic drive, exploiting the extremes of the keyboard in its continuous rhythmic pulse. Gavrić returns to the French set, with d’Indy’s relatively straightforward Menuet sur le nom d’Haydn followed by Hahn’s Thème varié sur le nom de Haydn, a typically deft miniature, and Widor’s lively Fugue sur le nom d’Haydn to finish the set. Gavrić brings out the varied character of these pieces with great attention to detail, and the placing of Frances-Hoad’s contribution in the middle creates a great set up for ‘Between the Skies, the River and the Hills’, a three movement piano concerto. The opening movement has great swirls of watery running scales from the piano under slow moving, lumbering strings and slippery woodwind, creating a very striking atmosphere from the outset. The pace quickens, as the floodwaters rise, before the sun breaks through at the end. The central scherzando has great quirky energy, with more than a whiff of Shostakovich in its dancing forward propulsion. The slow finale presents that Bosnian theme in moving simplicity, passed around the orchestra, with the piano’s interjections building in intensity and urgency, ending with an impassioned coda, performed with incredible intensity here by Gavrić. The Bosnian theme’s poignant simplicity brings this beautifully constructed programme to a suitably sensitive conclusion. Highly recommended.

Reviews, comments and events:

@ nicks-classical-notes.blogspot.co.uk
@ nickb86uk
@ nbclassical@hotmail.co.uk
THE VOICE OF BROADWAY

Bar Broadway hosted the final of Voice of Broadway last month where five amazing vocalists battled it out to snatch the crown and the glory. George Martin Marino hosted proceedings and atmosphere in the bar was electric with folk eager to support their favourite singer. Rhys-Christian Mobsoy was the outright winner and thanked the crowd before belting out a soaring rendition of Don’t Stop Believing. Jennie came second and Willow came third.

Rhys said of his Voice of Broadway experience: "When I entered the Voice of Broadway competition, I did so not really knowing what to expect. I knew one of the other contestants, Jennie, so the very first week I went on my own with the intention of having some fun and seeing an old friend. I grew up listening to old school soul/R&B, and my influences are singers like JoJo and Tori Kelly, so I wasn’t sure how my voice would work out in the competition!

"Taking part in Voice of Broadway quickly became the highlight of my week, and it was so refreshing to get to sing with 10 other people, including the host of the night George, all of whom are insanely talented but have no egos or nastiness - everyone was there to support each other and have a little fun and do what they love doing.

"After the first week, I invited anyone and everyone who enjoyed music, and a few very close friends literally came every single week (I’m looking at you, Alice and Naomi!), because Bar Broadway has such a wonderfully inviting atmosphere that it’s hard to turn down spending your evenings there; especially if there is a performance taking place - what’s not to love?

"I never imagined I’d win the competition if I’m honest. It was anyone’s game, right from the start to the final three. You had Willow, who quite frankly should be on the West End in Waitress already (did I mention she’s only 18 as well?) and Jennie, who is an absolutely flawless performer, so it really could have been anyone’s win! I’m beyond grateful to anyone who came down, supported myself and the other incredibly talented performers and had a great time with us!"

Catch Rhys performing with five other Voice of Broadway contestants at Bar Broadway, 10 Steine St, Brighton BN2 1TY on Wednesday, January 1 from 8.30pm.

ABBA: SUPER TROUPERS

ABBA: SUPER TROUPERS THE EXHIBITION (until August 31, 2020). In association with ABBA: The Museum in Stockholm, the immersive exhibition at The O2 brings to life the world of chart-topping Swedish pop sensation ABBA: Agnetha Fältskog, Björn Ulvaeus, Benny Andersson, and Anni-Frid ‘Frida’ Lyngstad. It charts their music, lyrics, creative process and influence as one of the most iconic pop bands of the modern age. The exhibition has been conceptualised and curated by Jude Kelly CBE, renowned theatre director and former artistic director at the Southbank Centre and has the approval of all four members of ABBA.

ABBA burst onto the UK music scene with a dazzling win on April 6, 1974 at the Eurovision Song Contest at the Brighton Dome, with the irresistible Waterloo that became their first UK chart-topper. ABBA: Super Troupers The Exhibition examines ABBA’s rise to global superstardom through a series of atmospheric rooms, exploring each of ABBA’s eight multi-million selling albums, alongside the band’s personal and public journey. This innovative take on the ABBA story includes theatrical staging recreation of the Eurovision Song Contest stage at the Brighton Dome, where, from lush deep theatre seats, fans will watch the performance before experiencing the excitement of the vote reveal. ABBA’s Frida Lyngstad says: “We’re delighted to support ABBA: Super Troupers The Exhibition at The O2 following the overwhelming response to our earlier exhibitions in London. From our Eurovision Song Contest win in Brighton in 1974 to the present day, the UK has long held a special place in ABBA’s heart, and we’ve always strongly felt the love of our British fans.”

Tickets and opening times available at www.abbasupertroupers.com or by calling 08442 491 000.

SAPPHIC VOICES

Radio Reverb, the local radio station serving Brighton & Hove, has launched a new show, Sapphic Voices, which aims to give a voice to queer creative women in Brighton and beyond. Hosted by Leanne McKenzie and sidekick and wife, Katie Lambert, the programme will be broadcast from 9pm on Sunday, January 19 and then the third Sunday of the month. It will feature queer and non-queer creatives sharing their passion, skills and knowledge in friendly interviews. Each show will follow a theme, such as women loving women representation in film and television. Programmes will feature segments reviewing and commenting on films, exploring creative courses in Brighton & Hove, highlighting women loving women tropes, telling stories, singing songs (if listeners are particularly unlucky!) and having long, meaningful discussions on long, meaningful subjects. And, of course, there’ll be plenty of your hosts’ favourite tunes - most often female singers from the 1980s and 1990s woven in!

Radio Reverb: Sapphic Voices with Leanne McKenzie and Katie Lambert, 9pm, Sunday, January 19 and the third Sunday of the month. Tune in to 97.2FM, DAB+ or online at www.radioreverb.com
AMROU AL-KADHI UNICORN: THE MEMOIR OF A MUSLIM DRAG QUEEN (Fourth Estate) A heartbreaking and hilarious memoir about the author’s journey from a God-fearing Muslim boy to a proud, queer drag queen. Amrou Al-Kadhi by day; Glamrou at night; an empowered, confident and acerbic drag queen who wears seven-inch heels and says the things that nobody else dares to. The first-person narrative gives us an intimate portrait of growing up in a strict Iraqi-British Muslim household. When 10 years old he announced to his family that he was in love with Macaulay Culkin in Home Alone. The resultant fallout might best be described as something like the Iraqi version of Jeremy Kyle. We learn about a teenage obsession with marine biology, and how fluid aquatic life gave an understanding to non-binary gender identity. Amrou’s scholarship at Eton college, attempting to forge a new identity as a British aristocrat and his discovery of the transformative powers of drag while at Cambridge university leads to a massive breakdown and years of rage towards Islam before learning to approach his faith in a new, queer way and how costumes and fierce style were the unlikely route to embracing his heritage. Amrou takes time to introduce us to his mother, a beautiful and glamorous woman, the unknowing inspiration for his career as a drag queen – and a fierce, vociferous critic of anything that transgresses normal gender boundaries. It’s about how they lost and found each other, about forgiveness, understanding, hope – and the life-long search for belonging.

FELICE PICANO THE LURE (Muswell Press). In 1979, Felice Picano rocketed to fame with the publication of this shocking (for its time), controversial thriller. It’s a splendid capturing of the gay drugged out sexual subculture of the era, just before AIDS and the plot is slightly nuts. The book follows the action of its (apparently straight) main character, Noel, who after witnessing a brutal murder, is recruited to assist the police by acting as the lure for a killer who has been targeting gay men. Undercover, Noel moves deeper and deeper into the dark side of Manhattan’s gay life that stirs his own secret desires – until he forgets he is only playing a role. Noel narrates it and it twists and turns into some pretty strange territory. With its relentless tensions, solid narrative beat and rising psychological peril, this book is a tour de force of gay writing, is one of the founding books of modern gay fiction, and rightly made Picano’s reputation. It’s got a twist ending, consistently shocks and keeps you gripped. If you’re a fan of classic gay literature, written with a furious pace and style, then check this out. The Lure is the second book in Muswell Press’s currently running ‘rediscovering LGBTQ classics’ list.

JUNO ROCHE TRANS POWER: OWN YOUR GENDER (Jessica Kingsley Publishers). The seriously strong point of this book is Roche’s capturing, via interview, of such a wide range of authentic lived experience, with an intersectional perspective that not only allows us to understand how life is lived today for many trans and queer folk but also tells, time and time again, of the shared experiences which define and connect. The book, like Roche, is forthright, candid and blunt, exploring sex, passion, bodies and desire with a frankness which is both refreshing and relentless. The book is packed with Roche’s opinions as well, presented directly and occasionally without subtle explanation and, although provocative, this distracted me. It’s also filled with good humour, delicate moments of breath-taking honesty which illuminate lifetimes with the clarity of a lightning strike, shares advice from people hard won and points at deep themes which echo across all of these and our lives. Then we get back to Juno, again. This is an interesting book about the future and present state of gender and another solid addition to the cannon of trans voices. Roche’s book is a clarion call of ownership, and it rings clearly to those who can hear the walls of generational gender tumbling around us, and adds energy to those dismantling them. In this radical and emotionally raw book, Juno Roche pushes the boundaries of trans representation by redefining ‘trans’ as an identity with its own power and strength, that goes beyond the gender binary.

KRISTEN ARNETT MOSTLY DEAD THINGS (Corsair) A family-owned taxidermy shop in sunny Florida may not seem like the most conventional setting for a meditation on grief and heartbreak, but Kristen Arnett isn’t exactly a conventional author. Morbid, strange, and very queer, Arnett’s debut novel is a sort of coming-of-age story for an entire family: When Jessa-Lynn Morton discovers her father dead by suicide, she steps up to take over his struggling taxidermy business as the rest of their household falls to pieces around her. As her family implodes and grasps for meaning, Jessa-Lynn grabs the reigns and pulls things together, then Lucinda Rex, a gallery owner compelled by Lynn’s mothers wild erotic art, arrives in her life, breathing love and passion back into her, and changing everything, again. Her ardent sex scenes give lesbian romantic fiction a seriously new passionate contender leaving you panting with a sheen of sweat. She’s filthy gorgeous. Arnett’s plot meanders, slowly taking everything in, pausing, lifting, rolling things over. It’s a novel of observation and her drawing of Florida and its dam p oppressive heat feels suffocating real. I loved this book, it felt like a lesbian Six Feet Under but with meticulous, and ridiculously described stuffed animals.

The Memoir of a Muslim Drag Queen
AMROU AL-KADHI

The Lure
FELICE PICANO

TRANS POWER
Juno Roche

Mostly Dead Things
KRISTEN ARNETT
**ALL THAT JAZZ**

**BY SIMON ADAMS**

**HOW I FIRST MET JAMES**

When I first moved to Brighton some four years ago, I knew almost no-one. I needed to make some new friends and contacts, so, having once worked for the much-loved Pink Paper in London, I got in touch with Gscene to see if they would like a regular jazz column. James quickly got back in touch, and we arranged to meet up for a coffee at Cup of Joe in Kemp Town, his and Besi’s favourite Saturday breakfast café. James had a background in music performance and publishing, me in jazz reviewing for Jazz Journal for many years as well as a stint editing the twice-yearly programme for the Spitalfields Festival in London, which featured the early music James had previously published. We hit it off, I wrote my regular columns, teased him about the fact he always hid my monthly voluminous sack of fan mail (dream on!) and got to know and admire him as a friend and a community champion in Brighton. Alas, my friendship with him was all too short, but I will always have the fondest memories of him. What a man, what a larger than life personality. I am so glad I met him.

**REVIEWS**

1. **AHMAD JAMAL BALLADES** (Jazz Village). It’s pianist Ahmad Jamal again, for which I make no apologies whatsoever, given his importance to jazz and his own, unique style. After a series of quartet releases, Jamal, now a remarkable 89, is flying solo, with only bassist James Cammack to accompany him on three pieces. The mood is reflective and largely subdued, although Marseille, the title track from his 2017 set, fits in some of that city’s ebullience. Predictably there is another reworked version of Poinciana, which made his name when he first recorded it at the Pershing Hotel in Chicago in 1956, but also the remarkable Because I Love You, an achingly beautiful piece, which was composed on the spot as it was being recorded in the studio last January in Paris, a testimony to Jamal’s continuing ability to conjure up enduring melodies. Bass player Cammack makes his mark, but this is Jamal’s gig, which he performs with every trick in his still considerable pianistic armoury.

2. **JOE ARMON-JONES TURN TO CLEAR VIEW** (Brownswood). Keyboardist and synth player Joe Armon-Jones is a mainstay of the current young London jazz scene, Brownswood the achingly hip nu-jazz label run by DJ Gilles Peterson. Predictably, they have produced a set that blends jazz, funk, club grooves, dub and electronica into a seamless, sometimes psychedelic, space-age whole. Strong on vocals, but with some fine instrumental work from tenor saxophonist Nubya Garcia in particular, and a collection of intriguing melodies that sweep and swoosh around in a hazy shimmer, this set is as up to the minute as it gets, and all the better for it.
IRONWEED (Eureka blu-ray). Jack Nicholson and Meryl Streep star as two down-and-outs in 1930s America. Given the two leads the films should, at least, be interesting. Unfortunately it’s a dull slog in which Streep lacks her usual vitality – she doesn’t seem to have a real grip on her character and Nicholson’s perfectly decent performance lacks any kind of grit. There’s a great scene where we see Streep’s fantasy of her singing up a storm in a bar before we’re shown the depressing reality: it’s poignant and funny in a sad kind of way. But it might be the only time in a two-and-a-half hour film where Ironweed actually has some life to it.
Finding the words for the man who always found space for mine isn’t easy. Finding the words for a man who always entertained mine, no matter what the subject, daydream or occasional rant, isn’t what I ever wanted to do. But here I am, with you, paying tribute to James Ledward. The scaffold for so much of my writing and campaigning life, the foundations for our city’s LGBTQ+ community.

Queenie and I first found ourselves on the pages of Gscene in 2001 when Paul Lillie interviewed us. We were, as we have been ever since, thankful for the support James and the Gscene team gave our DJ adventures (and occasional disco dramas) even if he would often greet us with the words “those bloody lesbians are at it again”. Which to be honest we usually were.

2002 saw me join the magazine as a contributor and soon James was allowing me to do more than wax lyrical about my favoured 12” but on subjects and editorial themes as broad-ranging as hobbies, ageing, racism, fashion, trans issues, bears, sport, civil partnerships, HIV & AIDS, recreational drug use in gay clubland and the joys of winter (it’s all about those mittens on elastic don’t you know).

He also gave this Asperger’s lass (years before my diagnosis in 2016) the space to write, often a little too honestly, about my struggles with mental health. Be it living with chronic depression or the Queenie drawn tales of my life with BPD, James provided me, alongside so many others, the opportunity to be real, to tell our stories. To bring out the lives behind the headlines regardless of trending topics, 240 character limits and baffling hashtags and allowing us to connect in-depth to our community.

A community he changed forever when co-founding the Brighton Rainbow Fund. A fund so many, including myself, have benefited directly from through the services of Blueprint 22 Youth Project, Brighton GEMS, Clare Project, Lunch Positive, MindOut, Older & Out, Peer Action, Rainbow Families, Sussex Beacon, Trans Alliance and many more voluntary sector community groups across our glorious city.

A community connection he ensured was more than just personal as he embraced campaign after campaign, be it local, national or international. It was James that gave Queen Josephine’s Ouch House 200 a chance to fundraise for the Sussex Beacon, who encouraged us to keep it Decent, and who, alongside Paul Kemp at Brighton Pride, encouraged and supported Karol Michalec and I as we took our Brighton Supports LGBT Russia blog and artwork to a national level in 2013, as he gently persuaded local businesses (with his usual Ledward insistence) to finance a Brighton Community Pride Parade placard campaign.

And of course, it was James who ensured Pride was held to account during its mid-life crisis years, demanding transparency, a return to a fundraising ethos and community diversity inclusion. Pivotal in ensuring Pride became a Pride with purpose again, without James Brighton Pride would never have shone so bright, raised so much for the Brighton Rainbow Fund or had the sustainable future it now enjoys.

And for those of us determined to put the past in the present, James was an unrivalled archive. Not only of gossip (oh how I loved the tales he could tell) but of unique documentary and photographic evidence. Whilst not the tidiest or most understandable of bibliographic records (thanks to Michele for the translations) when you dig deep into James’ collection of Gscene issues and photographs his content ensured the exhibitions I curated, including BrightonPride25 and Strike A Brighton Pose, were a joy for all to enjoy. A gossip jolting, storytelling joy.

Just weeks before his untimely death last year plans were being made for our latest historical queer adventure as we look to celebrate the 30th anniversary of Brighton Pride. The course may still be set for 2020 but as we continue sailing those seas of past Pride glories, the journey will be a lonelier one without him.

As I write this tribute to the man I am still unable to believe I will never bump into again, I picture this. Somewhere up there in the ultimate nightclub called Heaven sits Mr Ledward, with Besi and his beloved four-legged family by his side, best floral shirt displayed, a favourite drink in hand. It’s the Glory Be Golden Handbags and he is the guest of honour. The combined LGBTQ+ choirs of Brighton & Hove (84,000 members and counting apparently) are singing his favourite Eurovision medley, a drag cabaret of lifelong friends are telling his favourite filthy jokes and the fundraiser is totalling a world record amount. Finally, after a long queue of well-wishers, I’ve managed to grab a moment with him. He looks at me with that twinkle you knew only meant mischief, and once again calls Queenie and me “Those bloody lesbians”. Two bloody lesbians who will be forever proud to call themselves friends of James Ledward.

“And of course, it was James who ensured Pride was held to account during its mid-life crisis years, demanding transparency, a return to a fundraising ethos and community diversity inclusion”
We had agreed to meet in Charles Street Tap. I would quickly learn that when arranging to meet James he would always suggest an LGBTQ+ local venue. He was a great believer in supporting our community venues but more importantly the people who worked in them, and he was right to do so.

Over 15 years ago I had sent James a piece written in response to my experience on a train to Manchester, which lasted 90 minutes. The police were called, the perpetrators went to court, one case was dropped and an internal investigation began. James helped to make that happen. Thanks to James the Chief Inspector of the British Transport Police was shitfing himself.

James was of course much more than the doom and gloom of LGBTQ+ oppression. He championed community members and invited us as writers to engage with local artists, drag queens, photographers, musicians, and across the spectrum of ages. James had a watchful eye on the changing gender demographic of how a younger community member may define themselves and made sure we were engaging with those artists. Fresh voices for a new generation. He made sure we celebrated anniversaries of long-established drag performers but that we introduced the fledgling steps of 20-something newcomers.

He was a supporter of older members of our community, both professionally and personally, and made sure we celebrated their work as we would a new and emerging creative. Most notably he asked me to cover art exhibitions and career reflections for Lez Ingham and Mackenzie Bell, both in the later stages of their creative careers. Meeting people like this, and listening to them talk about their lives and careers, in turn enriched mine. In the spirit of James and his legacy, in the February edition of Gscene we will run an interview with Michael James, who at 79 has published his first novel. James knew that sharing stories was a force for good and that the magazine had the platform to share those that may otherwise be forgotten or by-passed.

It was this connection to people from every walk of life that for me makes James and the memory of him so special. He would give anyone a chance, an opportunity and a platform to share their ideas and to have their voice heard. It doesn’t matter who you are or what your individual experience, we all have a story to tell.

James was a particular champion of opinion columnists in Gscene and in recent years began to share these articles online alongside news and reviews. He would defend the right of opinion as fundamental to our civilised communities. Whilst not necessarily agreeing with the content, in actively listening to the voices of others we would ourselves become better people and a tighter stronger range of communities. I know he took some flak for me as he did for other Gscene writers alike. In defending the freedom of thought and expression through this magazine for the communities he loved, he was without question, right. Every time.

“James knew that sharing stories was a force for good and that the magazine had the platform to share those that may otherwise be forgotten or by-passed”
JAMES THE CHANGEMAKER

Having attended James Funeral in October, it didn’t surprise me at all that the church was packed with well wishers, literally standing in the church doorway to show their respect to a man who made it his mission to make sure things got done.

This was brought home from the many speeches that were given during the service about the lifelong campaigning James did and set himself for the good of the LGBTQ+ community in Brighton. The thing with James was he got things moving, he got things done. This was either through his own hard work or by getting many of his friends and colleagues on board for the many brilliant projects that are part of the mainstream now.

“The thing with James was he got things moving, he got things done”

It was James who, through Gscene, spoke out about Pride being mismanaged which after a time led to Brighton Pride being one of the most popular Prides in the UK as we as being a mass profit making machine for the Brighton Rainbow Fund who in turn ensure many of the smaller LGBTQ+ projects are able to get off the ground and thrive.

The Golden Handbag Awards are also brilliant concept of James’s that give the LGBTQ+ community the opportunity to champion the individuals who work so hard to make the scene a vibrant one.

James recognised talent and encouraged those he knew to put that talent to the best use for the wider community. A prime example of this came about when Gscene put the word out that Brighton was to have its own AIDS Memorial. After bumping into Brighton artist Romany Mark Bruce, James asked if he would enter an idea into the competition which would then go to a public vote. From there, Romany was voted in with task to create his bronze statue, TAY, which has become an important focal point for everyone infected and affected by HIV and AIDS.

It is these projects that James instigated and others made happen that continue to make a positive impact on many, many Brighton residents and will continue to do so for a long time to come.

For me, I will always be grateful to James for giving me my own column in Gscene. I had always been an avid reader of Gscene, a project that James started up as a simple listings pamphlet that would go on to be a very important free magazine filled with information.

I loved the scene photos, news section but most of all it was the monthly writers I liked the most, with Rita’s Snatches being my favourite.

And so I got to write and develop my own style of writing, forming ideas from designer Michele who, along with James, ensured Gscene continued to get published each month.

James’s untimely death has hit us all hard and he will be missed, but with the many positive things that James created for Brighton, memories of him will never fade.

DUNCAN’S DOMAIN

A BEAR WITH THE HEART OF A LION

I can’t claim to have known James well but some people don’t need to be encountered frequently for them to make a big impression and James was one such. We first met, not long after my retirement from General Practice, at a birthday party given by Roger Wheeler. We were discussing his proposal that I should write for Gscene. I suggested there were a couple of obstacles; firstly that I would not relish doing any sort of medical problem page and secondly that I was not gay. From across the room came “No problem, we’ve all considered you an honorary poof for years.” So there I was with a Queen’s birthday honour – Duncan Stewart Hon P and Gscene columnist.

I was quite touched by this accolade but any opportunity to savour the pleasurable feeling of acceptance was immediately displaced by a ribald conversation about what I might have done, and with whom, had I ever crossed the road and befriended Dorothy.

Many people are better placed than me to assess the importance James’ courageous support of the LGBTQ+ community but I do know that he was a formidable negotiator. Policemen, civil servants and politicians soon realised that they were not going to change the mind of this highly intelligent man who was rightly convinced that he was fighting for a just cause. Behind that smiling face there lurked a steely determination to achieve justice and equality.

“Behind that smiling face there lurked a steely determination to achieve justice and equality”

James was unashamedly hedonistic and had an existential attitude hardly surprising in someone who at the age of 33 had been forced to abandon a career as a top-level concert musician by the damage to his dexterity caused by a stroke.

James deservedly achieved the status of godfather to the whole Brighton LGBTQ+ community and it was no surprise at his funeral to find the church packed to capacity inside and many sombre mourners outside on the pavement listening to the eulogies.

It was not only his drive and commitment that made James an irreplaceable figure in local gay politics but also his being part of that now dwindling community who spent their early teenage years coping with the humiliation of being told that their sexual preferences were repugnant and could lead to imprisonment.

This experience, coupled with his having witnessed the horrendous suffering of AIDS patients prior to the discovery of effective therapy, generated in James the same level of compassion and an appetite for change that energised some of our more altruistic post-war politicians in their efforts to improve the lot of those members of our society who were badly housed, poor and medically neglected. A process which, sadly, has faltered because most current MPs haven’t witnessed the tragedy of war and poverty.

Association with momentous events and real hardship concentrated minds on making big fundamental changes in social care and James with his drive, humour and compassion achieved lasting beneficial changes for our gay community. He is truly irreplaceable and will be greatly missed.
Everyone will talk about the first time they met you, as I will too. But in a different way. Of course there was the time you asked me to write for the magazine 10 years ago. In your office. Not the Anne Frank like secret dungeon behind a travel brochure rack in a Hove cellar. But his other office, Charles Street Tap.

I suspect then, as I do now, that he was trying to seduce me with the crashing waves and the infinity of the sea. We talked of being close to water if I remember, and the importance of such proximities. He spoke of the importance of the free gay press. Sod emancipation, there will always be fights to be had. I told him I was a drug addled academic who might not be up to the job, he told me I was a perfect fit. I told him I sometimes walked around with a target on my back, he told me to never take it off but keep telling the truth.

I remember when James asked me about my childhood during that meeting. I told him I was a street-boy who went to a dead-end school that didn’t believe in qualifications. It was there I watched five years of rough trade turn into football hooligan men. The object of my desire. But during the same five years, my bus to school, the 82c, went through a posh part of town and at one point the posh boys from a school called Saint Margaret’s got on. They were clever lads and had conversations about things other than football.

And they were impeccable. I imagined their teachers giving a shit about their futures. For me it was sad but aspirational for this 13-year-old to eavesdrop on their conversations about physics and other things I would never watch. Saint Margaret’s were encouraging them to play, of school bands with like-minded boys, national finals, without all the piss-taking and patronising I had to look forward to at the dark side of my journey on the 82c.

A 13-year-old looking at sexy posh fifth-formers from the other side of the tracks. The one boy in the spotless uniform and blue kagool who often sat alone staring at the city streets before he took the stop just after Otterspool Prom.

“Yeah, that one was probably me,” said James. For one night only, Charlie Bauer Phd will be returning to the Catalyst Club in Brighton, in a one-night residency as part of his world tour of Southern England in April 2020.

“I told him I was a drug addled academic who might not be up to the job, he told me I was a perfect fit. I told him I sometimes walked around with a target on my back, he told me to never take it off but keep telling the truth.”
We first encountered James Ledward when we moved to Brighton in the late 1990s. He took our picture and told us we would be in Gscene next month. We were over the moon, what a fabulous welcome!

Nowadays with legal equality, it’s hard to overstate the importance of James and his camera, reporting a scene that so many would deny an existence to.

A few years later, when my partner approached him and asked if he could feature more women in the magazine, he didn’t laugh or make excuses. He took a chance on me, an unknown who’d never written anything. For that much alone I will never forget him.

I have so many lovely memories of James. An animal-lover, he used to have a clutch of little dogs who often accompanied him in the van when he was out delivering Gscene. I giggled at the sight of his 7am ‘walkies’ along Hove Lawns with them following behind like a mother with her ducklings.

He regularly shouted “Oi! Lezzers!” to us from his van, before pulling over for a gossip. James LOVED gossip, never mean or nasty, just the funny stuff that makes up life in this unique city of ours.

As lesbians, James was our friend in high places. If there was a problem, he was always at the end of the phone, happy to help. Our last call pertained to a lesbian friend who was being homophobically harassed and threatened with eviction, he knew exactly the course of action and went into battle for her.

When my dad died last year, I couldn’t write my regular column due to grief, James met me on the terrace at Legends with a massive hug, and healing words. For someone so big, he was always so gentle.

My most abiding memory of James is at our civil partnership back in 2007. Firstly, the generosity of his financial gift took our breath away. Later I noticed him looking smiley and teary-eyed throughout the ceremony, but it was when we were serenaded by the Gay Men’s Choir singing *Once I Had a Secret Love* I saw him crying.

Of course, his soul was moved by music, I had no idea back then of his own musical talents. The beauty of that day was something he waxed lyrical about for years to come.

This picture from our civil partnership is the only one we have of him, bit ironic considering how many he’s taken of us these 20 odd years. James Ledward was the glue that kept our community together; I don’t know what we’ll do without him. Darling James, if there’s a light that never goes out, it’s in those lives you’ve touched along the way, so you’re gonna live forever, you big-hearted lovely man.

“Darling James, if there’s a light that never goes out, it’s in those lives you’ve touched along the way”
When I first arrived in Brighton I was terrified of transitioning. I yearned to be seen as male but baulked at the thought of undergoing treatment involving hormones and surgery. Yet even then, a decade ago, I knew that I was going to have to do this. I knew that I was really not okay, not functioning in my personal or professional life, and hadn’t been for quite some time. My gender dysphoria was wrecking my life; transition was the only, and correct, treatment.

As a doctor myself, I was reluctant to set foot down this path, hating the thought of lifelong reliance on medication, and painful operations on the horizon. But each step of the way, as I took a breath and plunged in, I found that I was getting better. In a way I couldn’t have imagined. A sense of congruence about my being, not just my body, my entire self. Ultimately, my decision to transition was a decision to live my best life.

I met James early on in my transition. Possibly even before I had started any treatment. It was the end of a round of introductions that were made for me as I found my feet in town. X wanted me to meet Y, who thought that I should have a conversation with Z, who turned out to be James. We sat outside the Amsterdam for a sunny lunchtime beer, and found lots of common ground, which was strange really. A cis gay man and a newly out trans guy who had been living a very heteronormative life until just a year or two earlier, we shared a Christian upbringing, which gave us a bond of mutual respect from the outset.

James was intriguingly open and honest that first time we met. His obvious desire to engage with and understand trans lives was generous and important to our communities here in Brighton. I would be a useful link for him into the trans community, especially in the voluntary sector, which is where James’s passion lay, and where I was getting involved in running the Clare Project.

As far as he was concerned, the small groups and larger organisations who stood to benefit from his tenacity and perseverance in terms of support, both financially and politically, were to include trans people. James encouraged me to step forward and apply for funding, to stand up for our community. At a time when Stonewall wouldn’t and others didn’t, James pushed for us to take a seat at the table in the wider LGBTQ+ sector in Brighton & Hove. So we did.

"At a time when Stonewall wouldn’t and others didn’t, James pushed for us to take a seat at the table in the wider LGBTQ+ sector in Brighton & Hove”

There was over a decade between us in age, James and I, and a lifetime of difference in LGBTQ+ awareness, politics, activism, inside knowledge and knowhow. James gave me a crash course in local LGBTQ+ politics, showed me the landscape of the voluntary sector, steered me through the Rainbow Fund application, and invited me to write a column for Gscene. He encouraged me to write my story, to share my experiences of transition, my thoughts and feelings. I have been writing this column for over five years now, and can truly say that it’s given me more than I ever could have anticipated. Not only do I have a back catalogue of my stream of consciousness over the past five years, which tracks my progress as I change, it has also provided me with a form of therapy. A monthly opportunity to inspect myself, explore my beliefs, share my fears, my pain, and the deep sense of calm that my transition has given me, I owe James an eternal debt of gratitude for those column inches, and for the things he taught me about our queer history.

Little did I realise at first how much James was learning from me in return. He looked at trans and non-binary issues through the lens I was able to hold up for him, and made wise and fair decisions as a result. Trans groups began to participate more and more at LGBTQ+ fundraising events and other community celebrations. James’ advocacy was foundational in our engagement with the wider community, and allowed trans people to emerge from the shadows. We needed each other, and those lunches continued a couple of times a year until he died.

James had suffered coming out in a different era. And had been younger. I was trans, a different tale altogether, but somehow we shared an experience. The legacy and fallout of having found ourselves completely unable to conform to expected norms. Both societal and personal expectations have to be shattered and rearranged to accommodate a change in understanding of ourselves which in turns allows us to live our lives freely. James saw and understood that battle for freedom happening in my life, and he recognised our similarities, not our differences.

James was my first and most useful cisgender ally. He spoke for, and with, trans people in his tireless efforts to include us, even though this sometimes meant educating his peers about their privilege and blindness to inequality. At the same time James occasionally displayed a wilful ignorance of his own privilege, needing to be reminded that valid voices are everywhere, and a terrible habit of mishandling, for which he was always apologetic, and easy to forgive.

He had a way of using his position to gain favour, and often used his powers of persuasion and logic to steer the conversation to a conclusion that was beneficial to all parties. He was a skilled diplomat, and has left a fantastic legacy of LGBTQ+ inclusion in the city where he lived and loved.
"Just like Montserrat, James oozed class and graciousness. Both their presence would change the atmosphere of the room and add glamour to wherever they went!"

After that day, I would always notice that every time James would speak, either in a room of five people or in a function with hundreds, everyone would automatically be quiet and pay attention to what he had to say. And he did have a lot to say. He would always talk about the community, the inclusiveness, the rights, the news and updates, the struggles, the past, the present and the future.

James was an amazing ally of trans rights. He knew everything about trans activists and influencers around the world. He knew the struggles that we face and he wanted to help fight inequality and bring us up to speed with everyone else in the LGB community. He wanted us all to be equal and safe.

Less than two months before he passed away, James and I met after he invited me to join him for a cup of tea and a chat. Little did I know that this would be the first and last time we would enjoy a chat without other people vying for his attention. It was a lovely sunny day in a café in Hove, where we both sat outside and enjoyed some peppermint tea. James asked me to tell him about myself and without any hesitation or holding back, I gave him a quick synopsis of my journey in life with such ease, just like I would if I was talking to someone I knew all my life.

After I finished my life story, I surprised James by asking for his. I can only assume that as an editor and a talented writer and reporter, he was accustomed to interviewing rather than being interviewed. His life story was as unique and as exciting as one would expect. Having James allow me a small peak into his past, prior to Gscene, was a privilege and very welcomed surprise. Majority of his achievements are thankfully documented online for everyone to read.

James then said he would like to give me a voice. He enjoyed my positive attitude in a life full of struggles and he wanted one more voice from the trans community to take space in his magazine. Without any hesitation he gave me a monthly column and told me how he wanted to raise awareness about our community even more than he was already doing. I never saw James again.

From the bottom of my heart, I thank you. I thank you for everything you have done and all your achievements in life. I thank you for believing in people and I thank you for fighting for people. Thank you for being you. We will all miss you immensely. Rest In Peace.
James was immensely supportive of mental health, he cared about all the health inequalities facing LGBTQ+ people, and understood how important mental health is. MindOut would not be where it is today without James’s support, foresight and help. By Helen Jones, Mindout CEO.

James gave us space in Gscene to write about mental health. Fifteen years ago it was a radical step to devote monthly space to such an ‘unpopular’ topic, and James and I were surprised by how well the MindOut column and then page, went down with the readership.

James really got how important it is to normalise mental health, to get people to understand that mental health issues affect us all, it’s not a thing that happens to ‘other people over there’. He and I worked hard on bringing mental health into the mainstream. One of his ambitions was to get people in bars and clubs talking about mental health, he was delighted that he achieved it.

Another thing James worked tirelessly on was bringing businesses and community groups together. I remember years ago getting an invitation to the LGBT business forum, thanks to James. This was one of the purposes of the Golden Handbags as well, a way to highlight both commercial, voluntary sector and community groups all in one setting.

The Golden Handbags was a great way to highlight what is so good about Brighton & Hove’s communities as a whole, a great way to celebrate what works well, what people like. He was, of course, central to this, as he was to so much.

He was incredibly helpful when MindOut was considering independence. I rang him up for some advice and he was emphatic in his insistence that we fight the splitting up of our services, insistent that we make sure that MindOut stayed intact. He gave us a massive boost of confidence that this was the right way forward. He also got stuck in and negotiated on our behalf. I got the impression that this consisted of threatening the wrath of the LGBTQ+ community – not a pleasant prospect – and opposition caved in!

James was properly interested in what the key issues are for LGBTQ+ people and what we could collectively do about it. He backed the Count Me In and Count Me In Too research projects. He cared about the need for suicide prevention and understood all too well how real and urgent an issue this is for all of us.

James also supported numerous individuals with their mental health issues, many times he told me about taking people to GPs and to A&E, raising issues with local councillors, health and social care services and MPs. He both cared about wider issues and he cared about what happened to the people.

He recognised that MindOut’s work is something special, that we are very fortunate to have a dedicated mental health service. He also recognised the passion and commitment of the individuals who make up MindOut. He gave special awards to Rose Hall, Arthur Law, Jason Saw and Helen Jones.

We used to badger James from time to time to put us on the cover of Gscene, mostly it was a no, but he did relent - five times!

James was a great sounding board, if you had a concern or question he either already knew what was going on, or he would find out. He was a great influencer – many times he argued for more investment in community groups, for example, with both the council and with local NHS commissioners. That was so helpful for making sure that public funds get spent on LGBTQ+ needs.

James was nobody’s fool. He wasn’t right about everything but he knew when people were insincere and he certainly knew where the power lay. He appreciated people’s talents and skills.

James had a massive heart, he was tireless in building community, helpful and knowledgeable, inspirational and kind. He left a massive legacy to all of us, especially to MindOut. We are very lucky to have had his support, we are very grateful to have known him.

"He was a great influencer – many times he argued for more investment in community groups, for example, with both the council and with local NHS commissioners. That was so helpful for making sure that public funds get spent on LGBTQ needs”

MINDOUT INFO
If you would like to talk to someone in confidence about anything connected to mental health, please do contact MindOut. We offer a range of support including advice & information, advocacy, crisis support, a low cost counselling service, peer mentoring, peer support groups, suicide prevention, anti-stigma campaigns, training for mental health service providers and an out of hours online instant chat service.

See our website: www.mindout.org.uk
Call: 01273 234839
Email: info@mindout.org.uk

All our services are independent, impartial and non-judgemental.

Our online support service is open most evenings and weekends, see our website for opening times.

See our website: www.mindout.org.uk
Call: 01273 234839
Email: info@mindout.org.uk
Farewell Captain Bob

James had a vicious and surprisingly crude sense of humour, always managing to get under my skin, he relished making my claws come out, he was playful, queer sparing, no malice. When I told him that he reminded me of Robert Maxwell, (Captain Bob) he laughed calling me cold-blooded. I felt a warm working class Queen connection to Captain Bob and being part of his jolly Gscene crew has given me the adventures and opportunities, from inadvertently setting off the thunderous bellows of St Martin’s Cathedral in Utrecht whilst on a press trip to being able to review and enjoy some of the best operas in the world. I have a huge fondness for James, he was the first person who published my endless metaphorical muses and handed me a faith in my writing by doing so. I will miss him, I will miss climbing into his mobile midden of a car, stuffed with gnapy toothed dogs, coffee cups, bizarre queer media freebies, scrupled up letters and boxes of Gscene. I’d be collecting books to review, exchanging gossipies at a furious pace, piecing bits of intelligence together to get a bigger picture and sharing useful daainties of info which James knew that I knew that he knew would be useful. Our ethical compasses were aligned, although James was far, far kinder than I am, and although he had issue with me working for a statutory agency, he knew the importance of working within organisations to change them.

“He was one of the most generous people I knew... with his time, his publishing space, his compassion and his advice”

He was one of the most generous people I knew, in many ways, with his time, his publishing space, his compassion and his advice. How he loved to give that, but then in his unique position in the city, an all seeing eye gifted with the ability to talk truth to power, to yank chains hard. His keen eye for bullshit or twisty lies allowing him to flinch people’s ego from their substance and reveal them. He played the long game, investing in folk, sowing the seeds of future forests, knowing he’d not be around to enjoy their sweet bowers or shade. He understood that our Queer community was an ongoing construction project and a generational one. We’ve lost so much, but then James knew he would go, eventually, and had been threatening to retire for ages, although he never quite managed to. I feel that he mentored me, like a naggy aunt, who only wants the best for her brood, and sees what they are capable of. James knew ‘we are the dreamers of dreams’. He did that with all of us, in different ways, raising an army of interconnected, interdependent LGBTQ+ allies, so we could, as in the words of the hymn he chose for his funeral, ‘Not cease from mental fight, nor sword sleep in our hands, until we have built our Gilded Queer Jerusalem in England’s green and pleasant land.’

“More and more...” he would say before grumbling about the state of services, meetings, pushy privilege or greed in the city, but then would find the right people, and connect them up. Fire them up, charm, flatter or threaten them to effect change, proper change, embedded change. Always keeping his beady eye on things and checking up. How he found the time to live such a varied and full life astonishes me. I’m glad I was a small part of it.

So farewell Captain Bob, O Captain! My Captain! Our fearful trip is done. One last metaphor before I throw the flaming allegorical brand onto the pyre and turn my face into the wind, it’s just strong enough to catch my tears and they hiss as they hit the flames. I smile and think of the Wicked Witch of the West, another name you had for yourself and how she deserves a chance to fly.”

James, thank you, now you’ll forever be exquisite and never explain.
LGBT SERVICES

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

**BRIGHTON & HOVE POLICE**
Report any 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) email: LGBT@sussex.pnn.police.uk
• LGBT Officer PC James Breeds: Tel. 0161 558168 James.breeds@sussex.pnn.police.uk

**BRIGHTON & HOVE LGBT SAFETY FORUM**
Independent LGBT forum working within the communities to address and improve safety and access issues in Brighton & Hove. For more info: 01273 675445 or admin@lgbthelp.com or www.lgbthelp.com

**BRIGHTON & HOVE LGBT SWITCHBOARD**
• LGBT Older Peoples’ Project
• LGBT Health Improvement and Engagement Project
• LGBTQ Disabilities Project
• Rainbow Cafe: support for LGBT+ people with Dementia
• Volunteering opportunities 01273 234 009
Helpline hours: Wed & Thu, 7–9.30pm; trans-only webchat on Sun 3–5pm: call 01273 204 050 email info@switchboard.org.uk
webchat.switchboard.org.uk/helpline

**BRIGHTON ONEBODYONEFAITH**
Formerly The Gay Christian Movement. Contact: Nigel Nash nigelnash@me.com www.onebodyonefaith.org.uk

**BRIGHTON WOMEN’S CENTRE**
Info, counselling, drop-in space, support groups 01273 698033 or visit www.womenscentre.org.uk

**LESBIAN & GAY AA**
12-step self-help programme for alcohol additions: Sun, 7.30pm, Chapel Royal, North St, Btn (side entrance).
01273 203 343 (general AA line)

**LGBT COCAINE ANONYMOUS**
Meeting every Tues 6.30-8pm, 6 Tilbury Pl, Brighton, BN2 1GY. CA isn’t allied with any outside organisation, and neither endorses or opposes any causes.
Helpline 0800 6120225.
www.cocaineanonymous.org.uk www.sussexcocaainenameous.co.uk,

**LGBT NA GROUP**
Brighton-based LGBT (welcomes others) Narcotics Anonymous group every Tue 6:30–8pm, Millwood Centre, Nelson Row, Kingswood St. 0300 999 1212

**LGBT+ MEDITATION GROUP**
Meditation & discussion, every 2nd & 4th Thu, 5.30–7pm, 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 464 384 or www.lunchpositive.org

**MCC BRIGHTON**
Inclusive, affirming space where all are invited to come as they are to explore 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 FTMs, 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: peeraction@peraction.org or www.peeraction.net

**RAINBOW FAMILIES**
Support group for lesbian and/or gay parents 07951 020130 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 in LGBT+ one-stop shop: 93 St James Street, BN2 1TP. 01273 675445 or visit www.therainbowhubbrighton.com

**SOMEP EOPLE**
Social/support group for LGBT or questioning aged 14–19, Tue 5.30–7.30pm, Hasting. Call/text Catherine Corneley 0797 3255076 or email somepeople@eastsussex.gov.uk

**TAGS – THE ARUN GAY G ROUP**
Social Group welcome all inEast & West Sussex Areas.
Call/Text 07593 513171 www.tagsonline.org.uk

**VICTIM SUPPORT**
Practical, emotional support for victims of crime 08453 899 528

**THE VILLAGE MCC**
Christian church serving the LGBT community. Sundays 6pm, Somerset Day Centre, Kemptown 07476 667353 www.thevillagemcc.org

HIV PREVENTION, CARE & TREATMENT SERVICES

**AVERT**
Sussex HIV & AIDS info service 01403 210202 or email confidential@avert.org

**BRIGHTON & HOVE HAB H IV PRO JECT**
Money, benefits, employment, housing, info, advocacy. Appointments: Tue–Thu 9am–4pm, Wed 9am–12.30pm Brighton & Hove Citizens Advice Bureau, Brighton Town Hall. 01273 733390 ext 520 or www.brightonhovecab.org.uk

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

**LAW UST**
Medical advice, treatment for HIV+, specialist clinics, diet & welfare advice, drug trials. 01273 664 722

**MARTIN FISHER FOUNDATION**
HIV Self testing kits via digital vending machines available from: The Brighton Sauna, Sublime, Prowler, Marlborough Pub and The Rainbow Hub martinfisherfoundation.org

**SUBSTANCE MISUSE SERVICE**
Pavilions Partnership. Info, advice, appointments & referrals 01273 731 900. Drop-in: Richmond House, Richmond Rd, Brighton, Mon–Wed & Fri 10am–4pm, Thu 10am–7pm. Sat 10am–1pm, 9 The Drive, Hove 01273 66014 Mon & Wed 10am–12pm & 1pm–3pm, Tue & Thu 10am–4pm, info & advice only (no assessments), Fri 10am–12pm & 1pm–3pm.
• Gary Smith (HIV+ Support) 07884 476634 or email gsmith@pavilions.org.uk
For more info visit website: pavilions.org.uk/services/treatment-recovery-options/

**SUSSEX BEACON**
24 hour nursing & medical care, day care 01273 694222 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 for men who have sex with men.

• The Bushes Outreach Service @ Dukes Mound: advice, support, info on HIV & sexual health, and free condoms & lube

• Netreach (online/mobile app outreach in Brighton & Hove): info/advice on HIV/sexual/local services.

• LGBT+ refugees – sign up to: 24/7 assistance call Police on 101, 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–6–8pm (STI testing available)

• Face2Face: confidential info & advice on sexual health & HIV for men who have sex with men, up to 1 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 07580 865590 or grace.coughlan@tth.org.uk

• SEXUAL HEALTH WORTHING
Free confidential tests & treatment for STIs inc HIV, Hep A & B vaccinations. Worthing based 0845 111345645

NATIONAL HELPLINES

**NATIONAL LGTB DOMESTIC ABUSE HELPLINE** at galop.org.uk and 0800 999 5428

**SWITCHBOARD** 0300 330 0630

**PO SITIVE LINES (EDDIE SURM AN TRUST)**
Mon–Fri 11am–10pm, Sat & Sun 4–10pm 0800 1968608

**MAINL INERS** 02075 825226

**NATIONAL AIDS HELPLINE** 0800 776123

**NATIONAL DRUGS HELPLINE** 08007 76600

**THT AIDS Treatment phoneline 08459 470047
**THT direct 0845 1221200

62 GSCE
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Mad Mondays  
from 9.30pm

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12th Charlie Hides  
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Deals/Promos/Programme may be subject to change. Mixers from the gun. T&Cs Apply.

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