CELEBRATING OUR LGBTQ+ ALLIES
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BRIGHTON & HOVE PRIDE ANNOUNCES HEADLINE ACTS

Global superstars and LGBTQ+ allies Mariah Carey and the Pussycat Dolls are to headline Brighton & Hove Pride, FABULOSO Pride In The Park, on Saturday, August 1 and Sunday, August 2.

The main stage is always highly popular and the source of much rumour and speculation, but Pride is also providing the very best platform for LGBTQ+ artists across all stages and performance zones. Building on the success of last year’s Queer Town and BAME stages, for 2020 Brighton & Hove Pride is programming even more new and exciting areas for the Fabuloso two-day festival and LGBTQ+ artists and allies are the priority. As well as the ever-popular Legends Cabaret Stage, additional performance zones this year will include a Queer Theatre space, Spoken Word, the Catwalk Stage featuring LGBTQ+ artists, and the opportunity for LGBTQ+ and QTIPOC performers to be an integral part of the UK’s biggest Pride Festival.

Thousands of Pride supporters have already taken advantage of the ‘early bird’, first and second release tickets for the Official community Fundraiser FABULOSO – Pride In The Park. NOW is your opportunity to avoid the rush and get your tickets… and remember there are headline artists over both days!

For more info, visit www.brighton-pride.org

THE PUSSYCAT DOLLS

Brighton & Hove Pride are also thrilled to announce era-defying, chart-topping, button-pushing, multi-platinum pop sensations the Pussycat Dolls will perform on Sunday, August 2 at FABULOSO Pride In The Park. Fresh from their acclaimed new single React, Nicole Scherzinger, Ashley Roberts, Kimberly Wyatt, Jessica Sutta and Carmit Bachar will perform a full 75-minute show – the first time they have ever performed at a Pride event in the UK.

The Pussycat Dolls said “We’re honoured to headline Brighton Pride. It’s such a massive and important event bringing everyone together for one big weekend of acceptance and love, which is what the Pussycat Dolls are all about. We can’t wait to share our show with you all and have the biggest party ever!”

Paul Kemp, Director of Brighton & Hove Pride, added: “For our 30th anniversary we’re really excited that LGBTQ+ icons the Pussycat Dolls will be headlining the FABULOSO main stage on with a UK exclusive performance.”

MARIAH CAREY

Brighton & Hove Pride has announced global superstar and LGBTQ+ ally Mariah Carey will be headlining FABULOSO Pride In The Park on Saturday, August 1. In a video tweeted following the announcement, the superstar songbird, who has sold more than 200 million albums worldwide, is known for her five-octave range and 19 number one singles in the US, including Fantasy, Someday, Honey, Emotions, We Belong Together and Vision of Love, said: “So people keep asking me, am I doing Brighton Pride this year? I guess, my answer is – do I have an album called Rainbow? Of course I’m doing Brighton Pride this year, darlings! I can’t wait to see you there on Saturday, August 1!”

Chris Jepson, from the festival, said: “A huge LGBTQ+ ally, Mariah is truly the template of the modern pop performer and will perform at the two-day FABULOSO Pride In The Park on Saturday, August 1 and we’re delighted that this performance will mark the first time they’ve ever performed at a Pride event in the world. We are beyond thrilled that Mariah is joining our LGBTQ+ celebrations for our 30th anniversary. Mariah is a staunch LGBTQ+ ally and having her perform at Pride really helps us highlight our campaigning for LGBTQ+ equality to a global audience.

“Pride is a celebration of how far we have come but it’s also an ongoing campaign for those marginalised communities at home and abroad who still suffer persecution on a daily basis. Our fundraising events will ensure that we continue to raise vital funds for our local LGBTQ+ and community projects.”

2020 is the 30th anniversary of Brighton & Hove Pride culminating in a weekend of campaigning, celebrating and fundraising for LGBTQ+ and community projects in Brighton & Hove over Saturday, August 1 and Sunday, August 2. Brighton & Hove Pride is a celebration of how far we have come but it is also an ongoing campaign for those marginalised communities at home and abroad who still suffer persecution on a daily basis. Brighton & Hove Pride’s fundraising events will ensure that they continue to raise vital funds for local LGBTQ+ and community projects.

For tickets and info, visit www.brighton-pride.org

CELEBRATING BRIGHTON & HOVE PRIDE’S 30TH ANNIVERSARY

2020 is Brighton & Hove Pride’s 30th anniversary. Organisers say: “We are all hugely proud of our three decades of campaigning, protest and celebration of LGBTQ+ diversity in our city. With that in mind Brighton & Hove Pride is pulling out all the stops to make it one to remember!”

This year Pride in the Park runs over two days – Saturday, August 1 and Sunday, August 2 – and will debut some fantastic new areas of entertainment to accompany the regular favourites.
QUEENIE & WILDBLOOD JOIN 1BTN INTERNATIONAL WOMEN’S DAY TAKEOVER

Local independent radio station 1BTN returns with its annual all-day female takeover for International Women’s Day (IWD) on Sunday, March 8, 2020. A fundraiser for the Girls Network, the 1BTN IWD Takeover will have a phenomenal line-up of female presenters and special guests including Gsence contributors Queenie & Wildblood. The IWD 2020 campaign is  EachForEqual, which will be at the heart of the day. From 10am - midnight the airwaves of 1BTN will be filled with a range of diverse genres from DJs Katty Manville, Sista Selecta, Catherine Sones with Club Click, Kerry Jean Lister & Suze Rosser’s Feel Up with Club Barba Special, Wildblood & Queenie, Katie Blackwell, Chantal Irrelti, Clara Suess with Inter-mission, Jayney Blam Blam, Hannah Sherlock & Kathy Ellis’s Love is the Message, Jayne Winstanley, Sophie Joyful Paul, Priya and Black Feather.

The Girls Network mission is to inspire and empower girls from the least advantaged communities by connecting them with a mentor and a network of professional female role models. They believe that no girl should have their future limited by their background, gender or parental income.

Based in Brighton & Hove and broadcasting worldwide via www.1btn.fm, 1BTN has become one of the UK’s most respected independent radio stations since its launch in 2015 with 200 presenters spanning more than 100 shows.

Listen to the 1BTN IWD Takeover on 1BTN from 10am-midnight on Sunday, March 8, 2020, on 101.4FM and DAB+ in the Brighton & Hove area, and worldwide www.1btn.fm. Lend your voice #PushTheBTN

For more info about IWD, visit www.internationalwomensday.com
For more info about Girls Network, visit www.thegirlsnetwork.org.uk

IWD CELEBRATION 2020

Brighton Women’s Centre joins Brighton Dome and Brighton Museum on Saturday March 7, to celebrate International Women’s Day 2020 (IWD) with a programme of inspiring talks, workshops, children’s activities, entertainment, food, music and specially commissioned work reflecting the issues of the day.

This year’s theme is Women and the Climate Emergency. Green MP Caroline Lucas and a panel of experts and activists will discuss how gender inequality leaves women more vulnerable to climate change and how women are leading the way to tackle the crisis. There will be talks on sustainable fashion and eco-anxiety, fun climate-themed experiments with Brighton Science Festival, a Green Magic show with Megan Knowles-Bacon, plus environment-themed crafts and stalls. You can sing with Aneesa Chaudhry, Rainbow Chorus MD, dance the Charleston with Brighton Lindyboppers, do a stage fighting workshop with Alison de Burgh, polish up your performance skills with Anabelaïski, make paper flowers with Saltdean Crafters, delve into the past with Brighton & Hove Women’s History Group and celebrate 100 pioneering women of the 21st century in a major exhibition by photographer Anita Corbin whose striking images capture an impressive record of female achievement.

International Women’s Day 2020, Brighton Dome and Museum, Church Street, Brighton, 10am-5pm. Saturday, March 7. All welcome, free entry (donations to Brighton Women’s Centre are very welcome). Women only spaces at IWD are open to ALL self-identified women.

For full programme details, visit www.brightoninternationalwomensday.org/
For more info about Brighton Women’s Centre, visit womenscentre.org.uk

MINDOUT SHORTLISTED FOR BRITISH LGBT AWARD

For the second year running, MindOut, the LGBTQ+ mental health service, has been shortlisted for a British LGBT Award in the category Top 10 LGBT+ Charities or Community Initiatives. MindOut, a mental health service run by and for LGBTQ+ people, works to improve the mental health and wellbeing of LGBTQ+ communities and to make mental health a community concern. Last year it helped 1,342 people struggling with social isolation, suicidal distress, financial hardship, discrimination and prejudice, hate crime and exclusion.

Helen Jones, CEO of MindOut, said: “We would be delighted if people voted for us. A vote for us is a vote for mental health, winning this award would mean that more people in our communities get to know about the services we offer, more people would think about mental health positively and would do loads to help people question stigma about mental health.”

The British LGBT Awards were born in 2014 with the aim of shining a spotlight on role models and organisations who are working tirelessly to better the needs of LGBTQ+ people. All categories are voted on by the general public and last year the Awards recorded approximately 150,000 unique voters. Winners will be announced on Friday, May 29, 2020 at The Brewery, London.

To see nominees and vote, visit: www.britishlgbtawards.com/top-10-lgbt-charities-or-community-initiatives-2019/

BODY SHOP DONATES £15,000 TO MINDOUT

MindOut, the LGBTQ+ mental health service, has been chosen as one of the Body Shop’s chosen charities and will receive £15,000 towards improving mental health and wellbeing in the LGBTQ+ community.

Helen Jones, MindOut CEO, said: “The Body Shop has been so generous in its donation to our work. This will help us to continue to provide essential and much-needed mental health support over the next 12 months. We can’t thank it enough. It is a great example of a company getting involved in community issues and making a real difference.”

For more info on MindOut, visit: www.mindout.org.uk

RAINBOW CHORUS BAKE OFF

Gill Davies won the Rainbow Chorus’ new members’ night bake off in January with Phil coming second with his Ginger Battenberg. The chorus aimed to welcome new members with an evening as entertaining and tasty as possible and this year there were over 35 entries into the exceedingly tasty competition.

For more info, visit: www.rainbowchorus.org.uk
FOOTBALL ALLIES COMMUNITY EVENT

LGBTQ+ allies Whitehawk Football Club are hosting their annual Community Day on Saturday, March 28 and organisers encourage people from all areas of our diverse communities to attend. In April 2019, hundreds turned out to Whitehawk FC’s TerraPura Ground to take part in the initiative set up by The Hawks and this year Kevin Miller, head of commercial, is hoping for an even greater success. Speaking to Gscene for the LGBTQ+ Allies issue, Miller said: “We want to reach out to our community – not just in East Brighton but the whole of the region – creating shared experiences and a sense of togetherness. These days our communities are becoming more and more isolated and insular, and so any opportunities for people to share in whatever environment, can only be a good thing”.

In 2019 more than 17 organisations were on hand to offer advice and information on healthy living options, free fitness courses, the Parkrun in East Brighton Park, campaigns and local events in the local area, and included representations from local businesses and community organisations. The community day was designed to make the people of East Brighton aware of some of the courses, free events and healthy lifestyle support that is available in their community. The day will also see the home leg of their second fixture against Guernsey FC. The Hawks have already secured one win against the club, playing in their famous away kit decorated with the LGBTQ+ Rainbow Flag. Inclusivity is key to the club’s message and Kevin Miller says: “This is what makes the club so special and we want to open the doors to everyone. Football should not be a barrier.”

The Whitehawk Community Day, TerraPura Ground. East Brighton Park, Wilson Avenue, Brighton BN2 5TS, Saturday, March 28 at 12.30pm. Tickets: Adult £10, OAPs/Students/Under 17s £5, Under 10s Free (when accompanied by a paying adult); Dogs free (though must be kept on a lead).

For more info visit: www.whitehawkfc.com

TEAM ALLSORTS TO WALK, RUN AND DANCE 5K AT BRIGHTON RUN 2 MUSIC

Team Allsorts will walk, run and dance 5k together at Brighton Run2Music on Saturday, May 30, 2020, to raise funds for their vital LGBTQ+ youth work. The team is made up of a spectrum of people involved in Allsorts Youth Project, staff, supporters, volunteers, young people, friends, and family. With an initial target of £100 each, Team Allsorts aims to raise £2,000 to go towards their free services in Brighton, Worthing, Horsham, and Chichester. To donate, visit www.virginmoneygiving.com/fund/allsortsrun2music

Currently celebrating their 20th year of specialist services and community outreach, Allsorts Youth Project listens to, supports and connects children who are LGBTQ+ or unsure of their gender identity and/or sexual orientation. Allsorts Youth Project say: “We thank you for any contribution you can make, large or small. Your support and donations allow Allsorts Youth Project to continue empowering children and young people throughout Sussex and working towards our vision of a world in which all LGBTQ+ people are free to thrive.”

To get involved, email fundraising@allsortsyouth.org.uk

For more info on Allsorts, visit www.allsortsyouth.org.uk

For more info on Run2Music, visit: www.brightonRun2Music.com

SOBER SESSIONS EVERY WEDNESDAY AT THE RAINBOW HUB

Sober Sessions, a series of events for LGBTQ+ people to take part in mindful and creative activities in a safe and sober environment, return to the Rainbow Hub in Brighton every Wednesday from 6pm. Activities (such as queer bunting/mural making) are announced the week before so visit the Rainbow Hub on Facebook or pop in and speak to someone before the event. Attendees are encouraged to bring their own soft drinks/snacks and to make a donation to help pay for materials.

Sober Sessions at Rainbow Hub, 93 St James Street, Brighton, BN2 1TP; every Wednesday, 6-8pm.

For more info about Rainbow Hub, visit: therainbowhubbrighton.com

TEAM ALLSORTS TO WALK, RUN AND DANCE 5K AT BRIGHTON RUN 2 MUSIC

www.virginmoneygiving.com/fund/allsortsrun2music

Currently celebrating their 20th year of specialist services and community outreach, Allsorts Youth Project listens to, supports and connects children who are LGBTQ+ or unsure of their gender identity and/or sexual orientation. Allsorts Youth Project say: “We thank you for any contribution you can make, large or small. Your support and donations allow Allsorts Youth Project to continue empowering children and young people throughout Sussex and working towards our vision of a world in which all LGBTQ+ people are free to thrive.”

To get involved, email fundraising@allsortsyouth.org.uk

For more info on Allsorts, visit www.allsortsyouth.org.uk

For more info on Run2Music, visit: www.brightonRun2Music.com

NEW STEINE HOTEL & BISTRO

Special offer for Gscene readers

Sunday-Thursday 12noon-11pm
Friday & Saturday 12noon-12 noon

Our classic dishes: Duck Feie Gras • Smoked Mackarel Rillet • Timbale d’Escargot • Guinea Fowl Balti • Sussex Pork Belly • Duck Confit & lentil • Crispy Duck Ribs • Lemon Meringue Tart

Spring menu: Onion Tart • Soft & Pepper Squid • Duck Rillettes • Crispy Chcken Roll • Roasted Cod & chorizo • Sussex Lamb Roast • Ribeye Steak & chips • Crème Brulée

We can offer Private Dining for your Special Occasion - call us for details!
FREE EVENTS
“BACK TO THE FUTURE”...
PRIDE LGBTQ+ COMMUNITY PARADE
PRIDE PLEASURE GARDENS
PRIDE COMMUNITY DAY & DOG SHOW
30 YEARS OF QUEER EXHIBITION

FUNDRAISING EVENTS
FABULOSO PRIDE IN THE PARK
PRIDE VILLAGE PARTY

BRIGHTON-PRIDE.ORG
**FREE TRANS FILMS SCREENINGS AT JUBILEE LIBRARY**

To mark Trans Visibility Day, Jubilee Library are holding a free screening of a selection of My Genderation shorts as well as the feature length documentary, *I Am They*, on Sunday, March 29 at 1.30pm. *I Am They* is a feature length documentary that explores non-binary trans issues from the personal perspective of Fox and Owl Fisher, non-binary trans activists and filmmakers from Brighton. In the film they explore issues and challenges faced by non-binary trans people, such as legal recognition, language, health care and social acceptance.

The film is intended to be educational and explores social issues but it is also a love story of two people from different backgrounds finding each other.

**International Transgender Day of Visibility** is honoured every year on March 31 and is a time to celebrate transgender people around the globe and the courage it takes to live openly and authentically, while also raising awareness around the discrimination trans people still face.

Jubilee Library present two free film screenings every Sunday, one for children and one for adults. Information about the films to be shown each week is advertised inside the library.

*I Am They* and *My Genderation Shorts* will be screened on Sunday, March 29 at 1.30pm, in Conference Room 2 on the Mezzanine Level of Jubilee Library. Jubilee St, Brighton BN1 1GE.

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**PUBERTY BLOCKERS CAN SAVE LIVES**

A new study by the US Centers for Disease Control & Prevention has found that young trans people face a greater risk of suicide but puberty blockers can be “life-saving”. Published in medical journal *Pediatrics*, the research found that having access to puberty blockers reduces the likelihood of trans teens experiencing mental health problems and thoughts of suicide. These drugs delay the onset of puberty until a trans teenager is old enough to decide on medical treatment. The research coincides with a handful of US states considering restrictions on transgender health care. Such restrictions would go against medical guidelines from several associations, including the Endocrine Society, which suggests doctors offer “pubertal suppression therapy”, which became an option in the US in 1998.

Dr Michelle Forcier, an associate professor of paediatrics at Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University, who was not part of the study, said: “Historically we have known the puberty blockers are safe and effective and this is totally reversible, so the benefits far outweigh any risk. It’s sort of a no-brainer to make these available in these circumstances.”

Dr Forcier added that parents who have reservations about puberty blockers should be reminded that it could be a “life-saving option”. “By not allowing their child to use these drugs, that is not a neutral option. This is why this paper is so important. This access is associative into adulthood and is important for safety. We know that access can offer protective effects. This is something that will help a parent keep their child safe.”

Dr Rachel Levine, a Pennsylvania paediatrician, said the study was the first to show the link between access to puberty blockers and a decrease in suicidality. “It is very important for medical professionals to understand scientific studies like this. It is also critically important as far as policy, that policy makers do not get in the way of medical standards of care.”

For more information, visit: [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)

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**TRANS PRIDE LIVERPOOL 2020**

Trans Pride Liverpool 2020, an annual Trans Pride demo, is set to take place at Derby Square, Liverpool on Sunday, March 29 at 12.30pm with the March from 1pm.

Organisers say: “In a year which has seen a rise in transphobic violence, both on the streets and institutionally, we are raising our voices, our banners and holding our heads up high, to proclaim our rights to full participation in public life and demand an end to transphobic bigotry.”

Liverpool Trans Pride promote the rights and public profile of the transgender community in Liverpool, specifically in relation to an annual Trans Pride demo. They are committed to supporting the most vulnerable and marginalised (BAME, young, homeless etc) transgender people.

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**LGBTQ AMBASSADOR ANNOUNCED FOR 3RD BRIGHTON RUN2MUSIC**

Brighton’s third annual Run2Music event returns on Saturday, May 30 at Madeira Drive with transgender athlete Jason Walker announced as its LGBTQ+ ambassador.

This will be Brighton Run2Music’s third year of encouraging people of all ages and genders to run together, listening to live DJs and music on big speakers along the course. The event tripled in size between 2018 and 2019 as people caught on to the idea of dressing as their favourite pop star or musical icon to run 5k, 10k or 21k. All races will be chip timed and entertainment for runners and spectators include a live DJ, dancers, gymnasts and musicians and there will be prizes for the best fancy dress.

Jason Walker, who will be raising money for the Allsorts Youth Project, is a transgender athlete who started transitioning about seven years ago, but identified as non-binary until a year ago, when he decided to start living full time as male.

Jason said: “I’m excited to be taking part in the Brighton Run2Music event for the first time. I’ll be completing the half marathon distance while wearing my Trans Lives Matter running vest as I want to represent the trans community in a positive way.”

“My aim with running as an openly trans athlete is to raise money for the LGBTYU youth charity Allsorts, as well as to encourage other trans athletes to take part in sporting events. Brighton is an amazingly diverse and inclusive city, and I enjoy taking part in the sporting events here because I feel welcome and safe.”

John Lunt, race director, said: “We aim to make all our events as inclusive as possible. Jason competed as a male for the first time last year at the Brighton & Hove Triathlon where he did really well so we thought he would make the ideal LGBTQ Ambassador for Brighton Run2Music. Jason has such a great positive outlook on life and is very open about who he is and his involvement in sport.

“Brighton Run2Music is also a great event for families who can run with their toddlers in buggies or together as a fundraising team. Last year we had runners dressed as the Pink Ladies from Grease, many colourful wigs and Freddie Mercury, Madonna and the Hungry Caterpillar. It caters for all ages and abilities with the 5k, 10k and Half Marathon.”

For more information, visit: [www.brightonRun2Music.com](http://www.brightonRun2Music.com)

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**For more information, visit: [www.brightonRun2Music.com](http://www.brightonRun2Music.com)**
Fri 6th

Mad Hatter's
Long Island Iced Tea Party

BAR BROADWAY, 10 STEINE STREET, BRIGHTON. BN2 1TE
THE ALTERNATIVE PANTO BRIGHTON FLIES ‘SOMEWHERE OVER THE BUSHES!’

The Alternative Panto Brighton is back with a show like no other in Further Adventures In Pantoland; Somewhere Over The Bushes. Written and directed by Allan Cardew, the Alternative Panto Brighton returns to the Sallis Benney Theatre, Brighton, in March with a stellar cast of Brighton entertainers including: Miss Jason, Mrs Moore, Sally Vate, Allan Jay, Davina Sparkle, Jason Lee, Kara Van Park, Dave Lynn, Stephanie Von Clitz and Pat Clutcher.

In Pantoland they all seem to live happily ever after... well some do, but for others that may not be an option unless they get a little help. Sarah the Cook, Widow Twanky, Cinderella’s step sisters and the Wicked Queen need that help and so Fairy Diil steps in. Well she tries but hasn’t reckoned on the Witch from Oz putting in an appearance...

The Alternative Panto Brighton presents Somewhere Over The Bushes!, Sallis Benney Theatre, 58-67 Grand Parade, Brighton BN2 0JY; shows run in March from Thursday 12 to Sunday 15 and Thursday 19 to Sunday 22. Evening performances 7.30pm, matinees Saturday and Sunday at 3pm. Sunday 22 matinee is at 4.30pm to allow for Mother’s Day lunch prior to curtain up. The matinee on Saturday 14 will be a signed performance. The show contains adult humour and is suitable for 18+ only. The Queens Arms, George Street are hosting the official After Show Party every night after the performance.

Tickets: £23 available from www.brightonticketbooth.com
For more info, visit www.thealternativepantobrighton.co.uk

LIPSTICK LIFTS OFF AT THE QUEENS ARMS

Power up your jetpack and shoot off into outer space at Lipstick, the Queens Arms’ new monthly femme night which launches on Tuesday, March 3 from 8pm. Host Billie Gold will be joined in the QA’s shuttle of L-O-V-E by a plethora of the cabaret scene’s top acts at this event where lesbian/bi/femme folk are encouraged to enjoy the very best cabaret and are encouraged to sing along and trip the light fantastic!

Billie Gold says: “I’m Billie Gold, the 80’s power lesbian from outer space! I’ve been on the cabaret circuit for a good while, having had the pleasure of working with our fabulous LGBTQ+ entertainers on lots of stages, and I’m so excited to be a part of the great lesbian singers and queens we have in Brighton. Lipstick is a night that was missing in Brighton for whatever reason, and I’m so proud to start a monthly arena for that, everyone’s welcome of course! People can expect wonderful performances from the very best of Brighton cabaret, a super friendly vibe in the beautiful Queens Arms, music to sing your lungs out to, and some comedy to boot.”

Lipstick at the Queens Arms, 7 George St, Brighton, BN2 1RH, every first Tuesday from March 3 at 8pm.

For more info, visit www.theqabrighton.com

SUBLINE QUIZ RAISES £130 FOR JAMES LEDWARD MEMORIAL FUND

Subline held its monthly Quiz Night Fundraiser on February 3, with funds from the raffle donated to the James Ledward Memorial Fund, part of the Brighton Rainbow Fund and specially ring-fenced for local homelessness charities. The Quiz night has raised a total of £130 for the James Ledward Memorial Fund: £70 in January and £60 last month. Funds from the raffle at the next quiz on Monday, March 9, will again be donated to the James Ledward Memorial Fund.

Peter and Brian were quiz winners for the third month running despite a five point handicap, and only just missed out on the £128 rollover when they failed the final challenge. Subline expect the rollover to be at least £170 in March. Steven Lee, Subline’s owner, said: “Most of you clearly know even less about film scores than pop and rock music… Having scraped a victory again, Peter and Brian will have a 10-point penalty to surmount in March! Thanks to Simon at the Regency for the meal voucher, and Michael at Bar Broadway for the Strawberry Vodka, which I won, again... it went back in the prize pool, again... And meE for the cocktails voucher!”

Next month’s quiz is a week later, so the date for your diaries is Monday, March 9. If you have prizes to donate, please contact Steven Lee on Facebook or email stevendavidlee@hotmail.com

Subline Quiz Night Fundraiser for the James Ledward Memorial Fund with quiz master Ian Andrew Sinclair. Subline, 129 St James’ Street, BN2 1TH, Monday March 9, doors 7pm, quiz 8.15pm, entry £2 per person. All genders are welcome.

For more info, visit www.sublinebrighton.co.uk

TINY REBELS AT CHARLES STREET TAP

Charles Street Tap, Brighton has announced the Tiny Rebel Tap Takeover in March with off the wall craft beers on the tap from the Welsh Brewery, which has built its own little world based on big flavours. Tiny Rebel Brewing Company brew beers that it likes to drink, from session-able pale ales to crazy sours and Triple IPAs.

Swing round to Charles Street Tap to indulge in a Jam Roly Poly & Custard ale that tastes of, well, you’ve guessed it, or surf on a stunning sour called Cherry Bomb or the Stay Puft, a marshmallow porter that’s as hefty as a stormy cloud.

Charles Street Tap says: “These are beers you won’t forget! Try them while you can as they won’t be here for long!”

Tiny Rebel Tap Takeover at Charles Street Tap, 8 Marine Parade, Brighton, BN2 1TA.

For more info /CharlesStreetTap
Presents

...FURTHER ADVENTURES IN PANTOLAND!

SOMEBWHERE OVER THE BUSHES

WRITTEN & DIRECTED BY ALLAN CARDEW

MISS JASON | MRS MOORE | SALLY VATE | ALLAN JAY
DAVINA SPARKLE | JASON LEE | KARA VAN PARK | DAVE LYNN
STEPHAINIE VON CLITZ | PAT CLUTCHER

MARCH 2020
12TH~15TH & 19TH~22ND
EVENING SHOWS 7:30PM | MATINEE 3PM
SALLIS BENNEY THEATRE
GRAND PARADE, BRIGHTON

TICKETS ONLY £23

BRIGHTON TICKET BOOTH.com

WWW.THEALTERNATIVEPANTOBRIGHTON.CO.UK
WORTHING PRIDE CELEBRATES DIVERSITY, EQUALITY & INCLUSIVITY

Start the day off at 12pm with the colourful parade along Worthing promenade, which will be a highlight for the town and is sponsored by local estate agent Aspire Residential. The main event then takes place at Beach House Grounds from 1pm with top cabaret acts including Sarah Jayne’s Dolly Parton Experience, Davina Sparkle, Eva Iglesias and Spice with many more acts to be announced. Once the main event has come to a close, pop in for the free after party (subject to venue capacity) at the Cow & Oak, one of Worthing Pride’s main sponsors for the third year running.

Worthing Pride 2020 is sponsored by the Agora Gynaecology and Fertility Centre, and its chosen charity for 2020 is the Treasure Basket Association.

Worthing Pride takes place across the town on Saturday, July 11, 2020, tickets available from Eventbrite.

For more info, visit @WorthingPride.

RC+ SPRING WORKSHOP

The RC+ sessions, supported by the Rainbow Chorus and guided by talented Musical Director Aneesa Chaudhry, are fully LGBTQ+ inclusive singing workshops run throughout the year. They are lots of fun and a safe space where you can learn some great songs by ear, with sheet music and lyrics to aid if needed. No need to worry about whether you can sing in tune, read music or commit regularly - you can just drop in!

You can choose to sing the tune, a higher harmony or a lower harmony and you’re encouraged to try out singing in different voice sections. If you’re LGBTQ+ and your voice is changing or you want to explore singing in a different range, RC+ is perfect for you. There is a real mix of members including those who haven’t sung before, trans and non-binary folk as well as some regular choir goers.

The next RC+ session takes place on Saturday, March 21, 2-4pm, at Dorset Gardens Methodist Church, Dorset Gardens off St James’s Street in Brighton. Sessions are mainly funded by the Brighton Rainbow Fund but there is a subscription which can be on a pay-as-you-attend basis and you’re still welcome to attend even if finances mean a subscription is not affordable.

To find out more, or ask about joining, email membership coordinators Gill and Lorna: membership@rainbowchorus.org.uk

For more info and to see all RC+ sessions in 2020 visit: www.rainbowchorus.org.uk/join-rc/

FIRST EVER CRAWLEY PRIDE ANNOUNCED FOR AUGUST 29, 2020

Run with the support of Crawley Borough Council, the first ever Crawley Pride promises to be a momentous occasion for the town’s LGBTQ+ communities on Saturday, August 29, 2020 with a Pride Parade through the town centre from 12pm, then a whole day’s worth of festivities with stalls, tents and live performers at Goffs Park till 10pm.

Bar 7, Crawley’s only gay bar (sometimes referred to as ‘Gatwick’s gay bar’ due to its popularity with cabin crew) will be hosting the dance tent. The programme is still to be confirmed, so check Crawley Pride’s Facebook page for confirmation of acts as and when they are announced.

Tickets: adult tickets (18+) cost £5, youth tickets (17 and under) cost £3 and VIP tickets, available to over 18s only, cost £15 and allow customers access to a main stage VIP area, VIP bar and separate toilets. Crawley Pride is free for people aged under three years old. Tickets can be purchased from Crawley Pride’s Eventbrite page.

For more info visit /CrawleyLGBT

ALL VOICES WELCOME TO GLOW NATURAL VOICE COMMUNITY CHOIR

GLOW choir, the Natural Voice Community Choir for our LGBTQ+ communities and allies, announced a new term last month and newcomers are very welcome to join. GLOW, which meets every Saturday from 2.30pm at St Luke’s Church in Brighton, is led by Hannah-Rose Tristram for LGBTQ+ people and allies to unite in song. All voices are welcome, without exception. There is no ‘identity policing’: what unites those in GLOW is that everyone is different; willing to listen and learn, the bonding effects of singing together in held space, and a supportive attitude towards each individual in being who they are is at the heart of this Community Choir. Choir member Lizzie says: “GLOW is a wonderful, singing friendship group, where I can be myself and use my voice without judgement and feel safe, content, supported and joyful.”

The GLOW atmosphere is one of respect, relaxation, learning and fun. GLOW leadership does its best to accommodate specific needs and experiences that choir members may have and is always open to learning how better to make people feel safe and welcome, and help choir members to have a relaxing, enjoyable time.

While there is no obligation to take part, at the end of each term GLOW members are given the opportunity to be part of a Sharing Event, which supports a relevant charity and celebrates GLOW and local voices. At their recent Winter Sharing Event, GLOW Choir and friends raised £165 for Survivors’ Network.

GLOW choir’s new term runs from now until Saturday, June 27. Drop in cost: £9/£7 concession.

For more info, call/text Hanna-Rose on 07771 511726 or email hannahrose@naturalvoice.net

GLOW choir meets every Saturday from 2.30pm at St Luke’s Church, Prestonville, 64 Old Shoreham Rd, Brighton, BN1 5DD. For more info, visit www.glowchoir.weebly.com
An LGBTQ+ youth service on the Isle of Wight is set to close after it was unable to secure the funding it needed to stay open. Breakout Youth, a community support service for young LGBTQ+ people run by staff and volunteers, will shut at the end of March when its national and local grant funding streams come to an end. Previously, it had secured funding from the Isle of Wight Council and the Isle of Wight NHS Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), but neither were able to provide more money going forward.

Karl Love, Isle of Wight councillor and member of the LGBTQ+ community, said the group had approached him for help: “I find it completely unacceptable and astonishing that an organisation that has provided important services to some of our most vulnerable young people can be left hanging in the air by the Isle of Wight Council. The situation has become critical and therefore the organisation has had little choice but to reluctantly issue notice of its intended closure.”

A spokesperson for the council said: “The CCG recognises the valuable work undertaken by Breakout Youth and is working with the provider to stabilise this support for those who are both using the service and those who will be referred, while looking for a longer-term solution. We have worked with voluntary sector partners to help them to understand that grants were coming to an end in 2019.”

“The council provided further funding in 2019-20 to support their ongoing work while alternative funding streams were sought by the organisation. Unfortunately, Breakout Youth has not been successful in finding alternative funding, but the council cannot continue with its transitional funding arrangements on an ongoing basis.”

Councillor Love said more needed to be done to support LGBTQ+ young people who could not afford to travel to other No Limits projects on the mainland: “Our island has moved positively forwards into a new decade of LGBTQ+ inclusion and are more open and aware as we can see from the togetherness of the Isle of Wight Pride events.

“However, after the banners and bunting are packed away there are other needs which require qualified services and support to reach out to those most at risk or living in fear. Breakout youth provides that safe space, vital emotional and mental health support services – importantly, it’s for those who live with questions or concerns and is a real lifeline that helps keep people safe.

“It seems that while the island gingerly takes steps forward through the Pride events, the wraparound support services become the victims of austerity and, while our island council announces investments, it is at the cost of local community service needs.”

For more info visit www.breakoutyouth.org.uk/isle-of-wight-group/
FREE CONDOM SERVICE TO TACKLE HIGH RATES OF STIS AMONGST GAY MEN

Terrence Higgins Trust (THT), the HIV and sexual health charity, has launched a Free Condom Pack service to tackle the soaring rates of STIs among gay and bisexual men. THT aims to increase condom usage among gay and bisexual men with an online Condom Quiz that pairs you with the condom best suited to your needs. You are requested to take the condom quiz and then invited to order a free condom pack. The pack contains an information leaflet and four types of condoms. Your choice of condom makes a huge difference to how good they feel and how well they work.

Using condoms correctly and consistently can help protect against HIV and other STIs. Condom usage has become even more vital with the recent increase in cases of Gonorrhoea and Syphilis. According to the most recent Public Health England (PHE) statistics 2,250 gay and bisexual men were diagnosed with HIV in the UK, accounting for 51% of all those diagnosed in 2018. When used correctly each time you have sex, condoms are the best protection against STIs and HIV when having vaginal, anal or oral sex. The important thing is to use condoms correctly and consistently.

Alex Sparrowhawk, THT programme officer, said: “Condoms are the most effective way to safeguard your sexual health as they provide a barrier that stops sperm, viruses and bacteria getting from one person to another. The condom quiz shows people that one size condom doesn’t have to fit all and the right condom is out there for everyone. There will be sizes which will not only fit but increase sensation and pleasure.”

Condom use was a vital part of the initial fight against HIV/AIDS transmission supported by a range of sexual health initiatives including those promoted by THT. Condom use across all groups has fallen in recent years.

For more info, visit www.startswithme.org.uk/using-condoms/

LUNCH POSITIVE EXTENDS MONTHLY FOOD & FRIENDSHIP TO EAST & WEST SUSSEX

Lunch Positive, the HIV Lunch Club and Community Group, plans to deliver additional support in East and West Sussex. Thanks to a grant from National Lottery, the peer-led charity will put together a monthly food and friendship lunch gathering in Eastbourne and work with a peer-led HIV support group the Worthing Hub in Worthing to host monthly social, food and friendship gatherings. Plans are also underway for activities in the Hastings area. All of these will bring people together to meet and share food prepared by volunteers, to socialise in safe, supportive and peer led spaces and share peer-support.

Gary Pargetter, Service Manager at Lunch Positive, said: “We’re so pleased to be putting this project together in areas of Sussex. All of our work is based on supportiveness and sharing, and we very much look forward to working with our peers, regular supportive gatherings, and making new friends across the county.”

To contact Lunch Positive, email: gary@lunchpositive.org, visit: www.lunchpositive.org or call: 07846 464384

For more info on the Worthing Hub, email: theworthinghub@gmail.com or call: Tony on 07367755587 or Dee on 07428970528.

AIDS CHARITIES RESPOND TO LATEST REPORT ON ANTI-HIV DRUG

National AIDS Trust (NAT), the charity dedicated to transforming society’s response to HIV, and Terrence Higgins Trust (THT), the HIV and sexual health charity, have responded to a release from the Local Government Association (LGA) titled, PreP. Fully Fund Councils To Avoid Stalled Roll Out Of Anti-HIV Drug. In summary, the LGA warns that councils’ public health budgets, which have been reduced by £700m in real terms between 2015 and 2020, will struggle to meet the commitment of providing PreP unless the government provides a guarantee to meet any extra and unforeseen costs of providing the drug.

Debbie Laycock, head of policy at THT, said: “PreP stops HIV and limiting access is holding us back in the fight to end new HIV transmissions by 2030. News that the government plans to make PreP routinely available by April is long overdue, but we have serious concerns about the continued lack of detail from ministers about what a national programme will look like. Local government plays a key role in delivering frontline sexual health services – which we expect will be responsible for distributing PreP – and yet budgets have been slashed by a quarter since 2014.

“If the health secretary, Matt Hancock, is serious about championing public health, he needs to put his money where his mouth is and provide councils with the resources they need to make PreP available. We’ve seen delay after delay on PreP and we simply can’t wait any longer. The countdown to ending new HIV transmissions by 2030 has started and it’s time PreP had a proper home so no one is turned away from this vital medication, potentially causing panic and anxiety for tens of thousands. The government must act swiftly to remedy this.”

For more info on PreP, visit www.iwantprepnow.co.uk
For more info on NAT, visit www.tht.org.uk
For more info on NAT, visit www.nat.org.uk

OUT TO SWIM SOUTH FINDS NEW HOME POOL

Out to Swim South has permanently moved to the Prince Regent swimming complex in the centre of Brighton, as its new home for swimming. The move brings it to the centre of the city and within short walking distance of Brighton train station with free parking. The standard mixed changing rooms are also trans friendly. If you want to go along and see what the swimming sessions look like you can come down and meet them at reception or pay normal entrance and watch the swim from the public lanes. Feel free to ask the Out to Swim team more on the day. They have three sessions every week of which at least two are coached:

Monday, 8.30-9.30pm (with the learn to swim lane, funded by the Brighton Rainbow Fund). Thursday, 7.30-8.30pm and on Saturday, 5-6pm.

Out to Swim South is a group of sociable LGBT+ and allies who swim for fun, fitness or competitions and provide a friendly environment for those who prefer the social aspect of the club, in the Brighton & Hove and Sussex area. They share an enthusiasm to improve with like-minded people and be part of an LGBT+ inclusive club. Women and men swim inclusive and non-gender specific, and members ages range from 20 to 60. Out to Swim South is open to all with a positive attitude. The club is an adult club and those under 18 are not able to participate.

New swimmers should email south@outtoswim.org to advise that they are attending so someone is available to greet you.

Out to Swim South, Prince Regent Swimming Complex, Church Street, Brighton, East Sussex, BN1 1YA.

For more info, visit: www.outtoswim.org/brighton
I’m stopping HIV.
I use condoms to protect against HIV and STIs.

Get the best condom for you.
Take the condom quiz and get a free sample pack.

StartsWithMe.org.uk
Last month I attended the Holocaust Memorial Day Programme here in Brighton. I recognised, in my reluctance to be there at some deep level of myself my need, my duty to listen, that fear of such horrors lay not too deep within me. My rainbow lapel badge made a visible announcement of my belonging to a vulnerable part of society, as Jewish people wore their own Star of David badges of identity, in very different ways at different times and places. In their vast, incomprehensible numbers, Jewish people died in death camps, but people like me died there too. So this isn’t the story of others, it’s my story, our story too.

Bryan Huberman, the son of Alfred Huberman, a witness and survivor of horrors beyond our imagination, read his father’s story of those years in his calm voice, with projected images of the time, identity cards, photos of forced labour camps, death marches, real events in our world not so long ago, above him, to make real what was called the banality of evil. And we watched a short video of his father talking over his sewing machine, a tailor at work at Hannington’s department store here in Brighton. This unobtrusive man had living memories which made the worst of my life seem nothing much at all. How powerful, how real, is direct testimony.

Then Rabbi Samuel de Beck Spitzer, a truly great baritone, sang Kaddish, the Hebrew prayer associated with mourning, with such intensity of feeling and baritone, sang Kaddish, the Hebrew prayer associated with mourning, with such intensity of feeling and heartfelt beauty that tears touched my eyes. Ask not for whom the bell tolls, I thought to myself. We weep for ourselves. There but for the Grace of God go we. There but for the Grace of God go we. There but for the Grace of God go we.

But don’t think this was an evening of darkness alone, a grim tale with no light. The contrary is the truth. There’s something profound and wise that emerged from both of the genocidal testimonies, a sadness and warning, but also something of the phoenix, the beauty in the hearts of those who peered into the abyss and rose beyond it. In a small way I’ve known this in my own life, in the distress of transition, a kind of small death and birth as we all live them in our LGBTQ+ lives, in our human lives.

I left that memorial event just knowing that I must take care of every thought I have of others, always act from kindness, as I was not only touched by the goodness of humanity with me in that room. The evening finished with everyone in the room, from all the diverse communities of the city joining voices to sing Kol Haolam Kulo, a traditional song from Rabbi Nachman of Breslav which teaches that the whole world is a very narrow bridge, and the main thing is to not to fear, to have no fear at all.

The Holocaust Memorial Day event was planned by the Brighton & Hove Jewish Community’s Holocaust Education Project with the Rwandan Youth Information Community Organisation and supported by the Communities Team at Brighton & Hove Council.

Then Rabbi Samuel de Beck Spitzer, a truly great baritone, sang Kaddish, the Hebrew prayer associated with mourning, with such intensity of feeling and heartfelt beauty that tears touched my eyes. Ask not for whom the bell tolls, I thought to myself. We weep for ourselves. There but for the Grace of God go we. This hour wasn’t just about the Holocaust, but about genocide itself, the root of created fear through stories turned into violence and destruction. So we can learn and not do it again, in big ways or small. In my time there was the genocide in Rwanda, that beautiful country in the mountainous centre of Africa, in 1994. Vivienie Muguna, one of the original founders of ryico, a UK-based charity that supports vulnerable young people in Rwanda, told us of the massacres, the neighbour turned on neighbour, another kind of violent horror, with the direct experience of her own family and others.

What is it within us humans that can be turned into murderous violence, I wondered? Perhaps this is the most distressing question of all, at least for me; does this lie somewhere in me too?

Nick Antjoule, head of Hate Crime Services at Galop, said: “Despite progress on LGBTQ+ rights, online platforms remain hostile environments for many LGBTQ+ people. This report offers a sobering reminder of the harms caused by online hate. It targets individuals, poisons social discourse and limits opportunities to live open and fulfilled lives.

“At Galop we value free speech. It’s a cornerstone of our society that allows oppressed groups to speak up for our rights, even when we’re considered dangerous, immoral or illegal. However, free speech is increasingly used as a fig leaf to legitimise hatred. To remedy that we hope this report will spur urgent action to create practical, legal, regulatory frameworks to tackle online hate and support those targeted.”

Nick Noone, chief executive of Galop, said: “Recorded anti-LGBTQ+ hate crime has doubled in the last three years. This is reflected in the escalating scale, severity and complexity of online hate cases we are supporting at Galop. We hope the findings and recommendations of this report will act as a springboard for action.”

To read the full Galop Online Hate Crime Report, visit: www.galop.org.uk/online-hate-crime-report-2020/
RELUCTANT HERO – DUNCAN LUSTIG-PREAN ON 20 YEARS OF GAYS IN THE MILITARY

Sunday, January 12, 2020, marked the 20th anniversary of the lifting of the ban on homosexuality in our Armed Forces. An integral figure in this struggle was Duncan Lustig-Prean, who spoke to Jack Lynn about his experience.

Lustig-Prean described the event as intensely emotional: “This wasn’t some mealy-mouthed begrudging apology. It was heartfelt and sincere. The minister has since apologised for the actions of chaplains who outed LGBTQ+ service personnel in the most humbling way.”

So what next? Lustig-Prean says it’s his intention to establish a charity giving medical, spiritual and practical help to LGBTQ+ veterans, especially those who suffered under the ban.

He also plans to ensure there is a repeal of anti-LGBTQ+ legislation for the Merchant Navy: “There is much work to be done in the former colonies who suffer under hostile old legislation. The journey continues.”

Duncan Lustig-Prean lives in Brighton and is a board member of Fighting With Pride. He works for easyJet, training pilots, cabin managers and crew.

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

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

For any information on our other services, please contact us at Engleharts Solicitors, Valance Hall, Hove Street, Hove, East Sussex, BN3 2DE or email angela@engleharts.co.uk.
Brighton-based charity Men Talk Health hosted its annual Musical Therapy fundraiser at long-term supporter Bar Broadway on Sunday, February 2. A host of performers, including Candi Rell, Chase Adams, Tania Rodd, Jon Borthwick, Matt Young, Tabitha Wild, Gemma Claire Albrow, Jason Thorpe, Miss Disney, Paul Middleton, Wain Douglas, Jennie Castell and Voice of Broadway winner Rhys-Christian Mobsby got people talking, laughing and singing about mental health, and helped raise £905.52 through donations and raffle ticket sales to win prizes including a haircut and massage at a Shine Hair Group; lunch for four at Rottingdean Club; beard trim and facial at Peter salon in the Lanes; Sunday roast for two at the Bedford Tavern; Prowler gift voucher; meal for two at Amsterdam Bar & Kitchen; meal for two at Bella Italia; and many more.

Davey Shields, director of Men Talk Health, said: “We know that those in the LGBTQ+ community are more likely to struggle with their mental health. As well as laughter and song, performers and hosts bravely shared their own lived experience of mental health struggles to show that it really is okay to talk”

A true community event, it also served to announce Men Talk Health’s future plans. Men Talk Health believes that stigma around mental health prevents people from reaching out for help when they need it. With the funds raised at Musical Therapy, and awarded from the Brighton Rainbow Fund, Men Talk Health will be creating a new website with essential mental health signposting and be able to provide free and reduced-cost Mental Health First Aid Training to LGBTQ+ venues and performers on the Brighton scene who are a frontline for those struggling. Mental Health First Aid will give them the skills to listen and signpost those in our community who are struggling the most.

Michael McGarrigle, one of Bar Broadway’s owners, said: “Massive thanks to everyone who took part in our fundraiser for Men Talk Health and to everyone who came along and donated and made it such a wonderful day.”

For more info, visit www.mentalkhealth.uk follow @mentalkhealthuk

Photos by Jack Lynn
Two continents. Over 53 nations. One love.
Greater Fort Lauderdale invites everyone under the sun to the very first Pride of the Americas. Join hundreds of thousands of individuals who together will bring global attention to LGBT+ advocacy. All are welcome to fly your flag high, make an impact and radiate life - because who you are is worth celebrating. Make your plans at sunny.org/PrideAmericas

Beach Party & Parade • Arts Festival • Fashion Show • Business of the Americas Conference • Transgender Summit • LGBT+ Health & Wellness Conference
FIRST EVER PRIDE OF THE AMERICAS

Greater Fort Lauderdale invites everyone under the sun to the very first Pride Of The Americas in April for an epic six-day festival honouring diversity, inclusion and love and bringing global attention to LGBTQ+ advocacy. By Jaq Bayles.

Aiming to bring together two continents and 53 nations under one love, this year’s Fort Lauderdale Pride hosts the very first Pride Of The Americas in a six-day celebration running from April 21-26 instead of its usual late February dates. More than 350,000 visitors, from Alaska to Argentina, are expected to join in the festival – which concludes with a parade and two-day festival on Saturday, April 25 and Sunday, April 26 – to help bring global attention to the inequalities LGBTQ+ communities face in Latin America and the Caribbean.

SIX DAYS OF EVENTS

Among the planned events are a Beach Party & Parade, an Arts Festival, a Fashion Show, a Business Of The Americas Conference, a Transgender Summit, an LGBT+ Health & Wellness Conference and a Travel Symposium. And, of course, there’ll be daily Sunset Concerts, After Show Parties and other social activities at various venues around Greater Fort Lauderdale.

The six days of events begin on Tuesday, April 21, in downtown Fort Lauderdale and culminate on Sunday, April 26, with an epic Beach Festival and fireworks display.

A glamorous Fashion Show will feature designs by Bravo’s Project Runway alumni and local designers – modelled by male, female, transgender and drag models – at the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino in nearby Hollywood.

CELEBRATING DIVERSITY

Stacy Ritter, CEO and president of the Greater Fort Lauderdale Convention & Visitors Bureau, said: “We are excited for Pride Of The Americas attendees to experience our cosmopolitan destination, as well as our beautiful melting pot of cultures.”

Richard Gray, senior vice president of Diversity & Inclusion at the Greater Fort Lauderdale Convention & Visitors Bureau, added: “Greater Fort Lauderdale is home to a thriving LGBTQ+ community, and we are very much looking forward to welcoming hundreds of thousands of LGBTQ+ visitors and allies to our destination where diversity shines brightly.”

Pride Of The Americas will draw attention to the shared issues LGBTQ+ individuals, families, youth and seniors face in Latin America and the Caribbean. Key thought leaders from different countries will share their expertise at conferences and symposiums on human rights, business, travel, health and wellness, education and more.

The organisers say that, although Greater Fort Lauderdale is close in proximity to Latin America and the Caribbean, they are miles apart regarding the treatment and acceptance of the LGBTQ+ individuals in their communities. The event hopes to bring international attention to these inequalities while improving education and understanding of the LGBTQ+ community on a global scale.

Miik Martorell, president of Pride Fort Lauderdale, said: “Greater Fort Lauderdale is a community that celebrates diversity and inclusion in every way, each and every day, where Pride is our daily way of life. Pride Fort Lauderdale and the Greater Fort Lauderdale...
Greater Fort Lauderdale is committed to hosting this event with minimal environmental impact and will be ensuring that energy and water conservation, along with waste recycling programmes, will be enacted throughout. Organisers add: “Additionally, there are many efforts underway to safeguard the sea turtle population that will be nesting on our beaches during this time, including beach clean ups, securing of nesting sites and reduced artificial lighting near the shoreline.”

“Nearly 90% of turtle nesting in the US occurs in Florida, with a large concentration occurring on the beaches of Greater Fort Lauderdale. Pride Of The Americas 2020 has adopted the sea turtle as a fitting and informal mascot, commemorating this momentous occasion with one of Mother Nature’s most beloved creatures.

“While in town, you will have opportunities to explore our unique ecosystems and participate in wildlife and nature conservation programmes on the beach and in the Everglades.”

**LGBTQ+ CAPITAL OF FLORIDA**

Greater Fort Lauderdale is also the LGBTQ+ capital of Florida and is home to one of the largest Pride Centres in the country, the world’s first AIDS Museum, the global headquarters of the International Gay & Lesbian Travel Association, and the Stonewall Museum, one of the only permanent spaces in the US devoted to exhibitions relating to LGBTQ+ history and culture. The LGBT+ Visitor Centre is co-located with the Greater Fort Lauderdale LGBT Chamber of Commerce in the heart of Wilton Manors.

**PIONEERING VISITORS’ CENTRE**

The Greater Fort Lauderdale Convention & Visitors Bureau has been reaching LGBTQ+ travellers since 1996, when it became the first Convention & Visitors Bureau with a dedicated LGBTQ+ marketing department. Since then, Greater Fort Lauderdale has continued to break down barriers and facilitate visibility for the LGBTQ+ community at large, acting as a pioneer in the hospitality industry and ensuring that the destination is inclusive and welcoming with a diverse, safe and open community for all travellers.

Four years ago, it became the first destination in the world to create a transgender marketing campaign. Now the Greater Fort Lauderdale Convention & Visitors Bureau includes trans, lesbian, gay and straight people in all its mainstream marketing initiatives.

**CONSERVATION PROGRAMMES**

Greater Fort Lauderdale is committed to leveraging Pride Of The Americas to strengthen the LGBTQ+ communities and the Pride movement in the Caribbean and Latin America.”

Greater Fort Lauderdale welcomes 1.5 million LGBTQ+ visitors annually, spending $1.5 billion, so is well-suited to host Pride Of The Americas. With hundreds of gay-owned and operated businesses and the highest concentration of same-sex couple households in the country, the destination is one of the most diverse and welcoming in the world.

**PRIDE OF THE AMERICAS EVENTS DIARY**

**TUESDAY, APRIL 21**
- WOMEN’S ARTS EVENT at 6pm, Vanguard Sanctuary for the Arts, Fort Lauderdale.
- PUSSY PARTY: Thinking Cap Theatre in association with Thou Art Woman, Vanguard Sanctuary for the Arts, Fort Lauderdale, present a playful, illuminating, and empowering celebration at 7pm.
- OFFICIAL AFTER PARTY.

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22**
- EARTH DAY VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE from 8am–12pm, Nova Southeastern University, Guy Harvey Oceanographic Center, Dania Beach.
- OPENING NIGHT GALA and Mayor’s Welcome Reception at 6pm, Museum of Discovery & Science, Fort Lauderdale.
- OFFICIAL AFTERPARTY.

**THURSDAY, APRIL 23**
- SPOTLIGHT ON SENIORS: Ageing in the Americas from 8am–1pm (shared luncheon with Health Symposium), Pride Center, Wilton Manors.
- LGBTQ+ HEALTH & WELLNESS SYMPOSIUM from 12–4pm, Pride Center, Wilton Manors.
- SUDDENLY LAST SUMMER at 8pm, Island City Stage at Wilton Theatre Factory, Wilton Manors.
- RUNWAY FASHION SHOW at 8pm, Seminole Hard Rock Resort & Casino, Hollywood.
- OFFICIAL AFTER PARTY.

**FRIDAY, APRIL 24**
- PRIDE OF THE AMERICAS BUSINESS CONFERENCE from 9am–2pm, Citrix, Fort Lauderdale.
- TRANSGENDER ISSUES SUMMIT, 1pm.
- SUNSET INTRACOASTAL CRUISE, 6–8pm.
- NIGHT ON THE DRIVE at 6pm–late, Wilton Manors.
- UNBREAKABLE, Gay Men’s Chorus of South Florida Concert at 8pm, Sunshine Cathedral, Fort Lauderdale.
- OFFICIAL AFTER PARTY.

**SATURDAY, APRIL 25**
- RAINBOW 5K RUN from 6–9am.
- PRIDE OF THE AMERICAS PARADE STAGE from 10.30am–12pm, Las Olas Beach Park.
- PRIDE OF THE AMERICAS PARADE from 12–2pm, SR A1A, Fort Lauderdale Beach.
- BEACH FESTIVAL from 12–9pm, Fort Lauderdale Beach Park.
- OFFICIAL AFTER PARTY.

**SUNDAY, APRIL 26**
- FAITH AND PRIDE SERVICE at 11am, Fort Lauderdale Beach Park.
- BEACH FESTIVAL AND FIREWORKS from 12–9pm, Fort Lauderdale Beach Park.
- SUDDENLY LAST SUMMER at 5pm, Island City Stage at Wilton Theatre Factory, Wilton Manors.
- OFFICIAL AFTER PARTY.

**MORE INFO**
- Make your plans at sunny.org/PrideAmericas
- /PrideOfAmericas/
THE LITTLE GIANT...

Elaine Evans has been supporting the LGBTQ+ community in a variety of ways for many years. She talks Jaq Bayles through her life as an ally.

At almost any given LGBTQ+ fundraising event chances are the diminutive figure of Elaine Evans will be seen weaving her way through the crowds, smiling sweetly and rattling her collection box. “I love shaking boxes and getting money out of people. I don’t try to push them but they find it appealing, this little old lady coming up and asking for donations.”

‘Little’ she may be, but what this 82-year-old lacks in stature she makes up for in presence, dedication and zest for life, and much of that has, for many years, been directed at supporting the LGBTQ+ community.

At the school of English she set up in the early 1970s and which, by 1976, was big enough for her to buy her own premises in Portland Road.

“As the school got bigger I had to stop teaching in order to run it and had to employ more teachers. When I used to look at the CV, if it ever said they were into amateur dramatics or something like that I would think ‘Oh good’. When you’re in the classroom you need to be able to get the students’ attention and keep it, so if you are used to amateur dramatics you have a sort of way as an actor with audiences. It helps a lot if people are very big on personality,” says Elaine.

“It didn’t matter to me if they were straight, gay or anything. I used to ask for feedback from students and we had a very camp man who taught teenagers in the summer. He had such a way with him and used to get top marks from his class – I knew he was gay without even asking. Another time a secretary said her partner was giving her a lift home and I was quite surprised when a young woman walked in. But I thought so what? I’ve never had any feelings that it wasn’t good.”

While running the school Elaine witnessed the coming out of teenage boys who were subsequently kicked out of their family homes. She shakes her head: “It’s so unfair. I love the song I Am What I Am – you are what you are born.”

Some 30 years ago her husband, Steve, got the couple into karaoke – a world that would eventually become the jumping off point for the real beginning of Elaine’s immersion into the LGBTQ+ community.

“Steve died in 2006 and for two years I was deeply unhappy and stayed indoors. Then one day I thought I’d like to go to karaoke, but I didn’t want to go to a straight bar because I didn’t want to get chatted up. So I went to the Queens Arms where Betty Swollocks was hosting and it was mostly gay men. On the other side of the road was Poison Ivy and they used to have karaoke as well. Then I heard about the Bedford Tavern so I started going in there and I gradually become known.”

But it was while volunteering to provide refreshments for runners in the Brighton Half Marathon that Elaine fell into the fundraising side of things.

“This fella came along and I noticed he was wearing a Sussex Beacon T-shirt. I always took some cash with me to offer someone who had made that special effort and was raising money for a good cause, so I asked him if I could donate a fiver I had. He gave me a Bear-Patrol (LGBTQ+ social/leisure networking group which strongly supports the Beacon) badge, which was what got me introduced to that.”

She started turning up to fundraising events and also got involved in the Martin Fisher Foundation, working towards zero HIV in Brighton & Hove – then came Pride. A staunch supporter of the Pride Community Parade, she would take her students – teens of all nationalities – to watch the event. Some of them were from countries whose laws were not particularly inclusive of LGBTQ+ people and she’d take the opportunity to educate them on the importance of inclusivity.

“Pride meant – and still means – a great deal to her and her fundraising efforts went well beyond box shaking. Even while recovering from a back operation she was determined to undertake the Pride Rainbow Run in Preston Park. “I was pushing my Rollator and was determined to do it. It was more a Rainbow hobble than a Rainbow Run, but I did that two years running.”

Among the other LGBTQ+ feathers in her hat, Elaine has been a Gold Friend of the Actually Gay Men’s Chorus for 12 years and became a sponsor of the Brighton Gay Men’s Chorus last year.

She was featured in Gscene back in January 2017 on account of her distributing the magazine in Spain, where she had a flat just down the coast from Benidorm. “We used to go there for entertainment. There was a very nice gay café on the seafront and they said they got people in from Brighton and I said I must bring Gscene over for them. I used to take five issues each month. I told James I had been doing it for three years and he ran the little article.”

Later this year Elaine will again feature in Miss Jason’s House Party – The Great British Gad About on Latest TV, in which she plays a somewhat deaf cocktail waitress who hands out drinks to the panel. So far she has featured in four series.

And as to the future? “Who knows what’s going to be up – I’m game for anything.”
**IT STARTS WITH ME**

LGBTQ+ ally Fiona Sharpe is Brighton born and bred and believes we’re stronger if we work together. Now back in Brighton & Hove after 17 years away, she tells Craig Hanlon-Smith what being an ally means and shares advice for her LGBTQ+ neighbours.

Fiona Sharpe is a rare breed among us; a Brighton native. Born, bred and now living among us all who have adopted this fair city as our own: “I did move away for 17 years but I came back,” she tells me when we chat about her inclusion in this magazine because, not only a native, Fiona is also an LGBTQ+ ally.

Are you pleased to be back in Brighton where it all began?

“To be an ally does require upstanding not bystanding. It takes individual responsibility and then as a community we are stronger if we work together and don’t just take care of our own back yard. It starts with me.”

Fiona is a community consultant working across a wide range of minority communities across the city. An active member of the Jewish community in Brighton, Hove and Sussex, her allied approach takes her work and advocacy to a whole range of minority communities and organisations to include “anyone who wants me.”

While away from Brighton, Fiona worked in Israel and New York in a range of roles, from VIP guest relations to a Jewish umbrella organisation, representing Jewish communities from the US and all over the world. Both in the US congress and the White House. It’s this eclectic work background that she describes as “all kinds of everything” which is standing her in such good stead today. She has now worked in the hate crime arena for over a year across all factions of the challenge whether, race, gender, sexual orientation or migration driven.

Why are allies from outside a particular community important to our stories and struggles?

“No one minority community can fight against the hate themselves – nor should they try to. If we can’t stand up for one another then we have no right to expect others to stand up for us.”

Fiona tells me that she genuinely finds it difficult when people don’t work together:

“We sometimes have a fear of asking the questions because we don’t have the right language, but questions are important as so much prejudice comes from a lack of understanding and a lack of knowledge.”

“Sometimes in minority communities we try to suggest there is a hierarchy of hate: is racism worse than homophobia? Is Islamophobia more damaging than anti-Semitism? Is one somehow more objectionable than the other? There is no hierarchy of hate. All hate and discrimination has to be challenged in whatever form it takes and however it starts.”

Hate is a strong descriptor for the ‘anti’ and may manifest itself in aggression or violence. In some ways isn’t hate easier to spot because it’s a sizeable and identifiable issue that we can begin to address? Is the greater challenge the smaller behaviours that are endemic towards some other communities, perhaps a quieter every-day, less obvious form of discrimination?

“Yes. Although they are all part of a similar and bigger picture. There are micro-aggressions which are regrettably commonplace. I work with hijab-wearing women who tell me that people choose not to sit next to them on the bus. In same-sex relationships there are small reactions to walking into a pub holding hands that we know are there.”

“Micro-aggressions eat away at our individual sense of self and self-worth and in turn these affect our society at large. In many ways these behaviours are more corrosive and much harder to do something about. The attack we know what to do about it. We tell someone, we call the police. What do you tell someone if you feel have been looked at in a strange way?”

Fiona is part of the discussion attempting to include the homeless and rough sleepers in hate crime legislation: “Violence and hostility to those sleeping rough is increasing at an alarming rate and we need to speak about this as much as all other aspects of hate.”

There are known differences within the LGBTQ+ communities and increasingly there are concerning reports about how differences become divisions and in turn our own communities a microcosm of some of the socially damaging behaviours Fiona has outlined.

As an ally, what advice have you got for your LGBTQ+ neighbours?

“I’m an ally and a proud one, but I’m not LGBTQ+, I’m not part of that community. I’m an ally who is constantly learning and listening. In a more general way, we’re always scared by what appears to us that is outside our comfort zone. We have a tendency to want to ‘other’ people and what happens within all communities and indeed the LGBTQ+ community is no different from any other. In religious groups for example there are degrees of fervour and religiosity – these are differences, but it’s what we do with them. As an ally part of my responsibility is never to be presumptuous as to why there are divisions and how they have come about. I wouldn’t welcome someone who isn’t Jewish telling me what anti-Semitism is.”

“We must all look to ourselves. Ensure that when I have questions of another community that I do not belong to, I ask them in a respectful way. We sometimes have a fear of asking the questions because we don’t have the right language, but questions are important as so much prejudice comes from a lack of understanding and a lack of knowledge.”

“We must be upfront about our own prejudices. We all have an unconscious bias but it is what we do with these. I would ask that someone learn about me, Fiona, learn about me the individual. It then becomes harder to behave in an antisemitic way. If we meet and care about individuals, we are less likely to group people together and make a homogenous judgement. If we all took care of the little corner of the world around us, we would be so much more impactful.

“Be an ally does require upstanding not bystanding. It takes individual responsibility and then as a community we are stronger if we work together and don’t just take care of our own back yard. It starts with me.”

**MORE INFO**

[www.sussexjewishrepresentativecouncil.org](http://www.sussexjewishrepresentativecouncil.org)
[SharpeFiona](http://SharpeFiona)
The whole ethos behind the event was a celebration of togetherness. We wanted to embrace diversity, inclusion and challenge outdated perceptions of who football is for and we’re running the event again the weekend before Pride this year. But you know, there’s an abundance of rainbow flags and audible LGBTQ+ support at all our matches. We recently played in Guernsey in the away kit with the rainbow on it and 25% of our supporters came out there with us. It’s an opportunity to build a name for us all over the UK as an inclusive club.”

The return leg of the Guernsey match takes place in Whitehawk on Saturday, March 28 and is being dubbed ‘Community Day’.

Kevin speaks positively about the allied work some of the big league clubs are undertaking: “Football clubs are doing a lot of good work. Most have LGBTQ+ teams. Arsenal, West Ham, Charlton, Aston Villa. But what’s different between them and us, besides the money, is that their efforts, as well-intentioned and supportive as they are, just don’t seem to dig into the LGBTQ+ community itself.”

Why do you think that might be?

“We’re local and we work with local people, people like Sophie Cook. The Premier and Championship clubs can only do so much without gay players. It’s different in the women’s game and always has been. There are openly gay female players, but male football is an old-school, working class male sport and we still carry those attitudes. Football is the only sport left that has difficulty in accepting this. There must be gay attitudes. Football is the only sport left that has working class male sport and we still carry those openly gay female players, but male football is an old-school, working class male sport and we still carry those attitudes. Football is the only sport left that has difficulty in accepting this. There must be gay football?”

“We’re all targeted by our age, race etc and we’re all compartmentalised. Football is a great conduit to deal with these differences and start the inclusion conversation. We don’t have many things in life where we all share the same experience. Sport is unusual like that and football in particular. All of these things chip away at the compartmentalisation. Football is a great conduit to deal with these differences and start the inclusion conversation. We don’t have many things in life where we all share the same experience. Sport is unusual like that and football in particular. All of these things chip away at the compartmentalisation.”

Kevin talks with passion not only for the club but for the city at large. He’s clearly genuinely thrilled at the huge majorities our three MPs continue to secure in General Elections which bucks the Surrey, Sussex, Kent and Hampshire trend towards the Conservatives.

“Let’s build a wall!” he jests, “And let’s make Surrey pay for the wall!”

In summer 2019, Whitehawk FC stepped into the Pride arena and arranged a charity fundraiser match for The Brighton Rainbow Fund.

“We were approached by local trans activist, writer and broadcaster, Sophie Cook, to create an event that included a high-profile mixed gender football match. The event was called ‘Football United’ and the match was between an ex-Premier League all-star line up and Rainbow Rovers, a player managed by Sophie. The Rovers won 4-2.

“The whole ethos behind the event was a

On their Twitter profile, Whitehawk Football Club describe themselves as: “Having more fun than you since 1945. The club was originally founded just at the end of the WW2 as Whitehawk & Manor Farm Old Boys. The original name refers to the Brighton Boys’ Club Whitehawk, and the adjoining Manor Farm estate and was set up for those that wished to play football but were too old to play in a youth league. Now 75 years later, the club is a shining example not only to other football clubs, but to any community or commercial organisation of how to get the ‘ali’ thing just right.

Kevin Miller, head of commercial at the club, talks with such dedication, passion and enthusiasm of their social mission and purpose that even though this Gscene writer has little interest in football at the start of the conversation, he leaves it wanting to surrender his life savings to the club and play for the team, in goal.

“The key is our fan base is eclectic, so why would our approach not reflect that? We have everyone supporting the club from local residents who have lived in the area for decades, students, university professors, anarchists, people from the LGBTQ+ community, so their support breeds a culture of inclusiveness.”

On match days, Whitehawk average a supporters’ crowd of some 300 whereas the Premier League Club average 30,000 and Kevin sees it as his job to grow that support by establishing real and lasting community links.

“Whitehawk was one of the most deprived estates in Europe 25 years ago, but it’s turned a corner with its amazing local community. Yes there are problems but it’s inspiring to see these low-income families doing their best and most importantly doing it together... And for the record, Whitehawk is one of the cleanest areas in the city that I’ve seen.”

Whitehawk FC also play in an away kit that is emblazoned with the
Brighton & Hove Albion Football Club (BHAFC) have increasingly embraced the LGBTQ+ communities in our city over many years and more recently publicly challenged homophobia. The stadium at Falmer, often referred to as the Amex, is actually called the American Express COMMUNITY Stadium and BHAFC put the community of Brighton & Hove at the heart of what they do. The club celebrated Stonewall’s Rainbow Laces campaign and made a clear statement in its support of not only the campaign, but the LGBTQ+ community which is as synonymous with Brighton & Hove as the club itself. The stadium is regularly awash with LGBTQ+ rainbow flags and its match day programmes feature interviews with management, staff and players outlining the importance of the diversity and inclusion initiatives including celebrating the LGBTQ+ communities.

Rose Read, head of People & Culture at BHAFC, said: “We were so overwhelmed with the reception we received from the community in having a presence at Brighton Pride, as a club we’re delighted to be supporting again this year and to be part of such a key event in the city’s calendar.”

Lewis Dunk, first team captain, said of the club’s involvement in the Rainbow Laces campaign: “We’re proud to get behind such an important campaign and we know that football has the power to bring everyone together. We stand strongly alongside the club, the Premier League and Stonewall in promoting equality and diversity.”

But it’s not just the football players of both the men’s and women’s teams who are LGBTQ+ allies. The whole organisation has embraced a number of initiatives to promote inclusion and to celebrate diversity. We asked some BHAFC staff members their views on what it means for the club to be an ally of our LGBTQ+ communities and this is what they said.

Paul Mullen, chief operating officer, said: “I believe that as a club, we’re a positive ally to the LGBTQ+ community and have demonstrated our commitment to this in a number of ways. For example, we’ve been a very active supporter and participant in Brighton Pride and have used this to showcase how we aim to treat everyone with respect and dignity and seek to provide a positive environment for all of our stakeholders, free from discrimination, harassment, victimisation or abuse. Actively supporting the Rainbow Laces campaign is another example of our commitment to promote equality and diversity with our women’s first team adorned in rainbow coloured numbers on the back of players shirts, being a first in professional football in this country.

“We also work hard to ensure that all visitors to the Amex, training ground and any events we undertake, feel comfortable and respected and ensure that our staff are provided with the skills and knowledge through training to be confident in challenging those individuals who may wish to not behave in the way we expect them to do. However, clearly we can do more and we’re working to identify meaningful opportunities to demonstrate how best we can meet the needs of a diverse population within a multi-cultural society.”

Sarah Gould, Supporter Services manager, said: “I feel passionate about being an ally to my fellow colleagues and supporters and I’m extremely proud to have been heavily involved in the club’s equality, diversity and inclusion work in recent seasons. Making positive change is incredibly important to me and I’m delighted to play a BHAFC’s journey.”

Marc Dring, marketing manager, said: “We know that football has the power to bring everyone together and it’s vital that everyone feels welcome at football matches. As an ally who feels strongly that sport should be for everyone, I feel fortunate that my role at BHAFC means I can realise this belief.

“Our active presence at Brighton Pride, coupled with our zero-tolerance approach to homophobic abuse at the American Express Community Stadium, illustrates our commitment to football being a sport for all.”

Adrian Morris, head of Safety & Security, said: “While the focus of the club’s work is on promoting inclusivity and raising awareness, we also take action when witness to homophobic abuse. Our zero-tolerance stance to homophobia has resulted in perpetrators being ejected from matches, with some also arrested and receiving lifetime bans and police sanctions. We aim to make the Amex the most inclusive stadium for both home and travelling fans to watch football.”

Lewis Dunk, first team captain, said: “We’re proud to welcome LGBTQ+ groups and fans to our stadium, and want to ensure they feel as welcome as anyone else when they come to watch us play. Homophobia and transphobia, just like racism, have no place in football, and anyone with those prejudiced views isn’t welcome in our game. I know the club does a lot of work to make football a more inclusive game for everyone, and as players we’re proud to help in any way we can.”

Paul Barber, chief executive officer and vice chairman, said: “The world of football spans the globe and we’re fortunate to be playing at the highest level and in the biggest league in terms of global reach. This has given the club the opportunity to support the concepts of inclusion, equality and diversity from a large platform and we do this with great pride. We represent the city that we call home and are playing our part supporting local LGBTQ+ groups and encouraging more LGBTQ+ people to join our football community whether that be as a fan, a staff member or indeed as a player.”

MORE INFO

Follow BHAFC on @OfficialBHAFC
The Rainbow Laces campaign is a movement run by LGBTQ+ charity Stonewall which encourages LGBTQ+ inclusion in sport.
For more info, visit https://tinyurl.com/w7k97kf
Proud Seagulls LGBTQ+ supporters group celebrates Out & Proud LGBTQ+ fans and supporters of BHAFC, follow them on Facebook.
HIV HEROES

Amid a climate of fear and ignorance, some healthcare workers went out of their way to provide support and care for patients with HIV. Two of them now living in Brighton tell their stories to Jaq Bayles

One such person is Nicky Perry, now operational manager (Clinical Trials Unit), Brighton & Sussex Medical School, who recently finished a project that involved interviewing 61 healthcare workers who were involved in HIV care in those early times.

“I started nursing in 1988 in HIV at Chelsea & Westminster Hospital (previously St Stephens),” recounts Nicky. “I was doing agency work and they rang me one day and said they needed someone to go and do an early shift, but they had to warn me it was ‘on the AIDS ward’ – they actually whispered it down the phone.”

Nicky was one of a close-knit team of healthcare professionals working on the specialist HIV Thomas Macaulay ward, and her story of that time is uplifting and depressing in equal measures.

“I had done cancer nursing so had worked with people who were dying and thought, how different can it be? I went to do a shift on June 17, 1988, and didn’t leave. It was a bit of a revelation that nursing could be so holistic.

“Back then healthcare was medically driven – you did what the doctors told you. It was very hierarchical but HIV turned that on its head. For the first time you were on a ward and nobody knew what they were doing, everyone sought advice and support from each other. We actually asked patients and they told us how they wanted to be cared for. We were all in it together, nobody had the answer.”

The doctors gave way to nurses when they realised how much better equipped they were to support the patients because they had more experience of talking to them about death and dying.

“There would be top consultants saying: ‘Nicky I don’t know what to do – can you go and speak to someone’. But we felt like family – it was fun, the people were just lovely. We all got on. We were caring for the patients but they really cared about us, so there was that lowering of boundaries. Patients became our friends, they were in the same age group and peer group. They were coming in repeatedly so we got to know them and their partners.”

Ignorance was a great driver of people’s fear, but it was also that which led others to say: “We have to make a difference and protect these people from the stigma and discrimination and make somewhere safe for them. There was stigma but it was born out of fear and uncertainty, even within our own healthcare profession. There was public fear and anxiety but we were also trying to make it better.

“Our job was to make people feel safe and cared for. We were dealing with patients’ families – it was so multi-layered. As well as this horrible disease people were dying from there was the family dynamic. People saying ‘I haven’t seen my parents for years, I told them I was gay and they threw me out’. Or ‘I haven’t told them and now I have to tell them I am gay and dying’.

The Thomas Macaulay ward’s patients were predominantly gay men and Nicky recalls how many families “were really horrible to their sons or didn’t acknowledge their partners. We were family counsellors too.”

But, paradoxically, the fact that many wanted to wash their hands of HIV worked in favour of those who were invested in helping their patients. “Stigma was a barrier but we were allowed to get on and do what we wanted to do,” recalls Nicky.

“Management said Thomas Macaulay is an AIDS ward, we’ll let them get on with it. People were just glad someone was sorting it out and they didn’t have to bother. We could be somewhat maverick in the way we cared. If someone wanted to smoke a spliff because it was the last spliff they were ever going to have, it was like ‘fill your boots mate’, or ‘let your partner sleep over’. You couldn’t have done that on a medical ward.”

And when the authorities finally stepped in, no matter how misguided the images of tombstones and icebergs accompanying the Don’t Die Of Ignorance campaign may have been, “it was the first time the government came together” – with the exception of the Tories as Margaret Thatcher didn’t approve. That collaborative work, which pulled together many organisations, led to
everyone giving the same message and began to change the landscape for everyone involved in HIV and AIDS work.

“We often didn’t tell our friends or families what we did for a living because we also faced that stigma of working with HIV,” says Nicky. “We were never quite sure what people’s reactions would be. That’s why we formed such strong relationships with each other, because we were in a safe bubble.”

It was a bubble that extended outside of work. “If I was out people would ask what I did and I’d say ‘I’m a nurse’ and they’d be interested, then I’d say I worked on an AIDS ward and you’ve never seen them run so fast. A lot of us hung out at gay places because they understood. On a Saturday night in straight places, sometimes people were genuinely interested but I didn’t want to be giving them sex education lessons. I’d rather go to Heaven than the Empire on Leicester Square.”

After two and a half years on the ward Nicky moved into HIV research, so how is the climate now?

“The stigma about having HIV still exists and that’s probably the biggest killer. People don’t want to come for testing. You can tell your employer you have cancer but HIV is still seen as somehow you’ve done something bad and that’s why you have it.”

REV HEATHER LEAKE DATE

Being an LGBTQ+ ally isn’t without its challenges – and sometimes those challenges can be pretty fundamental, as Rev Heather Leake Date, now consultant pharmacist for HIV/sexual health, Brighton & Sussex University Hospitals NHS Trust, can attest. Having come to Brighton in 1985 to study pharmacy, Heather gained an interest in HIV care thanks to lectures from visiting consultants and being in an area with a disproportionately high number of people with the disease. With her interest in the process of finding treatments – the first day she stepped into her dispensary in June 1991 Heather was faced with two big boxes of drug supplies for one of the medical research council trials for antiretrovirals – she was at the grass roots of the fight not only against HIV but also the hatred that surrounded it.

Now the HIV chaplain for Sussex Ecumenical HIV Chaplaincy and a Methodist minister, at the time Heather was training to be a lay preacher and found herself shaken by the attitudes of some so-called Christians towards to those who had contracted HIV.

“The thing that stuck in my mind was the awful headlines you’d see in the tabloids. The language around anything to do with HIV and AIDS was scaremongering and harmful and horrible.”

Epitomising this was the then chief constable of Greater Manchester Police, James Anderton, who famously said that AIDS patients lived in “a human cesspool of their own making”. At the same time he had been vocal about his religious beliefs, which left Heather baffled.

“I’d been brought up within the church and it may have been fairly sheltered but I never had that sense. If you’re a Christian love comes before anything, so why would you come out and say something like that?

“Prior to coming to Brighton I didn’t really have any contact with the LGBTQ+ community but the view that was being put forward in the media was just so negative and I felt very strongly that these people didn’t speak for me or for a lot of people. I’m not Mother Theresa and wasn’t trying to preach to people, it was simply that I felt so strongly that was where I should be.”

Heather and many of her fellow Christians felt they were being vilified by those who had been expressing on behalf of their faith but which were not ideals that they shared.

“It was quite striking that, from a faith perspective, there were a lot of people saying ‘this is the Christian view’ but at the same time a lot of the people on the ground who were helping and befriending from outside the gay community were people from churches. They were people who might not have been expected to take on this role – little old ladies who would make tea when Open Door opened in Camelford Street, for example.”

Against that backdrop of prejudice it was no surprise that many of the people who chose to work in HIV healthcare were themselves gay.

“The people were definitely a big part of wanting to work in that area – the staff and the patients. From the staff point of view, many of the gay men had seen friends die so felt strongly that they wanted to do something for the community, but there was real camaraderie and a breaking down of barriers in the hierarchy.

“As a pharmacist my views would be listened to in a way that those of people in other areas were not. We felt we were much more one of the team.

“In an ideal world you would be treating people and wouldn’t see them for a long time between visits for good reason – but that wasn’t the case with HIV. The patients were in palliative care so a lot of the treatments weren’t actually treating HIV, rather those treatments would be for infections – then some were to stop that infection coming back and some were to treat the side effects. It was generally a case of medicines just being added on. One chap was taking about 60 tablets a day. However I now have patients I’ve known for nearly 30 years and it’s very rewarding to have that shared history.

“It’s Marmite, working in HIV – you either love it or you don’t.”

And how do things stand now in terms of understanding and acceptance?

“It’s definitely better, certainly working within the hospital trust – there’s an LGBTQ+ workers’ forum and a lot more visibility about not just sexuality but HIV as well. But there are still pockets of healthcare where we are actively addressing issues and there’s a lot of work being done around stigma and lack of education.”

MORE INFO

See a summary of Health Care Workers In HIV: An Oral History In The UK AIDS Era and listen to clips at www.healthcareworkersinhiv.org.uk

Photos by Gideon Mendel, from The Ward (Trolley Press)

Rev Heather Leake Date: www.dgmc.org.uk
The learning disability drag scene is having a moment in the world right now, so watch this space

VISIONS OF EQUALITY

Frances Hubbard gets filmmaker Matthew Hellett’s view of how disability-led arts organisation Carousel supports an under-represented group and how his latest initiative, Queer Freedom, aims to break down barriers to inclusivity in film.

Carousel was founded in 1982 by a small group of Brightonians, when support for learning disabled people in the arts was virtually non-existent. Beginning with workshops in hospitals, special schools, and day centres, it’s grown into an award-winning learning disability-led arts organisation and charity. Steered by the learning disabled people it represents, Carousel enables them “to develop and manage their creative lives, true to their voice and vision, challenging expectations of what great art is and who can create it.”

One such artist is learning disabled, gay filmmaker and lead programmer of Oska Bright Film Festival, Matthew Hellett, who has worked with Carousel for over 20 years, which is, as Matthew observes: “longer than most marriages.” A regular participant and performer in a wide range of Carousel events that have spanned the arts, it is perhaps his filmmaking and drag queen performance art that have most directly confronted the ways in which he feels different.

His work explores how LGBTQ+ and learning disabilities manifest creatively against the odds. Being as they are, in Matthew’s words, “a minority within a minority”. It has, however, taken time, acceptance, and growing confidence to address these issues directly, and his filmography thus far reflects his varied interests and passions...

His first film, Cooking With Matthew, won the Best Overall Film Award at the 2005 Oska Bright Film Festival, Carousel’s original (and the first) international festival of short films made by people with learning disabilities. Following on from this success he was awarded a Carousel training bursary that enabled him to write, direct and perform in his second film, Unusual Journey. Not only did this short feature on Brighton & Hove Council’s website, it was seen by a whopping 200,000 people when Fat Boy Slim screened it at his New Year’s Day gig on Brighton beach in 2007.

It was during this time, as he was naturally enjoying a taste of the limelight, that Matthew developed his drag queen performance act, Mrs Sparkle, who became the regular hostess of the Blue Camel Club, the Brighton club night for learning disabled people and their friends. She went on to star in her own film, the 2008 Sparkle, a collaboration with Simon Wilkinson from Junk TV. In the same year Mrs Sparkle presented a number of awards at the legendary Gscene Golden Handbag Awards.

As if the glamour of this wasn’t enough, s/he rose to international stardom the following year when Sparkle went on to win the Best Documentary Award at Picture This International Film Festival in Calgary, Canada. Although Matthew hasn’t performed as Mrs Sparkle for a while, he says: “The learning disability drag scene is having a moment in the world right now, so watch this space.”

After being accepted on to the prestigious Guiding Lights Scheme in 2017/8, the UK film industry’s leading mentoring programme, Matthew became the lead programmer for Oska Bright. In this role he says: “It’s an honour to watch all these amazing films and to decide what films get shown,” thereby nurturing a new generation of learning disabled artists. This creation of an inclusive community built on the idea of legacy is key to Carousel’s success.

When asked how important Carousel has been in supporting his work and development, Matthew replies: “Hugely important. They’ve given me a platform for my creativity as a filmmaker, performer and programmer.”

In terms of how Carousel has crafted the specific support needed to help Matthew, Lisa Wolfe, marketing manager for Carousel, explains: “There are no rules, no specific tasks and definitely no pressure. We help all our artists to develop their particular craft and express their creativity as they wish. If they want to focus on gender or disability that’s fine with us, but equally they may want to make films about cooking – like Matthew did. We’ve supported him as a film enthusiast and campaigner, finding ways for him to collaborate and become media savvy. He’s met heads of industry and festival directors, and travelled the world influencing others. What Matthew has achieved is an inspiration for us all.”

One of these important achievements is his introduction of a new LGBTQ+ strand to Oska Bright, the extremely popular Queer Freedom. This is an exploration of the intersection of queerness and disability with films about gender, friendships and the importance of language.

Matthew also continues to speak at film festivals around the world as he pushes for a more inclusive film industry. However, while he acknowledges that: “Our festival opens people’s eyes and minds to other opinions and perceptions”, when asked if he has felt or continues to feel like an outsider in the arts because he is a learning disabled gay man, Matthew says: “I’d love the answer to be no, but yes, I have felt outside the mainstream. Sometimes people put up barriers or don’t know how to approach me. When I first went to industry events like Bust The Bias with exes from Sky, Channel 4 and BBC it was hard to be heard, but I’m far more confident now. Whether it’s because I’m learning disabled or gay is open to question; maybe all the art world is just as cliquey.”

Regardless of this what is important is to keep making work and to keep shouting about it. As Matthew explains: “Oska Bright is managed and presented by learning disabled people – we’re the ones giving the keynote speeches and announcing the awards. Fifty percent of Oska Bright audiences don’t have a learning disability... that’s a really important statistic for me as it shows we’re having a much bigger impact.”

Testament to the power of film as medium for change is his programming of the brilliant Irish film Sanctuary in 2017, a film “about a learning disabled couple escaping to a hotel to have sex, which was illegal in Ireland at that time. That film helped change the law. A key part of my role as programmer is to find great films which can surprise and challenge.”

So be prepared to be surprised and challenged and get yourself to the next (biennial) Oska Bright Film Festival in 2021. As somebody who goes along every year I can say that if you have an interest in film and identity, you won’t be disappointed.

MORE INFO

For more info on Matthew Hellett, Oska Bright Film Festival, Carousel and The Blue Camel Club visit: www.carousel.org.uk
45 YEARS DOWN THE LINE

It started as a telephone helpline but has grown into a major service provider for Brighton’s LGBTQ+ community, Jaq Bayles talks to Lyndsay Macadam about how the past has informed the present for Switchboard.

Having just celebrated its 45th anniversary (on Sunday, February 9), Brighton & Hove LGBT Switchboard boasts a history that outgrows two other prominent LGBTQ+ support organisations that have also just celebrated milestones – Mindout and Allsorts, both 20. That a group formed in 1975 by volunteers manning a helpline maintains its relevance today is quite astonishing – but in the best of ways. Switchboard has evolved thanks to the findings of the past and continues to move forward by exploring the needs of today’s LGBTQ+ community, some of whom will have turned to that original set-up for guidance.

“When I looked at where it was then and where it is now, the helpline has got us to where we are today,” says Lyndsay Macadam, chief executive since June 2019. “Who’s phoning up? Why are they phoning? Where are they still struggling in life? A lot of our services have grown out of that.”

And the services offered today by Switchboard are many and varied, catering to an ageing population by offering support to people with disabilities and those affected by growing older or by dementia, and at the same time addressing relatively new issues such as trans abuse. But equally, the organisation finds itself still tackling some of the same fundamentals that led to its birth 45 years ago. As all Switchboard’s call logs are stored at The Keep, it has access to a full history of that time, and while many calls – in the absence of the internet – were about where people could go that was gay friendly in Brighton, many queried how to handle the coming out process and its effect on their mental health.

Lyndsay says: “Since then we have had Section 28, equal marriage, and the language we use to describe ourselves has changed enormously. No one was speaking about trans people in 1975 or being non-binary even in 2015. People were wanting to talk about self discovery and coming out. We still have people phoning in worried about that – it’s still something we have to worry about. There’s less demand on the phonelines because of the internet, but the main underlying issues remain.”

The continuing importance of an organisation such as Switchboard is underlined by the disconnect that still exists between mainstream support groups and the LGBTQ+ community. “We do a lot of work with people who have dementia or have suffered bereavement and have a drop-in café in the Phoenix Gallery where the facilitator has an arts and therapy background. The people who come are in a safe place without the stigma that they may find in other groups and with the opportunity to spend time with other people. They tell us it’s the only space where they can talk freely about all those parts of their identity. If they go to a dementia group they may feel they have to hide their LGBTQ+ status, and if they go to an LGBTQ+ group they may feel they have to hide their dementia.”

And even in the Brighton & Hove bubble the fight against prejudice continues, although positives are shining through. “A lot of non-LGBTQ+ organisations in the city want to make their services more inclusive. We all have different specialities and can come together to create really robust projects. For example, Together Co is a befriending and social prescribing organisation and they came to us to say they were not delivering to or getting as much from LGBTQ+ communities as they wanted. It grows and grows and what occurs to me when I look at what we are doing now is how about we are working with people who have intersecting identities – LGBTQ+ and older, or LGBTQ+ with disabilities.

“We’re still facing inequality in terms of health and wellbeing, accessing housing etc. There’s an element of being surprised that in Brighton it can still be an issue that a trans person gets abuse thrown at them in the street – the community is huge and everybody should be pretty open.”

“It’s addressing those inequalities that is high on the agenda for Switchboard and its volunteers, with a raft of projects underway to ensure safe spaces and support for people with those intersecting identities.

There’s the LGBTQ Disability Group, within which many people are neuro diverse, facing autism or ADHD, and who may find it difficult to access wellbeing support because that is seen as a “mental health issue related to their querness or transgender”; the Older People’s Project, working with those over the age of 50 who are feeling isolated; and the Rainbow Café, supporting LGBTQ+ people who live with memory loss or dementia.

The latter project will this summer involve activities at Plot 22 in Stammer Park, part of the Green Wellbeing Alliance, aimed at reconnecting people with nature and their past. “Some of the people will be just sitting around having a cup of tea, others will get involved in what’s growing, cultivation, smelling flowers, looking at colours. It’s a tool for reminiscence – people remember talking to their granny in the garden or collecting petals to make perfume with,” says Lyndsay.

Grief Encounter is Switchboard’s bereavement group, covering any kind of bereavement at any point in life.

“It doesn’t need to be a partner but for most people it is. For some it might just have happened a month ago, for others it’s been a long time and we explore the feelings around it. People may have had unresolved issues with their parents, or may have felt that if their partner got ill and died their status as partner might not have been recognised. There’s the fact that so many of us have that chosen family around us.”

Then there’s Trans Link, aiding social prescribing to help people look after their health and wellbeing without using medication.

“It might come out that people need to get more exercise, or want to stop drinking but are afraid of what would happen to their social lives.”

While this service is offered through GP surgeries, the people who may benefit most may not feel so comfortable with that route.

“We also have an ongoing project for trans survivors. A lot of trans people have experienced violence or threat of violence.” This project helps trans and/or non-binary people share solidarity and support each other. Activities to date have included bread-baking and a zines-making project.

Switchboard already covers an awful lot of ground in its role as a major ally to the wider LGBTQ+ community, but it’s not resting on its laurels. “Going into next year it’s going to be working with people of colour,” says Lyndsay, who notes that Brighton is a very ‘white’ city and that there’s “been a lack of knowing what to do or a reticence to get it wrong,” – issues that need addressing.

“Further down the line it will be about representation and support for intersex people and also sex workers, who are a big part of the community. Also the neuro diverse. We keep evolving and learning and looking.”

MORE INFO

For more info about Switchboard, LGBTQ Disability Group, Older People’s Project, Rainbow Café, Grief Encounter and Trans Link, please visit: www.switchboard.org.uk
LEGENDS AUSTRALIA DAY CABARET RAISES £2,821.98

Legends Brighton held a huge Cabaret Fundraiser for Australia in January, raising an impressive £2,821.98 (including a generous donation of £1,000 from Legends’ owner Tony Chapman) for the Australian Red Cross.

Hosted by the legendary Davina Sparkle, the event coincided with Australia Day and included many of the scene’s top cabaret stars performing on the Legends stage to raise vital funds for the fire disaster appeal. Acts who gave their time for free, included: Miss Jason, Pat Clutcher, Dave Lynn, Pooh La May, Kara Van Park, Maisie Trollete, Lovinia Belle, Stephanie Von Clitz, Jason Lee, Heart & Soul, Wilma Ballsdrop, Lola Lasagne, Alfie Ordinary, Laura Nixon as Marilyn Monroe, Jonsey as Tom Jones, Jennie Castell and Miss Disney.

Legends Brighton said: “Wow. For our Australia Day fundraiser we managed to raise a whopping £2,821.98, which included £1,000 from Tony Chapman, to help Australia respond to the devastating wildfires. We were touched by your generosity and know these vital funds will really help our friends in Australia in this difficult time. Thank you all so much and of course a HUGE thank you to all of our wonderful cabaret acts.”

For more info on the Australian Red Cross, visit www.redcross.org.au

Photos by Jack Lynn
THE BASEMENT CLUB

Brighton’s best nightclub 2019 - Gscene Golden Handbags and Brighton Bar Awards

NOW! 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
House spirits & selected bottles £2.50
Premium draught beers from £3

Night Shift
11-4am / Free entry
DJ David Noakes
With guest DJ Trick
Drinks promos from £2
Chart & Club remixes
DJ Peter Castle

Fusion
Saturday night dance party
11pm-4am | Free entry all night

Glitter Curious
Your favourite queer party
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&C's apply
Information is correct at the time of going to press. Gscene can’t be held responsible for any changes or alterations to the listings.

**SUNDAY 1**
- **AFFINITY BAR** Cabaret: Son of a Tutu 5pm
- **ALL NEW BULLDOG** Sunday Funday: camp karaoke 5pm
- **AMSTERDAM** cabaret: Jason Lee 5pm, roasts 12pm-til gone
- **BAR 7@CRAWLEY** karaoke 6pm
- **BAR BROADWAY** Fireplaces Sessions: These Old Broads: Wain Douglas, Jason Thorpe & George Martin Marino 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—til gone
- **CHARLES ST TAP** cabaret: host Sally Vale & Rose Garden 7.30pm; Sally’s Rock & Roll Bingo 8.30pm, roasts 12pm
- **LEGENDS BAR** cabaret: Pat Clutcher 3.30pm, roasts 12.30—4pm
- **MARINE TAVERN** roasts 12-5pm
- **PARIS HOUSE** live music: Lo Polodoro 6pm

**MONDAY 2**
- **AFFINITY BAR** Karaoke 6pm
- **ALL NEW BULLDOG** Monday Glitter Ball: 70s-00s tunes 4pm
- **REGENCY TAVERN** Open mic with Chris Hide 8.30pm
- **SUBLIME** Brace Yourself 9pm
- **CHARLES ST TAP** Gaymers Night: consoles/board games 8.30pm
- **LEGENDS BAR** Dave Does Legends: Dave Lynn & guest 9.30pm
- **PARIS HOUSE** live jazz: Nils Solberg - Mick Hamer Trio 2pm, Abi Flynn & band 8pm
- **QUEEN’S ARMS** Sally’s Social Monday 9pm
- **THREE JOFFY BUTCHERS** live football: Portsmouth v Arsenal 7.45pm
- **LE VILLAGE** karaoke 8pm

**TUESDAY 3**
- **AFFINITY BAR** Free Jukebox 12pm
- **ALL NEW BULLDOG** Translove Tues: Gurl: What Did That Gurl Just Say Gurl: Sam Pink, karaoke/queens 8pm
- **BAR 7@CRAWLEY** Crewsday 7pm
- **BAR BROADWAY** Piano Singalong 9pm
- **MARINE TAVERN** Curry & Quiz with Nat 7.30pm
- **PARIS HOUSE** Open Mic Night 8pm
- **QUEEN’S ARMS** Lipstick: femme night with Billie Gold 8pm, live music: Jason Lee 9.30pm
- **RAILWAY CLUB** Lindy hop 7pm
- **THREE JOFFY BUTCHERS** live football: Chelsea v Liverpool 7.45pm
- **LE VILLAGE** Switch with Kryan Shayne 9pm

**WEDNESDAY 4**
- **AFFINITY BAR** Karaoke 8pm
- **ALL NEW BULLDOG** Green Light Cruise Night 6pm

**THURSDAY 5**
- **AFFINITY BAR** cabaret & games with Dave Lynn 5pm
- **ALL NEW BULLDOG** Translove Thursday: camp karaoke & queens with Sam Pink 8pm
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.

ONE FOR THE DIARY Tue (17) is SHOWTUNE PADDY OKE, a special karaoke session for St Patrick’s Day with hosts Chris Hannam and Sinead McGeady-Preston at 9pm. Bar Broadway say: “This St Patrick’s Day we’re having a good old Irish Karaoke night. Chris and Sinead are your hosts as we sing our way through the evening till the early hours. It’s going to be a lot of fun and we’re stocking up on the Guinness, the Jameson’s and the Bailey’s.”

REGULARS

Sun: FIREPLACE SESSIONS present top acts at 8.30pm: these Old Broads with Wain Douglas, Jason Thorpe & George Martin Marino (1), Mabel South (8), TBA (15 & 22) and Sophie Causbrook (29). Sophie Causbrook attended the BRIT school, famed for producing Adele and Jessie J, for two years studying A level Musical Theatre with Andrew Marsh and Adrian Packer. Sophie used the skills she developed while performing in musicals and incorporated them into her one woman show to create something very special and unique. Sophie studied all areas of music and can sing in all genres from classical to pop and musical theatre. She loves to shock audiences by changing well known pop and rock hits into a classical sound!

Tue: PIANO-SINGALONG at 9pm
Wed: IT’S ALL FUN & GAMES at 9pm with host Sally Vate and different games every week: Crystal Maze (11), Name that Showtune Bingo (18), Crystal Maze (25).
Thu: Bar Broadway’s ALL NEW QUIZ at 8pm
Fri & Sat: BROADWAY JUKEBOX mix of musical anthems chosen by you at www.broadwayjukebox.com Bar Broadway say: “The online jukebox is back, includes our weekend anthems, and is easier to use with a search facility! You click, we play.”

Fri (6) MAD HATTER’S (LONG ISLAND ICED) TEA PARTY in Broadway Lounge 10pm.

BAR 7@CRAWLEY Thursday Games: Benders Bingo with host Tom & acts Sibrina & Miss Polonial 8.30pm
BAR BROADWAY All New 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 80s Night 8pm
PARIS HOUSE World Music: Tres Amigos 8pm
QUEEN’S ARMS Leading Ladies cabaret: Spice 10pm
REGENCY TAVERN Karaoke with Chris Hide 8.30pm
SUBLINE Brace Yourself 9pm
THREE JOLLY BUTCHERS live football: Derby v Man City 7.45pm

FRIDAY 6
AFFINITY BAR Wigs & Beads Karaoke with drag hostess 8pm
ALL NEW BULLDOG Fri Night Live: camp karaoke DJ Glyn-Sing 9pm, Show Time: Domina Tryx 11pm; karaoke till 3am
AMSTERDAM cabaret: Marsha Mallow 9.30pm

Saturdays

7th Pat Clutzer Cabaret 6.30pm
14th Miss Jason Cabaret 10.15pm
21st Pat Clutzer Cabaret 6.30pm
28th Pat Clutzer Cabaret 6.30pm
Karaoke to close

Sundays

1st Son of a Tutu Cabaret 5.30pm
8th Double Cabaret Sandra 5.30pm Spice 9pm
15th TBC see Facebook for details
22nd Kara Van Park Cabaret 5.30pm
29th Davina Sparkle Cabaret 5.30pm
**MARCH LISTINGS**

**BAR 7 CRAWLEY**
- 7 Pegler Way, Crawley, RH11 7AG. Tel: 01293 511177. www.7crawley.co.uk
- OPEN daily from 6pm
- DRINK PROMOS Tue, Wed, Fri, Sat & Sun: drink deals all night.

- **ONE FOR THE DIARY** Fri (13) CABARET with Carmelle Toe at 7pm. Bar 7 say: “Carmelle Toe is going to be hot stepping over from Horsham! Come see the bearded lady!”
- **ONE FOR THE DIARY** Tue (31) is Transgender Day of Visibility – TRANS TUESDAY, a safe space to chat and chill from 7pm.

- **REGULARS** Thur: THE THURSDAY GAMES from 8.30pm with host Tom. Special performances from Sebrina & Miss Polonian and weekly games: Benders Bingo. £2 per game (5 & 19) and the QUEER QUIZ. £5 per team (12 & 26). Fri & Sat: party time with alternate DJs and karaoke 9pm. SUNDAY SOCIAL KARAOKE with hosts 6pm.

- **BAR 7@CRAWLEY** TGIF Madness: resident/guest DJs & karaoke 7pm
- **BAR BROADWAY** Jukebox 5pm; Mad Hatter’s (Long Island Iced) Tea Party/Broadway Lounge 10pm
- **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: Pat Clutcher 9.30pm
- **LEGENDS BAR** Brighton Belles: local cabaret stars & guests 9pm
- **MARINE TAVERNS** Jukebox 9pm
- **PARIS HOUSE** End of the Week Party Night 9pm
- **QUEEN’S ARMS** Big Friday Cabaret: Cherry Liquor 10pm
- **REGENCY TAVERN@CABARET** Regency with George Martin Marine 8pm
- **SUBLIME** Steam: men’s night 10pm
- **THE VILLAGE** cabaret: Spice 9pm
- **ZONE** cabaret: Gabriella Parrish 10pm

**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 2–4pm. Green Light drink promos through the night on Wed.

- **REGULARS** CAMP KARAOKE 5 nights a week! Wed: 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 camp, karaoke, queens 6pm. 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.”
- Sat: QUEEN OF THE NIGHT with hosts Wonda Starr (7 & 21) and Macarena (14 & 28), outrageous karaoke, fab prizes and party tunes/floor fillers from 9pm.
- SUNDAY FUNDAY with Camp Karaoke at 5pm. MON. GLITTER BALL: classic camp vids from 70s-00s at 4pm.

**SATURDAY 7**
- **AFFINITY BAR** camp cabaret: Pat Clutcher 6pm
- **ALL NEW BULLDOG** Wonda Starr’s Queen of the Night: camp karaoke 9pm
- **AMSTERDAM** Karaoke 9.30pm
- **BAR 7@CRAWLEY** Party Night: alternate DJs & karaoke 7pm
- **BAR BROADWAY** Jukebox 4pm
- **BASEMENT CLUB@LEGENDS** Fusion: DJ Peter Castle 11pm
- **CHARLES ST TAP** Fierce DJs 9pm
- **GROSVENOR BAR** cabaret: Marsha Mallow 9.30pm
- **LEGENDS BAR** Pre-club DJ 7pm
- **MARINE TAVERNS** Candi Reilly’s Karaoke & Cabaret Party 9pm
- **PARIS HOUSE** All That Jazz: Lawrence Jones 4pm. Andy the Dandy DJ 9pm
- **QUEEN’S ARMS** OA Triple cabaret: Poppycock 6pm, Betty Swollocks 8pm, Allan Jay 10pm
- **REGENCY TAVERN** cabaret: Stephanie Von Clitz 6pm
- **SUBLINE** Leathermen South 10pm
- **THREE JOLLY BUTCHERS** live football: Liverpool vs Bournemouth 12.30pm, Burnley vs Spurs 5.30pm, Rugby: Ireland v Italy 2.15pm, England v Wales 4.45pm
- **THE VILLAGE** Party with DJ 9pm
- **ZONE** cabaret: Sally Vate 10pm

**SUNDAY 8**
- **AFFINITY BAR** Double Cabaret: Sandra 5pm, Spice 9pm
- **ALL NEW BULLDOG** Sunday Funday: camp karaoke 5pm
- **AMSTERDAM** cabaret: Jamie Watson 5pm. roasts 12pm-till gone
- **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 Vale & Lucinda Lashes 7.30pm, Sally’s Rock & Roll Bingo 8.30pm, roasts 12pm
- **LEGENDS BAR** cabaret: Dave Lynn 3.30pm, roasts 12.30–4pm
- **MARINE TAVERNS** cabaret: Candi Reilly’s Karaoke & Cabaret Party 9pm
- **PARIS HOUSE** live music: Louis Checkley & band 6pm
- **QUEEN’S ARMS** Sunday Funday cabaret: Fanny Burns 6.30pm & 10pm
- **REGENCY TAVERN** roasts & live pianist 12-6pm
- **SUBLINE** Guilt-Free tunes 9pm
- **THREE JOLLY BUTCHERS** live football: Chelsea v Everton 2pm, Man Utd v Man City 4.30pm, Rugby: Scotland v France 3pm
- **THE VILLAGE** Drag Open Mic: Stephanie Von Clitz 6pm, cabaret, Bella Black 9.30pm, roasts 12pm
Sunday March 22nd: Treat your mum to a meal at The Amsterdam for Mother’s Day. A 3 course meal for only £25 p.p. including chocolates and flowers for mum!

MANEL ORTEGA

portraiture
photo sessions
@ @manelortega

KARAOKE SATURDAYS with Guest Hosts - Starts 9:30pm

CABARET FRIDAYS

6th Marsha Mallow
13th Sally Vate
20th Jennie Castell
27th Kara Van Park

Starts 11pm

SUNDAY SERENADE

1st Jason Lee
8th Jamie Watson
15th Paul Middleton
22nd Gabriella Parrish
29th Chase Adams

Starts 5:30pm

COFFEE WITH A KICK!
Marsha Coffee & Patron XO Cafe
Available as shots or to make a luxurious Espresso Martini!

#bulldogbton
31 St James Street Brighton
01273 696996

HAPPY HOUR
Monday to Friday: 4-7pm • Sunday: 12-4pm
Camp Karaoke 5 nights a week!
Drag Hosts with TEAM FIERCE only at the All New #BulldogBTN

Monday
Glitter Ball
Kick off a brand new week with all your favourite music videos from the 60s/70s/80s/90s/00s! Indulge in nostalgia from the past with a night of Classic! STUDENT DISCOUNT ALL NIGHT! OPEN 4pm till Midnight!

Tuesday
#Transvolve
A night of Outrageous Camp, Karaoke and Queens with the fabulous SAM PINK & WONDA STARR LIVE at 8pm! Bringing a heeled up #getinvolved in the Heart of Gay Brighton!
OPEN 3pm till Midnight!

Wednesday
MIDNIGHT GREEN LIGHT CRUISE NIGHT
Mid-week meet 6pm till Midnight
Perfect for singles & doubles
OPEN 3pm till Midnight!

Thursday
#Transvolve
Kick starting the weekend off in style with a night of Outrageous Camp, Karaoke and Queens with the fabulous SAM PINK & WONDA STARR LIVE from 8pm only in the Heart of Gay Brighton!
OPEN 3pm till Midnight!

Friday
Friday Night Live!
SHOWTIME with DOMINA TRXY£ LIVE at 11pm
Karaoke Camp + your party favs with DJ GLYN-SING 9pm-3am
OPEN Midday till 3am!

Saturday
Queen of the Night
WONDA STARR’s Karaoke Camp + your fave floor fillers 9pm-3am
Prizes to be won at the title of Queen of the Night!
OPEN Midday till 3am!

Sunday
Funday
12 till 4pm + Camp Karaoke 5 till midnight!
OPEN Midday till Midnight!
CAMELFORD ARMS
- 30-31 Camelford St, BN2 1TQ, Tel: 01273 622386, www.camelfordarms.com
- OPEN daily from 12pm.
- FOOD Mon - Sat from 12 - 9pm; seniors’ lunch Wed from 2 - 3.30pm, two courses £9.50. Sunday roasts and select menu served from 12pm - till gone.

MONDAY 9
- AFFINITY BAR Karaoke 7pm
- ALL NEW BULLDOG Monday Glitter Ball: 70s -00s tunes 4pm
- CHARLES ST TAP Gaymers Night: consoles/board games. 8.30pm
- LEGENDS BAR Dave Does Legends: Dave Lynn & guest 9.30pm
- PARIS HOUSE live jazz: Nils Solberg - Mick Hamer Trio 2pm, Chris Cough 8pm
- QUEEN’S ARMS Sally’s Social Monday 9pm
- SUBLINE Quiz with Ian Sinclair, raising funds for James Ledward Memorial Fund, all welcome 7pm
- THREE JOLLY BUTCHERS live football: Leicester v Aston Villa 8pm
- LE VILLAGE karaoke 8pm

TUESDAY 10
- AFFINITY BAR Free Jukebox 12pm
- ALL NEW BULLDOG #Transvolve Tues: Gurl What Did That Gurl Just Say Gurl: Sam Pink, karaoke/queens 8pm
- BAR 7@CRAWLEY Crewday 7pm
- BAR BROADWAY Piano Singalong 9pm
- MARINE TAVERN Curry & Quiz with Nat 7.30pm
- PARIS HOUSE live music: Yellow Funk Machine 8pm
- QUEEN’S ARMS live music: Jason Lee 9.30pm
- RAILWAY CLUB Lindy hop 7pm
- THREE JOLLY BUTCHERS live football: Leipzig v Spurs 8pm
- LE VILLAGE Switch with Kryan Shayne 9pm

WEDNESDAY 11
- AFFINITY BAR Karaoke 8pm
- ALL NEW BULLDOG Green Light Cruise Night 8pm
- BAR BROADWAY All Fun & Games With Sally Lynn: 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 TH South 8.30pm
- LEGENDS BAR A Bit of Midweek Sparkle: Davina Sparkle & guest Drew Cameron 9.30pm
- MARINE TAVERN Pink Pound 7pm
- PARIS HOUSE live jazz: Sarah Harris Trio 8pm
- QUEEN’S ARMS Kara Van Park’s West End Wednesdays 10pm
- SUBLINE Hump Day 9pm
- THREE JOLLY BUTCHERS live football: Liverpool v Athletic Madrid 8pm
- LE VILLAGE Le Voice talent comp: £2,500 prize package 8pm

THURSDAY 12
- AFFINITY BAR cabaret & games with Dave Lynn 9pm
- ALL NEW BULLDOG #Transvolve Thursday: camp karaoke & queens with Sam Pink 8pm
- BAR 7@CRAWLEY Thursgay Games: Bingo Quiz with host Tom & acts Sebrina & Miss Polonia 8.30pm
- BAR BROADWAY All New 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 80s Night 8pm
- PARIS HOUSE World Music: Abraham de Vega & Babou 8pm
- QUEEN’S ARMS Leading Ladies cabaret: Lola Lasagne 10pm. Official Alternative Panto After Party 10pm
- REGENCY TAVERN Karaoke with Chris Hide 8.30pm
- SUBLINE Brace Yourself 9pm
- LE VILLAGE Coyote Girls: girls’ night with DJ Susan 9pm

FRIDAY 13
- 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: Sally Vate 9.30pm
- BAR 7@CRAWLEY cabaret: Carmelle Top 7pm
- BAR BROADWAY Jukebox 5pm
- BASEMENT CLUB@LEGENDS Night Shift: DJs David Neakes & Trick 11pm
- CAMELFORD ARMS Fri Club 6pm
- CHARLES ST TAP Fabulous Friday: DJ Morgan Fabulous 9pm
- GROSVENOR BAR cabaret: Miss Jason 9.30pm

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, inc: breakfasts from 10am, Tue 4 chicken wings or vegan cauliflower wings £1. Wed: build your own burger from £5, beef, chicken or vegan, homemade Sunday roasts for £5 from 12pm; hand carved roast beef, turkey, pork with crackling, 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 Craft Club: any two craft cans or bottles £6 from 5pm. Tiny Rebel tap takeover in March with off the wall craft beers on tap from the Welsh brewery including Jam Roly Poly and Custard ale, Cherry Bomb sour and Stay Puft marshmallow porter.

- ONE FOR THE DIARY Sun: CABaret from 7.30pm with host Sally Vate and top acts: Rose Garden (1), Lucinda Lashes (8), Sandra (15), Lola Lasagne (22) and Heart & Soul (29). Stick around the Sally Vate’s ROCK & ROLL BINGO straight after!
- REGULARS Mon: 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. Charles Street Tap say: “Everyone welcome and if you’ve got a game you want to play, bring it along – it’s all about the fun!” Wed: Mrs Moore’s BONGA BINGO BONANZA raising funds for TH South from 8.30pm with a brand-new speed round!
- THROWBACK THURSDAY: pull shapes to 00s guilty pleasures and 90s retro anthems from 9pm. Fri: FABULOUS FRIDAY with DJ Morgan Fabulous on the decks from 9pm. Sat: FIERCE with top award-winning DJs spinning your favourite dance and house anthems on rotation from 9pm.

- ONE FOR THE DIARY Tuesday (17) is the ST PATRICK’S DAY GUINNESS PARTY with food and craic all day and night.
- REGULARS Thur: the BIG CASH QUIZ with a £300 cash prize, free sarnies and great atmosphere from 9pm. Kick the weekend off at FRIDAY CLUB from 6pm. Sunday is the BEAR BASH with free food and a raffle at 5pm.
CHARLES STREET TAP
8 MARINE PARADE
MON - THUR
5 - 8PM COCKTAILS 4.95

TINY REBEL TAP TAKEOVER
try them all before they disappear!

PIZZA & A PINT 10.00
ALL DAY EVERY DAY

MRS. MOORE’S BONA BINGO BONANZA
Wednesdays from 8.30

FRESHLY MADE SUNDAY ROASTS
FROM JUST £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 Vegetarian Butternut Squash & Apricot Roast
Sundays from noon - Bookings advised

1st March
Rose Garden
8th March
Lucinda Lashes
15th March
Sandra
22nd March
Lola Lasagne
29th March
Heart & Soul

MUSIC & SHOWS
SUNDAYS FROM 7.30PM
followed by Sally Vate’s Rock & Roll Bingo

WWW.CHARLES-STREET.COM FOR FULL MARCH 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., ID & Search Condition of Entry
FALLEN ANGEL

24 Grafton Street, Kemptown BN2 1AQ Tel: 07949 590 001
OPEN Tue - Fri from 4pm, Sat from 3pm, Sun from 2pm. Welcoming to everybody, Fallen Angel is a quirky little pub in the heart of Kemptown. 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 Kemptown with 10% discount on all orders, or Alforno Pizza Kemptown.

GROSVENOR BAR

16 Western Street, Hove, BN1 2PG, www.thegrosvenorb.com
OPEN daily from 1pm - late.
HAPPY HOURS Mon - Fri from 1 - 5pm.

ONE FOR THE DIARY Friday CABARET with drag superstars at 9.30pm Pat Clutche: (6), Miss Jason (13 & 27) and Davina Sparkle (20). Outrageous drag queen Davina Sparkle has been tearing up stages up and down the country, and abroad, for over 20 years. One of the best in the business, expect live vocals, patter, fabulous sequinned outfits and cheeky humour!

REGULARS Thur: Abel Mabel’s BINGO at 8.30pm & Sat: top CABARET with stars of the scene at 9.30pm. Marsha Mallow (7), Terry Tour (14), Dave Lynn (21) and Pooh La May (28).

LISTINGS

SUNDAY 15

AFFINITY BAR cabaret: TBA - see Facebook 5pm
ALL NEW BULLDOG Sunday Funday: camp karaoke 5pm
AMSTERDAM cabaret: Paul Middleton 5pm: roasts 12pm-lill gone
BAR 7@CRAWLEY karaoke 6pm
BAR BROADWAY Firepace Sessions pres TBA 8.30pm
BASEMENT CLUB@LEGENDS Glitter Cow Festival, under a big top alongside party with Patrick Caswely & Maria Gardiner 11pm
CAMELFORD ARMS Bear Bash: free food/raffle 5pm: roasts/select menu

MONDAY 16

AFFINITY BAR Karaoke 7pm
ALL NEW BULLDOG Monday Glitter Ball: 7.30-8.30pm & £2 drinks 4pm
CHARLES ST TAP Dambo Night: consoles/board games 8.30pm
LEGENDS BAR Dave Does Legends: Dave Lynn and guest 9.30pm
PARIS HOUSE live jazz: Nils Selborg - Mick Hamer Trio 8pm
QUEEN’S ARMS Sally’s Social Monday 9pm

TUESDAY 17

AFFINITY BAR Free Jukebox 12pm
ALL NEW BULLDOG Transvolve Tues St Patrick’s Day Special: Sam Pink, karaoke/queens 8pm
BAR 7@CRAWLEY Creweseya 7pm
BAR BROADWAY Showtune Paddyoke: St Patrick’s Day karaoke with hosts Chris Hannam & Sinead 9pm
CAMELFORD ARMS St Patrick’s Day Guinness Party 12pm
MARINE TAP Curry & Quiz with Nat 7.30pm
PARIS HOUSE live music: Fabulous Red Diesel 8pm
QUEEN’S ARMS live music: Jason Lee 9.30pm
RAILWAY CLUB Lindy hop 7pm
THREE JOLLY BUTCHERS karaoke: Everton v Liverpool 8pm
VILLAGE karaoke 8pm

WEDNESDAY 18

AFFINITY BAR Karaoke 8pm
ALL NEW BULLDOG Green Light Cruise Night 8pm
BAR BROADWAY All Fun & Games With Sally Vate: Name that Showtune Bingo 9pm

SATURDAY 14

AFFINITY BAR camp cabaret: Miss Jason 8pm: karaoke 9pm
ALL NEW BULLDOG Macarena’s Queen of the Night: camp karaoke 9pm
AMSTERDAM Karaoke 9.30pm
BAR 7@CRAWLEY Party Night:

SUNDAY 15

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LISTINGS
OFFICIAL AFTER PARTY EVERY NIGHT
AFTER THE ALTERNATIVE BRIGHTON PANTO - SOMEWHERE OVER THE BUSHES
@ THE SALLIS BENNEY - 12TH 13TH 14TH 15TH & 19TH 20TH 21ST 22ND

MONDAY 9PM
SALLY’S SOCIAL MONDAYS

TUESDAY 9.30PM
MR SHOWMAN JASON LEE
1ST TUES EVERY MONTH 8PM
WITH GUEST JASON LEE 9.30PM
BRAND NEW FEMME CABARET DANCE NIGHT
LIKE NO OTHER JOIN THE 80s SPACE LESBIAN IN HER BIG PINK SPACESHIP WITH HUGE SPECIAL GUESTS - GET YOUR GLAD RAGS ON AND PARTY!

WEDNESDAY 10PM
KARA VAN PARK’S WESTEND WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY 10PM
LEADING LADIES
5MAR SPICE
12MAR LOLA LASAGNE
19MAR VICKI VIVACIOUS
26MAR JENNIE CASTELLE

SUNDAY FUN DAY
SHOWS AT 6.30PM & 10PM
1MAR LUCINDA LASHES
8MAR FANNY BURNS
15MAR POPPYCOCK
22MAR MISS PENNY
29MAR MARTHA D’ARTHUR

HAPPY HOURS: 5PM-9PM WEEKDAYS • 2PM-6PM WEEKENDS
**LEGENDS BAR**

- 31-34 Marine Parade, BN2 1TR, T: 01273 624462, [www.legendsbrighton.com](http://www.legendsbrighton.com)
- **OPEN** daily from 11-5am.
- **FOOD** breakfasts & lunch served Mon-Sat from 11am-5pm; breakfasts from 11am on Sunday, then lunch from 12.30-4pm; choose from beef, belly pork, chicken supreme or nut roast served with roast potatoes; a selection of seasonal vegetables, homemade Yorkshire pudding and real gravy. Make sure you leave some space for one of the moreish desserts.

**DRINK PROMOS** Buy one bottle of wine and get the second half price, Mon-Fri 12-11pm.

**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. Nikki Red (4), Drew Cameron (11), Dave Fensome (18) and Jason Lee (25). Drew Cameron (11) is an award winning ‘stand-up chameleon’ – combining fresh stand-up comedy with celebrity impressions such as Ozzy Osbourne, Keith Lemon, Del Boy, Homer Simpson, to name a few. As well as live comedy events, you may have also seen his impressions on TV shows such as Britain’s Got Talent, the Frank Skinner Show, or possibly Dead Ringers. “Absolutely mind-boggling performance! Must be seen (and heard) to be believed” – Time Out magazine.

**LEGENDS BASEMENT CLUB**

- 31-34 Marine Parade, BN2 1TR, T: 01273 624462, [www.legendsbrighton.com](http://www.legendsbrighton.com)
- **OPEN** FREE ENTRY all night: Wed-Sun & Thur (26) at 11pm.
- **DRINK PROMOS** drinks from £2 on Sun, Mon & Fri, various deals on Wed.

**ONE FOR THE DIARY**
- **Thursday (26)** is ULTRA – UV PARTY with DJ Claire Fuller playing tracks to make you GLOW.
- **REGULARS** Saturday is FUSION with DJ Peter Castle spinning chart / club remixes. **Sunday** is the GLITTER CURIOUS queer sing-along party curated by Patrick Cawley & Maria Gardner with promos, surprises, performances, giveaways & more from 11pm, free entry. **Wednesday** is NOW THAT’S WHAT I CALL LEGENDS with DJ Claire Fuller taking you on a journey through the decades. **Friday** is NIGHT SHIFT with superstar DJ David Noakes & guest DJ Trick spinning pop & dance tracks. DJ David Noakes says: “If you’re looking for somewhere to party tonight, come and join me and DJ Trick for party vibes! I’ll be performing my usual club set meaning there will be something for all!”

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**MARCH LISTINGS**

**BASEMENT CLUB**

- **LEGENDS**
  - That’s What I Call Legends: DJ Claire Fuller 11pm
  - **CHARLES ST TAP** Mrs Moone’s Bona Bingo Bonanza for THF South 8.30pm
  - **LEGENDS BAR** A Bit of Midweek Sparkle: Davina Sparkle & guest Dave Fensome 9.30pm
  - **MARINE TAVERN** Pink Pound 7pm
  - **PARIS HOUSE** 8am Session 8pm
  - **QUEEN’S ARMS** & **KARA VAN PARK’S WEST END WEDNESDAYS** 10pm
  - **SUBLIME** Hump Day 9pm
  - **THREE JOLLY BUTCHERS** live football: Bayern Munich v Chelsea 8pm

**LE VILLAGE**

- Le Voice talent comp: £2,500 prize package 8pm

**THURSDAY 19**

**AFFINITY BAR**
- cabaret & games with Dave Lynn 9pm
- **ALL NEW BULLDOG** # Transverse Thursday: camp karaoke & queens with Sam Pink 8pm
- **BAR 7 @ CRAWLEY** Thursday Games: Benders Bingo with host Tom & acts Sabrina & Miss Colonial 8.30pm
- **BAR BROADWAY** All New Quiz 8pm

**FRIDAY 20**

**AFFINITY BAR**
- Wigs & Beads Karaoke with drag hostess 8pm
- **ALL NEW BULLDOG** Friday Night Live: camp karaoke DJ Gym-Sing 9pm; Show Time: Domino Tryx 11pm; karaoke till 3am
- **AMSTERDAM** cabaret: Jennie Castell 9.30pm
- **BAR 7 @ CRAWLEY** TGIF Madness: resident/guest DJs & karaoke 7pm
- **BAR BROADWAY** Jukebox 5pm
- **BASEMENT CLUB @ LEGENDS**

**SATURDAY 21**

**AFFINITY BAR**
- cabaret: Pat Clutcher 8pm, karaoke 9pm
- **ALL NEW BULLDOG** Monday Night Live: Wenda Stan’s Queen of the Night: camp karaoke 9pm
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 Friday is END OF WEEK PARTY with 1960s–90s ditties from 9pm, free entry.
- REGULARS FREE LIVE MUSIC every night. Sat AND ALL THAT JAZZ at 4pm: Lawrence Jones (7), Jorges Hot Club Trio (14). Monday Boys (21) and Gabriel Garkick (28); Andy the Dandy DJ at 9pm. Sun 6pm: Lo Polodoro (1), Louis Checkley & band (8), Sam Chara & band (15), Dave Williams & band (22) and Marilyn du Sax & band (29). Mon JAZZ with Nils Solberg-Mick Hamer Trio at 2pm; then at 8pm: Abi Flynn & band (2), Chris Coull (9), Mike Piggott Trio (16), John Lake Trio with Elizabeth Bustard (23) and the Jack Kendon Trio (30). Tue 6pm: Paris House: Open Mic (3 & 31). Yellow Funk Machine (10). Fabulous Red Diesel (17) and music all day from 12pm (24). Wed 6pm: Terry Seabrook Trio (4), Sarah Harris Trio (11), Paris House Jam Session (18) and Sam Carelse & band (25). Thur WORLD MUSIC 8pm: Tres Amigos (5), Abraham de Vega and Babou (12), Pollito Boogaloo (19) and Son Guarancheando (26).

SUNDAY 22

- AFFINITY BAR cabaret: Kara Van Park 5pm
- ALL NEW BULLDOG Sunday Funday: camp karaoke 5pm
- AMSTERDAM cabaret: Gabriella Parrish 5pm; roasts 12pm–ill gone; Mother’s Day 3 course meal incl chocs & flowers 12pm
- BAR 7@CRAWLEY karaoke 6pm
- BAR BROADWAY Fireplace Sessions pres. TBA 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–ill gone
- CHARLES ST TAP cabaret: host Sally Vale & Lola Lasagne 7.30pm, Sally’s Rock & Roll Bingo 8.30pm; roasts 12pm
- LEGENDS BAR cabaret: Miss Jason 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: Miss Penny 6.30pm & 10pm; Official Alte Panto After Party 10pm
- REGENCY TAVERN roasts & live pianist 12-6pm

RAILWAY CLUB

4 Belmont, Dyke Rd, Brighton BN1 3TF Tel 01273 328682

SUNDAY 22

- AFFINITY BAR cabaret: Kara Van Park 5pm
- ALL NEW BULLDOG Sunday Funday: camp karaoke 5pm
- AMSTERDAM cabaret: Gabriella Parrish 5pm; roasts 12pm–ill gone; Mother’s Day 3 course meal incl chocs & flowers 12pm
- BAR 7@CRAWLEY karaoke 6pm
- BAR BROADWAY Fireplace Sessions pres. TBA 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–ill gone
- CHARLES ST TAP cabaret: host Sally Vale & Lola Lasagne 7.30pm, Sally’s Rock & Roll Bingo 8.30pm; roasts 12pm
- LEGENDS BAR cabaret: Miss Jason 3.30pm; roasts 12.30–4pm
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SATURDAY 28TH MARCH

Irish & Country Music with BALLYREGN BOYS

STARTS 8.30pm
FREE ENTRY

EVERY TUESDAY LINDY HOPPERS
7pm–10pm

Membership for 2020 being taken now
NEW MEMBERS ALWAYS WELCOME
**THE QUEENS ARMS**

- **7 George St, BN2 1RH, T: 01273 696873, [www.theqabrighton.com](http://www.theqabrighton.com)**
- **OPEN** Mon - Fri from 5pm, Sat & Sun from 2pm.
- **DRINK PROMOS** Mon - Fri from 5 - 9pm, Sat & Sun from 2 - 6pm.

**THE RAILWAY CLUB**

- **4 Belmont, Dyke Road, BN1 3TF, Tel: 01273 322682**
- **OPEN** Mon - Wed from 5 - 11pm, Thur from 11am - 11pm, Fri from 3 - 11pm, Sat from 12 - 11pm (or till midnight for special events).
- **MEMBERSHIP** The Railway Club is a welcoming members’ club with snooker, billiards, darts and table tennis all available to members. Perfect for groups, parties or meetings, the Railway Club is friendly and spacious so pop in and join up! Bookings now being taken for parties, contact the club for more info.

**ONE FOR THE DIARY**

- **Tue (3)** is the launch of new monthly night LIPSTICK with Billie Gold and special guests from 8pm, with Jason Lee at 9.30pm. The QA says: “Join the 80s Space Lesbian Billie Gold in her big pink spaceship for a femme cabaret dance night like no other! Brand new to the Queens Arms, with huge special guests every month. It’s time to get your glad rags on and party!”

**WEDNESDAY 25**

- **AFFINITY BAR** Karaoke 8pm
- **ALL NEW BULLDOG** #Transolve
- **BAR BROADWAY** Piano Singalong 9pm
- **MARINE TAVERN** Curry & Quiz with Nat 7.30pm
- **PARIS HOUSE** Live music 8pm
- **QUEEN’S ARMS** Karaoke 9pm
- **RAILWAY CLUB** Live music: Jason Lee 10pm

**THURSDAY 26**

- **AFFINITY BAR** cabaret & games with Dave Lynn 9pm
- **ALL NEW BULLDOG** #Transolve
- **BAR 7@CRAWLEY** Thursday Games: Queer Quiz with host Tom & acts Sebrina & Miss Polonial 8.30pm
- **BAR BROADWAY** All New Quiz 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
- **MARINE TAVERN** Throwback Thursday 80s Night 8pm
- **PARIS HOUSE** World Music: Son Guarancho 8pm
- **QUEEN’S ARMS** Leading Ladies cabaret: Jennie Castel 10pm
- **REGENCY TAVERN** Karaoke with Chris Hide 8.30pm
- **SUBLINE** Free live music with the Ballyregon Boys every month. It’s time to get your glad rags on and party!”

**THREE JOLLY BUTCHERS**

- **59 North Rd, BN1 1YD, Tel: 01273 608571, [www.3jollybutchers.com](http://www.3jollybutchers.com)**
- **OPEN** daily from 12pm.
- **FOOD** Pre home match warm-up PIZZA & DRINKS Deal from 12pm on Sat (14).
- **LIVE SPORT** Live football on the big screens - see listings for fixtures.
THREE JOLLY BUTCHERS live football: Euro 2020 play-offs: 1st Leg 5pm & 7.45pm

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: Kara Van Park 9.30pm

BAR 7 CRAWLEY TGIF Madness: resident/guest DJs & karaoke 7pm

BASEMENT CLUB@LEGENDS Night Shift: DJs David Noakes & Trick 11pm

CAMELFORD ARMS Fri Club 6pm

CHARLES ST TAP Fabulous Friday: DJ Morgan Fabulous 9pm

GROSSEVOR BAR cabaret: Miss Jason 9.30pm

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

MARINE TAVERN Jukebox 9pm

PARIS HOUSE End of the Week Party Night 9pm

QUEEN’S ARMS Big Friday Cabaret: Son of a Tutu 10pm

REGENCY TAVERN cabaret: Jamie Heward 9pm

SUBLINE Steam 10pm

THREE JOLLY BUTCHERS live football: England v Italy 8pm

AMSTERDAM Karaoke 9.30pm

ONE FOR THE DIARY Fri (13) BEARVERT - Brighton’s biggest and boldest new night for Bears, Cubs, Otters, Daddies, and admirers with host Dave the Bear, special guest Billie Gold, and 1980s/90s camp dance classics. Everyone welcome, £5 for members/in advance or £7 for guests/otd. Subline say: “Be warned - this is a night packed full of fun that you’ll never forget!”

REGULARS Wed HUMP DAY, all welcome, (4) is JOYSTICK JOCKEYS gaymers night, the gay geek social with video, card, and board games to entertain. All welcome, free entry. Thurs BRACE YOURSELF men’s night, free entry. Fri events: kick-start the weekend at STEAM from 10pm; £3/£5. (20) is the FILTH mixed fetish party with Kitten Skye and her kinky hareem, advance tickets recommended. Sat: turn up the heat at MEND’S ROOM. £3/£5. (7) is LEATHERMEN SOUTH, free entry in leather/rubber, £5 otherwise. Sun GUILT FREE PLEASURES, free for members or £5. (29) is CUM IN YOUR PANTS underwear party, camp hi-NRG tunes with DJ NUDE, £3 members or £5.

SUN GUILT FREE PLEASURES 9pm - 2am; members FREE / £5 non members

SUBLINE QUIZ Doors 7pm; quiz 8.15pm; £2 for cash prizes, £2 for booze prizes, and a raffle raising funds again for the James Ledward Memorial Fund, part of the Rainbow Fund specifically ring-fenced for local homelessness charities. Prize fund currently stands at £150+, entry £2 per person (all welcome), which goes into the jackpot pool.

WED 4 JOYSTICK JOCKEYS Gay Geek Social - Video/Card/Board Games All Welcome • Free • Open 9pm

SAT 7 LEATHERMEN SOUTH Free in Legit Leather/Rubber or £5 • Open 10pm

MON 9 SUBLINE QUIZ Doors 7pm; Quiz 6.15pm • Host Ian Sinclair • £2 PP Charity Raffle for James Ledward Memorial Fund

FRI 13 BEARVERT Night for Bears/Cubs/Otters/Daddies/Admirers Host Dave the Bear + Special Guest Billie Gold 80s/90s Camp Dance Classics • £5 Mems/Adv or £7

FRI 20 FILTH Mixed Full Fetish Party • Kitten Skye & Her Kinky Harem Advance Tickets Recommended

SUN 29 CUM IN YOUR PANTS Underwear Party • Camp Hi-NRG Tunes with DJ Nude £3 Mems/Non £5 • Doors 9pm
VELVET JACKS
50 Norfolk Sq, BN1 2PA, Tel: 07720 661290

- OPEN Tue – Thu from 4pm, Sat from 3pm, Sun from 2pm.
- DRINK PROMOS Tue–Fri from 4–7pm: Orangeboom £4 a pint, 2 cocktails for £12.
- REGULARS Thursday is DARTS NIGHT so step up and join Jackie and the girls at the oche!

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

- OPEN 11am Sun – Thu, 10am Fri & Sat.
- DRINK PROMOS daily (excluding 9pm – close on Fri & Sat).

SUNDAY 29
- AFFINITY BAR cabaret: Davina Sparkle 5pm
- ALL NEW BULLDOG Sunday Funday: camp karaoke 5pm
- AMSTERDAM cabaret: Chase Adams 5pm, roasts 12pm–lili gone
- BAR 7@CRAWLEY karaoke 6pm
- BAR BROADWAY Fireplace Sessions pres. Sophie Caustrock 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–lili gone
- CHARLES ST TAP cabaret: host Sally Vale & Heart & Soul 7.30pm, Sally’s Rock & Roll Bingo 8.30pm, roasts 12pm
- REGENTS BAR cabaret: Vicki Vivacious 3.30pm, roasts 12.30–4pm
- MARINE TAVERN roasts 12.5pm

PARIS HOUSE
- Live music: Marilyn du Sax & band 6pm
- QUEEN’S ARMS Sunday Funday: Marta D’Arthur 6.30pm & 10pm
- REGENCY TAVERN roasts & live pianist 12–6pm
- SUBLIME Cum in Your Pants 7.30pm
- BAR 7@CRAWLEY karaoke 6pm
- BAR BROADWAY Fireplace Sessions pres. Sophie Caustrock 8.30pm
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- LEGENDS BAR cabaret: Vicki Vivacious 3.30pm, roasts 12.30–4pm
- MARINE TAVERN roasts 12.5pm

MONDAY 30
AFFINITY BAR Karaoke 7pm

TUESDAY 31
- AFFINITY BAR Free Jukebox 12pm
- ALL NEW BULLDOG Monday Glitter Ball: 70s-00s tunes 4pm
- CHARLES ST TAP Gaymers Night: consoles/board games 8.30pm
- LEGENDS BAR Dave Does Legends: Dave Lynn & guest 9.30pm
- PARIS HOUSE Live jazz: Nils Solberg & Mick Hamer Trio 2pm, Jack Kendon Trio 8pm
- QUEEN’S ARMS Sally’s Social Monday 9pm
- LE VILLAGE Karaoke 8pm

WEBSITE: www.zonebrighton.co.uk

THE ZONE B A R  C A B A R E T  C O C K T A I L S  L I V E  M U S I C
33 ST JAMES STREET, BRIGHTON BN2 1RF

Top Entertainment this March featuring...

- Sally, JP, Davina, Topside, Chris & More...
- All acts live every Friday and Saturday from 10PM
- Check our Facebook or pop in for more info
**SOLENT LISTINGS**

**PORTSMOUTH**  
- **HAMPSHIRE BOULEVARD**  
  1 Hampshire Terrace, Southsea  
  TEL: 02392 297509  
  OPEN: Sun & Mon 9am-2.30am, Wed & Thurs 7pm-2.30am, Fri & Sat 7pm-3am  
  HAPPY HOURS: Sun all night, Wed & Thur 7pm-12am, Fri & Sat 7-10pm

**SOUTHAMPTON**  
- **BOX BAR Compton Walk, S014 0BH**  
  TEL: 023 8036 6163  
  OPEN: daily at 4pm  
  HAPPY HOURS: 4-6pm & 6-10pm daily  
  FOOD: 4-10pm daily  
  HAPPY HOURS: The Edge Bar: 7pm–midnight every day (till 6pm on Wed), The Edge: £1.50 shots & £2 house doubles on Mon, 2 candyfloss cocktails £6 & half price drinks for students & members till midnight on Tue, £1.50 drinks on Wed, half price drinks till midnight on Thur, cocktails from £5 on Fri, £1.50 singles/£3 doubles on Sun.

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**SUNDAY 1**  
- **PORTSMOUTH**  
  **HAMPshire BLVD** 90s-No 9pm  
  **SOUTHAMPTON**  
  **EDGE Aura Jay’s Karaoke** 10pm

**MONDAY 2**  
- **PORTSMOUTH**  
  **HAMPshire BLVD** Student Mondays with Bella Black, DJs & giveaways 9pm  
  **SOUTHAMPTON**  
  **EDGE Mates Rates: DJ Darcy Buckland** 10pm

**TUESDAY 3**  
- **PORTSMOUTH**  
  **HAMPshire BLVD** Cherry’s Binge & cabaret 7pm  
  **SOUTHAMPTON**  
  **BOX BAR Candy Floss DJs 11pm**  
  **EDGE Candy Floss: DJ Audio K 11pm**

**WEDNESDAY 4**  
- **PORTSMOUTH**  
  **HAMPshire BLVD** Big Navy Night Out with Aura Jay’s karaoke 9pm  
  **SOUTHAMPTON**  
  **BOX BAR Dolly Rocker’s 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**

**THURSDAY 5**  
- **PORTSMOUTH**  
  **HAMPshire BLVD** Night on the Lashes: Lucinda Lashes karaoke & tunes 9pm

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

**FRIDAY 6**  
- **PORTSMOUTH**  
  **HAMPshire BLVD** We Love Fridays: DJ Toby Lawrence 9pm  
  **SOUTHAMPTON**  
  **BOX BAR** House of Edge DJs 7pm  
  **EDGE House of Edge Female Artist Theme Night: DJs Craig Law & KT + win £50 bar tab 10pm**

**SATURDAY 7**  
- **PORTSMOUTH**  
  **HAMPshire BLVD** Blank: DJs Missy B & Rob Davis 9pm  
  **SOUTHAMPTON**  
  **BOX BAR** The Big One 7pm  
  **EDGE The Big One: DJs Rob Davies & Darcy Buckland 10pm**

**SUNDAY 8**  
- **PORTSMOUTH**  
  **HAMPshire BLVD** We Love Saturdays: DJ Craig Law & KT 8pm  
  **SOUTHAMPTON**  
  **EDGE** Aura Jay’s Birthday Bash with Karaoke 10pm

**MONDAY 9**  
- **PORTSMOUTH**  
  **HAMPshire BLVD** Student Mondays with Bella Black, DJs & giveaways 9pm  
  **SOUTHAMPTON**  
  **EDGE Mates Rates: DJ Darcy Buckland 10pm**

**TUESDAY 10**  
- **PORTSMOUTH**  
  **HAMPshire BLVD** Cherry’s Binge & cabaret 7pm  
  **SOUTHAMPTON**  
  **BOX BAR** Candy Floss DJs 11pm  
  **EDGE Candy Floss: DJ Audio K 11pm**

**WEDNESDAY 11**  
- **PORTSMOUTH**  
  **HAMPshire BLVD** Big Navy Night Out with Aura Jay’s karaoke 9pm  
  **SOUTHAMPTON**  
  **BOX BAR** Dolly Rocker’s 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**

**THURSDAY 12**  
- **PORTSMOUTH**  
  **HAMPshire BLVD** Night on the Lashes: Lucinda Lashes, karaoke & tunes 9pm  
  **SOUTHAMPTON**  
  **BOX BAR** Quiz Queens: drag hosts Aura Jay & Bella Black 8pm  
  **EDGE Get Dirty: DJ Liam Searle 10pm**

**FRIDAY 13**  
- **PORTSMOUTH**  
  **HAMPshire BLVD** We Love Fridays: DJ Toby Lawrence 9pm  
  **SOUTHAMPTON**  
  **BOX BAR** House of Edge DJs 7pm  
  **EDGE House of Edge: DJs Craig Law & KT + win £50 bar tab 10pm**

**SATURDAY 14**  
- **PORTSMOUTH**  
  **HAMPshire BLVD** Blank: DJs Missy B & Rob Davis 9pm  
  **SOUTHAMPTON**  
  **BOX BAR** The Big One 7pm  
  **EDGE The Big One: DJs Morgan Fabulous & Neil Sackley 9pm**

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**THE EDGE & BOX BAR SOUTHWELL**

- **Compton Walk, S014 0BH, Tel: 023 8036 6163. www.theedgesouthampton.com**

**FRIDAY 1**  
- **One for the Diary** Friday is HAUS OF EDGE with regular themed nights, including a Pop Girls Special (6), DJs Craig Law & KT, plus a £50 bar tab giveaway before midnight. Edge says: “Ken you believe it?! We’ve put the gay back into FriGAY’s with HAUS OF EDGE! We felt like Southampton was lacking a little in a truly inclusive and enjoyable Friday night, so we’ve turned our camp levels up to the max to bring you a club night welcome to everyone! Whether you think of yourself as a dashing Ken doll, a beautiful Barbie or anything in-between?”

**REGULARS** Sunday is KARAOKE with drag host Aura Jay, (8) is Aura Jay’s Birthday Bash with karaoke. Monday is MATES RATES with DJ Darcy Buckland. Free. Tuesday is CANDY FLOSS with DJ Audio K9 spinning the best pop classics. Wednesday is BAR 150 in the club with DJs Missy B. & Lee Harris. Wednesday in the Bar. Dolly Rocker’s BINGO with a drag show, mini games and a cash prize up for grabs in the Box Bar from 8.30pm. Thursday is QUIZ QUEENS with drag host duo Aura Jay & Bella Black at 8pm, then GET DIRTY with DJ Liam Searle in the club. Saturday is THE BIG ONE from 10pm with three bars, two dancefloors & DJs. Rob Davies & Darcy Buckland (7), Morgan Fabulous & Neil Sackley (14), Missy B & KT (21) and Claire Fuller & Trick (28).

**SUNDAY 15**  
- **PORTSMOUTH**  
  **HAMPshire BLVD** 90s-Now 9pm  
  **SOUTHAMPTON**  
  **EDGE Aura Jay’s Karaoke** 10pm

**MONDAY 16**  
- **PORTSMOUTH**  
  **HAMPshire BLVD** Student Mondays with Bella Black, DJs & giveaways 9pm  
  **SOUTHAMPTON**  
  **EDGE Mates Rates: DJ Darcy Buckland 10pm**
### SOLENT LISTINGS

#### TUESDAY 17
- **PORTSMOUTH**
  - HAMPSHIRE BLVD Cherry’s Bingo & cabaret 7pm
- **SOUTHAMPTON**
  - BOX BAR Candy Floss DJs 11pm
  - EDGE Candy Floss: DJ Audio K9 11pm

#### WEDNESDAY 18
- **PORTSMOUTH**
  - HAMPSHIRE BLVD Big Navy Night Out with Aura Jay’s karaoke 9pm
- **SOUTHAMPTON**
  - BOX BAR Dolly Rocker’s 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

#### THURSDAY 19
- **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 20
- **PORTSMOUTH**
  - HAMPSHIRE BLVD We Love Fridays: DJ Toby Lawrence 9pm
- **SOUTHAMPTON**
  - EDGE Aura Jay’s Karaoke 10pm

#### MONDAY 23
- **PORTSMOUTH**
  - HAMPSHIRE BLVD Student Mondays with Bella Black, DJs & giveaways 9pm
- **SOUTHAMPTON**
  - EDGE Mates Rates: DJ Darcy Buckland 10pm

#### TUESDAY 24
- **PORTSMOUTH**
  - HAMPSHIRE BLVD Cherry’s Bingo & cabaret 7pm
- **SOUTHAMPTON**
  - BOX BAR Candy Floss DJs 11pm
  - EDGE Candy Floss: DJ Audio K9 11pm

#### WEDNESDAY 25
- **PORTSMOUTH**
  - HAMPSHIRE BLVD Blank: DJs Missy B & Rob Davis 9pm
- **SOUTHAMPTON**
  - BOX BAR The Big One 7pm
  - EDGE The Big One: DJs Missy B & KT 10pm

#### SATURDAY 21
- **PORTSMOUTH**
  - HAMPSHIRE BLVD Blank: DJs Craig Law & KT + win £50 bar tab 10pm
- **SOUTHAMPTON**
  - BOX BAR Dolly Rocker’s 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

#### SUNDAY 29
- **PORTSMOUTH**
  - HAMPSHIRE BLVD 90s-Now 9pm
- **SOUTHAMPTON**
  - EDGE Aura Jay’s Karaoke 10pm

#### MONDAY 30
- **PORTSMOUTH**
  - HAMPSHIRE BLVD Student Mondays with Bella Black, DJs & giveaways 9pm
- **SOUTHAMPTON**
  - EDGE Mates Rates: DJ Darcy Buckland 10pm

#### TUESDAY 31
- **PORTSMOUTH**
  - HAMPSHIRE BLVD Cherry’s Bingo & cabaret 7pm
- **SOUTHAMPTON**
  - BOX BAR Candy Floss DJs 11pm
  - EDGE Candy Floss: DJ Audio K9 11pm
DANCE MUSIC
BY QUEEN JOSEPHINE & KATE WILDBLOOD

With spring just round the corner and the buds about the burst, it seems only fitting that we soundtrack the coming sunshine with tunes of the delightful disposition. Play loud, play proud and let’s bring the winter blues to a sound end.

WILDBLOOD & QUEENIE’S MARCH MARVELS

1. SLEAZY MCQUEEN & Terry Grant Daikaya Let’s Play House
   A saucy sizzler that will keep you warmer than any pair of mittens.

2. GIRLS OF THE INTERNET I Don’t Wanna Lose You
   Drab Queen Nu-disco sensation that has us all a queer quiver.

3. BETTER LOST THAN STUPID Right Now
   (Black Circle Remix) Skint Class rework that requires nothing more than your dancing feet.

4. GET DOWN EDITS Coming At Ya
   Samosa Records Pert Funk Purpose Vol. 3 action you need to break a sweat for.

5. HDSN WHIPLASH
   NBAST Disco infused fantasy groover destined to give you pleasure.

6. HERBIE HANCOCK You Bet Your Love
   (Mighty Mouse) Space Native The remix we can get enough of delivers a slice of Hancock heaven.

7. SUPER PAULO Cosmic Trip
   Disco Milk Records Star-fuelled space disco that ensures lift off on the dancefloor.

8. ELLES End Of The Nite Naive
   All the feels are right as ELLES delivers a Summers of Love epic EP.

9. BUTCH LE BUTCH Extraterrestrial Dubber
   Camp Stick Head down to Bandcamp today to be sure of an intergalactic surprise.

10. MONSIEUR VAN PRATT Let Your Body Shake
    Hot Digits Funked up goodness that shakes every part you could wish it to shake.

11. J-FELIX feat El Train
    Check Tru Thoughts Future boogie, p-funk, disco and soul J-Felix style. Just how we like it.

12. E-HEAVY Golden Butterflies
    (House of Gold Remix) Soul Clap A rolling deep funked up groove you’ll find hard to resist.

13. GOSHAWK Never Let Me Go
    Quintessentials Slowdown tunes ensuring that summer vibe will soon be with us.

14. LAURENCE GUY Untitled Needs Shall Not Fade
    Stand out track from The Sun Is Warm and Directly Above You EP.

15. TOM NOBLE Flashlight
    Rush Hour Oh the joy of a killer bass line and a kick arse guitar.

16. IZO FITZROY Blind Faith
    Jalapeno Records Our favourite soul queen is always worthy of our appreciation.

17. ALMA NEGRA Tsavo
    Alma Negra Records Manta EP layered percussive perfection - brings a grin with every play.

18. PABLO NOUVELLE ft. Angelique Kidjo
    Milambi Beating Heart When Angelique sings so does your heart. One for bringing the love.

19. DJ COUNSELLING Transcending
    Ten Flowers Blooming marvellous deep house that delves into your dancing soul.

20. CACHARRITO
    Disko Heat So Sound Recordings Does exactly what it says on the tin. Handy that.

MY PERFECT 10: DARCY BUCKLAND

1. PAT BENATAR Hit Me With Your Best Shot
   (Chrysalis) – isn’t this a good choice!? My mum used to listen to this non-stop and it’s just one of those songs that I always put on when I need a good ol’ pick me up!

2. LADY GAGA The Edge Of Glory
   (Interscope) – my first ever Brighton Pride, this song was played on repeat on our float (The Edge) for the entire parade. I think I’m rather sick of hearing it actually, maybe we should scrap this one...

3. CULTURE CLUB Karma Chameleon
   (Virgin) – always my go to karaoke song! When I’m drunk I absolutely nail it.

4. SARA BAREILES Brave
   (Epic) – when this song first came out it actually made me realise that it’s alright to be SUPER gay… Which then led me to come out to parents.

5. ALANNAH MYLES Black Velvet
   (Atlantic) – releases my inner stripper and if I’m going to a desert island, something to strip to is necessary...

6. BLACK EYED PEAS Where Is The Love?
   (A&M) – I know every single word to this and I just enjoy shouting it when it comes on. It’s also my second go to karaoke song! I like to do a bit of karaoke, what can I say!

7. NATALIE COLE This Will Be
   (Capitol) – feel good song that makes my heart feel all smushy and mushy - just absolutely love bopping around cleaning the house to it hahaha!

8. CHRIS BROWN Don’t Wake Me Up
   (RCA) – this song actually reminds me of when I used to work at Capital FM and we played it on the breakfast show once every half an hour, still love it, nostalgic!

9. PINK Just Like A Pill
   (LaFace/Arista) – you know, I watched the music video for this at seven years old and cried my eyes out because I just realised I was gay… What lesbian doesn’t fancy P’nk though?

10. LIZZO Good As Hell
    (Atlantic/Nice Life) – absolute feel good anthem though isn’t it!? Why shouldn’t this be on the list?

MORE INFO

1. Catch Wildblood & Queenie at IWD Takeover on 1BTN, Horse Meat Disco at Patterns, One Deck Sessions with Club Barbra at Preston Brewery Tap, a right Decent Good Friday at Tempest Inn and on 1BTN 1st & 3rd Friday every month 1-4pm www.wildbloodandqueenie.com

2. Catch Darcy at The Edge Southampton every Monday and Friday playing everything chart/pop/house. She’d love to thank everyone at Gscene for awarding her a Golden Handbag 2nd place award which is proudly hanging at the venue!
THE BRUNSWICK
Holland Road, Hove, www.thebrunswick.net/buytickets

EL GEEBEE TEA QUEUE (Thu 5). An evening of LGBTQ+ comedy and cabaret hosted by Paul Diello and featuring: writer and performance artist Annabelszki; lesbian, feminist, political, soulful and camp as tits Harlequeens are a three-part harmony trio from Brighton singing all your fan classics from Nina Simone to Madonna; Brighton performance artist Emma Clowsley delivers a curlwind of emotions through poetry and spoken word – she’s not as angelic as she looks; Bee and Jackrabbit promise infectious chemistry, insightful lyrics, layered harmonies and hypnotic string arrangements; Miss Disney is all about bringing your inner child to the surface and being surrounded by nostalgia through different Disney Era hits from Pinocchio to Moana; Singer/songwriter Zora is one half of Brighton-based fabulous folk duo Dryadic who performs a special solo set of songs at the piano.

AL START: GO KID MUSIC CLUB BUGS & BEASTS (2pm, Sat 7) Join Al for an insect-themed afternoon of music, kids’ open mic and bug art fun! Ideal for 4–9 years. Tickets £7, compass card £5, carers/under 2s free. For more info on Al’s new Go Kid Music CD Robot and launch party check www.gokidmusic.com

ATTENBOROUGH CENTRE
University of Sussex, Falmer
attenboroughcentre.com

HARRY CLAYTON WRIGHT: SEX EDUCATION (Tue 10). One parent refuses to talk about sex, the other buys their child gay porn DVDs. This show explores how we learn about sex and how it shapes our lives, blending a no holds barred interview with his mum, startling performance, moving storytelling and some good old-fashioned gay porn that Harry’s dad bought for him when he was 14. Delivered with the candour, positivity and charm that have made him an acclaimed international touring success, join Harry as he delves into his sexual past, live on stage: the good, the bad and everything in between. A show for anyone who’s wondered why they want what they want.

CAROLINE OF BRUNSWICK
Ditchling Road, Brighton
Box office: wegottickets.com

NOT ANOTHER DRAG SHOW QUIZ (Thu 5). With Max Legroom and naff prizes! Your general knowledge won’t save you now.

FUNNY GIRLS (Fri 13). Julie Jepon hosts a night of fabulous female funnies, stand-up, musical comedy, characters and improv.

SLEEP PARALYSIS (Sun 15). Join host Fuchsia Von Steel and guests for an unforgettable evening of glamour, grotesque and comedy.

HASTINGS

NEW QUEENS ON THE BLOCK—HASTINGS WEEKENDER (Fri 6–Sat 7) including new show by the UK’s ‘leading autistic green Drag Queen’ Oozing Gloop with their vision of the future in The Glooshow Episode 2: Glooptopia. For more details visit: marlboroughtheatre.org.uk

KOMEDIA
Gardner St, Brighton
Box office: 0845 293 8480

BENT DOUBLE (Sun 1). A gay-friendly, irreverent night of fun and frolics hosted by Zoe Lyons (Mock The Week and Michael McIntyre’s Comedy Roadshow). Headliner Angela Barnes with Catherine Bohart and Andrew O’Neill.

A GAY AND A NONGAY (Sun 22). This show challenges our differences head on and resolves that no matter who you are, or what you’re into (Bruce Springsteen or Britney), love is love and Gays and NonGays can be friends. A Gay and A NonGay was born in 2017 and has grown into the UK’s leading LGBTQ+ podcast. Released weekly, James Barr and Dan Hudson dive into conversations around day to day life, differences in perceptions, homophobia, coming out, mental health and lighter topics like dating and Dan learning all about douching.

THE VIVIENNE & BAGA CHIPZ SHOW (Mon 23). The winner of RuPaul’s Drag Race UK, The Vivienne and audience favourite Baga Chipz join forces for a full 90-minute production show! Live vocals, impressions, hilarious comedy, appearances from Trump and Thatcher, Q&As and more!

MYRA DUBOIS: DEAD FUNNY (Fri 27). Myra is dead; long live Myra! Realising she stands to miss out on the most attention she’ll ever receive, the ‘acid-tongued and funny to the bone’ (Time Out) Myra brings forward her funeral to make sure people get it right! An irreverently sardonic and ‘incredibly quick-witted’ (Scotsman) side-eye at death, dying and the theatrics of grief.

MY GENDERATION
Jubilee Library, (Conference Room 2, Mezzanine Level)

I AM THEY & MY GENDERATION SHORTS, (1.30pm, Sun 29). Jubilee Library present free film screenings every Sunday and to mark Trans Visibility Day are showing a selection of My Genderation short films plus the feature length documentary, I Am They that explores non-binary trans issues from the personal perspective of Fox and Owl Fisher, non-binary trans activists and filmmakers from Brighton.

SASHA VELOUR
The Dome, New Road, Brighton
Box office: 01273 709709

SASHA VELOUR: SMOKE AND MIRRORS (Thu 5). Velour’s first one-queen theatre tour is a blend of drag, visual art, and magic.

Velour introduces audiences to a whole new side of her artistry, through 13 lip-sync performances She explodes into rose petals, vanishes in a puff of smoke, saws herself in half, conjures a rainstorm, even transforms into a tree. But the real magic is the way that these illusions and deceptions serve to unmask deeper truths, sparking fresh analysis of gender, fame, family, and the importance of dreaming big and living life over-the-top.

SWEENEY TODD
Lewes Town Hall, High Street, Lewes, Tickets: losm.org.uk

SWEENEY TODD: THE DEMON BARBER OF FLEET STREET (Mar 31–Apr 4). LOS Musical Theatre presents Stephen Sondheim’s ‘dark, nightmarish and thrilling’ chiller. The cast features Thomas Hackett as the veneful and surly Sweeney Todd and Gina Cameron as the cheerful yet debauched Mrs Lovett. Features live music from a 10-piece band.

THEATRE ROYAL,
New Road, Brighton,
Box office: 08448 717650

ROUND THE HORNE (Sun 1). For half an hour every Sunday afternoon from 1965 to 1968, audiences of up to 15 million people listened to Marty Feldman and Barry Took’s Round the Horne. Much-loved characters include Rambling Sid Rumpo, Charles and Fiona, J Peasemold Gruntfuttock, and perhaps English culture’s first gay couple, Julian and Sandy.

LA VOIX (Sat 14). La Voix presents an evening of comedy, huge vocals, impressions of the worlds biggest divas and buckets full of energy. ‘La Voix’s impersonations are surpassed only by her own cheekily entertaining personality. A genuine one-off!’ Ian McKellen
ALL THAT JAZZ
BY SIMON ADAMS

1. MARC COPLAND AND I LOVE HER (ILLUSIONS MIRAGE). American pianist Marc Copland is an often-overlooked musician, his quiet skills and adventuresome harmonies rarely shouting out for attention. On this fine trio set, he is joined by the ever-reliable Drew Gress on bass and Joey Baron on drums, together turning in a set of jazz classics and some strong originals. Mongo Santamaria’s Afro Blue gets an airy reworking, Herbie Hancock’s Cantaloupe Island an unsettling and almost ominous makeover. The trio once worked with guitarist John Abercrombie before his death in 2017, which makes their version of his Love Letter such a poignant affair. The title track is an old Beatles’ song, here reharmonized and hugely benefitting from a new, improvised interpretation. It’s a great delight to hear such fine musicians play so intelligently together, which makes this set such an unexpected pleasure.

2. TERRI LYNE CARRINGTON & SOCIAL SCIENCE WAITING GAME (Motema). Terri Lyne Carrington is an American drummer not afraid of wearing her political heart on her sleeve. On this double CD, she firstly delivers a set of songs concerned with such pressing issues as the Black Lives Matter movement, police brutality, homophobia, and gender equality. The rap and soul vocals are explicit and often angry in their demands, the music second best to political activism. In complete contrast is the entirely improvised and instrumental four-part Dreams and Desperate Measures suite for quartet on the second CD.

It too is political, but its message of personal and musical freedom is implicit rather than overt, its pointillist delivery building up into an adventurous and hugely successful example of fully improvised music making.

3. MPH: TAXONOMIES (Discus Music). MPH came together in 2018 at the suggestion of pianist and organist Alex Maguire, who had previously worked separately with both vibesman and drummer Martin Pyne and guitarist Mark Hewins. Given their varied backgrounds in jazz, free improvisation, rock and classical music, dance and theatre, it is no surprise that the three perform a music here that is gloriously eclectic and wide-ranging in its references, by turns playful, ethereal, abrasive, earthy, delicate and lyrical. What is surprising, however, is that the entire set is totally improvised. I say surprising, not because the musicians are not themselves fine improvisers, but that everything sounds almost through-composed, or at least structurally organised. There is a solid logic to each piece, the tension between free improvisation in the studio and harmonic and rhythmic coherence on the finished CD giving this set its power and appeal.

ART MATTERS
BY ENZO MARRA

This month I’m concentrating on one venue a short train journey or a slightly more irritating bus ride away - the Towner in Eastbourne with its collection of Eric Ravilious works, and a temporary exterior paint job to act as beacon as you wind your way there.

TOWNER ART GALLERY
Devonshire Park, College Road, Eastbourne, BN21 4JJ
www.townereastbourne.org.uk

ALAN DAVIE & DAVID HOCKNEY: EARLY WORKS (until May 31).
Due to the stature of the artists there is unfortunately an entry fee (check their website). This major exhibition of Alan Davie (1920–2014) and David Hockney (b. 1937) explores the convergence between these two major figures of post-war British painting and is the first major display of works by both artists on the South Coast. Organised by Hepworth Wakefield, it brings together around 45 paintings, collages and drawings by Davie and Hockney from 1948–1965. Tracing the parallel paths of these key figures of post-war British painting, revealing shared preoccupations as their work oscillated between figuration and abstraction.

Early Works includes figurative works made by both artists at the start of their careers, including self-portraits produced when Hockney and Davie were both 16 years old. Self-portraits and photographs throughout the exhibition will show the development of each artist’s public persona at a time when contemporary art was becoming a central part of popular culture, with artists becoming more visible and celebrity like. Both artists cultivated distinctive looks, exploring differing notions of masculinity and identity. Both shrugged off ready made easily categorisable labels, Davie refusing to be dubbed an Abstract Expressionist, as Hockney similarly refused the term Pop Artist.

Themes of poetry, love and eroticism explored by both artists will be comparatively seen through paintings which include Hockney’s celebrated We Two Boys Together Clinging (1961) and Davie’s Glory (1957). The visitor will be able to see how both artists pushed and tested the painted surface, often incorporating coded symbolic text and abstracted figures to create new visual languages and painterly expressions.

LAWRENCE ABU HAMDAN: THIS WHOLE TIME THERE WERE NO LANDMINES (Mar 6–May 31, free) is an exhibition by a Turner Prize winning artist based in Beirut whose work looks into the political effects of listening, using various kinds of audio to explore its effects on human rights and law. Recently acquired by Towner, the exhibition is an eight-monitor installation with sound that uses collected mobile phone video footage from 2011 to document a ‘shouting valley’ that lies in the contested area of the Golan Heights, Syria. This stretch of land became annexed by Israel following a ceasefire in 1967 and is dubbed ‘the shouting valley’ due to the acoustic leak across the border. Separated families gathered on either side of the border to shout across the divide to each other and remain in contact.
For Dowland played on guitar, you can’t go far wrong with this.

**Ludovico Ensemble del Signor Graun** (Veterum Musica VM021). The brothers Carl Heinrich Graun (1704–1759) and Johann Gottlieb Graun (1703–1771), whilst largely forgotten today were well known in their respective fields during their lifetimes. The younger brother, Carl Heinrich, was closely associated with Frederick the Great of Prussia and his court, as well as being an accomplished tenor and opera composer, achieving fame as Berlin’s Opera Kapellmeister.

Johann Gottlieb on the other hand was a virtuoso violinist, and studied with Pisendel and Tartini, working as Frederick’s chamber musician, as well as leading Berlin’s Opera orchestra. But the Portuguese Early Music group, Ludovico Ensemble – Joana Amorim on traverso (Baroque flute) and Fernando Miguel Jalôto on harpsichord – draw attention away from their grander compositions. In a 2 disc set, Del Signor Graun, the offer a selection from the vast number of trio sonatas that the pair composed. A trio sonata consists of two melodic lines along with a continuo accompaniment – but confusingly, one of the melodic lines can be taken by the continuo player (described as ‘obbligato’), resulting in effect in a duet. So here we have six such sonatas, with one melodic line on flute, and the harpsichord taking the second melodic line as well as providing the accompaniment. The brothers wrote around 130 trio sonatas between them, although it’s hard to be sure which brother wrote many of them, with ambiguous ascriptions such as ‘Graun’ or ‘Sign Graun’. Nevertheless, these are delightful pieces, showing a great deal of invention, and nicely transitioning the late Baroque into early Classical styles. Nearly all in three movements, the formula is generally a slow, stately opening movement, ending with an improvisatory passage followed by two faster movements, the finale often a 3-time dance-like movement. Amorim and Jalôto match their melodic lines well, taking over from each other in the frequent exchanges of ideas, as well as enjoying the moments when the two parts align more in a duet. There are beautiful moments of more Bachian counterpoint in the additional slow movement of No 56, whilst delicate trilling fireworks here, but plenty of subtle delicacy and invention, making for a highly enjoyable listen.

Reviews, comments and events:
- [nicks-classical-notes.blogspot.co.uk](http://nicks-classical-notes.blogspot.co.uk)
- [nickb86uk](http://nickb86uk)
- [nbclassical@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:nbclassical@hotmail.co.uk)
CRAIG JONES FIGHTING WITH PRIDE LGBTQ IN THE ARMED FORCES (Pen & Sword Books). Craig Jones is marking the 20th anniversary of the lifting of the British Armed Forces’ gay ban by bringing this anthology of personal testimonies. LGBTQ+ people from all three branches of the armed forces speak with candid honesty not just about their time serving in Her Majesty’s armed forces but also how their sexuality or gender identity coloured their experience. For many, joining up was an ambition from very young, family tradition or a need to be part of a wider organisation. We hear, from the people who were there, fighting and working, stories from the frontline from men and women who served in WW2, the Falklands War, the Gulf Wars and the war in Afghanistan. Fighting for freedoms that were denied to them as people. We also hear how some of the biggest battles they fought were with their employers, the Armed Forces, for recognition, dignity and fair, equal treatment. This battle took place in every court in the UK and Europe. It took place in bars, clubs and bedrooms, in newspapers and court martial. The Armed Forces fighting inclusion each step of the way. A titanic struggle against institutional homophobia explained in clear, understandable ways by the people who demanded they be recognised. This isn’t just an important book, it’s an interesting book and Jones should be congratulated for bringing these stories out into the world so we can understand how it is to be LGBTQ+ in the Armed Forces, how hard it used to be and where the struggles still are. This is about dogged indefatigable hope and how some of the best trained people in the country used that training to fight the Ministry of Defence for equality.

CAROL ISAACS (The Surreal McCoy) THE WOLF OF BAGHDAD (Myriad Editions). In the 1940s a third of Baghdad’s population was Jewish. Within a decade nearly all 150,000 had been expelled, killed or had escaped. This beautiful, gentle but candid graphic memoir of a lost homeland is a wordless narrative by an author homesick for a lost homeland is a wordless graphic memoir or had escaped. This beautiful, indefatigable hope and how some of the best trained people in the country used that training to fight the Ministry of Defence for equality.

CAROL ISAACS THE SURREAL MCCOY

THE WOLF OF BAGHDAD

MEMOIR OF A LOST HOMELAND

CAROL ISAACS

THE SURREAL MCCOY

Drugs set this with more toxic propaganda of hate and exclusion. The world turns dark for this ancient community and attacks, looting and murders begin, pogroms devastate the community. All recorded in the quiet hand of the author, the Wolf, like us, looking on knowing the end. As a personal narrative it’s superb, you sink into it and it enfolds you with its magical charm. The very limited text doesn’t give space for exploring many of the nuances of Jewish Arabic interactions, but the afterword offers some more insight. I was enchanted by this book.

Michael Cashman One of Them: From Albert Square to Parliament Square (Bloomsbury Publishing). Born in East End London, young Michael is spotted in a school play and cast in Lionel Bart’s Oliver! in the glittering West End. That sets him up for acting on stage and screen into adulthood, achieving national fame as Colín in EastEnders, making TV history as one half of the first gay kiss ever broadcast on a British soap for which he gets hate mail and bricks through his window. He meets the love of his life by chance in Butlins, Paul Cottingham, who became his husband and partner of 31 years. Then Cashman, along with Ian McKellen, founds and chairs Stonewall, fighting for civil liberties all over the world before entering the world of politics and now sits in the House of Lords. Told with warm humour and a delightful self-deprecating edge we learn of high tea in LA with David Hockney, flirting with Joan Collins and flying the rainbow flag over the Albert Hall with Elton John. It’s not all glam and glitz though, Cashman shares profound troubles grieved, as he watched his adored husband die, and it’s these screamingly honest personal narrative it’s superb, you sink into it and it enfolds you with its magical charm. The very limited text doesn’t give space for exploring many of the nuances of Jewish Arabic interactions, but the afterword offers some more insight. I was enchanted by this book.

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JUDGEMENT AT NUREMBERG (BFI blu-ray). Stanley Kramer’s film is a fictionalised account of the trial of German judges who colluded with Nazi crimes. It has many points of interest and ambiguity (wasn’t dropping atom bombs on Japan also an atrocity?) and some great performances. Spencer Tracy exudes moral rectitude as an American judge, Judy Garland gives what might be a career best playing a woman who tried to protect a Jewish friend, and Burt Lancaster is steely Teutonic as one of the defendants. Marlene Dietrich is the uncomprehending Nazi, formerly married to an army captain, who is proud to boast how she and her husband loathed Hitler, though she volunteers it was mainly because of his class. Morally dubious defence Maximilian Schell too often ends up giving his lines a Hitlerian hysterical shriek though he did win a Best Actor Oscar for it. And Lancaster’s confession is really a fantasy of how we wanted to understand the way that intelligent and cultured men could descend into evil. An endlessly fascinating picture, but not necessarily a great one.

Herbal Smokeware
handmade in LA, £55 (Dowse, 27 Gloucester Road, Brighton)

Tea Towel, £10 (Pussy, 3a Kensington Gardens, Brighton, 01273 604861)

Freddie Mercury
Kokeshi Doll, £35 (Hold, 14 Bond Street, Brighton)

Skull Trinket Tray, £38.99 (England at Home, 22b Ship Street, Brighton, 01273 205544)

Skull & Bones underwear, 3 for £45 while stocks last (Prowler, 112-113 St James’s Street, Brighton, 01273 603813)

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CRAIG’S THOUGHTS

Who’d Be A Woman? Misogyny; Our Ugly Shame. By Craig Hanlon-Smith
@craigscontinuum

It’s of little surprise that the Duke and Duchess of Sussex have decided to depart these shores and set up camp on Vancouver Island. A quick flick through Meghan related tabloid headlines throws up an immediate dislike of the woman from the moment we discovered she was shacking up with our beloved rebel Prince Harry. Our unpleasant distrust for her, however, shouldn’t have been the surprise some commentators are proclaiming it to be in over exaggerated exasperation. We did the same to Fergie in 1986 ahead of her marriage to Prince Andrew. A prince who some 30 years later has been forgiven for his alleged paedo rapist past within what feels like a fortnight because, well, Meghan is apparently much worse. Diana we loved. In 1981, shy, demure, delightful Diana who would be fortunate enough to marry our future King. Loved her until of course we discovered she had escaped her horridous marriage to the philandering Prince by shagging men she actually fancied, how dare she. We forgave and loved her again following the car accident which killed her. What a journey to redemption. And so with future Queen Kate. Shay, demure, delightful Catherine who wins the prize of our future King and we still love her because she behaves as we expect. Keeps quiet, hides her cleavage and bakes cakes with Mary Berry. Fergie was marrying the spare and from the off was nothing but trouble. Meghan the same. Not in line for the top job so what’s the point of them? Both women causing mischief and embarrassment for our Royal Family from the off whether it be toe-sucking the accountant or inviting non-white people into family photographs. Both seemingly distasteful. Just who do they think they are? Let’s not forget the Duchess of Windsor who stole our rightful King in 1936 and without whom none of the above would ever have been. And what do they all have in common? Why their gender of course. And our open loathing? A good old-fashioned dollop of misogyny.

Our collective inability to identify, challenge and tackle misogyny is possibly our greatest social ill and one we all, across whatever gender we wish to align ourselves with, fail to address. The majority of our contemporary social phobias can be linked directly to misogyny and our continued enthusiastic tendencies to revel in it.

Verbal and physical violence towards gay men is misogynistic. The referral to batty men, benders, faggots whatever derogatory slur that is hurled our way comes from the belly of not a real man, practically a woman. The tragedy is that some gay men have adopted this rerouted self-loathing internalised misogynistic homophobia to decorate our own communities. In response to flamboyant ‘out’ gay celebrities, we see an influx of social media commentaries of how these types of gays bring shame upon our community. Shame heaped upon gay men who are real men, not faggyt female types. So what if a gay man presents as an effeminate creation of camp? Furthermore the bottom shaming language that’s permeated our banter, there are even categories of bottom that separate the men from the girls. The power bottom is considered fierce and aside from acting like a Duracell bunny penis receptacle, much more of man than the limp lady boy who just lays back and takes it like a girl.

Misogynistic language concealing our own inability to address our father’s disappointment that his son is a Mary-Ann. Transphobia is inherently misogynistic. More than 330 trans women were murdered worldwide in 2019, over 130 of these in South America, 63 in Mexico, 10 in the US and 10 across the EU including the UK. These figures only account for the violence that resulted in the death of the murdered victim and in November 2019, CNN reported that the figures in the US could be much higher. Many families, law enforcement authorities and local government departments in the US record the death of the individual using the gender defined on their birth certificate, irrespective of the gender they were living by.

Misogyny is of course not limited to the role that men play. Many women fall in line with the long since defined patriarchal structures, and alongside their male counterparts take an active role in taking down other women on account of their beliefs, politics, social behaviours and dress codes.

Examine the recent BBC dramatisation The Trial Of Christine Keeler. In the early 1960s, Ms Keeler and her friend Mandy Rice-Davies, aged 18 and 16 respectively, were befriended by society osteopath Stephen Ward, aged 50, who introduced them to high-profile male politicians, most notably Jack Profumo. The sex scandals that ensued almost brought down the government and certainly was seen as a contributing factor in the election defeat of 1964. For decades it’s the teenage girls in this story who’ve been vilified and cheapened by the official patriarchal narratives. Previous tellings of this story have focused upon the fall of man, whether Profumo or Ward. This new BBC adaptation on the young women. These were two teenage girls, groomed and manipulated by men, close to and in government, and yet they were painted at the time as prostitutes and society sluts. The inability of Prince Andrew to engage with the FBI investigation into the alleged procurement of a young woman for his physical pleasure tells us that almost 60 years on from the Profumo affair, we have learned and changed nothing.

As gay men we’ve a responsibility towards women. Throughout our own personal and collective community history women have been our allies. Yes, the obvious high-profile famous ones but moreover the unsung heroes. The girls who befriended us at school when we could neither relate to nor be welcomed into the boys’ club. The nurses who cared for us during the AIDs epidemic; the receptionists at the clinics today who greet us like sons of their own. The lesbians who stepped up at the height of it all and ran support groups and community information services when we were too sick or stricken to care for ourselves. The radicals who ran the GLF and paved the way for freedoms we ran the GLF and paved the way for freedoms we

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“Our collective inability to identify, challenge and tackle misogyny is possibly our greatest social ill and one we all, across whatever gender we wish to align ourselves with, fail to address”
Standing up for someone else makes us more effective about the issues which matter. It can help us feel less alone, less excluded and less isolated. Allyship is a political act and a healthy act.

Being an ally for my sister’s lesbian parenthood was really helpful when I too became a lesbian parent and encountered similar denial, invisibility, disdain and all the assumptions that my child would be disadvantaged, harmed, attacked and that I was an inadequate mother in comparison to straight, cis parents. Having stood up for her prepared me and made me more resilient to preserving my own self-esteem and that of my child.

Many moons ago when I was struggling with my apparent heterosexuality, I woke up one day to find that all my friends were lesbians! (Was this a clue? I wondered…) Lovely Rachel told me one day about the role that I fulfilled as ‘straight’ friend. She told me how important it was to her to feel accepted by women who were (apparently) heterosexual, how it helped her self-esteem and self-confidence to know that she was not rejected by ALL of the heterosexual world.

At the time, I had no idea that my friendship for Rachel (and other lesbians, bi and gay and trans and non-binary friends) had such an important effect on their mental health, above and beyond the everyday place of being a good mate.

Not long after this I came out myself – I don’t think this made me less important as a friend, but it did mean that my role as a lesbian ally was a bit redundant, though not as a bi, gay, trans and non-binary ally.

Funnily enough, there was a similar situation in my family. One of my older sisters was a brilliant ally to me when I came out as lesbian. A couple of years later she followed suit. She already had a child and I played a significant role as an ally for her being a lesbian parent.

Friends, sisters, allies can all play a similar role in supporting us, speaking up for us, promoting our identities and our choices as valid and positive. We need to do this for each other.

Being an ally can be as good for our mental health as finding allies. We all need to work on our conscious and unconscious biases, prejudices, assumptions and discriminatory behaviours. So how do we go about becoming an ally?

1. **Educate yourself.** Find out what the issues are for the people you want to be an ally for. For example, what is it like for BAME LGBTQ+? How does racism affect people’s daily lives? How does it feel to be over 70 and gay and dealing with your internalised low expectations of older age? Talk to people, explore what’s going on, join in.

2. **Challenge other people**, institutions, companies who are sexist, racist, ageist, homo/bi/trans phobic. You could open a dialogue, start a conversation, share information and knowledge.

3. **Tell the world** that you are an ally, it’s no good just being an ally at home in the evenings. Wear a badge, fly a flag, be visible, invite questions, talk about why you are an active ally. You are making powerful statements, you can create social change.

4. **Find other allies**, talk to your friends, colleagues, acquaintances about how they go about being an ally, offer each other support, tips, knowledge, skills. Offering and receiving peer support can be really valuable, encouraging and empowering.

5. **Support organisations** who work with minorities, raise money for them, spread the word about the work they do, let them know you are an ally, they will really appreciate it!

Standing up for someone else makes us more connected to the world around us, helps us to feel that we can be active, powerful and effective about the issues which matter.

MINDOUT ALLIES

MINDOut would like to take the opportunity to thank and acknowledge the allies who support and help us. One shining example is the organisation Community Works – they provide advice, training, lobbying, information and all things to do with the voluntary sector. They have been very supportive of our work at MINDOut: lent us room space, read our funding bids, mentored and advised us and been endlessly patient.

Another example is the amazing Lloyds Bank Rainbow Network, who adopted us as one of the charities they supported with donations, advice, networking opportunities, funding and more. They are a great bunch of LGBTQ+ and ally employees.

Many people raise money to make sure we can continue to provide life-saving, vital mental health services, some of whom do this as allies. We would like to thank you all too – you really do make a difference.

If you would like to know more about MINDOut, become one of our allies, or support us in other ways, please visit our website www.mindout.org.uk.

MINDOUT INFO

If you would like to talk to someone, in confidence, about your mental health please:

1. **Call** 01273 234839
2. **or email** info@mindout.org.uk

For out of hours instant chat support please see the website for opening times.

www.mindout.org.uk

All of MINDOut services are confidential, non-judgemental and impartial. All of our services are free, except for counselling which is low-cost.
RAINBOW ALLIES

As much as I applaud those who aren’t part of the rainbow crowd (straight people) but go out of their way to support issues that affect us (this month’s Gscene theme), it’s the smaller, accidental moments in time that make me thankful for their interactions we have shared.

While I was trying to work out what kind of gay young man I was, I was desperately searching for a role model I could aspire to. In the early 1980s the pickings were very slim, (Jimmy Somerville and Mark Almond were still waiting in the wings), so I looked to the TV and silver screen for a hero and found one in the Princess of Punk, Hazel O’Connor, and actors, Maxwell Caulfield and Harrison Ford.

I remember very clearly the moment I saw Hazel jump on the Top of the Pops stage dressed in a black mini skirt, black sports bra, singing Decadent Days, I knew I didn’t fancy the Princess of Punk but I loved her attitude and voice. Her single Will You with its dreamy sax and later single Cuts Too Deep topped and tailed a precious gay teen romance of mine at the time and they still have the power to take me back to that moment.

“It’s the people who unknowingly can sing a song, act a line or just be plain lovely to you that have left a long imprint on my heart”

When Grease 2 came out I fell madly in love with Caulfield’s character, Michael Carrington, who this time took on the role of the ‘virgin Sandy’ and transforms into a hell for leather ‘Cool Rider’. To be honest, Michael spoke direct to me when he sang his song Charades, which was all about wanting people to see him for who he was.

And then came Harrison Ford. Just as with Grease 2, I saw the film multiple times, swooning over action hero Indiana Jones just as much as I did with Professor Indie in his tweed jacket and glasses. I even dressed up as Indy (action not professor) for my first New Year’s Eve party in my first ever gay club.

That was also the night I met the lad who inspired me to play him Will You, and gave him the single Cuts Too Deep when we broke up a few weeks later.

One final memory comes in the form of me and the lad I had convinced I was Indiana Jones having a date night in an American diner in Norwich. The waitress, unfazed at two lads in love, treated us as we would later recall, like your best mate’s mum.

I really applauded all those people, regardless of their sexuality who support the rainbow causes, but it’s the people who unknowingly can sing a song, act a line or just be plain lovely to you that have left a long imprint on my heart.

STRANGE BEDFELLOWS

Growing up, there was no such thing as ‘gay-friendly’. Quite the opposite in fact. Any attempt by a straight person at kindness would result in his or her having their own sexuality questioned. Homosexuality was illegal until 1967, so sticking one’s head above the parapet was a dangerous game. Which is why I’m so proud of my mum.

Margaret, or as I call her, ‘Mum’, is a good Catholic woman, who suffers with anxiety and seems the least likely ally to the gay and lesbian cause. However, she’s always been a shoulder to cry on for countless gay men, and in my case, a very moody teenage lesbian.

In the swinging sixties, her first job was situated opposite the Royal Courts of Justice. It was here she bore witness to homophobia in the raw. At lunchtime, people in her office would take sandwiches to the courtrooms to sit and snigger at the ‘queers’ being prosecuted for gross indecency. It was a bit like a freak show and mum found it horrific.

She promptly dumped her boyfriend who was a court policeman, (he had been telling them the schedules and letting them all in for the ‘shows’). Then, she kicked up a storm in the office. She made them see the 'perverts’ in the dock as human beings, exhausted by worry for their loved ones who now would be ashamed to know them. Fearful for their livelihoods when their bosses found out, forever criminalised, just for seeking sex with consenting adults. In the era of free love, this suddenly hit home, especially with the younger staff who wished to appear modern or ‘with it’. In one day, the entire office ceased their fiendish lunchtime ‘queer-bating’ excursions.

My mum was only 17 years old. A minor victory, but these small wake up calls by individuals with no self-interest, save common decency and a sense of justice, seem somehow more resonant than all the lobbying, marching and banner-waving by those who are currently outside the law. Every cause needs friends on the inside.

Mum was a nurse when AIDS was at its frightening height in the 1980s. It’s common practice now, but Mum ensured her ward had a zero-tolerance approach to homophobia. No judging of lifestyle, and no making crude remarks to fellow nurses about the size of a patient’s anus. She didn’t care if she was a killjoy, she recognised the menace behind the mocking.

“Mum ensured her ward had a zero-tolerance approach to homophobia. No judging of lifestyle, and no making crude remarks... she recognised the menace behind the mocking”

It wasn’t just the patients who felt they could talk openly to her, many of the male nurses were gay, and adored her. She’s naturally camp, yet strangely innocent. When I told her I was writing this she said “Are you going to tell them I’m a fly? That’s what you and Amanda used to call me”. I laughed, “Yes, and it’s FRUIT fly”.

“My mum was only 17 years old. A minor victory, but these small wake up calls by individuals with no self-interest, save common decency and a sense of justice, seem somehow more resonant than all the lobbying, marching and banner-waving by those who are currently outside the law. Every cause needs friends on the inside.”

“Mum ensured her ward had a zero-tolerance approach to homophobia. No judging of lifestyle, and no making crude remarks... she recognised the menace behind the mocking”
I'm currently in recovery. In many senses of the word. Recovery from my most recent and (God-willing) last trans-related surgery. Recovery from childhood sexual abuse. Recovery from damaging relationships I’ve forged in adulthood due to the latter, and recovery from excessive use of drugs and alcohol which were successful coping strategies at the time but are no longer serving me well.

I started smoking at the age of 12, and I remember so clearly the relief I felt with that first cigarette. It took away all the pain I was experiencing at the time, the pain of going through a puberty I didn’t want and couldn’t handle. That’s not to say I was so different to many other preteens both then and now. Lots of people struggle with puberty, both physically, emotionally and sexually. Mine was no more or less painful I don’t suppose, than millions of others. But I really did hate it. So no more or less painful I don’t suppose, than any pain I’ve ever experienced at the time, the pain of going through a puberty I didn’t want and couldn’t handle.

I caved in to the pressure. How could I possibly fight against all these internal factors related to biological sex or hormones. Much of what we believe is innate is in fact learned, inculturated, indoctrinated even. Parents today have a job providing a gender-free environment for their children, a world where expectations are looser and person-centred, rather than driven by the toxic blue/pink binary we’re so addicted to.

“Much of what we believe is innate, is in fact learned, inculturated, indoctrinated even”

Young people themselves are so much more aware of what is and isn’t ‘natural’, and are far more determined than my generation to eschew these artificial boundaries in the search for authenticity of being. Their commonality is being human. Their battles are being played out on other fields. Climate change, global poverty, colonialism and bigotry are their enemies.

It seems to me that people who understand LGBTQ+ oppression, regardless of how they identify themselves, are ahead of the game in other areas of equality too. There’s something about the way gender and sexuality affects us all, however we identify, something which strikes at the core of being human. Sentence. To know that we know puts us at a higher consciousness, and gives us a view from a different vantage point. One that leads us to understand all humans as equal, with equal value, and equal rights. That’s not to say that there aren’t plenty of LGBTQ+ folk who are prejudiced in some way towards others, simply that once one has made a personal journey of understanding and acceptance, it becomes easier to both accept and try to understand all forms of oppression.

It’s heartening to me to find friends and continue to engage with people from all walks of life with whom I have very little in common, except this. This understanding that all are equal, and should be treated as such. Of course our patriarchal, hierarchical, capitalist, winner-takes-all culture does not support this stance, even when it claims to. And yet many living within it do, and often go to great lengths to achieve equity, even if only in little ways.

It’s virtually impossible to imagine a society where all humans are valued equally, precisely because we’re human, and have another universal trait that has contributed to our success on the planet. Selfishness. This attribute has ensured survival of the fittest, and continues to play into our lives on a daily basis. It’s selfishness that allows us to thrive, instinctively driving us forwards both as individuals and as a species. It’s selfishness that ensures we continue to have more than enough food even if we have enough already, and to seek more if we don’t. It’s selfishness that drives capitalism and materialism, and selfishness that perpetuates poverty, ill health and poor education. Chances are, if you ‘have’, you will always ‘have’. Selfishness breeds entitlement, which is the seed of inequality.

Putting all this together leads to an awkward impasse. If I truly believe that all humans are equal, and should be treated as such, how do I reconcile this with my selfish desire to do well for myself and those I love? To stay warm and fed, when others don’t have that same privilege? Do I deprive myself of comfort in solidarity with those who have none? Does it serve me or even when it claims to. And yet many living within it do, and often go to great lengths to achieve equity, even if only in little ways.

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

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

6-8pm, the third Thursday of the month at Café Domenica, Preston Road, Brighton

The Clare Project ©TNBBrighton ©TNBBrighton
R-E-S-P-E-C-T

I watched a great movie last night based on a true story. It was called The Red Sea Diving Resort. Right at the end of the movie this quote came up that made me think of my chosen family. My LGBTQIA family. My straight family. My cis, trans and non-binary family.

“When you see your brother or your sister suffering, you must not stay silent. Do not remain still. Go to their aid. Help them.”

As this issue of Gscene is all about allies, I want to celebrate and show my respect to my siblings. Our siblings. Some of us might have been privileged enough to have a very supportive family who helped us by giving us a safe environment to grow and be ourselves. But some of us might not have enjoyed that privilege. We might have been brought into this world by families that do not understand or respect who we are. They might have turned a blind eye to our happiness and insisted that we are better off by following the ‘norm’ and forcing us to be like them.

Thankfully, at some point in our lives, we get to choose our own ‘family’ and be ourselves with people who want us to blossom and grow into the unique and amazing individuals that we are.

Throughout our lives we get to meet people who will always be there for us. We also get to meet people who will only be there for a short period of time but they manage to pass something on that will stay with us forever.

They might live around the corner or they might live on the other side of the world, but you know that whenever you need them, they are always there for you. They do say that good friends are like stars, you don’t always see them but they are always there.

Allies come in all shapes and sizes and they will always have our back. They might belong to a different world but having known us they realise that the most important thing that matters is not our sexuality, our gender, our queerness or our uniqueness. They love and respect us for our soul, our kindness, our personality, our love for life and eagerness for inclusivity and equality.

“It would be a blessing if everyone took a leaf out of our allies book and started looking at people for what they are and not which community they belong to”

It would be a blessing if everyone in this world took a leaf out of our allies’ book and started looking at people for what they are and not which community they belong to. Does it really matter who you love if you are a kind person? Does it matter that you are trans if you strive for a better world? Or you are non-binary and treat everyone with respect and love?

Our allies see humans so let’s hope that everyone else sees that soon. Throughout history we have witnessed the most horrible events when people are segregated and categorised based on their sexuality, race, religion, or whatever makes them simply who they are.

Let’s not repeat history.
Second thing you need is people to stare at. Got to have people to stare at. Actually 'stare' sounds bad... people to 'observe' – that's better. I'm sat on a bar stool observing out onto the street. The glass is tinted slightly so I can look out merrily but people can't see me from the outside. An observer's dream!

A chap has sat down immediately in front of me eating his meal deal sandwich lunch. He's gone for fruit as the snack option. He's eating his crisps at the same time as his sandwich like some kind of maniac. He doesn't appear to be wearing socks either. It's about 3˚ outside. I might pop outside in a minute and see if he's okay.

What else do you need to write a column? Eye candy. Well, that's not essential but it helps! The shop I'm in is opposite an office block and as it's lunch time there's a veritable throng of handsome office types coming and going. As it were.

One of them is now sat in the place vacated by the none-sock wearing maniac. The new guy has one of those septum piercings. I'm not keen on them myself but each to their own. They make me ask questions like 'Do they fly out when you sneeze?’, ‘How often do you need to clean them?’, ‘When you have a cold do they get covered with snot?’ and most importantly ‘Why?’.

**“Is he waiting for me I wonder? Is he waiting for some geeky but handsome mid 40s guy to walk by and whisk him off his feet?”**

Septum boy is clearly waiting for someone. He's kinda cute too. Is he waiting for me I wonder? Is he waiting for some geeky but handsome mid 40s guy to walk by and whisk him off his feet? Ah. No. He's meeting his Mum by the looks of it... bless! They've popped into the Italian restaurant next door. That's a cool thing. A young guy taking his Mum out for lunch. Will there be wine? Will he pay the bill? Will he opt for a pudding? Mmmm, pudding... I might have to give in and get some cake. This will mean more tea, which is obviously not an issue...

www.teapotscoffeeshops.weebly
I want you to have the best week, month, year of your life, and they get easier to have as we get happier in and with ourselves. Here are five very easy to apply tools to help you feel more content in your own skin.

1. Pause... And if you can, meditate, or have some kind of downtime in your head. This is an incredible gift to ourselves and completely free. I’ve noticed benefits from just five minutes a day. Stopping and allowing yourself time to breathe has proven physical and psychological benefits that can be summed up as: you’ll create a calmer You. Sit quietly, put a timer on your phone for three minutes (so you don’t fall asleep!), shut your eyes and focus on your breathing. When you start, your mind may race and thoughts pop up, but nothing worth doing is easy at the start, stick with it.

2. Create a mini plan... Nothing too overwhelming, just choose two or three action points to help you move forward. Make them easy to start and stick to, this is about creating healthy new habits, so yours might be:
   - Drink a large glass of water when I wake up
   - Do 15 press-ups morning and evening
   - Have a consistent bedtime routine.
By themselves, done once, these are nice things to do for yourself. Cumulatively, the compound effect of what they mean is far greater than the sum of their parts.

3. Be grateful... Sometimes easier said than done, but incredibly powerful. It’s easy to get caught up in modern life and end up doing everything on autopilot. Modern society glamorises being busy and always being on the go, but then we miss the smaller, sometimes more important stuff. Gratitude isn’t about throwing yourself on the floor in worship. Allowing yourself to be grateful simply means you’ll be more appreciative of the good things around you, big and small. It can also help you feel more in control, be more open to love and opportunities, and even sleep better. Try this before you go to bed, write down three things for which you’re grateful every day for a week and see how much good there is to enjoy around you.

4. Eat slightly better... No need to overhaul your entire diet, just small nudges in the healthy direction. If this is something you struggle with, I’m talking adding just one extra portion of fruit or veg a day. That’s it. That’s how I started 18 months ago. Knowing I should eat a bit more healthily and realising I didn’t have to start turning everything green, just one extra portion (which often meant just one portion a day anyway!). I found some fruit and veg that I didn’t hate and actually (whisper) quite enjoyed! Now I find it easier to fit it into my diet and know it helps support a healthier me.

5. Forgive yourself... Again, not always an overnight process, but a lovely, warming, self-supportive one. A few years ago I had a big falling out with a housemate. We’d been super tight and then, for various reasons, on both sides, it went south. I went through a long period of beating myself up about what had happened, how I’d dealt with it, what I’d said, what she’d said, and three years on would still feel anxious about it. We got in touch and talked on email for a bit, what I’d said, what she’d said, and after a few days, something lifted and I realised the situation no longer had a hold on my emotions. You may think this is a bit woo woo but if there’s something holding you back, and it doesn’t need to involve another person, it could be guilt you feel about not exercising - forgive yourself and see what happens and how you feel.
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, biophobic 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 Office PC James Breeds: Tel. 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
- LGBT Disability Project
- Rainbow Café: support for LGBT+ people with Dementia
- Volunteering opportunities 01273 234 009 Helpline: hours: Wed & Thur, 7–9.30pm; trans-only webchat on Sun 3–5pm: call 01273 204 050 email info@switchboard.org.uk or visit www.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 69803 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 6.30-8.30m, 6 Tilbury Pl, Brighton, BN2 1TP. 01273 675445 or visit www.thegaycocaeanonymous.co.uk

LGBT NA GROUP
Brighton-based LGBT (welcomes others) Narcotics Anonymous group every Tue 6.30–8pm, Millwood Centre, Nelson Row, Kingswood St. 0300 999 1212

LGBT+ MEDITATION GROUP
Meditation & discussion, every 2nd & 4th Thu, 5.30–7pm, Anahata Clinic, 119 Edward St, Brighton. 07789 861 367 or www.bodhitreebrighton.org

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

NAVIGATION
Social/peer support group for FTM, transmasculine & gender queer people, every 1st Wed 7-9pm & 3rd Sat of month 1–3pm at Space for Change, Windlesham Venue, BN1 4AY. www.navigatetobrighton.wordpress.com/

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

RAINBOW FAMILIES
Support group for lesbian and/or gay parents 07951 062013 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.thearainbowhubbrighton.com

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

TAGS – THE ARUN GAY SOCIETY
Social Group welcome all in East & West Sussex Areas. Call/Txt 07593 513171 www.tagsonline.org.uk

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

THE VILLAGE MCC
Christian church serving the LGBT community. Sundays 6pm, Somerset Day Centre, Kemp town 01273 675445 or visit www.thevillagemcc.org

HIV PREVENTION, CARE & TREATMENT SERVICES

AVERT
Sussex HIV & AIDS info service 01403 210202 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 or 01273 675445 or visit www.brightonhovecab.org.uk

CLINIC M
Free confidential testing & treatment for STIs including HIV; plus Hep A & B vaccinations. Claude Nicol Centre, Sussex County Hospital, on Weds from 5-8pm. 01273 664 721 or www.brightonsexualhealth.org.uk

LAWSUIT
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, Subline, Provler, Marborough Pub and The Rainbow Hub martinfisherfoundation.org

SUBSTANCE MISUSE SERVICE
Pavilions Partnership. Info, advice, appointments & referrals 01273 731 900. Drop-in: Richmond House, Richmond Rd, Brighton, Mon-Wed & Fri 10am-4pm, Thur 10am-7pm, Sat 10am-1pm; The Drive, Hove 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 webpage: pavilions.org.uk/services/treatment-recovery-options/

SUSSSEX 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@tth.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
- Noretreat (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. Contact: Grace Coughlan 07598408590 or grace.coughlan@tth.org.uk
- HIV Support Services: info, support & practical advice for people living with/affected by HIV
- HIV Welfare Rights Advice: Find out about benefits or benefit changes. Advice line: Tue–Thur 1.30–2.30pm, 1–2.1 appts for advice & workshops on key benefits

TERRENCE HIGGINS EASTBOURNE
- Web support & info on HIV, sexual health & local services via netreach and myhiv.org.uk
- Free condom postal service contact Grace Coughlan 07598408590 or grace.coughlan@tth.org.uk

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

NATIONAL HELPLINES

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

SWITCHBOARD 0300 330 0630

POSITIV_LINEAR (EDDIE SURMAN TRUST)
Mon-Fri 11am-10pm, Sat & Sun 4-10pm 0800 1698608

MAINLINERS 02075 825226

NATIONAL AIDS HELPLINE 08005 67123

NATIONAL DRUGS HELPLINE 08007 76600

THT AIDS Treatment phoneline 08459 470047

THT direct 0845 1221200
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 1/2 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...
4th Niki Red 11th Drew Cameron 18th Dave Fensome 25th Jason Lee

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

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