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PRIDE ANNOUNCES LGBTQ+ COMMUNITY PARADE 2020 THEME - BACK TO THE FUTURE

Pride has announced Back to the Future as the theme for this year’s community parade event and applications to take part are now open.

The annual Pride Community Parade is the biggest, most anticipated and exciting visual event in Brighton & Hove’s calendar, and one of the best attended parade events in the whole of the UK. Each year Brighton & Hove Pride brings the whole community and many more besides out on to the city’s streets with over 400,000 participants. This year looks to continue in the same vein as Brighton Pride celebrates its 30th anniversary with the parade event taking place on Saturday, August 1, 2020.

The Back To The Future theme will build on last year’s We Stand Together campaign, a celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Stonewall uprising that ignited the global Pride movement. Pride describe this year’s theme as “reaffirmation of our commitment to campaign for global LGBTQ+ equality”. The Back To The Future theme aims to celebrate the pioneering activists of our broadening communities’ past as well as looking to the future and the continued strive for equality for LGBTQ+ people all over the world.

Brighton & Hove Pride is the UK’s biggest Pride Festival, operated by Brighton Pride, a not for profit community interest company (CIC). All ticket revenue goes directly to the operational and running costs of producing the Pride Festival. LGBTQ+ Pride Community Parade, Pride Village Party and community fundraising for the Rainbow Fund and Pride Social Impact Fund. Since Pride’s conception as a CIC, it has raised over £922,000 for the Rainbow Fund, the Pride Social Impact Fund, Pride Cultural Development Fund and new Pride Solidarity Fund in the last six years. The Rainbow Fund has, in its short history, become a much celebrated organisation with its remit to receive donations and use them to give grants to LGBTQ+ and HIV groups and organisations in Brighton & Hove. The Pride Social Impact Fund benefits local good causes giving grants to a range of local groups.

The parade’s Back To The Future theme aims to encourage intergenerational conversations and consequently a recognition of the heroes and icons that paved the way for the rights we celebrate today. This year there will be a judging panel of local creatives and dignitaries awarding prizes for those taking part in the Parade in categories which include Best Creative, Best Costumes, Best Global LGBTQ+ Theme, and Best Use of Recycled Materials.

Last Autumn, Pride announced the theme for the Pride events in Preston Park was Fabulous, and it is hoped this celebratory approach will also influence choices made by community groups taking part in the 2020 parade.

Ahead of applications for 2020, Pride issued a statement: “Each year we are really excited to see some of the innovative and spectacular creations parade entrants come up with to interpret our theme and while on every other weekend of the year a feather boa and a rainbow wig might suffice, for Pride 2020 we really hope that they pull out all the creative stops to ensure their group stands out and gets its message out. And there is also the prestige their group could win its category.”

For more information and to apply, please visit the Parade page on the Brighton Pride website: brighton-pride.org/pride-parade/

DIVINA DE CAMPO TO HEADLINE PORTSMOUTH PRIDE 2020

Organisers of Portsmouth Pride 2020 have announced their first headliner, Divina De Campo, runner-up of RuPaul’s Drag Race UK, for this year’s event at Castle Field, Southsea on Saturday, June 20.

Divina De Campo is the stage name of Owen Farrow, a seasoned British drag queen and singer. Known for her high soprano and four octave range, Divina has been featured on national television programmes including The Voice, All Together Now, and most recently on the first season of RuPaul’s Drag Race UK. Her love of theatre led her to star in stage productions including The Ruby Slippers, a play that explores prejudice in the LGBTQ+ community, and Dancing Bear, a musical that explores faith, sexuality and gender identity. Divina has worked with the George House Trust, a charity supporting people living with HIV. She has also hosted Superbia’s Drag Queen Story Time, reading stories to young children.

Portsmouth Pride 2020 will take place on Saturday, June 20 at Castle Field, Southsea. The theme for this year’s Pride is Armed Forces, which ties in with the 20th anniversary of lifting the ban on LGBTQ+ people serving in the military.

For more info, visit: www.portsmouthpride.co.uk/

FRONTLINE AIDS WAD COLLECTION RAISES £1,700

Collections and donations gathered from events around World AIDS Day 2019 for Frontline AIDS totalled £1,700, £1,000 of which was a generous donation by a local company.

Frontline AIDS has worked on the ‘frontline’ of the world’s response to HIV and AIDS for 25 years, with marginalised people who are denied HIV prevention and treatment simply because of who they are and where they live. Set up in 1993 to work with community groups in countries most affected by the global AIDS epidemic, this is an organisation who have continually adapted their approach, looking for innovative ways to break down barriers that marginalise people living with, or at risk of acquiring, HIV. All with one goal in mind – a future free from AIDS for everyone, everywhere.

For more info, visit: www.frontlineaids.org
GAY MARRIAGE FINALLY LEGAL IN NORTHERN IRELAND

Same-sex marriage is now legal in Northern Ireland, bringing the province in line with the rest of the UK. Northern Ireland didn’t join England, Wales and Scotland when the UK Parliament voted to legalise same-sex marriage in 2013. Stormont, the province’s seat of legislative power, voted narrowly in favour of marriage equality in 2019 but the DUP immediately vetoed the change. The UK Parliament voted last year to legalise gay marriage and abortion in the region if the province didn’t reestablish its devolved government by October 2019. For couples who are already married, their marriage will now be legally recognised in Northern Ireland. However, those who are already in a civil partnership will not be able to convert it to a marriage at this stage.

The Northern Ireland Office will begin a consultation later this year about converting civil partnerships and the role of churches in same-sex marriages. Heterosexual couples will also be able to enter into civil partnerships. An amendment was made to the Northern Ireland (Executive Formation etc) Act 2019 by Conor McGinn, Labour MP, saying that the government had to legislate for same-sex marriage in Northern Ireland. He said: “Everyone who values equality, love and respect can celebrate - it’s a good day for Northern Ireland, an important day for citizens’ rights across these islands and an exciting day for same-sex couples who can now register to marry.”

John O’Doherty, from the Love Equality campaign, said this was the “Culmination of five years of campaigning for marriage equality and marks an enormous step forward for LGBTQ+ people. There remain a number of issues to be addressed before couples in Northern Ireland have the same rights as those in other jurisdictions.”
ALLSORTS ADVOCACY BROADENS REACH TO WEST SUSSEX YOUNG PEOPLE

Allsorts Youth Project, the Sussex-based LGBTQ+ youth charity, has launched an Advocacy Service in West Sussex offering support to LGBTQ+ children and young people aged 11-19. Funded by West Sussex Clinical Commissioning Groups (NHS), in partnership with West Sussex Council, the newly launched West Sussex Advocacy Service can help young LGBTQ+ people research around difficult issues, express themselves, and access vital services. Allsorts’ Advocacy Service strives to ensure that young people’s rights are met, and that they feel empowered and in control of their own life.

Karla Coppendale, Allsorts advocate, will listen to and support young people in making important decisions about their needs, and ensure that their voices are heard. Karla says: “My aim is to help facilitate the information and choices young people have, and empower the young person to pick what option is best for them so they can learn to advocate for themselves.”

Alongside a range of specialist youth services offered by Allsorts, the Urgent Need Advocacy Service has been empowering young people aged 16-25 in Brighton since 2016, when it was launched in partnership with MindOut, the LGBTQ+ Mental Health Service. In 2019, the Urgent Need Advocacy Service built on the successes of previous years and had another strong year, seeing Allsorts’ advocate provide a wide variety of support around economic hardship, insecure housing and homelessness, food and fuel poverty, immigration and asylum, and barriers to services because of LGBTQ+ discrimination. In total, the service in Brighton supported 139 young people.

Karla Coppendale encourages young people who feel they could benefit from Allsorts Youth Project’s Advocacy Service in West Sussex, and those who are unsure if the service applies to them, to get in touch and discuss their options. The services are free, confidential, non-judgemental, independent from other services and led by you.

To find out more, contact Karla at advocacy@allsortsyouth.org.uk, or visit www.allsortsyouth.org.uk/what-we-do/advocacy.

BBW LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS

If you’re thinking ‘I want to do something worthwhile in 2020’, you could volunteer to be part of the Brighton Bear Weekend (BBW) team. BBW need all sorts of skills, from social media activation to AV production, volunteer coordinator, event management and much more. You’ll be working with a crowd of guys who are fun, friendly, 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 the hugely popular club night, to raising several thousand pounds for the Brighton Rainbow Fund.

Volunteering is good fun, great for meeting new people and can help give you a sense of purpose and satisfaction. If you’re interested, fill in a simple form by visiting www.brightonbearweekend.com/volunteer/

If you’d like to meet the team, BBW will be holding a Volunteer Introduction Meeting at Amsterdam Bar & Kitchen, 11-12 Marine Parade, Brighton, BN2 1TL on Monday, February 17 at 7pm.

This year’s BBW event celebrates their 10th anniversary and is a week earlier than normal, from Thursday, June 18 to Sunday, June 21. For more info visit: www.brightonbearweekend.com

The Brighton Rainbow Fund is the central hub for fundraising within the Brighton & Hove LGBTQ+ communities, and distributes grants to local projects which benefit, and make a difference, to the lives of hundreds of individuals within those communities. For more info, visit www.rainbow-fund.org

SEXUAL ABUSE AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE AWARENESS WEEK 2020

Survivors’ Network, who support survivors of sexual violence and abuse in Sussex, will mark Sexual Abuse and Sexual Violence Awareness Week 2020 on Monday, February 3 from 9.30am with a free workshop at Pavilion Buildings in Brighton for anyone who may encounter a disclosure of sexual assault or abuse.

Disclosure of sexual assault or abuse may take place in situations such as a community or employment role you have, community spaces you attend, or by someone you care about.

The workshop aims to:
- Myth bust
- Give hints and tips on how to respond
- Give ideas about support available
- Increase confidence in having these conversations

Survivors’ Network workshop, 6a Pavilion Buildings, Brighton BN1 1EE on Monday, February 3 from 9.30am. The Survivors’ Network apologise that the venue is accessible up a flight of stairs.

For more information on the Survivors’ Network, visit: www.survivorsnetwork.org.uk

BLAGSS BOWLING EXTRAVAGANZA 2020

BLAGSS will be hosting its highly anticipated Bowling Extravaganza on Wednesday, February 26 at the Hollywood Bowl in Brighton’s Marina. At the 2019 event, more than 200 bowlers representing 26 LGBTQ+ organisations took part. The highly anticipated annual event – now in its 15th year – allows regular bowlers and those who play once a year to come together for a night of fun and team spirit.

The 2019 winners were Outdoor Lads, followed by BLAGSS Bowling and Gay Men’s Chorus in third place. The Rainbow Fund, BLAGSS Football and Rainbow Chorus occupied 4th, 5th and 6th place. John Moore, BLAGSS Chair, said, “It was a fantastic event, bringing local people together in friendly rivalry. We are delighted to support Allsorts to provide sustainable opportunities for young people.”

Last year’s event raised £500 for Allsorts, and each year there is a raffle with generous prizes donated by local LGBTQ+ groups and participating teams. Katie Vincent, Co-Director of Allsorts, was delighted at the donation and said, “Allsorts Youth Project listens to, supports & connects young people under 26 who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans or unsure (LGBTI) of their sexual orientation and/or gender identity. This donation will make a difference and help us to offer one to one emotional support, training and education, advocacy and support for parents & carers too.”

Those interested in taking part in the event should contact BLAGSS via www.blagss.org
BBW CHRISTMAS QUIZ RAISES £460 FOR BRIGHTON RAINBOW FUND

A packed Christmas Quiz finished a great year for Brighton Bear Weekend (BBW). The last event in the 2019 BBW calendar took place on Thursday, December 19 at the Camelford Arms with teams competing to win the £300 cash prize! The BBW Christmas Quiz is always a very jolly evening, and this was no exception, with £460 raised for the Brighton Rainbow Fund who give grants to local LGBTQ+/HIV groups who deliver effective frontline services to LGBTQ+ people in the city.

Winners on the night were the Get Christmas Done team who opted for Envelope 5 which revealed a bottle of house wine. The Christmas raffle followed with a great selection of prizes including a 90 minute massage, meal vouchers, a Jo Malone/Estee Lauder selection box, plenty of wines and spirits and a gorgeous Hamper as star prize!

Graham Munday, BBW Chair, said “It has been another successful year and the Christmas quiz is always a great ending. The whole BBW team wishes to thank Liam McKeown for being our last-minute quiz master, all the staff at the Camelford for hosting us and making us so welcome throughout the year and all the people who came down and had a great time.”

For more info about BBW, visit: www.brightonbearweekend.com

A BIT OF MIDWEEK SPARKLE AT LEGENDS

Join Davina Sparkle and friends for a new weekly residency, A Bit of Midweek Sparkle, at Legends Brighton every Wednesday from 9.30pm. The iconic Davina Sparkle is one of the UK’s top drag queens known for outrageous costumes, adult humour, patter, song and shedloads of SPARKLE! In February, she’ll be joined by dance/chart star Allan Jay (5), drag prince Alfie Ordinary (12), soul/Motown sensation Nicole Moattarian (19) and scene queen Pooh La May (26).

Davina says: “Join me in the Starlight Room for my new Wednesday nighter, with amazing guests every week - some up and coming acts and some established stars of the scene! I’d love your support and suggestions of who should join me on stage! It’ll be FAB-U-LOUS so I hope you can join me.”

A Bit of Midweek Sparkle with Davina Sparkle and friends at Legends, 31-34 Marine Parade, Brighton BN2 1TR, every Wednesday from 9.30pm.

For more info, visit: www.legendsbrighton.com
**LE VILLAGE NEW MENU**

If it’s a burger you’re after, build your own! Le Village’s Build-A-Burger comes with a succulent patty (£5), then stack it (from £1 – £2 each) with bacon, cheese, halloumi, chilli con carne, or go massive with a second patty! Off the menu? Don’t fret – the yummy Vegan Burger (£8.50) is the one for you.

For a lighter choice, Le Village is also serving a selection of fresh filled baguettes and jacket potatoes, all under a fiver. There’s also a handsome choice of sides, from chips to chicken wings.

Food at Le Village, 2-3 High St, Brighton, BN1 1RP served 5 – 8.30pm (or 8pm depending on how busy they are) Mon – Sat. Sunday roasts served from 12pm till they run out.

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**RAILWAY CLUB JAZZ NIGHT**

Sensational jazz vocalist Alex Banks will be swinging into the Railway Club Brighton on Saturday, February 22 from 8.30pm, free entry. After training at Guildford School of Acting, Alex has performed hundreds of gigs and has played the role of Frank Sinatra in the long running West End and international hit show the Rat Pack Live From Las Vegas. He has performed the role both in the UK and in America at the Fabulous Fox Theatre in St Louis, Missouri with a terrific band, some of the members of which had played alongside Frank Sinatra himself. Not to be missed, Alex is the definitive modern-day crooner and will be singing the signature tunes of Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin, Nat King Cole, Matt Monro, Louis Armstrong and others.

Alex Banks live at Railway Club, 4 Belmont, Brighton BN1 3TF, on Saturday, February 22 from 8.30pm, free entry.

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**NEW STEINE VALENTINE’S MENU**

The New Steine Hotel, a boutique hotel and French bistro, brings the City of Love to Brighton on Valentine’s Day with a sumptuous Valentine’s Menu on Friday, February 14. Start with amuse bouche and entrees, including broccoll & stilton soup, Lovers’ Surf & Turf assiette for two or smoked mackerel rillette paté, then take your pick from a selection of lavish main courses, including ribeye steak, pepper sauce and gratin dauphinois or pan fried seabass fillet with mashed potatoes, green beans & coqig sauce. Finish off with a heart-shaped chocolate fondant and strawberry coulis or with the romantic Lovers Gourmet, bite-sized delights for two. Valentine’s Menu at New Steine Hotel, 10/11 New Steine, Brighton BN2 1PB on Friday, February 14, £24.95 per person, with 10% discount if you mention Gscene when booking. To book call 01273 681546 or visit: www.newsteinehotel.com

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**SUBLINE QUIZ IN AID OF JAMES LEDWARD MEMORIAL FUND**

Subline’s monthly Quiz Night (all genders welcome!) will once again raise funds for the James Ledward Memorial Fund, part of the Brighton Rainbow Fund and specifically ring-fenced for local homelessness charities, on Monday, February 3 from 7pm with the quiz at 8pm. Entry is £2 per person, which goes into the jackpot pool. The quiz winners will face a final challenge to grab the cash or receive consolation bubbly. Quiz master, Ian Andrew Sinclair, will have a devilish array of questions to confound and perplex; there will be a (lowbrow) picture and musical intro rounds for some relative relief; and there’ll be some halftime sandwiches to console yourselves if you really can’t answer anything!

Subline Monthly Quiz Night with funds going to James Ledward Memorial Fund at Subline, 129 St James’s St, Brighton BN2 1TH on Monday, February 3, doors open from 7pm, quiz starts at 8pm.

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**HAPPY BIRTHDAY ROBERT**

Robert Beveridge, owner of the Grosvenor Bar, celebrated his birthday last month with delicious cake and cabaret from Davina Sparkle.

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**CANDLELIT DINNER AT THE CAMELFORD**

Spend Valentine’s Day with the one you love in a candlelit setting at the Camelford Arms, Brighton on Friday, February 14. The Camelford Arms will be serving a romantic three-course fine dining menu for all the lovers out there and you can pick from three delicious starters, including: peppered avocado and chicken trifles and Mediterranean tomato soup, and five hearty main courses including grilled rack of lamb topped with pistachio and herb crust or blue cheese vegetarian wellington. Keep things sweet with a choice of three moreish desserts, including a luxurious chocolate orange truffle cake.

Romantic three-course Valentine’s Meal at Camelford Arms, 30-31 Camelford St, Brighton BN2 1TQ on Friday, February 14, £60 per couple including a bottle of wine if booked in advance. To book in advance, pop in or call 01273 622386.

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**DAILY NEWS UPDATES ON WWW.GSCENE.COM**
FRIADY 14TH FEBRUARY 9PM

VALENTINE'S MASQUERADE BALL

BAR BROADWAY, 10 STEINE STREET, BRIGHTON. BN2 1TE
VILLAGE MCC DONATES CARE PACKAGES & ESSENTIALS TO SUSSEX BEACON

Rev Michael Hydes and Keith Fish from The Village MCC, a church created by LGBTQ+ Christians, their families, friends and allies, visited Hattie Yannaghas at the Sussex Beacon last month to hand over toiletries that were donated over Advent and Christmas by members and friends of the Church. Donations included a huge bag of shower gel, another of toothbrushes and toothpaste, another of soap and shampoo, another of deodorant and shaving supplies. Members of The Village MCC also created care packages for those who might arrive without any personal belongings at all.

Rev Michael said “The Sussex Beacon does a wonderful job in providing specialist care and support for people living with HIV. Their day services, peer support, and family support make a huge difference in the lives of those who access their services. And of course they offer inpatient services in their ten bedroom unit, some of which is funded by the NHS. But it’s often the little things that can make a huge difference. Of course the Sussex Beacon relies on grants and fundraising to meet the operating costs, but when someone arrives with nothing they may need something as simple as a toothbrush, shaving gear, or shower gel. We’re glad to be able to help out in this small way.”

For more info on The Village MCC, visit: www.thevillagemcc.org
For more info on the Sussex Beacon, visit: www.sussexbeacon.org.uk

MRS MOORE’S BONA BINGO BONANZA RETURNS TO CHARLES STREET TAP

Brighton institution Mrs Moore’s Bona Bingo Bonanza returns to Charles Street Tap for a new season on Wednesday, February 19 from 8.30pm. Since its inception, the event has raised hundreds of pounds for THT South and is a night of sheer mayhem with prizes, rubber ducks, a new speed round and a kids’ paddling pool, which really needs to be seen to be believed!

Mrs Moore says: “Yes it’s time to inflate my pool of balls for some fun and frolics! You can win (amazing?) prizes from my trolley of tat or put your hand in my jiffy bag – it might be something you want or need, or maybe some dog biscuits! It really is the luck of the jilly... So lock up your sons and fathers, it’s gonna get messy!”

Mrs Moore’s Bona Bingo Bonanza at Charles Street Tap, 8 Marine Parade, Brighton BN2 1TA on Wednesday, February 19 from 8.30pm.

20 YEARS OF OPEN LGBTQ+ SERVICE IN THE ROYAL NAVY

Sailors and Royal Marines across the UK marked 20 years since the lifting of the ban on LGBTQ+ men and women serving in the Royal Navy last month. Rainbow flags were raised at key locations across the UK, including the Naval Base Headquarters in Portsmouth, which was floodlit in rainbow colours and banners adorned lamp posts around the base.

The British Government has now apologised 20 years after a ban on homosexuals serving in the armed forces was lifted. Addressing a group of veterans at an event to mark the anniversary in the Houses of Parliament, Johnny Mercer MP, a Veteran himself, said the ban was “unacceptable then and it’s unacceptable now.” During the event, the MP tweeted: “Special day as we kick off a weekend of celebrations to mark 20 years since lifting the ridiculous ban on LGBTQ+ people serving in the military. I’m sorry for the experiences you had pre 2000; our military is far better, far more effective, and better reflects our values, with you.”

Until the ban was lifted in 2000, anyone found to be homosexual in the armed forces was dishonourably discharged and in some cases had medals removed. A landmark case last month saw the High Court order medals to be returned to one veteran. More cases are expected to follow.

For more info on how the Royal Navy commemorated the anniversary, visit: www.royalnavy.mod.uk/news

Breaking up can be difficult...

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

For any information on our other services, please contact us at Engleharts Solicitors, Vallance Hall, Hove Street, Hove, East Sussex, BN3 2DE or email angela@engleharts.co.uk.
THT RESPOND TO NEW PUBLIC HEALTH ENGLAND HIV REPORT

Terrence Higgins Trust (THT) has responded to Public Health England’s new HIV report, which, the HIV/sexual health charity say, shows a slowing of the decline in new diagnoses. The report comes one year on from the Government committing to ending HIV transmissions by 2030.

As part of work to achieve the 2030 goal, THT and NAT (National AIDS Trust) have established an independent HIV Commission to consult widely ahead of making its evidence-based recommendations in spring 2020.

Debbie Laycock, Head of Policy at THT, said: “We won’t end HIV transmissions simply with business as usual as it’s that complacency which poses the biggest barrier to ending the epidemic. We now have an ambitious target to reach zero new HIV transmissions that the Government has committed to playing its part in achieving but if progress starts to stagnate we simply won’t get there.

“While the last few years have been a real success story for bringing down new HIV diagnoses, this data shows there is an undeniable slowing happening. That’s why the work of the HIV Commission is so important as we need to make sure that everything we’re doing is bringing us closer to ending transmissions within the next 10 years.

“In the last decade the rate of diagnoses in gay and bisexual men has reduced by nearly a third but we are not seeing that same level of progress among other groups. For example we’re seeing slight increases among black African people and south Asian gay and bisexual men. No one can be left behind when it comes to ending HIV and progress across all communities is essential if we are to avoid going backwards.

“This means looking beyond the groups traditionally associated with HIV and increasing testing in all communities. The fact we are still seeing 43% of all new HIV diagnoses at a late stage, in particular among heterosexual men and the over 50s, is evidence of the urgent need to engage these groups around HIV and regular testing.

“We know that stigma continues to be a huge barrier in preventing people coming forward to getting tested. That’s why updating the public’s knowledge about HIV is crucial if we are to get the estimated 7,500 people who remain undiagnosed tested and onto treatment.

“The new data is further evidence of the crucial role people living with HIV are playing in ending transmissions as effective treatment means the virus can’t be passed on. That’s why ensuring people living with HIV are able to live well must be a key priority.”

Despite PrEP playing a significant part in the decline of new HIV transmissions over the past few years, in particular among gay and bisexual men, access to the drug remains capped in England. Waiting lists across the country are growing and we know that several men have been diagnosed with HIV while trying to access PrEP. This is a scandal and underlines why the limited availability of PrEP risks seriously holding us back in the fight against HIV.

“There are now fewer than nine months until England’s PrEP trial is due to end and we still have no confirmation about what the future of this HIV game-changer will be. We will not stop fighting until PrEP is given a proper home as part of routine sexual health services and is accessible to all who need it, as well as ensuring it’s properly promoted to all groups impacted by HIV.

“The ongoing rhetoric around public health and prevention must now be urgently backed up with decisive action. We’re looking to Matt Hancock to fulfil his commitment on PrEP and step up and show public health – including sexual health – is a real priority for this Government.”

To read the full report, visit: https://phe-newsroom.prgloo.com/news/rapid-hiv-decline-in-the-uk

Debbie Laycock, commenting on PrEP access and the Government’s commitment to ending HIV transmissions, continued: “The Health Secretary says prevention and public health are clear priorities for this Government yet access to HIV prevention pill PrEP remains capped in England and sexual health services are struggling to cope with demand. We strongly support the Government’s focus on prevention but it needs to put its money where its mouth is by providing PrEP access for all who need it and ensuring sexual health services are fully funded to play their part in reaching the 2030 target.

Matt Hancock MP the Health Secretary, has previously said prevention and public health are unwavering priorities for this Government yet access to HIV prevention pill PrEP remains capped in England and sexual health services are struggling to cope with demand.
LGBT+ HISTORY MONTH
POETRY, PROSE & PLAYS

Now in its 15th year, LGBT+ History Month for 2020 celebrates poetry, prose and plays in memory of Lyra McKee, the Northern Ireland journalist who was shot and killed during the Derry riots last year. For more information about LGBT+ History Month, visit: lgbthistorymonth.org.uk

A well-known melting pot of queer talent, Brighton and its environs have no shortage of individuals, groups and organisations deserving of celebration for their achievements in bringing history alive. There are books to be read, plays to be seen, exhibitions to attend. So, over the next few pages, the spotlight is falling on just a few of those happenings and the people behind them. From authors and poets to playwrights and a wide-reaching interactive project, there will be something for all tastes in a busy month putting the spotlight on the city’s rich and fascinating history and deep pool of local talent. It all starts here with some key diary dates for history enthusiasts.

LGBT+ HISTORY MONTH EVENTS, FEBRUARY 1-29

SUNDAY 2, 9, 16 & 23
FREE LGBT+ FILM SCREENINGS. 1.30pm. A season of Queer themed films to mark LGBT+ History Month. Due to copyright reasons the film titles can’t be advertised, so look out for posters in the Library or call 01273 290800. Conference Room 2, Mezzanine Level, Jubilee Library, Brighton.

MONDAY 3–SATURDAY 23

SATURDAY 8
OUTING THE PAST AT CHARLESTON, all day from 11am. Queer House Tours run from 11.30am-2.30pm. Presentations will explore hidden aspects of LGBT+ history, including: Jane Traies: Bloomsbury’s Hidden Neighbours, a lesbian love triangle in rural Sussex; Andrew Lumsden: EM Forster & The Labouchere Family; Busy Being Black: Josh Rivers interviews poet Sea Sharp; Sarah Carr & Helen Spandler: The Special Problem look at the experiences of same-sex attracted women in the mental health system; Dan Vo: Queer Eye For The Museum looks between the lines and in the margins; Luna Morgana: A Brief Encounter With Non-Binary History. A journey across, time, faith and cultures; LGBT+ = ME exhibition curated by young people identifying as LGBT+ who have been exploring LGBT+ heritage. Talks are free, but spaces are limited so book online in advance. A shuttle bus will be available on the day from Lewes station. Charleston, Firle, Lewes, BN8 6LL, www.outingthepast.com

WEDNESDAY 12
RAINBOW LACES & SAFE SPACES! Queer Eyes On Absences, Erasures & Distortions In Higher Education. 1-5pm, hosted by the Centre for Higher Education & Equity Research (CHEER), this event revisits what queering means in higher education – creating a manifesto and working with academia. Panel presentation and discussion. Free event, open to all. University of Sussex, Fulton 202, to register visit: www.eventbrite.com/e/rainbow-laces-and-safe-spaces-queer-eyes-on-absences-erasures-and-distortions-in-higher-education-tickets-86915688163

FRIDAY 21
QUEER NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM, 7.11pm. Launch of the Queer The Pier exhibition and Outing The Past festival with DJ Afy (Go Bang) and performances by: Thick & Tight with dance, mime, theatre and drag; surrealist performer Bird LaBird, who puts the camp back in communism and the fun back in feminism; provocative performer Lasana Shabazz who says loud and clear #blacklivesmatter; open mic hosted by poet Sea Sharp; and live crafts with Boogalo Sto, Brighton queer nightlife legend! Brighton Museum & Art Gallery.

SATURDAY 22
QUEER THE PIER, from Sat 22, 2020 to Feb 2022. Brighton Museum & Art Gallery,
SNOW Q, 4pm. Poet María Jastrzębska has reimagined Hans Christian Anderson’s The Snow Queen combining poetry performed by Rita Suszek and Maria Ziółkowska, with original music by Peter Copley and visuals by Wendy Pye. Advance tickets £8 / £10 on door. The Spire, Eastern Road, Brighton,
OUTING THE PAST: OBSCURED HISTORIES, timings approximate and subject to change on the day. Free events but tickets must be booked in advance. For more info, check Facebook. Brighton Museum & Art Gallery.

Jos Rivers, Busy Being Black: Archiving Our Futures. 12.25pm. Busy Being Black’s podcast and archival project that takes an ice pick to the dominant narrative and monolithic portrayals of queer Black people’ speaks with writer and activist Kuchenga Shenje, who looks at the LGBTQ+, BAME and literary figures who helped and inspired her as a black transsexual feminist writer.
THE SPECIAL PROBLEM: CONSTRUCTION AND TREATMENT OF FEMALE HOMOSEXUALITY IN

England, 1947-1977. 1.45pm. As part of studies on the theme of Sexualities & Health funded by the Wellcome Trust, Dr Sarah Carr & Dr Helen Spandler made an archival study of women’s and LGBTQ+ archives in England. Hidden From History? investigated what happened to same-sex attracted women in the mental health system from 1950s until 1970s.

Famine, War & Kindertранспорт: 100 Years Of Quaker Lesbian Pride & Awe – Dr Hilda Clark & Edith Pye LH OBE, with Clare B Dimyon MBE, 3.05pm. In 1919 Dr Hilda Clark, a member of the Friends’ War Victims Relief Committee, arrived to assess a famine in Vienna, joined by her life-long companion Edith Pye, a nurse and midwife. Throughout the war they worked to save lives and relieve suffering in a way consistent with their pacifist Quaker beliefs.

Fighting With Pride with Caroline Paige, 3.35pm. A collection of 10 stories of LGBTQ+ servicemen and women from the Royal Navy, the British Army and the Royal Air Force, captured in a book marking the 20th anniversary of the lifting of the British Armed Forces’ ‘gay ban’.

SUNDAY 23
OUTING THE PAST: ON THE FRONT LINES OF REVOLUTION, timings approximate and subject to change. Free events but tickets must be booked in advance. For more info, check Facebook. Brighton Museum & Art Gallery.

Gay Liberation: 50 Years Of History In The Making, 12.25pm. 2020 is the 50th anniversary of the Gay Liberation Front (GLF) in London. Stuart Feather looks at the achievements of GLF and its legacy of LGBTQ+ activism, from the response to the AIDS crisis and Section 28 to the activism of today, and how its brand of LGBTQ+ activism has its roots in this 500-year struggle against racism.

Space Invaders - Queer Representations in Videogames throughout History, 1.45pm. Videogame fanatic, escape room designer, and queer historian Sacha Coward examines collections, historical records, research and testimony from LGBTQ+ video game designers and players, looking at the community’s engagement with and representation by the gaming industry.

A Brief Encounter With Non-Binary History, 3.05pm. Leo Adams of Non-Binary Leeds explores material produced by members of the local Leeds non-binary community for a History Zine project, including Jewish Rabbinical literature, artists Claude Cahun and Marlow Moss, the lives of individuals from distant times, and participants’ personal histories.

Stormé DeLarverie: The Forgotten Heroine Of The Stonewall Riots, 3.35pm. Stormé was an androgynous bi-racial lesbian, male impersonator and ‘Guardian of the Lesbians’ of Greenwich Village. She was likely the person who initiated the Stonewall Riots of 1969 but her involvement is disputed and she’s been essentially erased from LGBTQ+ history. Deirde Swain looks at DeLarverie’s life and career and what drove her to fight injustices against the LGBTQ+ community.
FIERCE VEXILLOLOGY

Vexillology is the study of the history and symbolism of flags, Fierce is what the LGBTQ+ community has become with its use of symbols and colour. By Eric Page

The title of the exhibition comes from Emily Dickinson: “Love is anterior to life, posterior to death, initial of creation, and the exponent of breath.”

We chose five voices who write themselves back in. All women, all local. They are playwright, writer, biographer, author, performer and theatre-maker, educator, archivist. Including two of Gscene’s cover stars this month, Rose Collis and Sea Sharp.

The majority of art venues continue to privilege the work of male artists, begging the question of how we reflect gender equality. We chose portraits of five living LGBTQ+ creatives from Sussex who look back at us, asking ‘what you looking at?’ The large portraits will be displayed alongside examples of their writing, poetry and plays, giving us an opportunity to see the people behind the craft and get scrutinised by the unblinking people who we normally watch.

To truly appreciate our history we need to look at all of it, the linked in struggles against oppression, the urgency multi community needs for representation, and the vibrant, unsilenced voices of the people who tell our stories like they are: Authentic, raw, through the Queer lens. We need to hear our voices roar!

MORE INFO

*Exhibition: FIERCE VEXILLOLOGY, Jubilee Library, Jubilee Square, Brighton, open 9am-6pm every day, from Monday, February 3 until Monday, February 10, venue fully accessible, exhibition is free.*

MORE INFO

*Exhibition: EXPONENT OF BREATH, main windows of Jubilee Library, Jubilee Square, Brighton, open 9am-6pm every day, from Monday, February 17 until Saturday, February 29, venue fully accessible, exhibition free.*

THE EXPONENT OF BREATH

Herstory Month portraits. By Eric Page

The continued imbalance of gender representation within the arts is an issue all too often ignored. The theme for LGBTQ+ History Month 2020 is Poets, Playwrights & Prose, this year we present portraits of LGBTQ+ people who are conserving, creating and making histories today, and herstories are our focus. We honour this small part of our shared LGBTQ+ cultural heritage during LGBTQ+ History Month to remind ourselves that without our own writers writing our own stories, we get written out of history completely.

The title of the exhibition comes from Emily Dickinson: “Love is anterior to life, posterior to death, initial of creation, and the exponent of breath.”

We were elected to the San Francisco Board of Supervisors) to have a symbol for the city’s first Pride Parade.

Flags hold meanings that people identity with; then those flags become associated with a range of ideas, from inclusions of different sexualities, gender identities and binary rejections, to ideas of deconstructing privilege and recognising all diverse communities in our wide LGBTQ+ world.

Do our banners reflect, recognise and celebrate our true, shared history of the struggle against oppression, honouring the roles LGBTQ+ people of colour and our trans siblings have played historically, including intersex communities and communities of interest within our wider LGBTQ+ communities and showing how our flags, and their modern iterations? Do they continue to challenge and inspire.

No flag stays still, it’s against its very nature. The Rainbow Flag has undergone at least five major changed during the last 40 years. The ‘original’ eight colour Rainbow Flag was popularised by San Francisco artist Gilbert Baker in 1978. The different colours are often associated with ‘diversity’ in the gay community but Baker gave them literal meaning. It’s the perfect example of the way we project our values, dreams and expectations onto fluttering fabrics.

The BHCC LGBTQ+ Workers’ Forum are proud to display our LGBTQ+ flags in the magnificent spaces of Jubilee Library, proud of what they represent and proud to adopt the new fully inclusive LGBTQ+ Pride Flag, designed by gender diverse people of colour, which looks to include all communities under one banner.

You can see these beautiful examples of community pride during LGBTQ+ History Month. All our flags have been made by local Queer artisans.
Two hundred years of Brighton LGBTQ+ history will be laid bare in the Brighton Museum & Art Gallery's new exhibition, Queer The Pier, opening on Saturday, February 22 and running for two years. It takes over from the hugely successful Museum Of Transology exhibition, said to have gathered “the largest collection of artefacts, giving the exhibition a fresh and highly personal perspective.”

The exhibition is part of Brighton Museum & Art Gallery’s Be Bold initiative, supported by Arts Council England, in which members of the city’s LGBTQ+ community have been invited to submit proposals. “Queer Heritage South proposed an exhibition in which the area’s LGBTQ+ community would be involved in every aspect - from research to curation and production. In a process led by EJ Scott, whose credits include the Museum Of Transology, Queer & Now at Tate Britain, National Trust’s Pride & Prejudice podcast project and West Yorkshire Queer Stories, as well as being resident researcher with Duckie, community contributors have uncovered new and little-known LGBTQ+ historical facts and artefacts, giving the exhibition a fresh and highly personal perspective.”

Among items belonging to well-known locals are a newly acquired print by photographic artist Rotimi Fans Kayode, collaborator of Robert Mapplethorpe and founder of the APB Gallery. Portraits of members of Brighton queer, trans, intersex people of colour have been commissioned in response to Kayode’s work for Queer The Pier.

Other items of interest include film footage of Brighton’s conjoined Hilton Twins. Daisy and Violet were born in the Queens Arms in 1908 and immediately put on display. They were taught to dance and play instruments for a life in variety shows and were very successful, mainly in Australia and the States, once appearing with Bob Hope, plus a cameo in Tod Browning’s banned film Freaks, from the 1930s. They were inevitably exploited and only through their friendship with Houdini did they get money and freedom. Both twins married gay men and it’s suggested that Violet was a lesbian. Alf, a Community Curator on Queer The Pier, has spent years researching their lives.

Gentleman Jack fans will be pleased to read excerpts from Anne Lister’s diary, all about her visit to Brighton in 1820. A single typewriter represents the influential writings of Peter Burton, who lived in Brighton and wrote for Spartacus, the UK’s first gay magazine, published out of a boarding house in Preston Street in the late 1960s. Peter went on to write for Gay Times and Gay News for 40 years as well as broadsheets, music magazines and more.

An original fortune-telling machine featuring newly created ‘fortunes’ by members of the LGBTQ+ community, gypsy and traveller communities is facilitated by Delaine Le Bas (Venice Biennale), paying homage to Brighton Pier’s legacy of seaside attractions.

Donated collections include ephemera from a range of LGBTQ+ community members, including the indictment of John Spershott, the last man to be hanged for buggery in 1835. By way of contrast, a photo of the Sussex Gay Liberation Front, protesting in front of the war memorial in 1973, is displayed alongside a colourful selection of costumes and drag outfits belonging to local performers and activists.”

Queer The Pier is part of Brighton Museum & Art Gallery’s Spotlight Gallery chronicles the city’s LGBTQ+ recent history.
Sea Sharp

A queer, black poet whose cross-continental writing and performances have been described as ‘a visceral and sonic world of teeth and tornadoes’.

Sea Sharp is a Pushcart Prize-winning poet, author of the Prairie Seed Poetry Prize-winning book *The Swagger of Dorothy Gale & Other Filthy Ways to Strut* (Ice Cube Press, 2017), and recipient of Arts Council England funding for their first theatrical show, *Brother Insect*.

Their work is ‘emotively confrontational and politically charged, both on the stage and on the page’.

Their latest collection, *Black Cotton* (Waterloo Press, 2019), is described as ‘an unflinching and uncompromising effort to illuminate and critique how we mistreat each other and ourselves’ and ‘Black Cotton swoops over the untamed Atlantic to take a deeper, broader and more focused look at the woolly ways in which intolerance is manifested and flourishes. In detangling intergenerational trauma, Black Cotton softens the damage caused by internalised oppression and exposes the shame of normative whiteness.’

ROSE COLLIS

Critically acclaimed performer, author, playwright, singer, musician, historian, producer, workshop leader and journalist, with work spanning four decades.

Rose Collis has lived in various parts of Sussex since 1997. Rose says: “My artistic intention is to combine my performing and writing skills to produce for myself and other performers a range of engaging and entertaining ‘literary’ stage work which introduces audiences to, and explores, the lives of overlooked women/LGBT people. “My theatre work also benefits from my distinctive ability to create and deliver original and popular public engagement events which can be undertaken in parallel with stage work or independently. Since 2012, I’ve garnered a national and international reputation as a stage artist who writes, performs and produces high quality work.”


Public talks and lectures have included sell-out events at the V&A, Royal National Theatre, Equity, National Film Theatre, National Portrait Gallery, Edinburgh International Book Festival, Gladstone’s Library and Brighton Museum.

MORE INFO

To read Sea Sharp’s work, visit: www.seathepoet.com

To read Rose Collis’ work, visit: www.rosecollis.com
A celebration of the lives of older LGBTQ+ people later this year promises to be a fascinating festival. Jaq Bayles caught up with artistic director Dinos Aristidou to find out more.

Hailed as an “ambitious two-year project, which aims to record and celebrate the stories of older LGBTQ+ people in south east England”, Celebrating Our Stories won’t hit its zenith until September 2020. But, in the meantime, there are plenty of opportunities to get a taste of what this New Writing South ‘verbatim theatre’ project, supported by Arts Council England and the Baring Foundation, is all about.

In a nutshell, the wide-reaching enterprise has involved people from all walks of LGBTQ+ life and encompassed a range of ages in its efforts to “celebrate and amplify the stories of the older members of our community”.

And its evolution has covered a variety of stages, from training, to story gathering, to story listening to performance, giving many people an opportunity to be involved and learn new skills.

The upcoming stage production, the Hear Us Out Festival, is the baby of artistic director Dinos Aristidou, whose enthusiasm for and pride in the project is palpable. “Because it’s a celebration it doesn’t mean it’s a strict story of a time. We felt very strongly that this would be a good time for affirming that after all the politics and identity issues,” he says. “We didn’t want it to be a reminiscing project but more about the people and their experiences. It has been diverse and very different and a challenge to find a common thread.”

The collecting of some 35 stories was undertaken by people who were trained as Story Gatherers to go out and record the stories of older LGBTQ+ people across the south east. Dinos continues: “We didn’t want people turning up and asking them to tell their life story unprepared, so we got the material in advance in order to decide how to tell their life story.”

This involved clustering the storytelling around six themes: My Queer Identity; Home; Family; How We Have Changed the World (Straight); Celebration; and Folkslore (stories we have told and stories we are told).

The volunteers were then encouraged to “tell uninterrupted stories so the performer hears the story and tells it as it is with hesitations, giggles, coughs etc.”

And this is the crux of how the festival will work. All the performers are telling someone else’s stories, but from that person’s own words, fed to the performer through headphones and repeated verbatim. “Your eyes deceive you because what you hear is not the person you see.

“Our history is one of what is not spoken as well as one that is,” adds Dinos. “A lot of people have been voiceless and not had a chance to tell their stories publicly. We wanted stories that had been unheard or not put together in someone’s head.

“There’s a lot to celebrate in terms of ‘here we are’. It’s not just reminiscing and affirming – it’s also making clear that we haven’t stopped. Just because someone is older doesn’t mean there still aren’t things they want to do.

“The other side is about giving older people the opportunity to develop their skills as performers and writers etc.”

The festival steering group comprised a mix of people of different ages who are either involved with older people or are older people. It resulted in a lot of energy, says Dinos: “It’s very joyous. These stories affirm our own experiences or make us think in a different way. There’s a lot of joy that comes from listening to these stories and it’s very much about listening. We are so used to images but listening to words is what it’s about.”

It has been a long, involved and fluid process, but the fruits will be evident. “Silence was our safety – we accommodated it. That was how we lived life. Young people’s experience now is both similar and very different. There’s a visibility but I don’t know to which extent it’s helpful or not. The piece will also be looking at what identity means at different points in time. What do words say, how do we read others people’s words? It’s been lovely. We’ve had some wonderful moments of connection. That’s what was joyous about the project.”

In the run-up to the September 19 main event at the Sallis Benney Theatre, the project will be presenting satellite performances, socials and talks in non-performance spaces such as residential homes, day centres, libraries and community centres.

And there’s still a chance to get involved as the project is looking to involve as many people as possible, especially over the age of 50 – performers, stage managers, lighting technicians, photographers and musicians. And no previous experience is required – the point is to try out something new.

MORE INFO

If you’re interested in taking part, contact: projectmanager@newwritingsouth.com or diinos@newwritingsouth.com.

Note for your diary: Celebrating Our Stories event at the Sallis Benney Theatre, Brighton, Saturday, September 19, 2020.

“There’s a lot of joy that comes from listening to these stories and it’s very much about listening. We’re so used to images but listening to words is what it’s about”
TIME TRAVELS

Author Jane Traies, who has lived through some of the most defining moments of LGBTQ+ history, tells Jaq Bayles how documenting the experiences of her contemporaries and those who came before changed her life.

While she inevitably ended up moving south, that level of commitment is characteristic of a woman determined to keep unearthing the untold stories of the lesbians who lived without the freedoms enjoyed by many today.

“As part of my post-grad work I did a lot of oral history – that was the magic thing. I interviewed all these older women who identified as lesbians – the oldest born in 1919, the youngest in 1950.” And these accounts were the inspiration for and basis of her book Now You See Me: Lesbian Life Stories, which was published some 18 months ago and is already on its third reprint.

“A couple of years ago I picked up on some stories I had only used fragments of in my research because I wanted to give some space back to those women who had given to me. I thought I was only writing the book for our community but it sold and sold and is still bouncing off the shelves at Gay’s The Word.”

Inevitably Jane encounters questions about her use of the word ‘lesbian’ in today’s lexicon of alternative language, and she recalls meeting a young woman who had done some research on how teenagers today identify themselves: “They identified as everything from queer to gay to trans etc – there was even Sapphic and, here’s a blast from the past, woman-loving-woman – but not one identified as lesbian.”

But she points out that under the LGBTQ+ umbrella she tries to keep the voices of the women whose histories she traces as “we can only define ourselves with the words and identities that our historical time gives us”.

“Women born in the 1920s, 30s, 40s didn’t have ideas or words such as non-binary or gender fluid etc, which may have been very helpful”

Equally she believes that having access to the hard-won rights of a newer generation would inevitably have changed the course of the lives of some of these women. “There are women now of my age who are butch lesbians, but if they had been born 40 years later that might not have been the case. Women born in the 1920s, 30s, 40s didn’t have ideas or words such as non-binary or gender fluid etc, which may have been very helpful.”

Many of the women she interviewed had lived their lives in the closet through fear. While romantic friendships between women were perfectly acceptable throughout the late 1800s “and they could be private, by the time they were middle aged it was being redrawn as sick, perverted and that must have been woeful for them”. Throughout the 1970s and 80s the big question on the lips of those who studied these romantic friendships was “did they have sex?”, says Jane – the publication of the diaries of Anne Lister in 1988 finally answered that question. And the retelling of the story of Gentleman Jack on TV brought that world to the attention of a great many more interested parties.

Of course, throughout the early days of the fight for decriminalisation and well beyond, depictions of lesbians in popular culture were generally desperately depressing affairs. “Mostly there had to be an unhappy ending – even if it was the dog dying. Over the last 50 or 60 years of course there’s been a progression to a much freer and just socioeconomic situation.”

The pursuit of a more free and just society is high on Jane’s agenda and, among the many conferences and history-related events she is continually invited to, she is embarking on another project dear to her heart, working with the Lesbian Immigration Support Group in Greater Manchester. “The next thing I’m doing is some life history work with some lesbian asylum seekers. Their stories are not understood.” It occurred to her that being not only a woman but a lesbian and of colour the cards become ever more stacked against you in society, so she is determined to give these women a voice too.

“I don’t want to interview lesbian celebrities or people we all know about, but people who lived in the closet. I am interested in the stories of people who haven’t been told.”

“Women born in the 1920s, 30s, 40s didn’t have ideas or words such as non-binary or gender fluid etc, which may have been very helpful”
How have you evolved as a writer? 
"After a few years of floating about like a little thunder cloud, I began boring myself. I started looking outward and broadened my reading and lengthened my editing process. Swapping pieces with other writers for detailed feedback has always been crucial. Now I write individual pieces with a specific book in mind. I concentrate on forming the identity of the collection and direct my energies to completing it."

What’s the best experience you’ve gained through writing? 
"Connecting with other human beings at an intimate level. There is nothing worse than a party full of only poets. Even the wallpaper wants to leave. Writers are introverted. We spend a lot of time locked in our own heads, imagining worlds then editing language. When someone reads a book or a poem then messages me to say it moved them, helped them in some small way, it’s a fantastic feeling. I’ve managed to send a deep message from a tiny place inside my private skin suit. Magic!"

Why are you a poet? 
"Because I’m no good at anything else. Seriously: embarrassingly crap at most things people earn a living from. On a visit to an estate agent’s, my partner pointed out that I’d spelled my own surname wrong. My. Own. Name. Olympic level incompetence."

Do you have a particular process to write? 
"A piece can be sparked by a musical phrase - a collision of two words that aren’t normally combined. A string of language floats into my ear and I spend time investigating the weird universe it seems to suggest (one poem of mine came from the phrase ‘a church of rain’). Poems have come from reading a magazine. I like to write in all kinds of places. I will always try to make notes in the location. I like to get up close, sense my own vulnerability. At least that’s my excuse when I’m scribbling manically underneath a railway bridge or at a goat farm."

Who moves you to tears? 
"Finding Nemo every time. And Tori Amos. In terms of poets, Thom Gunn and Lee Harwood."

Where do you find your startling metaphors? 
"They arrive from many places. With Reckless Paper Birds, from contemplating the emotional consequences that might be attached to strange pieces of trivia about wildlife, the human body and the world at large. Some metaphors start life as part of Facebook statuses. The fairy tale where five penises live together under a little blanket sprang from seeing a photograph of a granulated sea star!"

Any advice for young or new writers? 
"The biggest tip is work on improving your use of technique. Think of it as a craft and put in the hours looking closely at how to employ the tools of your trade. In poetry, this involves learning many different ways of employing phrase-making, syntax, metaphors, line breaks etc and finding the most effective structure for each piece. You don’t need a creative writing degree but you do need to spend time getting to know the genre you work inside out, reading...

Poetry should surprise and make you see something afresh, or make you snort with laughter. Maybe both – that’s always been part of what I do."
What makes a good Queer poet?
“Taking risks, pushing against boundaries. And amazing stationery.”

How can people find your work?
“My latest poetry collection, Reckless Paper Birds, was shortlisted for the Costa. It explores queer life in Brighton with poems about homophobia, mental health and vulnerability as well as comical and love poems. I’m reading from it at Faversham Literary Festival on Saturday, February 22, 2020. Be warned - there are quite a few cat pics and strange facts. I posted about how every spider has 48 knees. This is why spider gangsters avoid knee-capping as a punishment. Just takes too long.”

MORE INFO
John McCullough Reckless Paper Birds, published by Penned In The Margins www.johnmccullough.co.uk Facebook as John McCullough, Twitter @JohnMcCullough_ (don’t forget the underscore) Instagram @mrjohnmccullough

Snow Q is something else. I mean it’s really something else, literally in the sense that I don’t know anyone else doing anything quite like it. It’s an artist-led project and it’s Polish led. Central/Eastern European work is so under-represented in the art/literature world in the UK and being a lesbian myself I have also totally queer ed.

So what is it? Snow Q is a collaborative project combining words, music and visuals, re-imagining Hans Christian Andersen’s story of The Snow Queen to explore contemporary themes of social isolation, gender, sexuality, migration and exile, which we did in a big installation at Winter Solstice in 2018.

This year’s version is a live literature production with text by myself, performed by Rita Suszek and Maria Ziółkowska, written in the extraordinary hybrid language of Ponglish (half-English/half-Polish). My poems are in the voices of three characters: Gerda and Kai - two young people, identifying as non-binary, who slip effortlessly between Polish and English – and the showy trickster, multi-lingual crone Crow. Three film poems made by Wendy Pye run alongside this production, which includes music by Peter Copley.

I’ve never fitted into a binary world myself so it made sense to me to have characters who don’t. I wrote about this recently in a blog (https://snowqproject.wordpress.com/2018/09/21/girl-boy-not-maria/), explaining that intergenerational communication is really important to me, perhaps because it was so hard for me to communicate with the generation before mine when I was growing up and also, since I’m passionate about language, I’m interested in the different ways older and younger people talk about the world.

Younger people are also challenging preconceptions about gender. They’re using words like ‘non-binary’, which reminds me of my experience but I wanted to hear how they see it so I asked some friends...

When we first researched the project we worked with the Young Carers’ group in Brighton and also the Older & Out LGBT+ group. Many of the younger queer people I know identify as gender fluid, gender-queer, non-binary etc. My generation uses different words perhaps - and language changes all the time anyway. At the end of the day we’re all trying to change a world that’s full of hatred and injustice. I still get mistaken for a man regularly.

In the original story by Hans Christian Andersen the friendship at the heart of it is between a girl and a boy. I like that Andersen made the girl a strong character but it seems likely to me that today she/they would identify differently, as would Kai, the young person lost in the snow and ice. The third character, Crow, is a very old character so you have intergenerational communication right through the poems.

MORE INFO
Maria started Queer Writing South with fellow poet John McCullough to promote queer writing “many moons ago”, running workshops to generate new writing, producing an anthology, Whoosh!, and putting on events with local and national queer writers. Maria says: “Currently it exists as a loose network and we have a Facebook page. If anyone would like to take it over and run it we’d be thrilled. We were recently involved in the wonderful and highly successful Coast Is Queer Festival in Brighton.”

SNOW BUSINESS

Poet Maria Jastrzębska’s most recent collaboration, Snow Q – a reimagining of Hans Christian Andersen’s Snow Queen – begins a five date tour of the UK on February 13. Here she shares how the show came about and what it means to her.
We never know what’s going to happen in the future and we can never be certain there’s not going to be a resurgence of homophobia. It happens still now. So it’s important to be aware that the relative freedom we have now was hard won.
Alice Denny, poet, fantastic fabricator of phrases and sculptor of rhymes, goes a few rounds with persistent nosy parker Eric Page

**When did you start writing poetry?**

“I’ve written for as long as I can remember; when I was three, scribbling cloud shapes in the margins of a fairy-tale book and telling my mum I’d written her a poem. I had hopes of writing for film at Elstree Studios but circumstances diverted me into nursing which I loved. I was drawn back to writing after unplanned retirement, lacking confidence to share or perform until I came out and moved to Brighton this unleashed a whole new sense of freedom and self-worth.”

**Why focus on a career in writing?**

“To say I’ve a career in writing would be overstating the situation a little, more accurately a lifestyle commitment. Few poets seem to make a living from their poetry. I discovered I could relate to people, move them, offer an insight into another’s world, even make them laugh. To stand in front of people with just words, to feel their response is a wonderful and sometimes terrifying experience.”

**How have you evolved as a writer?**

“My writing has changed enormously in the years since I moved to Brighton. My earlier stuff is discarded. I’ve become more open and honest. I have more conviction and I feel I’ve found my own voice and style. There are so many poets to admire in Brighton who inspire me to be braver.”

**Do you think poetry has purpose?**

“Oh, I do so hope poetry has purpose or we are all wasting our time, there is so much it CAN be. Someone said to me: ‘Poetry’s not enough for you is it? You want to change the world.’

Ambitious perhaps, but to touch a few hearts and minds would be good.”

**What have you experienced through writing?**

“I love it when people talk to me after a performance, especially if it’s positive or warm feedback. Once a middle-aged woman hugged me and said: ‘Thank you, for the first time in my life I feel good to be a woman.’ And a man said his teenage daughter who was in the hall had said: ‘That’s how I feel dad, exactly like Alice’. Up until then she had been unable or unwilling to discuss her feelings with her parents. On both occasions I was (delightedly) stunned. They were pretty special moments.”

**What do you call a poet?**

“I don’t know why I am a poet. I’m still not certain I am in that it doesn’t earn my keep and there are fabulous poets around of whom hardly anyone hears. I mean poets who write and recite for more than just producing a nice poem. I’m feeling a little abashed to be in this position as people might ask: ‘What do you know about anything?’”

**Do you have a particular process to write?**

“My method is pretty ramshackle. I write in my head while ruminating on something I care about. I scribble down what random lines have forced themselves into consciousness. I will then type out my notes. Sometimes they’re already forming themselves into something that sounds like me. I print out the words, carry them with me, read and re-read, revise–sometimes change one or two words and reprint maybe 10 times finding quiet places to recite aloud until I know it is authentic.”

**Where do you find your startling metaphors?**

“Poetry depends on the use of metaphor and I do love metaphor when it’s so exquisitely natural, it slips in under the radar of self-consciousness, crashes your emotions… But I don’t give them much thought, if any. I will now. I actively dislike similes which might seem strange when one of my poems, Clara Bow, is one simile after another.”

**Where is the flirt in your soul?**

“Oh blimey, I really don’t know. When I was about nine or 10 a friend threw a huge chunk of jagged flint which unintentionally hit my head and split it wide open. It’s unforgiving stuff, sharp, makes great arrow heads when skilfully worked. When my daughter Beth was 15, at a music festival, in the stampede during the Chumbawumba set she was knocked to the ground, trampled beneath the feet of the unconcerned mob. Instantly I transformed and waded in, throwing punches, throwing people aside, kicking… anything to get to Beth and pull her up. I sometimes, often, feel like that when confronted with injustice, betrayal, persecution, abuse, especially of children. There is so much of that going on that you could easily be swamped with impotent rage, or try to shut yourself off. I think I’m a bit of a coward, need to be braver.”

**Any advice for new writers?**

“Humble advice but be true to yourself and, if you can, believe in yourself. I love the energy and honesty of some young poets. I do my best to encourage them.”

**Who moves you to tears?**

“VG Lee moved me to tears while I was reading a short story in Oh You Pretty Thing. She is a fabulous writer and can take me from laughter to tears in one line. Some of my own poems have brought tears, is that a bad thing to admit? If I’m totally immersed in making the poem when I first read it to myself it comes as a shock. They can catch me unawares during a performance too.”

**Where is the flint in your soul?**

“Great arrow heads when skilfully worked. When my daughter Beth was 15, at a music festival, in the stampede during the Chumbawumba set she was knocked to the ground, trampled beneath the feet of the unconcerned mob. Instantly I transformed and waded in, throwing punches, throwing people aside, kicking… anything to get to Beth and pull her up. I sometimes, often, feel like that when confronted with injustice, betrayal, persecution, abuse, especially of children. There is so much of that going on that you could easily be swamped with impotent rage, or try to shut yourself off. I think I’m a bit of a coward, need to be braver.”

**Where do you find your startling metaphors?**

“Poetry depends on the use of metaphor and I do love metaphor when it’s so exquisitely natural, it slips in under the radar of self-consciousness, crashes your emotions… But I don’t give them much thought, if any. I will now. I actively dislike similes which might seem strange when one of my poems, Clara Bow, is one simile after another.”
The life and achievements of Michael James by Craig Hanlon-Smith.

Michael James has lived the kind of life that would be a screenwriter’s dream plot. An active member of the Gay Liberation Front (GLF) in the 1970s he was regularly under surveillance by special branch. A former London department store window dresser, he has lived through every social and legal development for our LGBTQ+ communities. He has been arrested and served time in prison twice – once for a considerable period – and now, aged 79, he is a published author. I spent time with Michael discussing his colourful past, his first novel The Triple Goddess and how, with his ninth decade on this planet approaching, he will continue to make history.

I visit Michael in his almost top floor apartment in a Kempstown tower-block. From the living room terrace looking west, I note it’s possible to survey the entirety of Brighton & Hove, the city Michael made his home some 25 years ago. I comment on the view and he tells me of a dream he had “standing on the terrace edge and being taken away by two seagulls” - this dream inspired his interest in writing fantasy, the predominant genre for his first novel The Triple Goddess and how, with his ninth decade on this planet approaching, he will continue to make history.

Although the novel isn’t specifically about Michael’s life, his own life experience and view of the world have been a solid influence. “I forget things in my life until I talk about them or read something I’ve written and then realise where it may have come from. I wanted to write about children in their honour and especially those who’ve suffered. Those who are suffering terrible abuse now but also in my youth I knew kids who had TB and were away from school, lives and friends for up to six months. And yet kids can change the world, they can change the world, they have the power. Look at the publicity Greta Thunberg has achieved in a short space of time. She has a shelf-life though. Like all of us, she’s vulnerable to those in power. If they don’t destroy her one way they’ll do what they can to her in an other.”

Book two of his trilogy is complete and he’s busy working on the third. Michael has many fascinating stories of his own battles with those in power. He is quick to remind me that the decriminalisation of homosexuality in 1967 was ‘partial’. “People forget that. You were only allowed sex with a consenting partner over the age of 21 in the privacy of your own home and one sentence on to the next with the story beginning to tell itself.”

He tells me stories of friends and friends of friends dragged out of their own flats by homophobic police officers who “behaved like thugs”. It was while visiting a friend’s flat in the early 1970s that Michael was arrested for importuning. “No one had a phone in those days. I turned up at my friend’s and he wasn’t in so I had to wait for him to come back. A well-dressed gentleman appeared and we struck up a conversation, two coppers jumped out from behind a bush and arrested me. It was a total set up. So many gay men were tapped in this way and we weren’t actually doing anything wrong.”

The police witnesses in court lied and Michael was issued with a criminal conviction and fined £10, equivalent to about £175 today. The sentence was sympathetic but Michael refused to pay. “I wasn’t guilty, I don’t care what the police said in court.” He was returned to court and, continuing to protest his innocence, sent to Brixton Prison for one week. It was this experience which drove Michael’s commitment to the GLF. At the time they were treated as a subversive political movement in much the same way as a terrorist organisation. Suspected members were often followed and had files held by special branch police units. “We used to meet in empty warehouses in Covent Garden at all hours of the night, it was risky but we were determined.”

“The biggest criminals are the richest and the best educated people on this planet. They created these systems and know how to work their way around them while the rest of us are pushed around”

During a trip to Bangkok, Michael noted stories in local newspapers of five British men having committed suicide while visiting the city. During his stay he was asked to take a shipment of drugs back to the UK, hidden in canteens of cutlery. When he refused, he was told that others would soon read of his suicide in the local press. Reluctantly he boarded a plane for London with packets of heroin hidden in his baggage.

“I went straight to the ‘Something to Declare’ line at customs and told them what I was carrying and how it had come about. I was arrested and during questioning they brought up my GLF special branch file and previous convictions. In court there was no mention that I’d offered up the drugs and self-declared.”

Michael was found guilty and in 1976 sentenced to eight years, the first two of which were served in a high security prison on the Isle of Wight, along with some of the country’s most dangerous prisoners. “There are many ways to survive prison,” he says and over tea and cakes two days before Christmas, tells me about two of them.

“I have no fear,” he says proudly. “I’ve been in and out of STD clinics since 1959 dear, what’s
the worst that can happen? We’re a nation of thieves and pirates. We were always good at robbing resources from elsewhere in the world. I do love this country but the biggest criminals are the richest and the best educated people on this planet. They created these systems and know how to work their way around them while the rest of us are pushed around”.

It was upon his release from prison in 1982 that Michael first noticed a story in the gay press; “In a column no bigger than a couple of postage stamps, about a ‘gay plague’.” When I ask what his greatest achievement in life has been so far he says: “Not the words I’d use, the thing that’s given me the most spiritual satisfaction was volunteer work with Body Positive in the 1980s. Working with so many beautiful gay men most of whom are dead. Seeing how their parents acted and reacted to the situation their children were in. To see how families became single-minded and greedy. Families came in and threw partners out of their homes and claimed everything material. Seeing the best and worst of families. Seeing the whole spectrum. Seeing how friends through fear left their friends to die alone – they couldn’t bear to see what would in turn happen to them. And there was a tidal wave dumped on the gay community by the heterosexual press. It was horrific but to me those early men are saints.”

“They weren’t easy times, even without the arrival of AIDS and HIV. Gay pubs were run by straight landlords who hated us.” Michael tells me of The Champion Pub in London where the landlord refused to serve a trans woman. The following week all the male members of the GLF in London went into the pub wearing dresses and refused to leave until they were served a drink.

I ask Michael to share any remembered disappointments: “The misogyny of gay men. Gay men who refer to women as inferior. Young men too. This was the case in my youth, it’s the same now. Let me tell you if it wasn’t for the lesbians within the gay community – we wouldn’t be here now. Not just everything they did in the AIDS crisis but as activists. I’m proud to have stood side by side with these women in the 1970s.”

Our first meeting ends with Michael sharing his excitement over his impending book launch at the LSE in London. “That’s where the GLF started. It’s like coming full circle. When I pop my clogs they’ll inherit all my writings and books whether they want them or not.”

Once his Goddess trilogy is complete, he promises to write a memoir with these stories and so many more laid bare.

MORE INFO

Michael James The Triple Goddess
www.fantasticbooks.com

THE NEXT STAGE

After winning major plaudits for her play about gay men’s lives in the 1960s, Kathrine Smith is gearing up a new project about lesbians in the 1970s. She talks about telling real stories to Jaq Bayles.

As she reflects on the success of her award-winning play, All I See is You, Brighton-based TV, radio and theatre writer Kathrine Smith clearly still finds the audience reactions very touching.

“Wherever we went I received emails, mostly from men who had lived through the period of the play touched to see their story told. Sadly, it is still rare for our community to see representations of our lives on stage, which is why we need lots more queer stories.”

And the play – a love story between two men in Bolton in 1967 – has been to a lot of places. It was originally performed at last year’s Brighton Fringe before touring nationally and to the International Gay Theatre Festival in Dublin, where the actors won awards for outstanding performances and Kathrine won the Oscar Wilde Prize for Best New Writing.

When asked the inevitable question of why she chose to write about gay men, she responds: “I get asked that a lot.” Of course she does – and, indeed, why shouldn’t she write about men? After all, it’s not like men don’t give voices to women when it comes to the arts.

Kathrine – who has written for, among others, EastEnders and The Bill and is currently writing for TV drama London Kills – cites some rather depressing statistics released in May 2018 by the Writers’ Guild of Great Britain, which show that only 16% of working film writers in the UK are female, and only 14% of prime-time TV is female-written. Ergo: “A lot of men are writing about women.”

Kathrine wrote All I See Is You for Bolton’s Octagon Theatre 50th Anniversary Prize (it won), and one of the reasons for the characters being male was that it was also the 50th anniversary of the partial decriminalisation of homosexuality, which of course affected men much more than women.

She says all her ideas are based on real events and she’d been reading accounts of queer life in the 1960s when she saw the Octagon Prize advertised.

“But on a personal level I found it much easier to write about queer issues through the mask of men than I would women. Through the response to the play I now feel much more confident and open about writing about issues that are closer to home.”

All of which means a new play is in the offing. Kathrine is currently researching to write a play about lesbians in the 1970s and is hoping it will be finished this year.

“I love history and particularly enjoy telling stories inspired by real events in the queer community so that we don’t forget how hard equal rights were won.”
AFFINITY BAR
• 129 St James’s St, BN2 1TH, Tel 01273 567935 www.affinitygaybar.com
• Affinity Bar Brighton. Text Alerts: text ‘Affinity’ to 88802.
• OPEN daily from 12pm – 12am.
• DRINK PROMOS Thirsty Thursday special offers all day: £3.50 drinks including Fosters, double house gin/vodka/rum and house wine.

VALENTINE’S DAY Friday (14) is VALENTINE’S DAY CABARET with Miss Jason at 9pm; karaoke and tunes then at 10pm.

ONE FOR THE DIARY Thursday is now CABARET & GAMES with the doyenne of drag Dave Lynn mixing it up from 9pm. Affinity Bar say: “It might not be the weekend yet but we have a great reason for you to come out tonight. We have the fabulous Dave Lynn singing your favourite tunes, telling jokes and who knows what else! Dave will be on stage at 9pm but come early and our lovely bar tenders will look after you.”

REGULARS Monday is KARAOKE with Tommy Tanker (aka Pat Clutcher) at 7pm. Tuesday: FREE JUKEBOX all day. Wednesday is KARAOKE with Tommy Tanker aka Pat Clutcher from 8pm. Friday is WIGS & BEADS KARAOKE with one of Affinity Bar’s fabulous drag hosts leading the fun from 8pm. Select a song, pick a wig, choose your accessories and the stage is yours!

Saturday: CAMP CABARET at 8pm. Charlie Hides (1), Pat Clutcher (8, 15, 22 & 29); karaoke from 9pm till close. Sunday CAMP CABARET with stars of the cabaret scene at 5pm. Davina Sparkle (2), Candi Roll (9), Topsie Redfern (16) and Lovinia Belle (23).

AMSTERDAM BAR & KITCHEN
• 11-12 Marine Parade, BN2 1TL, Tel: 01273 670976, www.amsterdambrighton.com
• OPEN daily from 11am – late.
• FOOD Mon-Fri from 11am-8pm. Sat from 10.30am-8pm. Sunday roasts (incl veggie/vegan options) served from 12.30pm till they run out, booking recommended: call 01273 670 976. Full tea and coffee menu available.
• VALENTINE’S DAY Valentine’s Day, Fri (14): special menu served in romantic setting – check Amsterdam’s website for more info.

ONE FOR THE DIARY CABARET FRIDAYS with top entertainers on the Amsterdam stage at 9.30pm. Sally Vate (7), Jennie Castell (14), Poppycock (21) and Kara Van Park (28). Poppycock (21) is an award-winning Drag Queen, performing up and down the country at most of the nation’s top cabaret venues. With a background in Musical Theatre her shows are packed with immaculate vocals, insane dance routines and of course absolute poppycock!

REGULARS Saturday KARAOKE with guest hosts at 9.30pm. Sunday ENTERTAINMENT with Brighton’s best singers serenading you after lunch from 5pm. Wain Douglas aka Kara Van Park (2), Dave the Bear (9), Jamie Watson (16) and Gabriella Parrish (23).

LE VILLAGE Back to the Old Skool: DJ Mandy 9pm
ZONE cabaret: Lovinia Belle 10pm

LEGENDS BAR cabaret: Wina Douglas 5pm
All New Bulldog cabaret: Wina Douglas aka Kara Van Park 6pm, roasts 12pm-till gone
BAR 7 @ CRAWLEY karaoke 6pm
BAR BROADWAY Men Talking Health Fundraiser 4pm
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 Sally Vate & Miss Penny 7.30pm

Information is correct at the time of going to press. GScene can’t be held responsible for any changes or alterations to the listings.

Saturday 1
• AFFINITY BAR camp cabaret: Charlie Hides 8pm, karaoke 9pm
• ALL NEW BULLDOG Wonda Starr’s Queen of the Night: camp karaoke 9pm
• AMSTERDAM Karaoke 9.30pm
• BAR 7 @ CRAWLEY cabaret: Sandra 9pm
• BAR BROADWAY Jukebox 4pm
• BASEMENT CLUB@LEGENDS Fusion: DJ Peter Castle 11pm
• CHARLES ST TAP Fierce DJs 9pm
• GROSVENOR BAR cabaret: Lola Lasagne 9.30pm

Sunday 2
• AFFINITY BAR cabaret: Davina Sparkle 5pm
• ALL NEW BULLDOG Sunday Funday: camp karaoke 5pm
• AMSTERDAM Cabaret: Wina Douglas aka Kara Van Park 6pm, roasts 12pm-till gone
• BAR 7 @ CRAWLEY karaoke 6pm
• BAR BROADWAY Men Talking Health Fundraiser 4pm
• 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 Sally Vate & Miss Penny 7.30pm

Monday 3
• AFFINITY BAR camp cabaret with Tommy Tanker (aka Pat Clutcher) 7pm
• ALL NEW BULLDOG Monday Glitter Bash 7.30-9pm; free food/raffle 5pm; roasts 12pm-till gone
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.

VALENTINES DAY Friday (14) is the VALENTINE’S DAY MASQUERADE BALL with jukebox at 9.30pm.

ONE FOR THE DIARY Sunday (2) is the MEN TALK HEALTH FUNDRAISER at 4pm. Other Sundays:
FIREPLACE SESSIONS presents top acts from 8.30pm: Jennie Castell (9), Jamie Heward (16) and Eva Iglesias (23). The little lady with a big voice, Eva Iglesias was born in London to Spanish parents and performs all over the UK and Europe. One of her many performing highlights was appearing on UK national television on the live semi-finals of Britain’s Got Talent where she paid homage to Aretha Franklin. In addition, Eva appeared on The Voice, where she bowled over Tom Jones, reached the Boot Camp stage of the X Factor, and has headlined Gran Canaria, Benidorm, London and Brighton Pride festivals. Bar Broadway say: “Britain’s Got Talent semi-finalist Eva returns to our stage after her stunning debut last year. Eva will be entertaining us with classic belters including ‘And I Am Telling You’ and ‘Natural Woman’ as performed on BGT. It’s another not to be missed show!”

ONE FOR THE DIARY Sunday (1) March: is a special FIREPLACE SESSIONS with These Old Broads. Wain Douglas aka Kara Van Park, Jason Thorpe at George Martin Marino at 8.30pm.

REGULARS Monday is GLEEFULLY SMASHED by a Crazy Ex-Girlfriend with the best songs from TV musicals at 6pm. (10) is Once More With Feeling at 8pm. Tuesday PIANO SESSIONS with Sam Martin at 9pm. Wednesday entertainment with Sally Vate at 9pm. Showtune Karaoke (5), Lonely Hearts Club (12), Name that Showtune Bingo (19) and Crystal Maze (26). Thursday is the BIG CASH QUIZ with Ross Cameron at 8pm. Friday & Saturday: BROADWAY JUKEBOX with a mix of musical anthems, all chosen by you at www.broadwayjukebox.com

BAR BROADWAY Gleefully Smashed by a Crazy Ex-Girlfriend: songs from TV musicals 6pm

CHARLES ST TAP Gaymers Night: consoles/board games 8.30pm

LEGENDS BAR Miss Jason’s Monday Madness 9.30pm

PARIS HOUSE live jazz: Nils Solberg-Mick Hamer Trio 2pm, Will Gardner Trio 8pm

QUEEN’S ARMS free wine tasting for launch of new wine menu 7.30pm

SUBLINE Quiz with Ian Sinclair, raising funds for James Ledward Memorial Fund 7pm

LE VILLAGE karaoke/open mic with George Martin Marino 9pm

TUESDAY 4

AFFINITY BAR Free Jukebox 12pm
BAR 7 CRAWLEY

- 7 Pegler Way, Crawley, RH11 7AG, Tel: 01293 511177, www.7crawley.co.uk
- OPEN daily from 5pm
- DRINK PROMOS Tue, Wed, Fri, Sat & Sun drink deals all night
- VALENTINES DAY Friday (14) is VALENTINE’S CABARET with Pat Clutcher at 7pm.

ONE FOR THE DIARY Saturday (1) is CABARET with the sensational Sandra at 9pm. Sandra has been performing up and down the country and beyond for more years than she can remember. Starting young, her show has evolved over time and is a mix of hit songs interspersed with sharp wit and a bit of audience participation.

REGULARS Friday & Saturday PARTY TIME with alternate DJs and karaoke from 9pm. Kirsty Anderson, Michael Adams, Jazzy Jane, Charlie Eaton and Patrick Cawley. SUNDAY SOCIAL KARAOKE with hosts from 6pm. Tuesday is CREWSDAY from 7pm.

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 midday—3am. Sun from midday—midnight.
- DRINK PROMOS Mon—Fri from 4—7pm. Sun from 12—4pm. Green Light drink promos throughout the night on Wed.

VALENTINES DAY Friday (14) is FRIDAY NIGHT LIVE Valentine’s Day Special with camp karaoke and DJ Glynn-Sing, showtime with Domina Tryx is at 11pm, then karaoke till 3am.

REGULARS CAMP KARAOKE 5 NIGHTS A WEEK! #TRANSVOLVE TUESDAYS with 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! #TRANSVOLVE THURSDAYS with Sam Pink bringing camp, karaoke, queens from 8pm. Bulldog say: “Tonight #transvolve returns to the All New Bulldog, kicking off a fun filled weekend in style! Expect a night of outrageously camp with the one and only Sam Pink and a DJ live! It’s another heeled up night of fun not to be missed in the heart of gay Brighton!”

FRIDAY NIGHT LIVE with camp karaoke and party faves from DJ Glynn-Sing at 9pm; SHOWTIME with Domina Tryx at 11pm, then karaoke till 3am. Domina Tryx is a Northern Diva from the Steel City. She says: “All New Bulldog is a pleasant venue to visit and everyone is welcome! I look forward to seeing you, darlings – it’s definitely not a rehearsal.” Saturday is Wonda Starr’s QUEEN OF THE NIGHT with outrageous karaoke, fab prizes and all your favourite party tunes/door fillers from 9pm. Sunday is All New SUNDAY FUNDAY with Camp Karaoke at 5pm.

Tuesday is CREWSDAY from 7pm.

PARIS HOUSE live blues: John Crompton 8pm
QUEEN’S ARMS Davina Sparkle’s Tuesday Chill 9.30pm
RAILWAY CLUB Lindy hop 7pm
LE VILLAGE Switch with Kryan Shayne 9pm

WEDNESDAY 5
AFFINITY BAR Karaoke with Tommy Tanker (aka Pat Clutcher) 8pm
ALL NEW BULLDOG Green Light Cruise Night 8pm
BAR 7@CRAWLEY Midweek Chill 7pm
BAR BROADWAY Sally’s Showtune Karaoke 9pm
BASEMENT CLUB@LEGENDS Now That’s What I Call Legends: DJ Claire Fuller 11pm
LEGENDS BAR A Bit of Midweek Sparkle: Davina Sparkle & guest Allan Jay 9.30pm
MARINE TAVERN Pink Pound 7pm
PARIS HOUSE live jazz: TAHP 8pm
QUEEN’S ARMS Kara Van Park’s West End Wednesday 10pm
SUBLINE Joystick Jockeys gaymers night 8pm
LE VILLAGE Dave Lynn 9.30pm

THURSDAY 6
AFFINITY BAR cabaret & games with Dave Lynn 9pm
ALL NEW BULLDOG #Transvolve Thursday: camp karaoke & queens with Sam Pink 8pm
BAR BROADWAY Ross Cameron’s Big Cash Quiz 8pm
CAMELFORD ARMS £300 Big Cash Quiz 9pm
CHARLES ST TAP Throwback Thursday 9pm
GROSVENOR BAR Abel Mabel’s Bingo 8.30pm
MARINE TAVERN Throwback Thursday 60s Night 8pm
PARIS HOUSE World Music: Mariba with Cuban trumpets 8pm
QUEEN’S ARMS Leading Ladies cabaret: Allan Jay 10pm
GSCENE OUT & ABOUT 29

Enjoy a romantic Valentine’s Day dinner at The Amsterdam.

Check our website or pop into the bar for more information.

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**February Listings**

**Camelford Arms**
- 30-31 Camelford St, BN2 1TQ, Tel: 01273 622386, www.camelfordarms.com
- **Open** daily from 12pm. The Camelford is dog-friendly.
- **Food** served Mon-Sat 12-9pm; seniors’ lunch served Wed 2-3.30pm, two courses £9.50. Sunday roasts and select menu served 12pm-til gone.

**Valentine’s Day** Valentine’s Day Fri (14) - FINE DINING 3-course SPECIAL MENU in a candlelit romantic setting; £60 per couple (inc free bottle of wine if booked in advance) or £30 per person (no free wine) on the night.
- **One for the Diary** Thursday it’s the BIG CASH QUIZ with a £300 cash prize, free sarnies and a great atmosphere from 9pm.
- **Regulars** Kick the weekend off at the FRIDAY CLUB from 6pm.
- Sunday is the BEAR BASH with free food and a raffle at 5pm.

- **Regency Tavern** Open mic with Chris Hide 8.30pm
- **Subline** Brace Yourself 9pm

**Friday 7**
- **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; Amsterdam cabaret: Sally Vate 9.30pm
- **Bar 7@Crawley** TGIF: Madness resident/guest DJs 7pm
- **Bar Broadway Jukebox** 5pm
- **Basement Club@Legends** Night Shift: DJs David Noakes & Trick 11pm
- **Camelford Arms** Friday Club 6pm
- **Charles St Tap** Fabulous Friday: DJ Morgan Fabulous 9pm
- **Grosvenor Bar** cabaret: Stephanie Von Clitz 9.30pm
- **Legends Bar** Brighton Belles: DJ Trick, local cabaret stars & guests 9pm
- **Marine Tavern** Jukebox Disco 9pm

- **Paris House** DJ Havox 9pm
- **Queen’s House** Big Friday Cabaret: Lola Lasagne 11pm
- **Regency Tavern** CABA Regency with George Martin Marin, 8pm
- **Subline** Full Fetish Friday 10pm
- **The Village** cabaret: Rosie Glow 9.30pm
- **Zone** cabaret: Gabriella Parrish 10pm

**Saturday 8**
- **Affinity Bar** camp cabaret: Pat Clutcher 8pm; karaoke 9pm
- **All New Bulldog** Wonda Starr’s Queen of the Night: camp karaoke 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
- **Camel Road Tavern** Fierce DJs 9pm
- **Grosvenor Bar** cabaret: Davina Sparkle 9.30pm
- **Legends Bar** Pre-club DJ 7pm
- **Marine Tavern** Candi Rell’s Karaoke & Cabaret Party 9pm

- **Paris House** All That Jazz: Jorges Hot Club 4pm; Andy the Dandy DJ 9pm
- **Queen’s House** Q&A Triple cabaret: Poppycock 6pm; Betty Swollocks 8pm; Pat Clutcher 10pm
- **Regency Tavern** JB’s Piano 9pm; cabaret: Snow White Trash 9pm
- **Subline** Men’s Room 10pm

**Charles Street Tap**
- 8 Marine Parade, BN2 1TA, Tel: 01273 624091, www.charles-street.com
- **Open** daily from 10am.
- **Food** served daily from 10am-10pm, including breakfasts from 10am. 4 chicken wings or vegan cauliflower wings £1 on Tue; build your own burger for £5 on Wed – beef, chicken or vegan; homemade Sunday roasts for £9 from 12pm; hand carved roasts: beef, turkey, pork with cracking, nut roast, roast lamb shank £11.
- **Drink Promos** 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 Club Craft: any two craft cans or bottles £6 from 5pm.

- **Valentines Day** Friday (14) is the FABULOUS FRIDAY Valentine’s Special with DJ Morgan Fabulous breaking hearts on the decks from 9pm.
- **One for the Diary** Wednesday (from 19) is the return of Mrs Moore’s BONGA BINGO BONANZA raising funds for THT South from 8.30pm with a brand-new speed round! Since its inception, Mrs Moore’s Wednesday night madness has become a Brighton institution raising hundreds for charity.

- **Regulars** Monday: come in from the cold and geek 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
- **Throwback Thursday** pull shapes to 00s guilty pleasures and 1990s retro anthems from 9pm.
- **Saturday is Fierce** with top award-winning DJs spinning your favourite dance and house anthems on rotation from 9pm.
- **Sunday Cabaret** with host Sally Vate, Mrs Moore (23), from 7.30pm.
- **Miss Penny** (2), Kara Van Park (9), Maritha D’Arthur (16) and Snow White Trash (23). Stick around the Sally Vate’s ROCK & ROLL BINGO straight after! Expect glamour and song from Snow White Trash (23). one of the sauciest queens on the scene! Snow White Trash says: “Snow White Trash is the UK’s #sassydragqueen. Expect stellar vocals, and sing-along saxophone power ballads! Bring your best voices and join SWT for a night of musical explosion.”

- **Paris House** All That Jazz: Jorges Hot Club 4pm; Andy the Dandy DJ 9pm
- **Queen’s Arms** QA Triple cabaret: Poppycock 6pm; Betty Swollocks 8pm; Pat Clutcher 10pm
- **Regency Tavern** JB’s Piano 9pm; cabaret: Snow White Trash 9pm
- **Subline** Men’s Room 10pm

- **Three Jolly Butchers** live football: Everton v Crystal Palace 12.30pm; Rugby: Ireland v Wales 2.15pm, Scotland v England 4.45pm; Pre Home Match Warm Up (Brighton v Watford): Pie & Pint Deal 5.30pm
- **Le Village** Back to the Old Skool: DJ Mannky 9pm
- **Zone** cabaret: Sally Vate 10pm
**MRS. MOORE’S BONA BINGO BONANZA**

**STARTS WEDNESDAY 19TH FROM 8.30PM**

**FRIDAYS FROM 9PM**

**FABULOUS FRIDAYS**

Prosecco bottles £15 all night
1/2 price drinks 5-9pm

**PIZZA & A PINT £10**

**ALL DAY EVERY DAY**

**ROCK AND ROLL BINGO**

Sally Vate

**CABARET SUNDAYS FROM 7.30PM**

Following 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

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**LUNCH & SOFT DRINK £5.50**

**MON - FRI 12-4PM**

**5 - 8PM COCKTAILS £4.95**

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**WWW.CHARLES-STREET.COM FOR FULL FEBRUARY LISTINGS, 8-9 MARINE PARADE, BRIGHTON, 01273 624091**

*All drink and food 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.*
FALLEN ANGEL

• 24 Grafton Street, Kemp Town BN2 1AQ Tel: 07949 590 001
• OPEN Tue–Fri from 4pm, Sat from 3pm, Sun from 3pm. Welcoming to everyone. 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 Alforno Pizza Kemp Town.

GROSVENOR BAR

• 16 Western Street, Hove, BN1 2PG. www.thegrosvenorbar.com
• OPEN Mon–Fri 1–6pm, Sun 6–9pm.
• DRINK PROMOS Mon–Fri from 1–6pm on all pints, house doubles and bottles of wine.
• ONE FOR THE DIARY Friday CABARET with drag superstars taking to the Grosvenor stage from 9.30pm: Stephanie Von Clitz (7), Mrs Moore (14), Kara Van Park (21) and Lovinia Belle (28). Drag sensation Lovinia Belle is the private school girl with the potty mouth and the platinum pipes! She says: “With Brighton’s singing queen you can expect a multitude of hits from all genres as well as a bit of opera! Quick witted, fabulous fun, talented and gorgeous to boot!”

SUNDAY 9

AFFINITY BAR cabaret: Candi Rell 5pm
ALL NEW BULLDOG Sunday Funday: camp karaoke 5pm
AMSTERDAM cabaret: Dave the Bear 5pm, roasts 12pm–till gone
BAR 7 @CRAWLEY karaoke 6pm
BAR BROADWAY Fireplace Sessions pres Jennie Castell 8.30pm
BASEMENT CLUB @LEGENDS Glitter: Curious: sing-along party with Patrick Cawley & Maria Gardner 11pm
CAMELFORD ARMS Bear Bash: free food/raffle 6pm, roasts/select menu 12pm–till gone
CHARLES ST TAP cabaret: host Sally Vate & Kara Van Park 7.30pm

Sally’s Rock & Roll Bingo 8.30pm, roasts 12pm
LEGENDS BAR cabaret: Davina Sparkle 8.30pm, roasts 12.30–4pm
MARINE TAVERN roasts 12–5pm
PARIS HOUSE live music: Marilyn du Sax & band 6pm
QUEEN’S ARMS Sunday Funday cabaret: Lucinda Lashes 6.30pm & 10pm
REGENCY TAVERN pianist Paul Quinton Smith & roasts 12–6pm
SUBLINE Guilt–Free tunes 9pm
THREE JOLLY BUTCHERS live football: Sheffield Utd v Bournemmouth 2pm, Man City v West Ham 4.30pm, Rugby: France v Italy 3pm
LE VILLAGE cabaret: TBA 9.30pm, roasts 12–till gone

MONDAY 10

AFFINITY BAR karaoke with Tommy Tanker (aka Pat Clutcher) 7pm
ALL NEW BULLDOG Monday Glitter Ball: 7pm–00s tunes 4pm
BAR BROADWAY Once More With Feeling 8pm
CHARLES ST TAP Gamers Night: consoles/board games 8.30pm
LEGENDS BAR Miss Jason’s Monday Madness 9.30pm
PARIS HOUSE live jazz: Nils Sobierg–Mick Hamer Trio 8pm
QUEEN’S ARMS Sally’s Social Mondays 9pm

LE VILLAGE karaoke/open mic with George Martin Marino 9pm

TUESDAY 11

AFFINITY BAR Free Jukebox 12pm
ALL NEW BULLDOG #Transolve Tuesday: Sam Pink brings camp, karaoke & queens 8pm
BAR 7 @CRAWLEY Crewsday 7pm
BAR BROADWAY Piano Sessions with Sam Martin 9pm
MARINE TAVERN Curry & Quiz with Nat 7.30pm
PARIS HOUSE live swing: Louis Checkley 8pm
QUEEN’S ARMS Davina Sparkle’s Tuesday Chilli 9.30pm
RAILWAY CLUB Lindy hop 7pm
LE VILLAGE Switch with Kryan Shaye 8pm

WEDNESDAY 12

AFFINITY BAR Karaoke with Tommy Tanker (aka Pat Clutcher) 8pm

ALL NEW BULLDOG Green Light Cruise Night 8pm
BAR 7 @CRAWLEY Midweek Chill 7pm
BAR BROADWAY Sally’s Lonely Hearts Club 8pm
BASEMENT CLUB @LEGENDS Now That’s What I Call Legends: DJ Claire Fuller 11pm
LEGENDS BAR A Bit of Midweek Sparkle: Davina Sparkle & guest Alfie Ordinary 9.30pm
MARINE TAVERN Pink Pound 7pm
PARIS HOUSE live jazz: Tractor Factor 8pm
QUEEN’S ARMS Kara Van Park’s West End Wednesdays 10pm
SUBLINE Hump Day 9pm
LE VILLAGE Dave Lynn 9.30pm

THURSDAY 13

AFFINITY BAR cabaret & games with Dave Lynn 9pm
ALL NEW BULLDOG #Transolve Thursday: camp karaoke & queens with Sam Pink 8pm
BAR BROADWAY Ross Cameron’s Big Cash Quiz 8pm
Brighton’s best nightclub 2019 - Gscene Golden Handbags and Brighton Bar Awards

**NOW! THAT’S WHAT I CALL LEGENDS**
11pm - 3am  
free entry  
SELECTED DRINKS £2.50  
Music from across the decades with DJ Claire Fuller

**ULTRA**
UV Party  
The last Thursday of every month  
11pm - 3am  
DJ Claire Fuller

**NIGHT SHIFT**
DJ David Noakes  
with guest DJ Trick  
11pm - 4am  
Free entry

**FUSION**  
Saturday night dance party  
11pm - 4am  
Free entry all night

**GLITTER CURIOUS**
New every Sunday!  
11pm - 4am  
Free entry  
House spirits & selected bottles £2.50  
Premium draught beers from £3

Prices & promos may be subject to change - deals exclude certain products - mixer from gun - T&Cs apply
FEBRUARY LISTINGS

LEGENDS BAR

- OPEN daily from 11–5am
- FOOD: breakfast & lunch. Mon–Sat 11am–5pm, breakfasts. 11am on Sun, then lunch 12.30–4pm. beef, belly pork, chicken supreme or nut roast with roast potatoes, seasonal veg, Yorkshire pudding and gravy and leave room for dessert.
- DRINK PROMOS: Buy one bottle of wine and get the second half price, Mon–Fri. 12–11pm: double up on house spirit mixer for £1 extra Sun–Fri.
- VALENTINES DAY Friday (14) is a BRIGHTON BELLES VALENTINE’S SPECIAL with DJ Trick. Lola Lasagne and special guest at 9.30pm.
- ONE FOR THE DIARY: Every Wednesday is A BIT OF MIDWEEK SPARKLE with the iconic Davina Sparkle in her Starlight Room with special star guests every week from 9.30pm: dance/chart star Allan Jay (5), drag prince Alfie Ordinary (12), soul & Motown sensation Nicole Moattarian (19) and local scene personality Pooh La May (26). Davina says: “It’ll be camp, fun, and naughty! Every week I will have a special guest star, some upcoming acts and some established stars of the scene. Come along if you fancy a midweek libation – and let me know who you’d like to see on the show! Davina xxx”
- ONE FOR THE DIARY: Thursday (27) celebrate Jason Sutton’s (Miss Jason) birthday with nibbles and CABARET with Davina Sparkle from 8pm till late.
- REGULARS: Friday is the BRIGHTON BELLES with DJ Trick, drag legends of the Brighton stage and guests at 9.30pm. Check the Legends social media for line-up.
- Saturday: Pre-Club DJs from 7pm. Sunday: CABARET at 3.30pm.
- Lola Lasagne (2), Davina Sparkle (9), Drag With No Name (16) and Topsie Redfern (23). Expect a completely live show, mixing comedy, songs and stand-up, from the legendary Drag With No Name (16). DWNN says: “As the Drag With No Name, I give my all in the hope of putting a smile on your face with tongue in cheek parodies, live vocals and costume changes galore. No celeb is safe so hopefully some upcoming acts and some established stars of the scene. Come along if you fancy a midweek libation – and let me know who you’d like to see on the show! Davina xxx”
- DRINK PROMOS: drinks from £2 on Mon & Fri, various deals on Wed & Sun.

LEGENDS BASEMENT CLUB

- OPEN: Free entry all night. Wed–Sun & Thur (27) at 11pm.
- VALENTINES DAY Friday (14) is VALENTINE’S NIGHT SHIFT with DJ David Noakes & guest Trick shooting top tracks straight to your heart.
- ONE FOR THE DIARY: Thursday (27) is ULTRA – UV Party with DJ Claire Fuller playing tracks to make you GLOW. Basement Club says: “It’s our big monthly UV party! Join us for a UV party with glow sticks, facepaint and free palm violet sweets! Gonna be fun!”
- REGULARS: Saturday is FUSION with DJ Peter Castle spinning chart/club remixes. Sunday is the GLITTER CURIOUS queer sing-along party curated by Patrick Caswely & Maria Gardner with promos, surprises, performances, giveaways & 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 Christnial!
- Wednesday is NOW THAT’S WHAT I CALL LEGENDS with DJ Claire Fuller taking you through the decades. Friday is NIGHT SHIFT with superstar DJ David Noakes & guest DJ Trick spinning pop & dance tracks.

FRIDAY 14

- AFFINITY BAR: Valentine’s Cabaret: Miss Jason 8pm; karaoke/tunes 10pm
- ALL NEW BULLDOG: Friday Night Live Valentine’s Day Special: camp karaoke DJ Glyn-Sing 9pm; Show Time: Domina Tryx 11pm; karaoke till 3am
- AMSTERDAM: Valentine’s Day menu - see website for info 11am; cabaret: Jennie Castell 9.30pm
- BAR 7 @ CRAWLEY: Valentine’s cabaret with Pat Clutcher 7pm
- BAR BROADWAY: Valentine’s Day Masquerade Ball 9.30pm
- BASEMENT CLUB @ LEGENDS: Valentine’s Love In 10pm
- CAMELFORD ARMS: Valentine’s Day: fine dining 3-course menu in romantic setting 6pm
- CHARLES ST TAP: Fabulous Friday Valentine’s Special: DJ Morgan Fabulous 9pm
- GROSVENOR BAR: cabaret: Mrs Moore 9.30pm
- HAVOC BAR: Valentine’s Special: DJ Trick, Lola Lasagne & guest 9.30pm
- MARINE TAVERN: Jukebox Disco 9pm
- PARIS HOUSE: DJ Havocc 9pm
- QUEEN’S ARMS: Son of a Tutu’s Valentine’s Love In 10pm
- SUBLINE: Dirty Tackle sportswear night 10pm
- THREE JOLLY BUTCHERS: live football: Wolves v Leicester 8pm

- CAMERLOED ARMS: £300 Big Cash Quiz 9pm
- CHARLES ST TAP: Throwback Thursday 9pm
- GROSVENOR BAR: Abel Mabel’s Bingo. 8.30pm
- MARINE TAVERN: Throwback Thursday 80s Night 8pm
- PARIS HOUSE: World Music: Abraham de Vega & Babou 8pm
- QUEEN’S ARMS: Leading Ladies cabaret: Davina Sparkle 10pm
- REGENCY TAVERN: Open mic with Chris Hide. 8.30pm
- SUBLINE: Brace Yourself 9pm
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 every Sunday 12-5pm, booking advised by calling 01273 905578.
DRINK PROMOS Wed from 7pm: Pink Pound Night with drinks from £1 and free raffle.
REGULARS Saturday is CABARET & KARAOKE with Candi Rell giving all she can and more from 9pm.
THROWBACK THURSDAY with 1980s tunes from 8pm.
Friday is JUKEBOX DISCO from 9pm.

THE VILLAGE Valentine’s Day cabaret: Stephanie Von Clitz 9.30pm
ZONE cabaret: Davina Sparkle 10pm
SUNDAY 16
AFFINITY BAR cabaret: Topsie Redfern 5pm
ALL NEW BULLDOG cabaret: Jason Watson 9pm; roasts 12pm-till gone
CAMELFORD ARMS Bear Bash: free food/raffle 5pm; roasts/select menu 12pm - till gone
CHARLES ST TAP cabaret: host Sally Vate & Martha D’Arthur 7.30pm; Sally’s Rock & Roll Bingo 8.30pm, roasts 12pm
LEGENDS BAR cabaret: Drag With No Name 3.30pm, roasts 12.30-4pm
MARINE TAVERN roasts 12-5pm
PARIS HOUSE Jazz with ALEX BANKS
Wine/Prosecco Offers FREE ENTRY

SATURDAY 22ND FEB
Jazz with ALEX BANKS
Wine/Prosecco Offers FREE ENTRY

EVERY TUESDAY LINDY HOPPERS
NEW MEMBERS ALWAYS WELCOME Membership for 2020 being taken now
FEBRUARY LISTINGS

PARIS HOUSE
- 21 Western Rd, BN3 1AF, T: 01273 724195, www.parishousebrighton.com
- OPEN daily from 12pm
- FOOD served daily from 12pm–close.
- ONE FOR THE DIARY Sat is AND ALL THAT JAZZ at 4pm. Amouse Manouche (1), Jorge’s Hot Club Trio (8), Monday Boys (15), Lawrence Jones & band (22) and Gabriel Garrick Trio (29), Andy the Dandy DJ at 9pm, free.
- REGULARS FREE LIVE MUSIC: Sun 6pm: Lo Polodoro, Marilyn du Sax & band (9), Sam Chara & band (16) and Dave Williams & band (23). Mon JAZZ with Nils Solberg-Mick Hamer Trio at 2pm; then at 8pm. Will Garner Trio (3), Andy Panayi (10). Sam Carelse Trio (17) and Simon Spillet & band (24). Tue at 8pm John Crampton (4), Louis Checkley (11), the Mucky Ducklings (18) and jazz & blues open mic night (25). Wed at 8pm. Canadian & Scottish trio TAHP (5). Tractor Factor (12). The Paris House Jam Session (19) and Eli Southgate Trio & band (26). Thu WORLD MUSIC at 8pm. Mariba with Cuban trumpets (6), Abraham de Vega & Babou (13). Son Guaranchando (20) and Pollito Boogaloo (27). Fri is PARTY TIME with DJ Havoxx at 9pm.

QUEEN’S ARMS Sunday Funday cabaret: Gabriella Parish 6.30pm & 10pm
- REGENCY TAVERN pianist Paul Quinton Smith & roasts 12-6pm
- SUBLINE Guilt-free tunes 9pm
- THREE JOLLY BUTCHERS live football: Aston Villa v Spurs 2pm, Arsenal v Newcastle 5.30pm
- LE VILLAGE cabaret: Mrs Moore 9.30pm, roasts 12-till gone

MONDAY 17
- AFFINITY BAR karaoke with Tommy Tanker (aka Pat Clutcher) 7pm
- ALL NEW BULLDOG Monday Glitter Ball: 70s-00s tunes 4pm
- BAR BROADWAY Glastically Smashed by a Crazy Ex-Girlfriend: songs from TV musicals 6pm
- CHARLES ST TAP Gamers Night: consoles/board games 8.30pm
- LEGENDS BAR cabaret: Dave Lynn & friends 9.30pm
- PARIS HOUSE live jazz: Nils Solberg-Mick Hamer Trio 2pm, Sam Carelse Trio 8pm

QUEEN’S ARMS Sandy’s Social Mondays 9pm
- THREE JOLLY BUTCHERS live football: Chelsea v Man Utd 8pm
- LE VILLAGE karaoke/open mic with George Martin Marino 9pm

TUESDAY 18
- AFFINITY BAR Free Jukebox 12pm
- ALL NEW BULLDOG # Transolve Tuesday: Sam Pink brings camp, karaoke & queens 8pm
- BAR 7@CRAWLEY Crewsday 7pm
- BAR BROADWAY Piano Sessions with Sam Martin 9pm
- MARINE TAVERN Curry & Quiz with Nat 7.30pm
- PARIS HOUSE live soul: Mucky Ducklings 8pm
- QUEEN’S ARMS Davina Sparkle’s Tuesday Chilli 9.30pm
- RAILWAY CLUB Lindy hop 7pm
- THREE JOLLY BUTCHERS live football: Athletico Madrid v Liverpool 8pm

LE VILLAGE Switch with Kryan Shayne 9pm

WEDNESDAY 19
- AFFINITY BAR Karaoke with Tommy Tanker (aka Pat Clutcher) 8pm
- ALL NEW BULLDOG Green Light Cruise Night 8pm
- BAR 7@CRAWLEY Midweek Chill 7pm

LE VILLAGE Switch with Kryan Shayne 9pm

BASEMENT CLUB@LEGENDS
Now That’s What I Call Legends: DJ Claire Fuller 11pm
CHARLES ST TAP Mrs Moore’s Bona Bingo Bonanza for TH South 8.30pm
LEGENDS BAR A Bit of Midweek Sparkle: Davina Sparkle & guest Nicole Moattarian 9.30pm
FREE WINE TASTING
FOR OUR NEW WINE MENU
MON 3RD FEB 7.30-9.30PM

OPENING HOURS
MON-FRI FROM 5PM
SAT & SUN FROM 2PM

MONDAY 9PM
SALLY’S SOCIAL MONDAYS

TUESDAY 9.30PM
DAVINA SPARKLE
TUESDAY CHILL

WEDNESDAY 10PM
KARA VAN PARK’S WESTEND WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY 10PM
LEADING LADIES
6 FEB ALAN JAY
13 FEB DAVINA SPARKLE
20 FEB PAT CLUTCHER
27 FEB LOLA LASAGNE

SUNDAY FUN DAY
SHOWS AT 6.30PM & 10PM
2 FEB JASON LEE
9 FEB LUCINDA LASHES
16 FEB GABRIELLA PARRISH
23 FEB ROSE GARDEN

HAPPY HOURS: 5PM-9PM WEEKDAYS • 2PM-6PM WEEKENDS
**THE RAILWAY CLUB**

- 4 Belmont, Dyke Road, BN1 3TF, Tel: 01273 328682
- **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 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** 20% off selected drinks for students on Tue, 6–11pm.
- **ONE FOR THE DIARY** Saturday (22) is LIVE JAZZ with vocalist Alex Banks from 8.30pm, free entry.

**THURSDAY 20**

- **AFFINITY BAR** Cabaret & games with Dave Lynn 9pm
- **ALL NEW BULLDOG** #Transvolve Thursday: camp karaoke & queens with 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** Abel Mabel’s Bingo 8.30pm
- **MARINE TAVERN** Throwback Thursday 80s Night 8pm
- **PARIS HOUSE** World Music: Son Guaranchando 8pm
- **QUEEN’S ARMS** Leading Ladies cabaret: Pat Clutcher 10pm

**FRIDAY 21**

- **AFFINITY BAR** Wigs & Beads Karaoke with drag hostess 8pm
- **ALL NEW BULLDOG** Friday Night Live: camp karaoke DJ Glyn-Sing 9pm, Show Time: Domina Tryx 11pm, karaoke till 3am
- **AMSTERDAM** cabaret: Poppycock 9.30pm
- **BAR 7@CRAWLEY** TGIF Madness: resident/guest DJs 7pm
- **BAR BROADWAY** Jukebox 5pm
- **BASEMENT CLUB@LEGENDS** Night Shift: DJs David Noakes & Trick 11pm
- **CAMELFORD ARMS** Fri Club 6pm
- **CHARLES ST TAP** Fabulous Friday: DJ Morgan Fabulous 9pm
- **GROSVENOR BAR** cabaret: Kara Van Park 9.30pm
- **LEGENDS BAR** Brighton Belles: DJ Trick, local cabaret stars & guests 9pm

**SATURDAY 22**

- **AFFINITY BAR** camp cabaret: Pat Clutcher 8pm, karaoke 9pm
- **ALL NEW BULLDOG** Wonda Stann’s Queen of the Night: camp karaoke 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: Jennie Castell 9.30pm
- **LEGENDS BAR** Pre-club DJ 7pm
- **MARINE TAVERN** Candi Reil’s Karaoke & Cabaret Party 9pm
- **PARIS HOUSE** All That Jazz: Lawrence Jones & band 4pm, Andy the Dandy DJ 9pm
- **QUEEN’S ARMS** QA Triple cabaret: Poppycock 6pm, Betty Swollocks 8pm, Dr Beverley Ballcrusher 10pm
- **RAILWAY CLUB** live jazz: Alex Baker 8.30pm
- **REGENCY TAVERN** JB’s Piano Jukebox 4pm, cabaret: Chris Hide 9pm
- **SUBLINE** Men’s Room 10pm
- **THREE JOLLY BUTCHERS** live: Chelsea v Spurs 12.30pm, Leicester v Man City 5.30pm, Rugby: Italy v Scotland 2.15pm, Wales v France 4.45pm
- **LE VILLAGE** Back to the Old Skool: DJ Manky 9pm
- **ZONE** cabaret: Sally Vate 10pm

**SUNDAY 23**

- **AFFINITY BAR** cabaret: Lovinia Belle 5pm
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 for students Mon 6-11pm
Food Mon-Fri 12-2pm • 5-9pm • Sat-Sun 12-9pm
Sunday Roasts 12-6pm from £13.95
With pianist Paul Quinton Smith
Piemister Pies & sides 2 for £10 Wed 6-9pm!
Thur: Open Mic & Karaoke with Chris Hide 8.30pm
Fri: Cabaret-Regency 9pm
7th & 21st with George Martin Marino
Fri: 28th Jamie Howard
Sat: Jb Piano Jukebox 4-6pm
Cabaret 9pm
1st Lucinda Lashes
8th Snow White Trash
15th Gabriella Parrish
22nd Chris Hide
29th Dave Lynn

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

Food
Served Daily 5-8pm
2 Meals for £10 All Feb
Sunday Roasts 12-5pm £8 All Feb

Monday 9pm
Karaoke with George Martin Marino

Tuesday 9pm
Kryan Shayne Switch

Wednesday 9.30pm
Dave Lynn

Friday 9.30pm
Cabaret
7th Rosie Glow
14th Stephanie Von Clitz
21st Billie Gold
28th Knox

Saturday 9pm
Back to the Old Skool with DJ Manky

Sunday 9.30pm
Cabaret
2nd Krystal Ball
9th TBC
16th Mrs Moore
23rd Bosom Buddies

Marine Tavern
13 Broad Street, Brighton
Tel 01273 905578 • Open Daily Noon-1am

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

Food
Served Daily 5-8pm
2 Meals for £10 All Feb
Sunday Roasts 12-5pm £8 All Feb

Monday 9pm
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Dave Lynn

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Saturday 9pm
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Sunday 9.30pm
Cabaret
2nd Krystal Ball
9th TBC
16th Mrs Moore
23rd Bosom Buddies

SUNDAY: TRADITIONAL ROASTS 12-5PM
Best Quality: Beef/Chicken/Lamb/Whole Roast
Best Value: Roasts £8 each • Starters & desserts from £2.95

Marine Tavern 13 Broad Street, Brighton
Tel 01273 905578 • Open Daily Noon-1am

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

Food
Served Daily 5-8pm
2 Meals for £10 All Feb
Sunday Roasts 12-5pm £8 All Feb

Monday 9pm
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Cabaret
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9th TBC
16th Mrs Moore
23rd Bosom Buddies
SUBLINE

129 St James’ St, BN2 1TH, T: 01273 624100, www.sublinebrighton.co.uk
OPEN Sun, Wed & Thur from 9pm, Fri & Sat from 10pm.
DRINK PROMOS Wed: all draught beers £1 off, 2 cocktails for £12.
VALENTINES DAY Friday (14) DIRTY TACKLE sports kit night, £3 in kit or £5. Will you find love in the scrum?

ONE FOR THE DIARY Monday (3) is the SUBLINE QUIZ NIGHT with host Ian Sinclair, cash & booze prizes, and a raffle raising funds once again for the James Ledward Memorial Fund, part of the Rainbow Fund specifically ring-fenced for local homelessness charities from 7pm. Entry is £2 per person (all welcome), which goes into the jackpot pool. Subline say: “Our night of trivia returns for February! Ian Andrew Sinclair will have a devilish array of questions to confound and perplex; I’ve prepared (lowbrow) picture round and musical intro rounds, and there’ll be some half-price sandwiches! As the team of Brian L and Peter D have won twice in a row (1) they’ll begin with a five-point handicap this time. Don’t let them do it again, boys and girls! Each month the quiz will also incorporate a fundraising element - last month we raffled a meal donated by the Bedford Tavern, and a couple of bottles from the Subline cellar, and raised a juicy £70 for the James Ledward Memorial Fund!”

REGULARS Wednesday is HUMP DAY, all welcome; (5) is JOYSTICK JOCKEYS Gaymers Night from 8pm. Thursday is BRACE YOURSELF men’s night, free entry. Friday events: kick-start the weekend at STEAM from 10pm, £3/E5 entry; (7) is FULL FETISH, £5 entry, (14) is DIRTY TACKLE sports kit night, £3 in kit or £5, (21) is FILTH MIXED FETISH PARTY, tickets recommended. Saturday: turn up the heat at MEN’S ROOM, £3/E5 entry, (1) is LEATHERMEN SOUTH, free entry in leather/rubber, £3 otherwise. Sunday is GUILT FREE PLEASURES, free for members or £5, (23) is CUM IN YOUR PANTS underwear party, £3 members or £5.

ALL NEW BULLDOG Sunday Funday: camp karaoke 5pm
AMSTERDAM cabaret: Gabriella Parish 5pm, roasts 12pm-till gone
BAR 7@CRAWLEY karaoke 6pm
BAR BROADWAY Fireplace Sessions pre Eva Iglésias 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 & Snow White Trash 7.30pm, Sally’s Rock & Roll Bingo 8.30pm, roasts 12pm
LEGENDS BAR cabaret: Topspin Redfern 3.30pm, roasts 12.30-4pm
MARINE TAVERN roasts 12-5pm
PARIS HOUSE live swing/jazz: Dave Williams & band 6pm
QUEEN’S ARMS Sunday Funday cabaret: Rose Garden 6.30pm & 10pm
REGENCY TAVERN pianist Paul Quinton Smith & roasts 12-6pm

SUBLINE Cum in Your Pants underwear party 9pm
THREE JOLLY BUTCHERS live football: rugby: England v Ireland 3pm, football: Arsenal v Everton 4.30pm
LE VILLAGE cabaret: Bosom Buddies 9.30pm, roasts 12-till gone
MONDAY 24
AFFINITY BAR karaoke with Tommy Tanker (aka Pat Cluchter) 7pm
ALL NEW BULLDOG Monday Glitter Ball: 70s-00s tunes 4pm
BAR BROADWAY Gleefully Smashed by a Crazy Ex-Girlfriend: songs from TV musicals 6pm
CHARLES ST TAP Gaymers Night: consoles/board games 8.30pm
LEGENDS BAR cabaret: Dave Lynn & friends 9.30pm
PARIS HOUSE live jazz: Nils Solberg-Mick Hamer Trio 8pm, Simon Spillet & band 8pm
QUEEN’S ARMS Sally’s Social Mondays 9pm
THREE JOLLY BUTCHERS live football: Liverpool v West Ham 8pm
LE VILLAGE karaoke/open mic with George Martin Marino 9pm

TUESDAY 25
AFFINITY BAR Free Jukebox 12pm
ALL NEW BULLDOG #Transvolve Tuesday: Sam Pink brings camp, karaoke & quizzes 8pm
BAR 7@CRAWLEY Crawsday 9pm

WEDNESDAY 26
AFFINITY BAR karaoke with Tommy Tanker (aka Pat Cluchter) 8pm
ALL NEW BULLDOG Green Light Cruise Night 8pm
BAR 7@CRAWLEY Midweek Chill 7pm
BAR BROADWAY Sally’s Crystal Maze 9pm
BASEMENT CLUB@LEGENDS Now That’s What I Call Legends: DJ Claire Fuller 11pm
CHARLES ST TAP Mrs Moore’s Bona Bingo Bonanza for THT South 8.30pm
LEGENDS BAR A Bit of Midweek Sparkle: Davina Sparkle & guest Pooh La May 9.30pm
MARINE TAVERN Pink Pound 7pm
PARIS HOUSE live music: Ela Southgate Trio & band 8pm
QUEEN’S ARMS KARA Van Park’s West End Wednesdays 10pm
SUBLINE Hump Day 9pm
THURSDAY 27
AFFINITY BAR cabaret & games with Dave Lynn 9pm
ALL NEW BULLDOG # Transvolve Thursday: camp karaoke & queens with Sam Pink 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 Abel Mabel’s Bingo 8.30pm
LEGENDS BAR Jason Sutton’s (Miss Jason) birthday party with nibbles & cabaret: Davina Sparkle 8pm
MARINE TAVERN Throwback Thursday 80s Night 8pm
PARIS HOUSE World Music: Pollito Boogaloo 8pm
QUEEN’S ARMS Leading Ladies cabaret: Lola Lasagne 10pm
REGENCY TAVERN Open mic with Chris Hide 8.30pm
SUBLINE Brace Yourself 9pm
THREE JOLLY BUTCHERS live football: Arsenal v Olympiakos 8pm
Man Utd v Brugge 8pm

FRIDAY 28
AFFINITY BAR Wigs & Beads Karaoke with drag hostess 8pm
ALL NEW BULLDOG Friday Night Live: camp karaoke DJ Glyn-Sing 9pm; Show Time: Dominia Tryx 11pm; karaoke till 3am
AMSTERDAM cabaret: Kara Van Park 9.30pm
BAR 7@CRAWLEY TGIF Madness: resident/guest DJs 7pm
BAR BROADWAY Jukebox 5pm
BASEMENT CLUB@LEGENDS Night Shift: DJs David Noakes & Trick 11pm
CAMELFORD ARMS Fri Club 6pm
CHARLES ST TAP Fabulous Friday: DJ Morgan Fabulous 9pm
GROSVENOR BAR cabaret: Lovinia Belle 9.30pm
FEBRUARY LISTINGS

LE VILLAGE
- 2-3 High Street, Brighton, BN2 1RF. Tel: 01273 681634
- OPEN: Mon-Thur from 12pm-1.30am, Fri-Sun from 11am-2.30am.
- FOOD: served from 5-8.30pm (or till 8pm depending on how busy they are)
- Mon-Sat. Sunday roasts £8 served from 12pm till they run out.
- FOOD DEAL: two meals £10 every day.
- VALENTINE’S DAY: Friday (14) is VALENTINE’S DAY CABARET with the Queen of Hearts Stephanie Von Clitz at 9.30pm.
- ONE FOR THE DIARY: Tuesday is SWITCH with Kryan Shayne hosting Cards Against Humanity and new game the Lyric Master at 9pm. Le Village say: “Come down for your chance to play and win some drinks and shots. Not for the faint-hearted or easily offended!! Songs, lip syncs and special guest performances too! Rally the troops and come down for a ridiculous night! What else you gonna do on a Tuesday night?”
- REGULARS: Saturday is BACK TO THE OLD SKOOL with DJ Manky (Lee Cockshott) at 9pm. Sunday CABARET with new and established acts on stage at 9.30pm. Krystal Ball (2), TBA (9), Mrs Moore (16) and Bosom Buddies (23). Monday KARAOKE & OPEN MIC hosted by George Martin Marino from 9pm. Wednesday CABARET with Dave Lynn causing a scene every week from 9.30pm. Friday CABARET at 9.30pm Rosie Glow (7), Billie Gold (21) and Knox (28).

THE ZONE
- 33 St James’ St, BN2 1RF, Tel: 01273 682249. www.zonebrighton.co.uk
- OPEN: Sun-Thur. from 11am, Fri & Sat from 10am.
- DRINK PROMOS: every day, excl 9pm–close on Fri & Sat.
- VALENTINE’S DAY: Friday (14) is CABARET with the Queen of Diamonds Davina Sparkle at 10pm.
- ONE FOR THE DIARY: Saturday CABARET with sensational acts at 10pm. Lovinia Belle (1), Sally Vate (8 & 22), Chris Hide (15) and Topsie Redfern (29). Topsie Redfern (29) has been described as the Mary Poppins of drag, she’s warm and friendly, elegant and slightly kookie, single and a little bit desperate! Topsie says: “Topsie sings live, indeed people often praise her oral skills. I do a real mixture of songs, pop, jazz, musical theatre. Because I’ve got no duet partner I often have to do duets by myself or enlist the help of the audience. Make such you bring your own Shirley Bassey arms, you’ll be needing them, there is plenty of audience interaction.”
- REGULARS: Friday with top CABARET stars at 10pm. Gabriella Parrish (7), Davina Sparkle (14), Stone & Street (21) and Stephanie Von Clitz (28).

Saturdays 29
- AFFINITY BAR: camp cabaret: Pat Clutcher 8pm, karaoke 9pm
- ALL NEW BULLDOG: Wonda
- LEGENDS BAR: Brighton Belles: DJ Trick, local cabaret stars & guests 9pm
- MARINE TAVERN: Jukebox Disco 9pm
- PARIS HOUSE: DJ Havoxx 9pm
- QUEEN’S ARMS: Big Friday Cabaret: Fanny Burns 10pm
- SUBLINE: Steam 10pm
- THREE JOLLY BUTCHERS: Live football. Norwich v Leicester 8pm.
- LE VILLAGE: cabaret: Knox 9.30pm
- ZONE: cabaret: Stephanie Von Clitz 10pm

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- ZONE: cabaret: Stephanie Von Clitz 10pm

Sundays 29
- ONE FOR THE DIARY: Monday is BACK TO THE OLD SKOOL with DJ Manky (Lee Cockshott) at 9pm. Sunday CABARET with new and established acts on stage at 9.30pm. Krystal Ball (2), TBA (9), Mrs Moore (16) and Bosom Buddies (23). Monday KARAOKE & OPEN MIC hosted by George Martin Marino from 9pm. Wednesday CABARET with Dave Lynn causing a scene every week from 9.30pm. Friday CABARET at 9.30pm Rosie Glow (7), Billie Gold (21) and Knox (28).
**SOUTHAMPTON**
- **THE EDGE & BOX BAR** Compton Walk, S014 0BH, Tel: 023 8036 6163, www.theedgesouthampton.com
- **BOX BAR OPEN** daily at 4pm
- **HAPPY HOURS:** 4–10pm daily
- **FOOD:** 4–10pm daily
- **HAPPY HOURS:** 2-4-1 cocktails daily from 7pm–midnight (till 6pm on Wed). The Edge: Mon £1.50 shots & £2 house doubles, Tue 2 candyfloss cocktails £3, Wed £1.50 drink, Thur half price drinks till midnight; Fri cocktails from £5; Sun £1.50 singles/£3 doubles.

**VALENTINE’S DAY** **TUESDAY 14**
- **THURSDAY 6**
  - **HAMPShire BLVD** The Big One: DJs Morgan & Rob Davies & DJ Audio K9
  - **SOUTHAMPTON** Get Dirty: DJ Liam Searle
  - **EDGEx** THE BIG ONE: DJs Craig Law & KT
  - **THE EDGE & BOX Bar** VALENTINE’S TRAFFIC LIGHT PARTY from 8.30pm with DJs Craig Law & Darcy Buckland, plus a £50 bar tab give-away before midnight.

- **MONDAY 10**
  - **PORTSMOUTH**
    - **HAMPShire BLVD** Student Mondays with Bella Black, DJs & giveaways 9pm
  - **SOUTHAMPTON**
    - **EDGE** Mates Rates: DJ Darcy Buckland 10pm
  - **TUESDAY 11**
    - **PORTSMOUTH**
      - **HAMPShire BLVD** Cherry’s Bingo & cabaret 7pm
  - **SOUTHAMPTON**
    - **BOX BAR** Candy Floss DJs 11pm
    - **EDGE** Candy Floss: DJ Audio K9 11pm

**WEDNESDAY 12**
- **PORTSMOUTH**
  - **HAMPShire BLVD** Big Navy Night Out with Aura Jay’s karaoke 9pm
- **SOUTHAMPTON**
  - **BOX BAR** Dolly Rocker’s Bingo Bingo: drag show with mini games & a cash prize 8.30pm: Bella Black’s karaoke 10.30pm
  - **EDGE** Bar 150: DJs Missy B & Lee Harris 10pm

**FRIDAY 14**
- **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 15**
- **PORTSMOUTH**
  - **HAMPShire BLVD** Blank: DJs Missy B & Rob Davies 9pm
- **SOUTHAMPTON**
  - **BOX BAR** The Big One 7pm
  - **EDGE** The Big One: DJs Rob Davies & Neil Sackley 10pm

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  - **SOUTHAMPTON**
    - **BOX BAR** Candy Floss DJs 11pm
    - **EDGE** Candy Floss: DJ Audio K9 11pm
SUNDAY 16
PORTSMOUTH
● HAMPSHIRE BLVD 90s-Now 9pm
SOUTHAMPTON
● EDGE Aura Jay’s Karaoke 10pm

MONDAY 17
PORTSMOUTH
● HAMPSHIRE BLVD Student Mondays with Bella Black, DJs & giveaways 9pm
SOUTHAMPTON
● EDGE Mates Rates: DJ Darcy Buckland 10pm

WEDNESDAY 19
PORTSMOUTH
● HAMPSHIRE BLVD Big Navy Night Out with Aura Jay’s Karaoke 9pm
SOUTHAMPTON
● BOX BAR Dolly Rocker’s Bingo Bingo: drag show with mini games & a cash prize 8.30pm; Bella Black’s karaoke 10.30pm

THURSDAY 20
PORTSMOUTH
● 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 21
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 22
PORTSMOUTH
● HAMPSHIRE BLVD Blank: DJs Missy B & Rob Davis 9pm
SOUTHAMPTON
● BOX BAR The Big One 7pm
● EDGE The Big One: DJs Missy B & Neil Sackley 10pm

SUNDAY 23
PORTSMOUTH
● HAMPSHIRE BLVD 90s-Now 9pm
SOUTHAMPTON
● EDGE Aura Jay’s Karaoke 10pm

MONDAY 24
PORTSMOUTH
● HAMPSHIRE BLVD Student Mondays with Bella Black, DJs & giveaways 9pm
SOUTHAMPTON
● EDGE Mates Rates: DJ Darcy Buckland 10pm

TUESDAY 25
PORTSMOUTH
● HAMPSHIRE BLVD Cherry’s Bingo & cabaret 7pm
SOUTHAMPTON
● BOX BAR Candy Floss DJs 11pm
● EDGE Candy Floss: DJ Audio K9 11pm

WEDNESDAY 26
PORTSMOUTH
● HAMPSHIRE BLVD Big Navy Night Out with Aura Jay’s Karaoke 9pm
SOUTHAMPTON
● BOX BAR Dolly Rocker’s Bingo Bingo: drag show with mini games & a cash prize 8.30pm; Bella Black’s karaoke 10.30pm

THURSDAY 27
PORTSMOUTH
● 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 28
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 29
PORTSMOUTH
● HAMPSHIRE BLVD Blank: DJs Missy B & Rob Davis 9pm
SOUTHAMPTON
● BOX BAR The Big One 7pm
● EDGE The Big One: DJs Claire Fuller & Trick 10pm
WILDBLOOD & QUEENIE’S FEB FAVES

And so we continue, heading into 2020 via the month of love. Which is all good with us as we just love what these wonders of disco infused grooves and must hear house are doing to us. Nothing keeps the soul motivated and banishes the winter blues like shaking that fine booty to tunes this fine. See you at the front.

1. **FRANK VIRGILIO** *Donde Estas?* Hot Digits
   You ready to get licked with spicy Spanish piano on the dancefloor?

2. **ROBERT OUIMET** *Good Time* Crescendo Alpaca Edits
   Nothing will get you higher on the dancefloor this winter, believe us.

3. **HIFI SEAN** *Lost Without U* (Ralph Rosario Hot Mix 5’ Remix) White
   Follow the Sean star to Soundcloud for some sublime download action.

4. **FOUK** *Need My Space* (Detroit Swindle Remix) Heist
   An epic Roundup rework EP destined to thrill.

5. **J-FELIX** feat Andrew Ashong *Mind Up* (Werkha remix) Tru-Thoughts
   1BTN’s all round good guy returns with an electro-funk explosion.

6. **HOT GORILLA** *Dance With Me* (Edit) Hot Gorilla
   Funky monkey business keeps the temp high and radiators down low.

7. **AL KENT** *Pick Me Up Million Dollar Disco*
   Strings and love Wild Family style kept our Patterns adventure filled.

8. **HP VINCE** *Get On Down* (Original Mix) Springbok
   Stand out track on the juicy 2020 Springbok Celebration compilation.

9. **KS FRENCH** *Wishin U FKR*
   Mr French delivers divine Disco Addict EP and keeps us, well, addicted.

10. **ED WIZARD** & **DISCO DOUBLE DEE** *Spirit Power* Editorial Power
    Double D still delivering disco delights, what else would one expect?

11. **SWEATSON KLANK** *Kiss In The Shadows Friends of Friends*
    Good Days are here again thanks to the LA funk feels of Mr Klank.

12. **THOMA CHER** *Be My Love* (Original Mix) Whiskey Disco
    The stand loopy loops of Thoma makes EP Holiday Holiday a must-buy.

13. **DANIEL STEINBERG** *Days Go By Arms & Legs*
    No one gets a dancefloor like Daniel - outstanding house adventures.

14. **ABBA** *Lay All Your Love On Me* (Mighty Mouse Edit) Bandcamp
    We are oh so ABBA happy. Mighty Mouse we are not worthy.

15. **TALA SAMGUITA** *Woo* (Harry Oscillate Re-edit) White Label
    When you meet a wonder on NYE and they deliver. Oh what tunes.

16. **PETE MOSS** & **Onur Özman** *What I Need* Nordic Trax
    Going deep and tech and house, just how we like it.

17. **JAVI FRIAS** *Keep On Night Shift*
    His Party Music EP that does exactly what it says on the tin.

18. **DISCO DANDIES** *Reaching Teaching Suppressed Energy*
    Another moment of lush loveliness from Dave and friends. All rude like.

19. **BARBARA TUCKER** *Think About It Unquantize*
    Hear the drummer get (Micfreak) wicked.

20. **YULIA NIKO** *Man Like Star* (Original Mix) Deeperfect
    Sultry percussive wonder that had us all a queer quiver since first play.

21. Catch Wildblood and Queenie at Club Barbra (Fri 7) at West Hill Tavern, Brighton and on 1BTN.fm 1st & 3rd Fri every month 1-4pm, 101.4FM and DAB+. wildbloodandqueenie.com

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**DJ PROFILE: PETER CASTLE**

This month it’s time to celebrate amour! So who else could Queenie talk to other than a man with a huge love of music that has spanned the decades? It’s the amazing Peter Castle...

You started DJing 50 years ago – extraordinary! Where did you start out and how have things changed over the decades? I was 12 when I did my first gig on NYE. A band was supposed to play but cancelled last minute! My dad got equipment for me to use, the night was a success and they booked me every month after that! I got asked to play a nightclub 42 years ago and done them ever since, apart from holidays – I’ve probably worked every weekend. Back then it was rare for DJs to mix with vinyl but I was doing it in a 2,000 capacity London venue and was spotted by EMI promotions. Suddenly I was getting 30+ 12” promo singles in the post weekly from top labels. The big step was making the transition from vinyl to CD. The Pioneer CDJ was the next thing to vinyl, and that hasn’t really changed today. I use a laptop with Rekordbox, it stores my music in MP3 and I drag the track to the deck to load it. (No different to putting a record on a turntable or CD in a drive). I still DJ in the normal way, the computer is just a storage device.

You’ve been a Legends resident since 2006 - what’s so special about the venue for you? I started on NYE 2006, the staff and the customers are very friendly and it has that family feeling, it’s fun! Playing Saturday nights for 13 years may make me the longest resident DJ currently playing in Brighton.

Any exciting projects for 2020? I’ve been asked to DJ in Hungary later this year for a private party. DJing abroad is more challenging as it gets you out of your comfort zone.

What music rocks your world now and has your taste changed over the years? I’m loving the sound of Purple Disco Machine, it’s retro but also fresh at the same time. Italian house was probably my all time fave, the years?

What music rocks your world now and has your taste changed over the years? I’m loving the sound of Purple Disco Machine, it’s retro but also fresh at the same time. Italian house was probably my all time fave, the years?

Most memorable gig? Has to be my first club, Busbys, and if I had a time machine I’d love to go back and do it again.

Guilty pleasure? Lobster.

Describe yourself in three words. Sarcastic Old Snowflake.

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**PETER CASTLE’S CURRENT TOP FIVE**

1. **PET SHOP BOYS** *Monkey Business* (Friends Within Remix) Capitol
2. **FREEJACK** *Don’t You Want Me* (Extended) New State
3. **JOE STONE** *Nothing Else* (Steff Da Campo) Spinnin
4. **ROBERTO SURACE** *Joy* (Purple Disco Machine) Defected
5. **SAM SMITH** *I Feel Love* (Extended) Capitol

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5. **SAM SMITH** *I Feel Love* (Extended) Capitol
A weekend of queer performance (Feb 6-9) at the Marlborough Theatre and Attenborough Centre. Tickets and information: marlboroughtheatre.org.uk

ACCA

University of Sussex, Falmer

OOZING GLOOP - THE GLOOPSHOW EPISODE 2: GLOOPTOPIA (Sat 8). After the success of The Gloopshow, the world's only autistic green drag queen is back with a new language of political hope... and a positive projection into our psychic landscape. Travel from the tangible to the fantastical via vigils, chants and images of a sinful, saintly and spectacular nature. This time, Oozing Gloop is armed, indelibly, with the doctrine of Commucracy: Communist Democracy. People with Asperger's struggle with social imagination, finding it easier to imagine the end of the world than the end of capitalism: Gloop has returned to slay these twin dragons with one fell swoop. 'There is an undeniable power in Gloop's presence' The List.

MARKISCRYCRYC: HE'S DEAD (Sun 9). Dark fantasy choreography that asks the unanswerable question, 'Was Tupac depressed?' In this conceptual work, four performers use dance, text, live action and original sound at the juncture of darker schemas and atmospheres in order to shed tears for the things that we can't unearth.

MARLBOROUGH THEATRE

4 Princes Street, Brighton marlboroughtheatre.org.uk

JOY NDUKU (Thu 6). Wandia and Subira are identical queer brown twins trying to live their best queer brown lives. A poetic exploration of gender, sexuality, blackness, and what it means to be twins in a world governed by the push and pull politics of assimilation and individualism.

THIS IS WHO I AM (Fri 7). First hand accounts of LGBTQ+ people's experiences of the UK asylum process, read by invited performers, followed by a Q&A discussion panel. "Then they separated us. We tried to say no, we applied for asylum as a couple. They say we don't have any civil evidence that we're a couple. And we're like 'how can we show you any civil evidence if homosexuality is forbidden in my country? Would you want us to go back, get married and be killed?'"

LONG TABLE: QUEER SPACES & ANTI-CAPITALIST RESISTANCE (Sat 8). Across the UK, communities have been resisting government structures that enforce oppressive models of operation in migrant, people of colour, queer, trans and working-class spaces. Much of our communities’ identities are built around capitalist understandings of community spaces, which tap into historical and contemporary traumas. Queer performance icon Lois Weaver (Split Britches) invites you to take a seat at the Long Table to tackle these issues, together with audience members, artists, curators, students and local residents. The Long Table is a dinner party where conversation is the only course with a paper tablecloth, pens to draw, make comments or scribble ideas, and an etiquette sheet – rules that lay the groundwork for a discussion that is structured without being limited.

DR DUCKIE'S HOW TO BUILD A HOPE MACHINE (Sun 9). Join Dr Duckie (aka Ben Walters) for a call to arms. Aimed at community artists, grassroots activists and anyone with a sneaking suspicion things could be better, it unpacks world-making approaches to performance, cabaret, culture and care for so-called ‘marginalised’ communities. It’s about the neoliberal wobble, the technology of queer fun, and doing family differently. It’s about the power of homemade mutant hope machines – ways of thinking, feeling and acting that build better worlds – right here, right now – one day, one show, one dance at a time. It’s full of ideas inspired by Duckie’s work with young LGBTQ+ performers, homeless people, older people, and is relevant to anyone wanting to crack on with utopia. Followed by a Q&A.
ANDREW BECKETT

At five he was playing the hungry caterpillar; at 18 he staged a show for the Queen with 200 performers. Andrew Beckett tells Brian Butler about his passion for inclusive theatre, and his unlikely neighbours - a gay sauna and the HQ of MI6.

Andrew Beckett, the newly-installed artistic director at the Above the Stag Theatre in London’s Vauxhall, describes himself as an “RAF brat” - a five-year-old in Germany where his father was stationed in the RAF. “Rolling around in a jumpsuit as the hungry caterpillar, I thought: I love theatre.” The escapism, the magic of it has never left him, he confesses. At 11 he was staging shows, forcing all his family to take part. He wonders if the escapism appeals because he’s gay, or it’s just a love affair.

In his mid-teens he was working in a Bristol charity, helping kids with disadvantaged backgrounds to continue their education through theatre, directing West Side Story and Sweet Charity. When the Queen came to open their building, he staged a show including all 200 kids at the centre.

After A-level Drama and Art, and six months “bumming about in Greece”, he ended up in a TV costume department, while directing small projects. “My father told me to go to university,” so aged 22, he went to Bath Spa.

“It was predominantly an acting course, but I was directing everything I could. My passion is story-telling, and how an audience interacts with that story,” he says. His first big theatre job was with the summer rep company of Paul Taylor-Mills at Windsor and other venues.

“That was the first time I really put on my director’s hat. One week it was What the Butler Saw and the next A Day in the Death of Joe Egg.”

“We did 12 different shows in 12 weeks. It taught me everything I know: how to direct quickly; how to learn lines quickly; how to set lights quickly.” His introduction to Above the Stag was when it was literally above a pub in Victoria.

“My worlds collided - my passion for theatre and for the LGBTQ+ community. Suddenly I felt a lot more validated. people wanted to work for me and I could earn enough to do it full-time.” One show ticked all the boxes for him. Next Lesson was a play about Section 28. It was a passion project. “I’d experienced the horror of Section 28 in my school.

“I was beaten up in a hallway in front of a teacher, who told me that my attackers were just being silly. I didn’t understand what was happening to me. I thought there was something wrong with me and my feelings for men.”

He was ‘outed’ to his parents by someone he thought he loved. Luckily they took it well - his father whom he’d feared to tell was positive and has remained his biggest influence. Another revelation was that Andrew comes from four generations of gay men “The older ones of course not able to come out. Suddenly my sexuality informed my life more than I ever thought it would.”

His passion remains to see how the theatre can fit into the educational world - to tell those unknown and unseen stories of people’s varied sexuality.

He sees the Vauxhall venue as a place for people to come together - a safe environment in a sometimes hostile world. “People get spat at in Vauxhall bus station. It’s about solidarity, making allies. This building is not just for gay people - it’s to educate our allies, and share our stories with them.” His current quest is to look for new LGBTQ+ drama. “Lots of people are writing it, but it’s not all good,” he admits.

He’s giving writers’ workshop opportunities and while we talk a new script is handed to him. He’s optimistic: “The musical Jamie being in the West End is a great phenomenon.”

His theatre is a charity and it relies on generous benefactors and ticket sales. Its main house is commercially-oriented while its newly-re-launched studio space can take more risks. Its location gives it an advantage - it sits side by side with a gay sauna, with sex clubs and the iconic Royal Vauxhall Tavern. Its new concern is with the growing over 50s LGBTQ+ community, many of whom are isolated. “We want to be a hub, all day, every day, where they can feel welcome.”

So, lots for him to plan, including two LGBTQ+ commissions. By 2021 he wants to be able to transfer successful shows elsewhere. And then there is his other neighbour - the spy HQ of MI6. “Gay people in wartime were poached to be spies - they were good at having a double life, good at lying and keeping secrets. It’s an interesting idea to develop.” You sense there might be a play theme there.

What advice would he give his precocious young caterpillar self? “Your family will be fine; you will meet someone who will love you for you; don’t regret anything but remember that dreams have to be paid for.”

It’s very clear that Andrew has the kind of dreams that are bound to succeed.

“Gay people in wartime were poached to be spies - they were good at having a double life, good at lying and keeping secrets. It’s an interesting idea to develop”
CONCERTS

ACCA
University of Sussex
www.attenboroughcentre.com
1 The Casilgian Quartet (11am, Sun 23) perform Schumann, Janáček and Brahms.

ASSEMBLY HALL
Worthing, 01903 206206, www.worthingtheatres.co.uk
1 The Worthing Symphony Orchestra (2.45pm, Sun 23) performs Mozart, Grieg, Holst, Prokofiev and Mendelssohn’s Violin Concerto with Johan Dalene (violin).

BRIGHTON DOGE
01273 709709, www.brightondome.org
1 The Brighton Philharmonic Orchestra (2.45pm, Sun 23) showcases its brass section in a concert for 10 of their brass players, including music by Susato, Gabrieli, Byrd and Purcell, as well as 20th century works by Koetsier, Hazell and Premru.
2 Piano duo Worby & Farrell, Steven Worby and Kevin Farrell, (2.45pm, Sun 1 Mar) made their debut with the Brighton Philharmonic Orchestra, and now they are back for a concert all of their own, featuring their own arrangements of music including Gershwin’s Rhapsody in Blue, Prokofiev’s Peter & The Wolf, and Addinsell’s Warsaw Concerto.
3 The London Philharmonic Orchestra (7.30pm, Sat 15), conducted by Joshua Weilerstein, are back to perform Dvorák’s Cello Concerto (with cellist Leonard Elschenbroich) and Sibelius.

BRIGHTON UNITARIAN CHURCH
New Rd, 01273 696022, www.brightonunitarian.org.uk
1 Lunchtime concerts at 12.30pm include: Fauré and Mozart (Fri 7) from soprano Rose Berelowitz with Nick Andrews (piano); then Nick Andrews is joined by clarinettist Lyndsay Jeffrey (Fri 14) in music ranging from classical to jazz to 20th century; Soprano Mary Culloty O’Sullivan (Fri 21) mixes Irish ballads, Italian Aria and Love Songs in her programme; whilst Duo Malì, Maria Gibson and Lisa De Simone, guitar and violin (Fri 28) perform Piazzolla, Villa Lobos, Granados and Ibert.

CONGRESS THEATRE
Eastbourne, 01323 412000, www.eastbounentheatres.co.uk
1 The Royal Ballet performs The Cellist and Dances at a Gathering live (Tue 25) from the Royal Opera House. The Cellist is inspired by the life of Jacqueline du Pré, with a score by Philip Feeney that features extracts of Elgar’s Cello Concerto. Dances at a Gathering is a ballet for five couples, set to music by Chopin.

CINEMA
1 The Royal Ballet performs The Cellist and Dances at a Gathering live (Tue 25) from the Royal Opera House. The Cellist is inspired by the life of Jacqueline du Pré, with a score by Philip Feeney that features extracts of Elgar’s Cello Concerto. Dances at a Gathering is a ballet for five couples, set to music by Chopin.

Reviews, comments and events:
1 nicks-classical-notes.blogspot.co.uk
2 @nickbb8uk
3 nbclassical@hotmail.co.uk
It was a turning point in my life as a gay man. I was confronted by lots of personal stories, and a realisation of how much I owed to earlier generations.”

Being planned ending with another London airing.

 Asked to give advice to that five-year old ballet boy, Sam doesn’t really have any. “Everything that has led up to today has made me who I am. The past is the past but it’s made me who I am so I accept it. I wouldn’t change a thing.”

“The show is partly a love letter to Marc and what he allowed me to experience: the heart he opened in me, and how we’ve been allowed to go on and love other people. I’ve now got the writing bug,” he tells me between his performances as a gay Tin Man in the Leeds Playhouse production of The Wizard Of Oz.

“I never thought I had anything to say. But there are other stories to tell, less personal than my own narrative.” They include climate change, a story about children and one about the West Bank. “And Jason has challenged me to write a book about magic.”

His bio includes the skills of puppetry and knitting - how come? “I was in Avenue Q in the West End and I understudied everyone so got to love puppets.”

And knitting? “My grandmother taught me. When I was in the ensemble of Phantom I had a lot of time between scenes and I knitted. I knitted a border collie for my partner David because he’s allergic to dogs.”

“It’s important to keep creative. Actors do a lot of waiting; for shows to come along, or for auditions. Your only power is to say no. Being in control of my own creativity is liberating.”

“Playing myself in Love Is Only Love, it’s important to be truthful. I have to consider myself as a character, not just me; Jason has really helped me with this. There’s something very vulnerable about playing myself and honouring what I’ve written.”

PLAYING HIMSELF

Sam Harrison, West End musical theatre performer, has written a play largely about himself and gay loves of his life. He tells Brian Butler why.

At the age of five, in Sydney, Australia, Sam Harrison was taken to ballet classes by his rugby-playing father.” He saw I was a creative child, and he introduced me to the golden age of Hollywood musicals of the 1930s, 40s and 50s,” and the dye was clearly cast.

“I decided at age seven that musical theatre was what I wanted to do.” His play Love Is Only Love deals, among other things, with his teenage lover, but importantly for Sam, it’s interlaced with those Hollywood musicals of the 1930s, 40s and 50s, “and the dye was clearly cast.

Fast forward to 2017 when Sam became fully engaged in the celebrations to mark the 50th anniversary of decriminalisation of sex between men. “It was a turning point in my life as a gay man. I was confronted by lots of personal stories, and a realisation of how much I owed to earlier generations. I was fascinated by how many of the stories were happy, sexy, romantic and loving, whereas the popular image of these relationships was often tragic.”

“I thought there might be a piece of theatre that reflected that happiness - but no! Often the gay stories we know are of sexual empowerment, but also of danger, violence and death, and often a caricature of gay people for entertainment value. If straight people can have Romeo and Juliet, why can’t we?”

He told his friend, the director Jason Morell, who bet him £100 that he couldn’t write such a happy story in two weeks. “I needed the money so I wrote it. I delved into my own experiences. It’s a true story of my search for love between the ages of six and 14. I discovered my teenage diary, which itemised my first real relationship with a boy called Marc. We were 14 and at the Arts Educational School, London. It depicted the exultation and also the fear I felt. There was no shame, just the fear that Marc might not really love me!”

“That’s the heart of the play. Marc’s seen it and liked it. He’s become a champion of the show. That was important, the story also belongs to him. I’ve reappropriated some of the best love songs of Hart, Porter and Herman and rescued them from the mouths of women.”

The show, directed by Jason Morell, had its first workshop at the Other Palace in Victoria thanks to director Paul Taylor-Mills. Then, at the Pride Festival, it got a full staging, but then went on hold as Sam went into the cast of Les Mis for a year.

In February 2019 it was staged for eight performances at the Other Palace, and the audiences aged 14 to 92 loved it.

“I realised that it talks to all sorts of people and reminds them of their relationships, gay or straight, or just within a family.”

The next outing is at Chichester’s Minerva Studio on February 5 & 6, and a UK tour is being planned ending with another London airing.

Love is Only Love, Wed 5 (7.45pm), Thur 6, (2.45pm & 7.45pm) at Minerva Theatre, Chichester PO19 6AP, Box office: 01243 781312.

For more info, visit: cft.org.uk
ALL THAT JAZZ
BY SIMON ADAMS

JOHN COLTRANE Blue World (Impulse!). There have been quite a few additions recently to the voluminous Coltrane catalogue, of which this set is the latest and perhaps the most surprising. In 1964 American tenor sax legend John Coltrane was asked for the first and only time in his career to provide music for a film. Gilles Groulx’s Le Chat Dans Le Sac was a French-language, art-house movie shot in Montreal. The finished film had limited exposure in the Francophone world, although it won awards at film festivals, and Coltrane’s musical contribution was quickly forgotten and appears in none of his discographies. Yet it has long been hiding in plain sight, as the film is easily streamed online and can be seen on the National Film Board of Canada’s website. For his contribution, recorded by the great Rudy Van Gelder and playing alongside his regular quartet of McCoy Tyner on piano, Jimmy Garrison on bass and Elvin Jones on drums, Coltrane broke with his usual new-music-only policy and looked back at his career, revisiting his beautiful ballad Naïma from 1959, Village Blues from 1960, and the lengthy Traneing In from 1957, among other tracks. Not all the eight tracks and alternate takes made it onto the soundtrack, but their importance is that all are quite different to the originals. Compare and contrast, but also enjoy the reappearance of this wonderful music. After all these years, Coltrane and his quartet still have the ability to astound.

PAUL BOOTH: Travel Sketches (Ubuntu Music). Tenor saxophonist Paul Booth is a regular visitor to Brighton’s Verdict Club in Edward Street as well as being a first-call sideman for the likes of Steve Winwood, Steely Dan, Van Morrison, and even Kylie! Travel Sketches was inspired primarily by places Booth has visited while on tour with various artists. All the eight pieces here were written by Booth, except the concluding Don’t Give Up, an endearing Peter Gabriel song Booth usually ends his sets with. Whatever their origins, they all bear the unmistakable touch of Paul’s way with a tune, his delicate, breathy saxophone delivery, his tangential approach to a line, his subtle harmonics. A soulful set well worth listening to.

MARCO AMBROSINI ENSEMBLE SUPERSONUS: Resonances (ECM). This European quintet plays what can best be described as modernist chamber music, mixing Baroque music from the likes of Frescobaldi and Froberger with a traditional Swedish dance and some new compositions by the band. What stands out is their instrumentation, mixing a Swedish nyckelharpa – basically a keyed violin with 12 resonating strings to enhance the four working strings – an Estonian zither and a square piano alongside vocalist Anna-Maria Hefele’s extraordinary overtone singing. Unfortunately, the set also features a Jew’s harp, offensive in name and even more offensive in sound. If you can ignore its irritating whine, you are in for an atmospheric, intriguing listen to some fine chamber jazz music.

Now that we’ve recovered from the rush and excitement of Christmas and New Year, I’ve source an exceptional exhibition for you to visit and explore not too far away, as well as an opportunity to see my current solo show if you are tempted enough to travel a little further.

139ARTSPACE
139 Greenwich South Street, London, SE10 8NX
www.139artspace.com

ENZO MARRA: DELUGE (until Feb 29). Starting with my news, a rare solo showing of my work at the 139artspace, a non-profit project and exhibition space providing a platform for contemporary artists. Their aim is to bring contemporary art to the public and the local community. The window is open 24/7 featuring a different artist periodically. I’m going to have a window installation visible. The exhibition is a mixed media installation which develops the deluge theme I’ve been exploring in drawn and painted mediums. It includes a ceramic element as well as disposable elements to create a nocturnal scene in the intimate window space. If you find yourself in the area I’m sure it will be worth a wander towards to gaze at. I’m trying hard to get exhibition opportunities closer to Brighton, so hopefully soon enough I will be able to meet some of you at a closer private view.

HASTINGS CONTEMPORARY
Rock-a-Nore Road, Hastings Old Town, TN34 3DW
www.hastingscontemporary.org

ANNE RYAN: EARTHY DELITES (until March 22). A short train ride to Hastings will be well worth your while this month. There is an entry fee but I assure you it will be worth it. Anne Ryan is a contemporary artist creating highly coloured, constructed paintings that focus on figures engaged in a variety of activities. Her subjects dance, party, pose and generally indulge themselves in scenarios that draw on diverse sources from visual culture and the world around her. Ryan has said: “I’m interested in the marginal, the minor, that’s where there might be something still to say or leave unsaid in painting.” Accordingly Ryan might be inspired as much by imagery of indie rock gigs and popular cinema as by classical figurative painting and sculpture. Ryan is creating new work for this major exhibition at Hastings Contemporary, using materials and processes that have been developed during the past few years including her ‘cutouts’, sculptural painted works made from card, collage, canvas, ceramic and metal.

Born in Limerick, Ireland, Ryan studied at Limerick School of Art and Birmingam University and was Abbey Fellow in Painting at the British School at Rome in 2016. She has taught at a number of leading UK art schools and exhibited work at the Royal Academy of Arts in London, CAPC Bordeaux and Kunsterhaus Mousonturm, Frankfurt. Anne lives and works in London and is represented by greengrassi gallery.
GSCENE 51

“Marlene didn’t speak a lot about her bisexuality, her polygamous affairs. Virtually everyone she worked with, men or women, she slept with. She was equally attracted to both sexes.”

Her banishment from Germany lasted many years. When she appeared there in the 1960s she was shouted at and there were bomb threats to stop her concerts. Ute says: “She told me she wanted to go back to Germany one more time - in her coffin; and she did.”

The song *Lily Marlene* has a great significance in Dietrich’s career. She sang it to the Allied troops on the front line in WW2 and it was broadcast via military radio all over Europe. It’s said she spent longer at the front than Allied Supreme Commander General Eisenhower. The Nazis hated her for it.

In Berlin in 1992 Ute was due to recreate Marlene’s famous role in the *Blue Angel*, where she sings her first hit *Falling In Love Again*. “Ten days before our first night Marlene died. I went to her funeral, it was threatened by neo-Nazi demonstrations. Her memorial event in Paris was attended by huge crowds; in Berlin her funeral was attended by under 100.”

But in 2001, for what would have been her 100th birthday celebrations in Berlin, she was finally rehabilitated. Indeed Ute has performed this new Marlene show in the city, doing the whole thing in German. She’s also performed it entirely in French and English.

The show is constantly progressing - it’s been known for Ute to change its format mid-performance, and she now plans a fully-staged version destined for a continuous run in a theatre - first in New York and then hopefully in London. “I may add another performer to play various roles and dance,” she tells me.

Ute has straddled many forms of music and her stage appearances have been heavily dominated by solo work. “I’ve done 30 years of it, but I also love the family feel of ensemble theatre.”

The song choice for this show varies, depending on the country she’s appearing in - more Brel and Piaf in France; more Weill in Germany; more American songs when she’s performing in English.

“The show is deeply tragic, but also comic - after all she claimed to have had 50,000 lovers!”

International performer Ute Lemper has had a career-long love of the songs of the legendary Marlene Dietrich. She tells Brian Butler about her new Marlene show - due in Hove in February.

RENDEZVOUS WITH MARLENE

It was 1987 in Paris and a young performer called Ute had just opened to rave reviews as Sally Bowles in the stage musical *Cabaret*. “On my first night I saw Liza Minnelli and Joel Grey in the front row.” She won the Moliere Award and the media called her the new Liza... the new Marlene, “and I thought oh my God!”

Marlene was then 87, a recluse in her Paris apartment. The young Ute wrote to the ageing performer, apologising for the media hype and the comparison to Marlene. What happened then was the basis of Ute’s new show, Rendezvous with Marlene.

“She rang me and we had a three hour phone conversation about Marlene’s career, her love affairs, her songs. I put it away in my memory and rarely talked about it.”

Fast forward 32 years and Ute decided it was time to revisit that conversation and make something of it. “I decided it was time to give her life again, mixed with my own choices and my own personal experiences. So it’s a dialogue between the two of us, which Marlene takes over in a kind of time warp of both of us. I had to grow to a certain age to capture her bitterness, her craziness; to bring her story back and tell people today how important she was.”

The rise of nationalistic movements, particularly in Germany - new forms of racism against immigrants, along with new views of sexuality, mean it’s the right time, according to Ute.

I wondered how much of the 32-year-old conversation Ute remembered? “I remember some expressions she used; her bitterness about her rejection by her homeland as a traitor in post-war Germany and I’ve done a lot of research too. I don’t imitate her; she had a very different musicality, a very different way of singing, almost speaking some songs.”

“She was a woman of the future, in the 1920s in the 1930s and the 1960s, and she still is today. She broke the rules. She hated authority and autocrats. She was against male domination of society. She was androgynous, and masculine in her style. She was very much the boss and absolutely sexy. It was a new aesthetic at the time.”

RENDEZVOUS WITH MARLENE is on tour and at The Old Market, Hove, February 3, 2020.
NOW YOU SEE ME: LESBIAN LIFE STORIES, edited by Jane Traies (Tollington Press). In this unique archive of life stories, recorded in their own words, women from across the UK share their experiences of living at a time when being lesbian meant hiding your true identity or paying the price for breaking society’s rules. We hear about bold, loving, proud lesbians, living their lives to the full under the disapproving eye of and mostly unaware society. We hear about people at different stages of life, seeking new connections or having to live in situations which require them to be more discreet than in other parts of their lives. It’s full of delicate surprises, some challenging, most delightful, and one or two which leave you thoughtful. The personal is still political in this moving and inspiring book. Traies offers careful and considered insights in between each different voice but is careful to let the subjects talk about their authentic experiences on their own terms. This is a valuable collection of narratives which need to be heard by all members of the LGBTQ+ community, to understand the experiences of lesbian women. The final few chapters look unflinchingly at how ageing and the decline of mental capacity affects relationships and how tenderness, understanding and unconditional love helps overcome the dislocations, decline of mental capacity affects relationships and how tenderness, understanding and unconditional love helps overcome the dislocations, disturbance and distress caused by Alzheimer’s or dementia, robbing lovers of their compassion. Traies ends this testimony of lesbian lives with a heart-warming love story of two women who meet on a beach in Wales as teenagers and fall in life-long love. Parents, marriage, family, jobs and society intrude and divide them but eventually they reconnect and refresh their unquenchable love. Their story made me smile so hard with its tenacious hope triumphant, it’s a lovely end to a collection of narratives which need to be heard by all members of the LGBTQ+ community, to understand the experiences of lesbian women. The final few chapters look unflinchingly at how ageing and the decline of mental capacity affects relationships and how tenderness, understanding and unconditional love helps overcome the dislocations, disturbance and distress caused by Alzheimer’s or dementia, robbing lovers of their compassion. Traies ends this testimony of lesbian lives with a heart-warming love story of two women who meet on a beach in Wales as teenagers and fall in life-long love. Parents, marriage, family, jobs and society intrude and divide them but eventually they reconnect and refresh their unquenchable love. Their story made me smile so hard with its tenacious hope triumphant, it’s a lovely end to a life lived honestly, regardless of the expectation of family or society. Her spirited prose wraps its strong grip on friends, lovers and the women who inspire her. It uncoils itself with a warmth that leaves the poems understood. Poems ought to deposit us in another place, the poet’s place, to reflect, catch our breath or just laugh out loud. Jill embraces the utter delight in being a woman, a lesbian and knowing that life is for living. Her exuberance never smotheres the sometimes delicate subject matter, but gives us strength to face some of it, uncompromised by fear and motivated by unique opportunities.

Kate has contributed to the UK’s graphic novel and cartooning scene for a long time and there’s some wonderful cross pollination going on. Go buy this now and read it throughout LGBTQ+ History Month. The perfect accompaniment.

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SHOPPING
WITH MICHAEL HOOTMAN


2. **Clay Vases from £55** (Dowse, 27 Gloucester Road, Brighton, dowsedesign.co.uk)

3. *Ceramic Watering Can*, £33.99 (England at Home, 22b Ship Street, Brighton, englandathome.com)

4. *Brass Bottle Opener*, £19 (Workshop, 13a Prince Albert Street, Brighton 01273 731340)

5. *Arne Jacobsen Alarm Clock*, £109 (Hold, 14 Bond Street, Brighton, holdbrighton)

6. *Valentine’s Cards from £2.50* (Prowler, 112-113 St James’s Street, Brighton, 01273 603813)

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I LOVE YOUR IRRONIC FACIAL HAIR

I COULD SIT AND STAR AT MY PHONE IN BLISSFUL SILENCE FOR HOURS WITH YOU

TO MY AWESOME VALENTINE

HAPPY VALENTINE’S YOU SEXY BASTARD
CRAIG'S THOUGHTS
La Vie En Rose. Life with my friend.
By Craig Hanlon-Smith
@craigscontinuum

The funeral service for my dear friend Paul, took place a week before Christmas. It is a surreal experience attending such an occasion in an unfamiliar part of a city you know well at any time of year but saying goodbye at Christmas feels unnecessarily cruel. Before the protagonist of the main event arrives, we share leaden hugs with people that are weighted in our histories but that we may have not seen for up to 20 years. Past crushes, past irritations and missed lives drift through the crematorium waiting area as 18-year-old children accompany friends of friends that you were not even aware existed. Whatever our individual stories the detailed plots of which have escaped one another like missed sequels, we are here to commemorate and to celebrate and to mark the end of our relationship with one man. A shared history.

I am irritated to be advised “there are more seats upstairs” expecting a front row seat to have been reserved, but from the gallery (?) I am delighted that he has touched so many to host a funeral that is now standing room only. I picture him ticking the underside of his left index finger and marking a victory line in the air as he had done so many times in life.

Paul had known he was not going to make it to his next birthday for over six months, having battled a debilitating illness for almost two years. Whilst I don’t relish the position, he had time to pen in some detail his own eulogy. He acknowledged that he would have liked to live longer (he died aged 55) but talked us through his ‘charmed life’, via his loves, family, his life partner and friendships. He honoured all those who had been part of his story. Now history.

I met Paul late in 1993 when I got a job in a London back street boozers. I was young postgrad student and totally penniless. I worked five nights a week in that pub and studied during the day. Paul frequented the place and soon with his new beau, helpfully also called Paul. His ex had been Paul too, my bar tending remembering names job was not a difficult one. I had only recently ‘come out’ after an overemotional visit to a Madonna concert and at some eight years my senior I thought both current Pauls spotted my naivety, ignorance and the potential dangers that awaited my gawping gaping gay self.

I don’t remember much about our first conversation because I was legless but I remember where it was. There was a gay night once a month in Deptford at the local Arts & Community Centre called If, anyone who was gay and lived in South East London was there and so were the two Pauls. Perhaps it was my hampered self-introduction, which I do remember included a physical lurch forward, that suggested I needed looking after and without fuss or fanfare from that day forward, the Pauls were on it.

They would quiz me of my London gay venue knowledge and upon immediate realisation that it was terrible to non-existent, offered to introduce me to their favourite pubs, clubs and gay events. Over the next few years I would accompany my gay older brothers to any haunt they chose to invite me to. From 1995 all my London Prides were with the two Pauls and the wider circle of friends they had between them collected through their histories. Their individual and shared life tales and back stories to those they introduced me to were colourful in every conceivable way.

Every moment I spent in their company during those early years I was in awe, admiration and felt lucky to be included. But at the same time felt immediately comfortable and at home. They quickly became my logical family.

It’s the laughter that I remember the most. One late summer evening in their garden awaiting the 11pm taxi to the White Swan, the perpetually single me insisted we all stop talking so that I might listen intently to an instrumental piece of music on the radio playing from a nearby window. I knew that I recognised the melody but couldn’t place it. As the radio DJ announced it had been an instrumental of the Snow White classic Some Day My Prince Will Come we fell onto the grass howling unable to catch our breath. I even peed a little. We were still laughing in the taxi hours later.

As my prince eventually arrived, sadly the Pauls went their separate ways. Selfishly, a separation of partnered friends is tough when you have only known them together, but their parting is not mine to own. Their individual stories went on and both met and married new people, landmark stages in their now separate sequels and this Paul spent many happy years with his beloved Civil Partner Adrian. I remained friends with both Pauls in their new lives although naturally we all spent less time together.

The last time I saw Paul before he told me he was ill, was at the London Soho vigil for the 49 who lost their lives in Orlando at the Pulse nightclub massacre. It was a chance meet as the vigil had been hastily organised and took place some 36 hours after the attack in Florida. As the London Gay Men’s Chorus sang The Way Old Friends Do, Paul simply appeared, unexpected but right on cue. It was a fitting surprise.

Paul. I too wish your story could have gone on. Thank you for being such an important part of my own gay man’s history and for including me in yours. To the out of tune singing at the top of our lungs in South London Mini-Cabs most memorably to Evelyn Champagne King. Daily holiday dancing to I Love to Love on Omos beach Mykonos before all the other gays caught on. For those silver hot pants I wore to Pride 2000. For the 10 days in Amsterdam. For taking me to the Cock Ring and for leaving me there to find my own way. For always smiling as you said; “Here she comes with more front than Brighton”. In your eulogy you talked of how fortunate you were to have been loved. You were loved because you loved and although you are not here… You always will be.

“I had only recently ‘come out’ after an over emotional visit to a Madonna concert and at some eight years my senior I think both current Pauls spotted my naivety, ignorance and the potential dangers that awaited my gawping gaping gay self”
BOYS WILL BE BOYS

It’s February and it’s LGBT History Month, so what have we learned from the past? As far as I can see, absolutely nothing. We know that those who don’t learn from the past are doomed to repeat the same mistakes. The overall aim of LGBT History Month is to promote equality and diversity for the benefit of the public. A very high minded aim, any results, though, are almost impossible to quantify.

In spite of all efforts there are still 73 countries where same-sex relationships are illegal, 12 still have the death penalty for any same-sex activity. The basic reason for this situation is usually religious, but not all religions regard being gay as wrong; in fact the Hindu faith and some others embrace it. Have any of these homophobic countries ever looked back into their own history to check if their attitudes can be justified. Invariably the answer is no.

“In spite of all efforts there are still 73 countries where same-sex relationships are illegal, 12 still have the death penalty for any same-sex activity”

Many present-day African nations have strict anti-homosexuality laws in place, but contrary to assertions by the former President of Zimbabwe, homosexuality is not ‘anti-African’ — and far from it. Before Christian ideas of morality were in the late 1800s, there was little or no stigma attached to homosexuality. Most tribes had LGBTQ+ individuals and practices. Many tribes shared the belief that homosexuality was just something adolescents engaged in as a natural part of the development process. Whether this last statement is true is a matter for debate.

Looking further back, the ancient Egyptians positively revelled in same-sex fun, even depicting some of their gods indulging in some very unusual practices. Today, gay relationships are illegal in Egypt. In the collection of city states known now as Ancient Greece, although as a country it never existed, same-sex practices were accepted as being quite normal in cities such as Sparta and Macedonia, the homeland of Alexander who went on to be Great. He lived openly with his partner, Hephaestion, and never recovered from his death. Whereas in Athens adult intercourse between two men was frowned upon. Plato once said of homosexual relations that it was “utterly unholy” and “the ugliest of things”. Would he have approved of the happenings in Lesotho or even Lesbos? But they were women, and according to them, same-sex practices as immoral, but hypocrities have always existed. It is accepted that there were seven English Kings and Queens who were gay although of course they all had to be married. Richards I and II, William III, James I and most famously Edward II who, legend has it, was executed by having a red hot poker inserted, although it is unlikely to be true.

So have we learned anything from our particular history? I think you can guess my answer, absolutely nothing.

CULTURAL HERITAGE TRANSMISSIONS (...AND EMISSIONS)

As a child Didier Eribon knew that he felt different. Growing up in the socially deprived suburbs of a French town riven with racism, misogyny, toxic masculinity, domestic violence and homophobia, all he wanted was to escape.

As Didier hit adolescence he became increasingly aware of the constant shame that the insult ‘faggot’ evoked. He realised that, for him, ‘this dizzying word, arising from the depths of time immemorial’, and words like them, represented the dreadful presentment that such words, and the violence they carry, would accompany him for the rest of his days.

Didier realised that this stigmatised identity preceded him and he would have to step into it and embody it. He would need to somehow deal with it in one way or another. He would have to find some way out in order to avoid suffocating.

With the charm of his gay youthfulness he entered the cruising scene of his town. Men wanting sex with men would hangout around the public toilets near the theatre in the centre of town. And little by little, at great personal physical, and emotional risk to himself, through a process of repeated sexual emissions and co- incidental social cultural transmissions, he gradually began to assimilate a sense of how to be a young gay man in a small-town-world hostile to his existence.

Didier was a bright kid and began to dream that, by some miracle, if he were to study hard and read lots of books, he might somehow become an intellectual living in the big city where he would be free to live an open life as a gay man.

His extensive reading of communist tracts, Sartre, Gide, Foucault and Simon de Beauvoir, would provide the stepping stones towards an intellectual existence which would ultimately lead to a position as a world renowned academic sociologist, journalist, and author. However, those thousands of informal initiatory gay discussions and discoveries in queer space and time, became the medium through which a cultural heritage was transmitted to him. One which would ultimately allow him to thrive.

In Paris his intellectual friends and colleagues were not wholly welcoming of his sexuality and he began to understand what characterised a queer life, for him, was both the capability and necessity of moving regularly back and forth between spaces from ‘normal’ to ‘abnormal’ and back again. What was most shocking to him, however, was the extent to which, having left behind his working class background and having entered the bourgeois world of academia, the shame he had been made to feel for his sexuality was substituted for a deep shame of his background of poverty and deprivation.

Didier would later read ‘What is important is not what people make of us, but what we ourselves make of what they have made of us’.

So let’s keep talking and socialising and having sex, giving ourselves the queer space to fabulously re-make ourselves from what they have made of us!
There are still important battles to be fought and I trust we not fight them blindly but take the substances, dance like idiots and love each other, young and old. This is what we are and this is becoming the subdominant culture this century because of us. We'll still remain the minority who collectively and unconditionally loves. Something to celebrate. Something to take back into our little niche - once a seedy gay bar or public bath house or Little Freida’s. Take with you that progression, my queer peers.

In closing, I think of Constantine Cavafy, the great queer poet, and of that great poem Ithaca which responds to everyone’s life - wherever they may fall. Based on life’s journey, just like the Homer tale, it talks about where Odysseus sails back from the Troy wars, across the cool Aegean sea (our lives’ journey) past the Cyclops and Laestrygonians (the threateners and haters) and the Minervas (the joys) - navigating all the way back to Ithaca, the end of our life, and our final destination. Naked all of us, except for the knowledge we’ve acquired.

So, as you set out on your life’s adventure toward Ithaca, hope that your road is a long one. Full of adventure, full of discovery. Laestrygonians, Cyclops, angry Poseidon - don’t ever be afraid of them; you’ll never find things like that along the way as long as your thoughts are raised high, as long as rare excitement stirs your spirit and your body. Laestrygonians, Cyclops, wild Poseidon - you won’t encounter them, unless you bring them along inside your soul, unless your soul sets them up in front of you.

Hope your road is a long one but keep Ithaca always in your mind. Arriving there is what you are destined for, but don’t hurry the journey at all. Better that it lasts for years so that you’re old by the time you reach the island, wealthy with all you’ve gained along the way, not expecting Ithaca to make you rich.

It was Ithaca that gave you this marvellous journey. Without her you would never have set out, she has nothing left to give you now. And if you find her poor, Ithaca won’t have fooled you. Wise as you have become, so full of experience, you’ll have understood by then what all these Ithacas mean.

In love, honour and respect. Until some other time and space...

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As they say, all good things… and they say again. It’s been an honour over 10 years to be a part of the Gscene scene. Ups and downs of all things queer and gay and back again, winning some battles, losing many more and yet still standing. If only we’d have said to ourselves ‘perhaps these are the good times’, back then. We’d have no doubt been lashed by our friends and vilified by everyone else. And to think, with the current world leaders that the heteronorm and the patriarchy finally won. Who knew? Perhaps we should have snapped out of it and asked ourselves that question after all.

Because things are getting bad. On the plus side, it doesn’t really affect the queers because we’ve always surfed the angry seas to some unknown destination. As a black trans friend of mine said over the phone on the appointment of Trump - “Aint nothing to do with me babe, my shit’s still rolling on in...”

They can nominate any buffoon they want and at the same time, it still is all the same, over and over again. They can lead us to any jail they want because they’ll all look the same as the last. Admitting powerlessness isn’t weak, it’s having fun. Resistance might be futile - sure we’ve rallied at homogenic fundraisers called Pride events over the years, and proud we should be, we’ve rallied about a massacre in a Florida nightclub, we’ve stated our case, but that’s as much as it is. We’re all on one road - It’s called ‘the ride’ and we’re all only in it for ‘the ride’.

The ride for Charlie Bauer Phd over a 10 year period has taken in several people from across the world writing as one edifying voice. Which is why we’ve decided to retire him to the future of cyber queer history. Charlie Bauer has been out to as many countries as we could get him. Broadcasting from Sydney and Los Angeles and the Middle East. His voice has been heard around the world, he’s been hated, spat upon, overjoyed and occasionally blown, as his tribe have circulated the underworld.

One thing is true, we at Charlie Bauer Phd are nothing but proud of the trouble we’ve caused. Sometimes it was worth the physical attacks to pass the baton on to another writer less jaded by the whole experience.

Charlie Bauer Phd was originally constructed to be a published place to go where anyone could vent themselves in 1,000 words or less to the queer community. (So far we’ve had four). Anyone could be Charlie Bauer so therefore that voice really became just one, always new, pouring away on all the locked doors of the shackled fortresses of heteronormia. Something of a Queer John Doe mouthpiece. A place where every voice was equal. We hope we achieved that over the years.

CHARLIE SAYS

The gentle kiss goodbye.
By Charlie Bauer Phd
http://charliebauerphd.blogspot.co.uk

“So, as you set out on your life’s adventure toward Ithaca, hope that your road is a long one. Full of adventure, full of discovery. Laestrygonians, Cyclops, angry Poseidon – don’t ever be afraid of them”
THE MEANING OF LIFE

A number of years ago I volunteered as a hospice chaplain. There was a wonderful old dear that I visited regularly called Dorothy. Over a couple of years we became close friends. She was 102 years old when she passed away. I remember asking her; “In your many years of experience what lessons have you learned about life?” I’d like to say that she came back with some richly profound comment that I could share with you but the truth is that she smiled and said; “Michael, it’s all just as confusing now as it was when I was a little girl.” So much for the meaning of life.

It was a while before I realised what a gift she’d given me. I’d spent so long looking for some meaning in life. Maybe it’s God and religion? Maybe it’s in sex and experience? Maybe it’s in serving others? Maybe it’s in my personal journey? Maybe it’s in the stars, history, politics, family, my sexuality, a meditation practice, sci-fi (maybe Star Wars?), from the sublime to the ridiculous, and on and on.

In part all of these are the answer, but what Dorothy taught me was the meaning for life is not ‘out there’, or even ‘in here’, but rather that I am the meaning of life.

The meaning of life is you; being human, all the disorder and order, questions and answers, confusion and understanding, all of it experienced in your life. If you are searching hard for the answer to life’s big question then perhaps the reason you can’t find it is that the meaning of life is unfolding in you.

“The meaning of life is you; being human, all the disorder and order, questions and answers, confusion and understanding, all of it experienced in your life”

The Hebrew prayer of remembrance ends with the words:

*We see that victory lies, Not at some high place along the way, But in having made the journey, stage by stage, A sacred pilgrimage. Birth is a beginning, and death a destination, And life is a journey, A sacred pilgrimage.*

In my experience I’ve found that the answer isn’t in one particular religion, but in being the best version of yourself you can be whatever your beliefs. The answer isn’t in a specific spiritual practice, but diving deep into the waters that soothe your soul. The answer isn’t in a book, political ideal, charismatic figurehead, or verbal sleight of hand offered by many a self help Guru. It isn’t even within you. It is you.

You are the love that changes lives. You are the grace that has the power to soothe troubled souls. You are the wonderful light by which the lost find their way. In being you in the world; the light on a hill, the salt of the earth – that meaning enters the world and the whole planet shifts towards its best version of itself.

Dorothy didn’t need to be anything other than who she was to make a difference in me, and you don’t need to be anything other than simply who you are to make a difference in the world. The most simple lesson in the world - and perhaps the hardest to learn.
What shapes a human? Dr Samuel Hall on why no human stands to gain from binary labelling.

LGBT+ History Month. It seems the more we look, the more we find queer history. It has been systematically brushed under the carpet and sealed behind closed doors for centuries. Or worse. In North America during the time of the Spanish conquistadors, two-spirited Native Americans were singled out for annihilation due to their ambivalence to gender norms. Across the Pacific, trans women of colour were respected and admired prior to being whitewashed. ‘Aunties’ were teachers, spiritual guides, shamanic healers and sources of great wisdom in communities from Fiji all the way to Australia and New Zealand. The impact of colonisation on queer history cannot be underestimated.

Like skin colour, queerness has been marked as less than, on the white, cishet, male scale of human equivalence and equality. Emerging evidence, stories, pictures and memories are starting to tell us what we already knew, we have always been here. In the shadows, in the back, in the background, often living in or under a blanket of shame and repression, both public and private. How do we make good the wrongdoings of the past? The Alan Turing story is a great example of the turnaround required to recognise a person’s dignity and contribution to society posthumously. But what of the man in his lifetime?

From a trans perspective, the crushing of our histories means that every time a person comes out, they have to embark on a journey of discovery themselves. It can take years to build up a picture of yourself in relation to those who have been at the vanguard. Many trans people will have painstakingly collected items and memorabilia that tell a story of oppression and suffering in the past, turning in our times to one of hope and emancipation. Thankfully more and more material is becoming available, from books and biographies, to exhibitions and beautifully curated collections such as the Museum of Transology, curated by E-J Scott, which is now heading to permanent storage in the archives of the Bishopsgate Institute where items can still be examined at will. Preserving our stories has become so important, not just because we matter now, today, but because we cannot and do not know what the future holds. How this story develops. What ‘now’ will look like in five or 50 years’ time.

I do have some ideas though, about the future and what might change as a result of trans emancipation. Gender is zeitgeist, a dominant perspective or spirit of our time. For some it’s the rigid application of gender, assigned according to biological sex at birth, that is the single most important tenet in the discussion, whereas for others, most especially perhaps those of us who are living the breakdown of this societal construct with our bodies, it’s the deconstruction of the very notion of gender itself that brings freedom from oppression and discrimination. Not only does the deconstruction of gender favour those who are oppressed by it, predominantly those seen as female, it favours all humanity. No gender means no inequality based on biology, no gender means no pay gap, no gender removes stigma from same-sex relationships, and no gender stops the limitations placed on children according to their most private anatomical differences. It’s gendering that produces misogyny and its evil cousin misandry.

Toxic masculinity has its origins in the reinforcement of gender roles. No human, regardless of their biological attributes, really stands to gain from the binary labelling we’ve chosen. And spare a thought for the millions who are born with genital ambiguity, but forced to conform to a binary expectation with their bodies, often with brutal surgeries denying them both pleasure and bodily autonomy. It’s an anthropological rabbit hole.

A cultural cul-de-sac. How did we get so cruel? I can’t help but look to the Judaeo-Christian and subsequently Islamic traditions for evidence of oppressive enforcement of this binary. I’m not sure it (the gender binary) existed prior to monotheistic religious thinking; I don’t know enough about the anthropological development of the human species. But perhaps from the earliest times of cognition there’s been a sense of order that favours the strength and speed of the male body, and its ability to protect and nurture a smaller, softer, more vulnerable female-bodied partner. In early human times this was a mutually beneficial arrangement whereby the species got to propagate and survive, no, thrive, until we dominated the planet and everything on it.

At what point, I wonder, did violence take a part? Was it there from the beginning as we see in our nearest ape relatives, the chimpzeeze, in whose groups the dominant alpha male gets to mate with all the females and scrap with the competition to maintain these privileges? Did we never grow out of some kind of primeval subjugation of female-bodied people which was necessary then but is no longer? How does the basic animalistic instinct to survive, crucial to reproductive success and survival of the fittest, fit into our 21st century lives? Is not the weaponisation of the penis and the terror it inspires a classic example of gendering?

Just because we have certain biological organs, doesn’t automatically make us behave in particular ways. At some level 99% of what we think of as innate behaviours are simply taught. Your DNA is a blueprint with some sex chromosomes that determine your reproductive capacity. Your personhood, who you become, is shaped by far more influential and powerful epigenetic influences. The nutritional and emotional state of both parents at the times of conception, the safety of the womb, your birth and early nurture, the guidance and parenting you receive, the behaviours others inflict upon you. All these things shape a human. It’s a shame we’ve become so bogged down in gender that it dominates us before we even have a choice.

I long for a gender free world. Where girls and boys are children, where mums and dads are parents, brothers and sisters are simply siblings.
OH NO, NOT AGAIN, NOT THE V DAY

It's almost that time of year again. That time that makes some of us feel inadequate and like the odd ones out. That time that makes you wish you were not single. That time that all media outlets and shops get the opportunity to rub it in your face and remind you how alone you are. You might have already guessed it. Yes, it's Valentine's Day.

Growing up, I could never understand the purpose of this so very special day when people spend money on flowers, cards, gifts, chocolates and other frivolous gestures to express their love for one another.

When I first had Valentine's Day explained to me as a little kid, I was full of questions and would go around asking my elders: “Isn’t love celebrated every day?” “Do you have to wait once a year to tell someone you love them?” and “How come no-one got me anything, am I not loved?”

As the years passed and I became a teenager I realised that it was a celebration of romantic love and limited only for the popular and cool kids in school. The good looking boys would spend their pocket money to buy flowers or an extravagant card with a teddy bear for their good looking girlfriends. The good looking girls, in return, would spend all their time and glitter making some elaborate handmade card, declaring their undying love for their good looking boyfriend. They would then spend the entire day showing off their gifts and cards, trying to make everyone else aware of how lucky they were.

I then became an adult and spent most of my 20s and 30s making cards and lovely gestures for all my single friends. I’d organise a singles day out or a dinner just to remind everyone that we are not alone or miserable on this ‘special’ day. Even though we all know that it is a frivolous celebration and just another opportunity for commercialised marketing materialistic purchases, we still somehow at the back of our minds think that we should be doing something on this special day.

Looking back on the joy and wonder of schooling I did take history for a while, all the way up to A Level (Do A Levels still exist? Are they still a thing?). Eventually ended up with a ‘U’. For those not in the know, that doesn’t stand for ‘Ultimate Knower of All Things’ but ‘Ungraded’. I have no idea how this happened. I had spent most of the previous two years of lectures sat with my friend Alice making "Ungraded". I have no idea how this happened. I had spent most of the previous two years of lectures sat with my friend Alice making a few little comments about the subject. Kings and Queens clearly didn’t do it for me! And I clearly do with it. But ultimately I think I just wasn’t that engaged with the subject. Kings and Queens clearly didn’t do it for me! And I clearly do with it. But ultimately I think I just wasn’t that engaged with the subject. Kings and Queens clearly didn’t do it for me! And I clearly do with it. But ultimately I think I just wasn’t that engaged with the subject. Kings and Queens clearly didn’t do it for me! And I clearly do with it. But ultimately I think I just wasn’t that engaged with the subject. Kings and Queens clearly didn’t do it for me! And I clearly do with it. But ultimately I think I just wasn’t that engaged with the subject. Kings and Queens clearly didn’t do it for me! And I clearly do with it. But ultimately I think I just wasn’t that engaged with the subject. Kings and Queens clearly didn’t do it for me! And I clearly do with it. But ultimately I think I just wasn’t that engaged with the subject. Kings and Queens clearly didn’t do it for me! And I clearly do with it.

But there we are. We’re all different and we all have our things. The things I spend my time on would baffle and confuse most people. Have I shown you my mug collection? There’s a story to go with each one. Plus I’ve done etchings of them all! No, honestly I have! OK, perhaps I haven’t but I’m sure someone somewhere would be interested if I had. Most of you wouldn’t but someone would. And that’s fine. Different strokes for different folks and all that.

WHOLE LOTTA HISTORY

LGBTQ+ history. Now there’s a thing. I don’t know an awful amount about LGBTQ+ history if I’m honest. I’m really not that fussed. There’ll be some who would be shocked to hear that admission. Some wouldn’t understand how on earth I can be a 40 (cough)-year-old gay man and not know everything about what came before me. But here I am. The Chorus did a show last summer about some LGBTQ+ milestones and I learnt some things I’ve not known before. Which is good.

I do think there’s a bit of mild snobbery about it. That if you don’t know about such things then you’re somehow not a proper member of gay society. Whatever gay society is. Is this a controversial view? I don’t know... it might be seen as such.

If I think about why I don’t know too much about some aspects of the gay past I can only come up with the fact that I’m not that interested! Shocking I know, but I can’t fake a desire to learn about something I’m not that turned on to. ‘But you have to know about the struggles of the past’ I hear being yelled at me as you read this. I don’t have to know. Some might want me to but I don’t have to. I know some guys love to learn about such things but I’m not one of them. I know some guys who think it’s the duty of every gay man to look back at our social and political manoeuvres, take inspiration and learn lessons from them. But, I’m sorry, it’s just not me!

“I do think there’s a bit of mild snobbery about it. That if you don’t know about such things then you’re somehow not a proper member of gay society. Whatever gay society is”

In Finland and Estonia, Valentine’s Day, on the 14th of February, is celebrated as Friends’ Day. So, now in my 40s, I still make an effort to remind everyone that even though we are not in a romantic relationship and we might not be receiving flowers or chocolates, we are still loved and we can still offer joy and happiness to someone else by making them feel special on this day.

Let’s all try and celebrate this year’s Valentine’s Day just like our Finnish and Estonian neighbours do. Let’s show one another the love and appreciation that we have for our friends who are always there for us. The special people and partners in our lives should already know that they are loved as we show it to them every day.

Here’s to a Happy Friends’ Day on the 14th of February.
MindOut, it would be hers.

If I had to choose a poet and poem which to the world.

There are people who share our experiences, we have the right to feel that we belong. There are people who share our experiences, no matter how awful our circumstances, no matter how awful our experiences, we have the right to feel that we belong. There are people who share our experiences and our feelings, even if that seems remote or unlikely. She encourages us to feel that we can belong, to each other and to the world.

If I had to choose a poet and poem which expressed what we are trying to do at MindOut, it would be hers.

WILD GEESE by Mary Oliver

You do not have to be good.
You do not have to walk on your knees for a hundred miles through the desert, repenting.
You only have to let the soft animal of your body love what it loves.
Tell me about despair, yours, and I will tell you mine. Meanwhile the world goes on.
Meanwhile the sun and the clear pebbles of the rain are moving across the landscapes, over the prairies and the deep trees, the mountains and the rivers.
Meanwhile the wild geese, high in the clean blue air, are heading home again.
Whoever you are, no matter how lonely, the world offers itself to your imagination, calls to you like the wild geese, harsh and exciting— over and over announcing your place in the family of things.
The Summer Day contains a brilliant and quotable line about ‘your one wild and precious life’. Mary is asking us directly what we want and challenging us to make choices.

THE SUMMER DAY by Mary Oliver

Who made the world?
Who made the swan, and the black bear?
Who made the grasshopper?

This grasshopper, I mean—

the one who has flung herself out of the grass, the one who is eating sugar out of my hand, who is moving her jaws back and forth instead of up and down— who is gazing around with her enormous and complicated eyes.
Now she lifts her pale forearms and thoroughly washes her face.
Now she snaps her wings open, and floats away.
I don’t know exactly what a prayer is. I do know how to pay attention, how to fall down into the grass, how to kneel down in the grass, how to be idle and blessed, how to stroll through the fields, which is what I have been doing all day. Tell me, what else should I have done?

Doesn’t everything die at last, and too soon?
Tell me, what is it you plan to do with your one wild and precious life?

She also writes beautifully about loving the natural world around us, hopefully we can do that even in the depths of winter.

Many of us turn to poetry for inspiration, comfort, understanding and solace. Poetry can save lives! Learning and reciting poetry can be a powerful tool, some use it as a way to counter the negative or distressing thoughts that can plague us, especially at times of crisis, anxiety and depression.

As Maya Angelou said, “Poetry can tell us what human beings are. It can tell us why we stumble and fall and how, miraculously, we can stand up.”

Some recommend ‘slow reading’ of poetry as a way to combat stress. Website www.ReLit.org.uk has a toolkit for using poetry to calm us, based on a reading by Sir Ian McKellen, well worth trying out.

Writing poetry yourself can be an excellent way to find the freedom of expression to talk about mental health and a great way to find out about feelings and experiences which may have otherwise been hidden. For example Mary Lambert (who teamed up with Macklemore to write the song Same Love) has used poetry and song to express the trauma of rape and of coming out in a deeply religious family. This led to her writing a book of poetry Shame Is An Ocean I Swim Across.

MINDOUT INFO

If you would like to talk to us about mental health, please do contact us for confidential, non-judgemental support. MindOut offers advocacy, advice and information, peer support, suicide prevention, affordable counselling, online support, anti-stigma campaigning and training for professionals.

Do get in touch if you would like to know more:

email info@mindout.org.uk
or call 01273 234839
or visit: www.mindout.org.uk
START THE NEW YEAR – HECK, NEW DECADE – WITH MAXIMUM GYMFIDENCE!

Gymfidence – noun, confidence in the gym or while working out. You’ve decided you want to get fit and start practising self-care – good for you! Exercise environments can sometimes seem intimidating, but this is usually just our perception of them, aka the unknown = scary.

However getting comfortable so you can just quietly get on with your workout doesn’t take as long as you may think and to help speed up the process, here are 10 handy tips to get you started…

1. Figure out when your gym is quietest and go then. If you Google the specific branch of your gym, it will tell you this which is handy!

2. Go with a friend. Sounds obvious, but if you’ve never tried it, it will transform the experience, you get accountability, someone to push you, someone to spot you, someone to halve any embarrassment you might feel; it’s fun!

3. Put your headphones on AND your phone on flightmode. Spotify and Audible let you download songs/books so you can go in and be undisturbed by the outside world, letting exercise become your meditation. You favourite songs and podcast can help you power through and stay focused on what you’re there to do.

4. Have a plan and practice it beforehand. With competence comes confidence. If you know what you’re doing, you can just walk in there and do what you want to do. Watch videos in advance, even practise the moves at home or at a free gym in the park, and after a few times you’ll be a pro…

5. Or just do home workouts. They can be just as effective as a gym workout and it removes any external stresses. Buy a 5kg pair of dumbbells if you’re just starting out and take it from there.

6. Or in fact, do you want/need to be there? If you’ve tried the gym before and just don’t get on with it, that’s A-OK - there are hundreds of different ways to build health and fitness into your life, you don’t have to go to a gym if it’s not your thing.

7. Treat yourself to some new workout clothes and trainers. It’s modern armour and can inspire you to step it up. Plus it doesn’t have to break the bank, TK Maxx always has a great sportswear section and always have bargains!

8. Work with a professional to learn from the best. All gyms should offer you at least one free session to get started and the PTs in your gym may give you a session too, as they want your business - don't be afraid to ask and try a few out to see who suits you and your goals.

9. Take a step back and ask yourself WHY you’re there. Just to get fitter is fine, but maybe you’ve got a child and want to be able to carry her without getting out of breath, or maybe you want to build confidence to apply for a new job. Finding a deeper motivation can be amazing.

10. Think about how much money you’re wasting every time you don’t go. The more you go, the cheaper it becomes pro rata. Two sessions a month at £30 a visit just to use the treadmill may not be the best use of your funds…
**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 all homophobic, biphobic or transphobic incidents to: 24/7 assistance call Police on 101 (emergencies 999)
  Report online at: www.sussex.police.uk
  LGBT team (not 24/7) email: LGBT@sussex.pnn.police.uk
  • LGBT Officer PC James Breeds: Tel. 101 ext 551868 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@lgbt-help.com or www.lgbt-help.com

- **BRIGHTON & HOVE LGBT SWITCHBOARD**
  • LGBT Older Peoples’ Project
  • LGBT Health Improvement and Engagement Project
  • LGBTQ Disabilities Project
  • Rainbow Café: 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
  www.switchboard.org.uk/brighton

- **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 698032 or visit www.womenscentre.org.uk

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

- **LGBT COCAINE ANONYMOUS**
  Meeting every Tues 6.30-8pm, 6 Tilbury Pl, Brighton, BN2 1TP. 01273 675445 or visit www.thetrainwbhubbrighton.com

- **SOME PEOPLE**
  Social/support group for LGBT or questioning aged 14-19, Tue 5.30-7.30pm, Haslides. Call/text Catherine Connolly 0797 3255076 or email somepeople@eastsussex.gov.uk

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

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

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

- **VIC'TOM SUPPORT**
  Practical, emotional support for victims of crime 08453 899 528

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

  - **AVERT**
    Sussex HIV & AIDS info service 01403 212020 or email confidential@avert.org

  - **BRIGHTON & HOVE CAB HIV PROJECT**
    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.brightonhocecab.org.uk

  - **CLINIC M**
    Free confidential testing & treatment for STIs including HIV, plus Hep A & B vaccinations. Claude Nicola Centre, Sussex County Hospital, on Weds from 5-8pm.
    01273 664 721 or www.brightonsexhealth.com

  - **LAWSON UNIT**
    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, Marborough Pub and The Rainbow Hub martinfisherfoundation.org

  - **SUBSTANCE MISUSE SERVICE**
    Pavilions Partnership. Info, advice, appointments & referrals 01273 731 900. Drop-in: Richardson House, Richardson Rd, Brighton, Mon-Wed & Fri 10am-4pm, Thur 10am-7pm, Sat 10am-11pm; The Dove, 01273 680714 Mon & Wed 10am-12pm & 1pm-3pm, Tue & Thu 10am-4pm. info & advice only (no assessments). Fri 10am-12pm & 1pm-3pm.
    • Gary Smith (LGBT+ Support) 07884 476634 or email gsmith@pavilions.org.uk
    For more info visit weblink: 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 health/local services. THT Brighton Outreach workers online on Grindr, Scruff, & Squirt
    • Condom Male: discreet, confidential service posts free condoms/lube/sexual health info to men who have sex with men without access to East Sussex commercial gay scene
    • Positive Voices: volunteers who go to organisations to talk about personal experiences of living with HIV
    • Fastest (HIV testing): walk-in, (no appointment) rapid HIV testing service open to MSM (Men who have sex with Men). Anyone from the African communities; male and female sex workers and anyone who identifies as Trans or non-binary. We now offer rapid 15 minutes results for HIV/Syphilis: Mon 10am–8pm, Tues-Fri 10am–5pm, Thurs 10am–8pm (STI testing available)
    • Sauna Fastest at The Brighton Sauna (HIV testing): walk-in, (no appointment) rapid HIV testing service for men who have sex with men, results in 20 minutes: Wed 6–8pm (STI testing available)
    • Face2Face: confidential info & advice on sexual health & HIV for men who have sex with men, up to 6 one hour appointments
    • Specialist Training: wide range of courses for groups/individuals, specific courses to suit needs
    • Counselling: from qualified counsellors for up to 12 sessions for people living with/affected by HIV
    • What Next? Thurs eve, 6 week peer support group work programme for newly diagnosed HIV+ gay men
    • HIV Support Services: info, support & practical advice for people living with/affected by HIV
    • HIV Welfare Rights Advice: Find out about benefits or benefit changes. Advice line: Tue–Thu 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 0759086590 or grace.coughlan@tht.org.uk

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

**NATIONAL HELPLINES**

- **NATIONAL LGBT DOMESTIC ABUSE HELPLINE** at galop.org.uk and 0800 999 5428
- **SWITCHBOARD** 0300 330 0630
- **POZITIVELINE (EODIE SURMAN TRUST)**
  Mon–Fri 11am–10pm, Sat & Sun 4-10pm 0800 1696806
- **MAINLINERS** 02075 825226
- **NATIONAL AIDS HELPLINE** 08000 67123
- **NATIONAL DRUGS HELPLINE** 08007 76600
- **THT AIDS Treatment phoneline** 08459 700474
- **THT direct** 0845 1221200

**GSCENE**
FOOD & COFFEE
mon - sat til 5pm | sun til 4pm
breakfast, lunch & sunday roast
come & try frank’s winter menu

DOUBLE-UP
on house spirit & mixer
doubles for just £1 extra
sunday to friday

WINE PROMO
monday - friday 12-11pm
buy a bottle, get a 2nd ½ price
on red, white and rosé

DAVE DOES MONDAYS
Dave Lynn & friends bring some ‘chutzpah’ to Mondays every week from 9.30pm

A Bit of Midweek Sparkle
featuring...
5th Allan Jay 12th Alfie Ordinary 19th Nicole Moattarian 26th Pooh La May

Every Friday from 9.30pm
The Brighton Belles
featuring Brighton’s favourite cabaret stars and their guests

Sunday Roast 12.30-4pm & Cabaret 3.30pm
2nd Lola Lasagne 9th Davina Sparkle 16th DWNN 23rd Topsy Redfern

Davina invites you to her weekly Wednesday nighter, in her Starlight room with Amazing guest star friends, every week.

*Deals/Promos/Programme may be subject to change. Mixer from the Gun. T&C’s Apply.

31-34 Marine Parade | Brighton | Tel: 01273 624462

Don’t Miss Jason’s Birthday with Davina & more Thurs 27th Feb from 8pm