

Forever with Pride

1st December

Issue 24

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

From

The Crystal & Queenie Show

GARDENING WITH GOODFELLOW

Tim B Theatre Reveiw

The Q LGBTQ Music

Rainbow Traveller

Blake Rave Music

And Forever with Pride

www.foreverwithpride.com

Christmas 2023



Everyone here at Forever with Pride e-magazine would like to wish all of our readers a very Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year.

Lets all come together in 2024 with love in our hearts and the strength to carry on making positive change for all parts of the LGBTQ+ community.

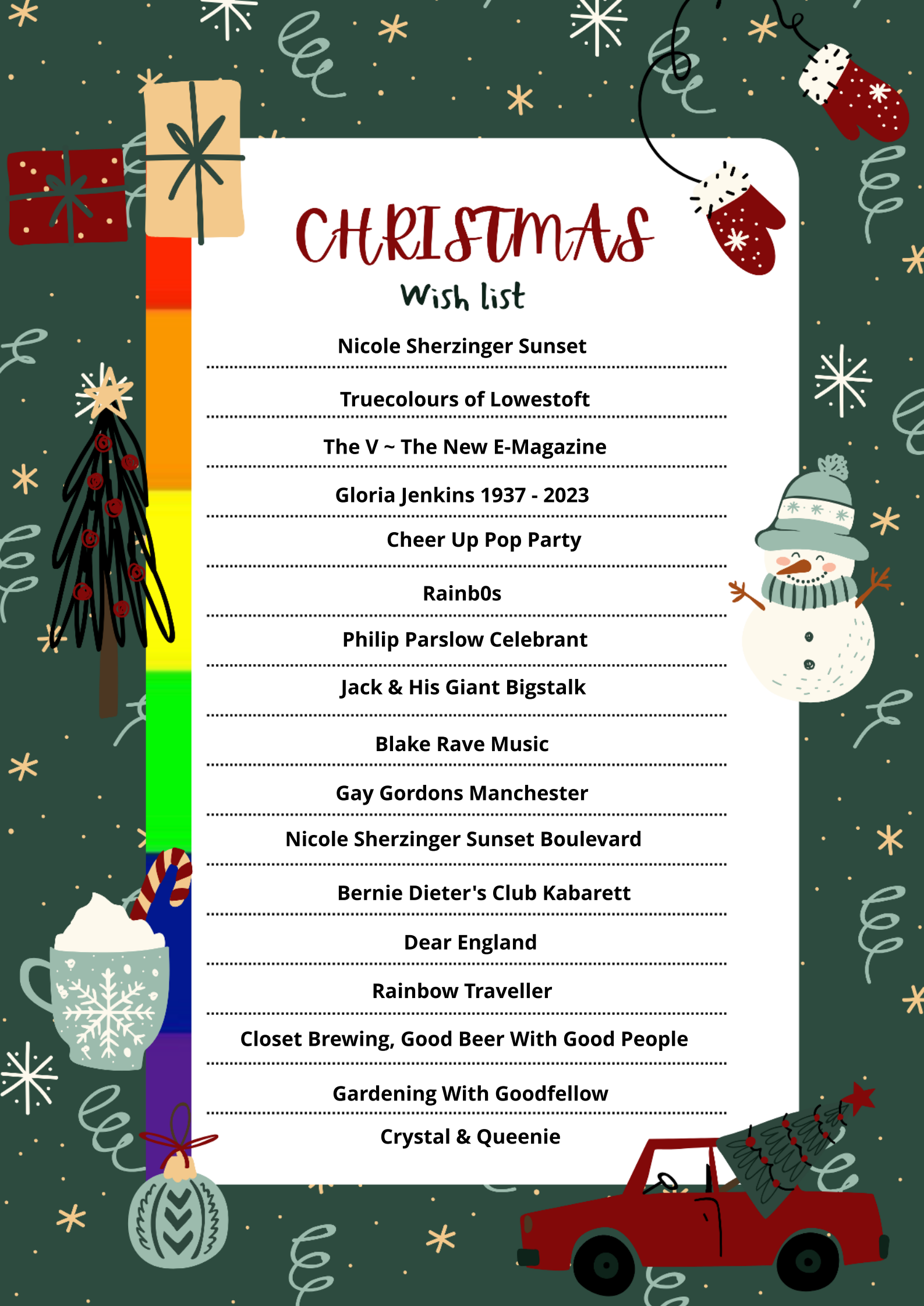
Forever with Pride is launching two brand new free e-magazine/directories

They are The Pride event where we will be showcasing every thing pride and The V where we will be supporting LGBTQ+ venues.

To find out more about them just pop on over to our website or go to our contact page and send us message.

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

2024



CHRISTMAS

Wish list

Nicole Sherzinger Sunset

Truecolours of Lowestoft

The V ~ The New E-Magazine

Gloria Jenkins 1937 - 2023

Cheer Up Pop Party

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Philip Parslow Celebrant

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Nicole Sherzinger Sunset Boulevard

Bernie Dieter's Club Kabarett

Dear England

Rainbow Traveller

Closet Brewing, Good Beer With Good People

Gardening With Goodfellow

Crystal & Queenie

LAMBCO Productions presents

Strangers in between



NSW Premier's Literary
Award for Best Play

by **TOMMY MURPHY**

directed by **adam spreadbury-maher**



"Sharp and sweet...
charmingly funny"

THE INDEPENDENT



"Funny, touching
and nuanced"

THE TIMES



JACK THE LAD



ADVENTURES IN
THEATRELAND



THE REVIEWS HUB



ALL THAT DAZZLES



THE STAGE



SPY IN THE STALLS



EVERYTHING THEATRE



FIRST NIGHT



A YOUNG (ISH)
PERSPECTIVE



SHADOWS ON THE WALL

NOMINATION
OFFIES
NEWCOMER

NOMINATION
OFFIES
SUPPORTING
PERFORMANCE
IN A PLAY

**STAGE
DOOR
THEATRE**

stagedoortheatre.co.uk

8 Jan to 3 Feb 2024 at 7.30pm
Matinees Weds, Sat from 17 Jan at 3pm
Tickets £10 to £25 (£27 to £44 including dinner)





truecolours

of Lowestoft

TrueColours was founded by Honnor Dawn in the summer of 2021 and has emerged as the sole LGBTQ+ social group for adults within the heart of Lowestoft. Born out of a pressing need to bridge the gap within Lowestoft, where there was a distinct absence of resources and gathering spaces for LGBTQ+ individuals, Honnor, a passionate advocate for LGBTQ+ rights, took the initiative to establish TrueColours, recognising that no one should feel isolated or disconnected within their own community.



TrueColours has embodied its mission with unwavering commitment. Our mission is to create and nurture a safe and inclusive space within Lowestoft where individuals from the LGBTQ+ community can thrive. Through our efforts, we aim to foster connections, offer friendship and support, connect individuals with other valuable local LGBTQ+ projects,

and provide a space where isolated individuals can experience and feel a familiar sense of connection.

We are dedicated to facilitating access to local pride events, empowering our community members to travel to these events, and supporting the success of our local pride celebrations. Because we are a community organisation, we also endeavour to offer those from the LGBTQ+ community the opportunity to socialise via day and evening trips to events.

Over the past two years TrueColours has orchestrated a vibrant array of social events and uniting people at once a month group meetings.



From engaging arts and crafts sessions to the simple pleasure of baking together, we've celebrated the diversity of our community.

Our journey has also included exhilarating group walks, fun-filled outings like bowling and cinema trips, and spectacular experiences like the Rocky Horror Picture Show at East Point Pavillion and the enthralling Great Yarmouth Hippodrome Circus.

The summer sun witnessed our delightful beach hut meeting, complete with music and a sizzling BBQ, as we continued to nurture the bonds amongst our members. We have also recently enjoyed seeing Fascinating Aida and Queenz at the Marina Theatre and hosted a talk given to us by the Suffolk Terrance Higgins Trust.

In just a short time, TrueColours has made an indelible mark in the lives of many LGBTQ+ individuals in Lowestoft. We have created a welcoming haven where people from all walks of life can come together, share their stories, and be embraced for who they truly are.

Through various events and activities, TrueColours has fostered a sense of belonging that is priceless. TrueColours is more than just a social group; it's a beacon of hope for those who may have felt marginalised and overlooked. With a commitment to connecting individuals with local LGBTQ+ projects and providing access to pride events,



TrueColours proudly supported events like the First Light Festival, Bungay Pride, and Lowestoft's historic first pride. Our family has grown, and we are committed to remaining a sanctuary for the LGBTQ+ community in Lowestoft, where everyone is embraced and celebrated.

TrueColours empowers its members to fully participate in the wider LGBTQ+ community and celebrate their true identities.

As we come towards the end of this year, we look towards the future. Our hopes are boundless whilst we orchestrate and assemble a committee. We aim to build more connections and networks, foster friendships, and offer unwavering support. 2024 already sees some exciting plans like once again hosting a stall at Bungay Pride, our first time hosting a stall at Dereham Pride, and not forgetting Lowestoft's second Pride! TrueColours will continue to bridge individuals with other valuable local LGBTQ+ initiatives and provide a welcoming space for those who may have felt isolated, where they can find that warm sense of belonging.

We welcome those beautiful souls of the LGBTQ+ community, whether out and proud or exploring their own true colours, to check out our Facebook and Instagram pages.

If you have any questions and would like to contact us please do feel free to email us at truecolours.low@gmail.com.

We are also always happy to hear from other LGBTQ+ organisations who would like to network, as well as invitations to hold a presence at events.

Together, we hope to paint a brighter future for the LGBTQ+ community in Lowestoft and surrounding areas, one True Colour at a time. We are here to uplift and celebrate YOU!

By Ian Bear





LGBTQ +
VENUES

ALL LGBTQ+ VENUES WELCOME

THE V E - M A G A Z I N E

All LGBTQ+ UK & NI Venues Welcome.
Get Your Venue Listed For Free In The V

WWW.FOREVERWITHPRIDE.COM/CONTACT/



Gloria Jenkins 1937 - 2023

Many families and friends of LGBT young people owe so much to Gloria and to all the founder members of our beloved FFLAG. Families across the UK have been supported, and in many cases, kept together because of their resilience and determination to promote LGBT rights.

Supported by her family and their Cardiff MP Rhodri Morgan, Gloria campaigned for her daughter Sian's Canadian partner to be able to stay with her in the UK. In August 2000 Tammy was one of the first lesbians from overseas to be granted indefinite leave to remain in the UK because of 'a meaningful same-sex relationship'. During the Campaign Gloria was in contact with Stonewall and they suggested she contact FFLAG.

In 2001 Gloria founded the Welsh chapter of FFLAG (Families and



Friends of LGBT people) and later became one of the first co-chairs of Stonewall Cymru.

She ensured that Stonewall Cymru put down firm foundations, becoming a cornerstone of Welsh LGBT life and rights. In 2017 Gloria received a very special honour – she was chosen to be included in an exhibition called *cons and Allies*. Pride Cymru had selected 20 people considered to be trailblazers



who had helped shape the Welsh political and social world and make it a place in which LGBT+ people can be themselves today.



Gloria at the inauguration of the Welsh LGBT Forum



One of many FFLAG stalls at Pride in Cardiff - 2005



1993 Inaugural meeting at Stonewall

What is FFLAG?

FFLAG is a national charity that offers peer support to families and their LGBT+ members; promotes education and awareness; and campaigns for LGBT+ rights.

FFLAG volunteers are parents of LGBT+ children who give support via the helpline, email, local parents' groups and through website resources.

FFLAG, as a national organisation, started in 1993 but its roots are in the 1960s when our founder Rose Robertson started the first helpline for parents of gay sons, taking it upon herself to call up families and mediate for their sons, at a time when being gay was illegal.

Helplines sprang up around the country – there were 40 helplines at one time, a grassroots organisation, led by parents supporting each other and their children at a time when LGB rights were not equal. Section 28 prompted the need to join together, mobilise and campaign.

As a result, FFLAG as a national umbrella for all the local groups was formed in 1993 at Stonewall Offices.





Then followed several years of active campaigning:

- ~ Lifting the Ban in the Military (2000)
- ~ Equal Age of consent (2001)
- ~ Repeal of Section 28 (2003)
- ~ Adoption Rights (2005)
- ~ Equality Act (2010) Equal Marriage (2014)



Since 2010 there has been a steep rise in demand for support for families with trans youngsters and FFLAG has worked to become trans inclusive. In 2017 published new trans versions of our booklets were published, followed in 2021 by 'How Do I Tell My Children?'



From the FFLAG website

www.fflag.org.uk

you can access support, download resources, find recommendations or support FFLAG's work through volunteering or donations.

twitter.com/officialfflag

www.facebook.com/OfficialFFLAG



Support Line 0300 688 0368 All calls charged at local rate





cheeruppopparty



FRIDAY 8th DECEMBER



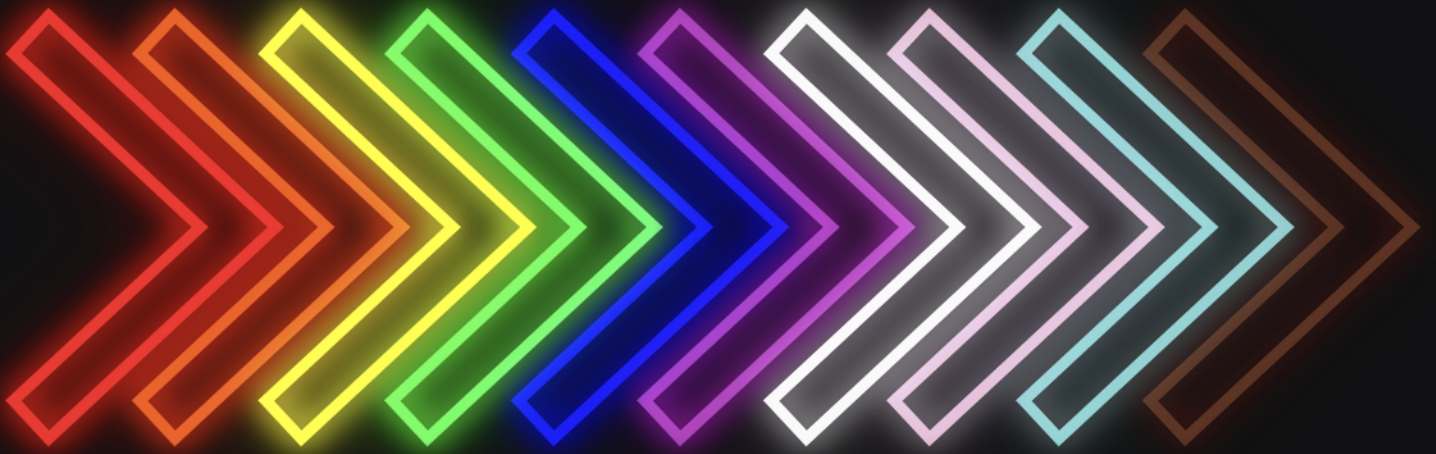
CHEER UP

Christmas



WWW.BUYTICKETS.AT/CHEERUP

All aboard as @cheeruppopparty is BACK at @rvtoofficial for some festive fun & CHEER. On Friday the 8th December come and join us fo...



RainbOs is the Official LGBTQ+ Supporters' Group for Leyton Orient Football Club (LOFC) and we launched 1 Oct 2022. We have just celebrated our first birthday and the "gift" from the Club was to announce player Adam Thompson as a volunteer to become our Ambassador.

Among the birthday celebrations we also held an 11 aside match vs our friends over at Eastend Phoenix FC and followed that with a social event, bowling and party food in Stratford.

The name "RainbOs" is a play on words "Rainbow" and the fact that LOFC are known as the "O's"

The group aim to help make Brisbane Road (home to LOFC) become a more friendly, welcoming and inclusive safe space to come and enjoy a game of football and we are working with the Club Directors & officials to move away from songs, chants and practices which the LGBTQ+ community have been faced with in the past.

During our first year we have taken part in three 5 aside football tournaments (placing 3rd at all three) which is quite remarkable given that we are just ordinary fans and not football players ourselves. The first tournament was "Football for All"



leytonorient.com/news/2022/october/28/orient-to-host-football-for-all-tournament/ at which we were co-hosts along with Leyton Orient Trust and London Assembly Councillor Emma Best. This was played during the Men's FIFA World Cup to highlight the fact that the World Cup was being played in a non-inclusive nation. As part of the wider Pride in Football community, RainbOs joined Premier League, Championship and Lower League supporters' groups in grey-scaling our group logo in support of #NoPrideWithout All

As a group we have taken part in our local Waltham Forest Pride in both 2022 and 2023 as well as London Pride parade for the first time in July this year; along with our Club mascot "Theo the Wyvern" who was very popular with the children in the crowds that lined the streets. We also entered a team into the Big Queer Quiz which was organized by West Ham United LGBTQ+ Group "Pride of Irons".

At the end of the football season 2022/23 we also presented a RainbOs Award at the Club annual awards night.



Our group is run by an elected Committee who are fans from the LGBTQ+ community, straight allies and friends. We are looking forward to formalizing our membership process and to develop a regular newsletter but lack volunteers who have that skill-set. There is a very active WhatsApp chat group where we discuss all things LOFC, football in general, LGBTQ+ matters and the popular debate on whether pie n' mash should have liquor or gravy! We are also looking to set up some branded merchandise which the Club have offered to help us sell.

On hearing the news of our Ambassador being announced, Chair of RainbOs said "....Allies in any form are some of the most effective and powerful voices for LGBTQ+ people; someone who stands for equal and

fair treatment for people different from themselves is a powerful characteristic and a force for good.."

As most of our members live outside of the postcode E10 (where the Club is based) the mail-out list is a popular link for passing a lot of information which would otherwise be lost on social media Apps.



If anyone reading this is an Orient fan or not and feel they could help us with production of a newsletter or have skills which may help us attract more members, we would love to hear from you. We can be contacted via email or social media and someone will answer your enquiry.

E-mail: Enquiries.rainbos@gmail.com



A man with short grey hair, wearing a grey suit, a blue patterned tie, and dark sunglasses, stands with his hands clasped in front of him, holding a black folder. He is positioned in front of a Christmas tree decorated with white lights and gold and silver ornaments. The background is a festive collage with red and gold diagonal stripes, green pine branches, red baubles, and wrapped gifts at the top and bottom.

Philip Parslow

Celebrant

Hello there, I am Philip Parslow, a Monmouthshire Celebrant living in Abergavenny,

I am a warm and friendly person who likes a laugh and meeting new people, you are most welcome to get in touch for an informal chat to talk about and to create with you a bespoke Ceremony that will make your special day magical and memorable.

Here is everything that I do
Wedding, Civil Partnership, same Sex Wedding, Wedding Vowels
Renewal, Baby Naming Ceremony, Funeral, Memorial Service and Bereavement Counselling.

Merry Christmas
and
Happy New Year

**LONDON'S No1
ADULT PANTO**

**IT'S BACK!
BIGGER
BOLDER
RUDER
THAN EVER**

JACK & HIS GIANT BIGSTALK

8TH - 22ND

DECEMBER 23

THE PRINCE OF WALES

DRURY LANE

LONDON

BOOK NOW!

**ADULT PANTOMIME IS
BACK IN THE WEST END
WITH JACK AND HIS
GIANT BIGSTALK!!!!**

"OH YES IT IS "

WARNING - This is pantomime is strictly for adults and over 18s only and not for the faint hearted! The

*Entertainment Providers and the team that brought the critically acclaimed *Snow White And The Seven Men 2021* and last year *Sinderfella*, fly back into the West End for 2023 with a brand-new production of Jack And His Giant Bigstalk at **The Prince Of Wales**, Drury Lane, London from **8th-22nd December**. And this year it promises to be bigger, bolder and naughtier than ever.*

Join Queen Genetalia , Jack Jill, Fairy Courgette, Daisy The Human Cow , Dame Trott and whole host of pantomime characters for panto fun and frolics. This year's show will bring you a delightful and risqué version of the much-loved story packed full of laughs and delicious fairy-tale campery! The show will be led by Big Brother star Simon Gross as the Evil Queen Genetalia!

INTRODUCING

**BIG BROTHER'S
SIMON GROSS
AS 'QUEEN GENETALIA'**

INTRODUCING

**JOSEPH GREENWOOD
AS 'DAISY THE COW'**

INTRODUCING

**TOM WHITE
AS 'DAME TROTT'**

The pop powered pantomime features feel good party anthems Barbie Girl, Electric Dreams, It Must Be Love, *Never Going To Give, Wanabee, Thriller, I Will Survive*. With sensational Sparkling Sets and Costumes. With an utterly filthy laugh a minute script and a whole load of audience participation this is the perfect way to kick start your Christmas with a bang!!!

Simon Gross says *"Jack And His Bigstalk" takes all the ingredients of the pantomimes we grew up with and know and love but takes the double entendre to the next level! All the bits that were knowingly laughed at by your Dad are exposed in all their glory in a fairy tale romp. This year we're really looking forward to pushing the boundaries to bring you the most memorable and hilarious night out on the heart of the West End"*-

Sinderfella is brought to the stage by The Entertainment Providers – who produced London's original Adult only pantomime back in 2011.

Critical acclaim for 2022 show Sinderfella :

"A superb, fun night out we've all been craving for"
London Theatre

"A fantastic modern twist on a pantomime classic. a rip-roaring night to remember!"

Mirror Online

"Loved it! Panto at its best - full of fun frivolity and raunchiness"-

Daily Star

"You need to see it, to believe it...This is pure madness...very funny and highly entertaining"

West End Extra

"Totally degenerate, twisted, camp hilarity from beginning to end. Why do we have to wait a year to see the next one!"-

The Audience Club

The Prince Of Wales, 150, Drury Lane , London, W1D

8th– 22nd December, 7:30pm - Doors 7pm

Sundays 4pm Doors 3.30p ~ PRICE: Tickets £36.00

2 hours 15 minutes including interval

BOOKING:

www.ticketsource.co.uk/theentertainmentproviders



D R A G B U S



Drag Bus has various Christmas dates across Brighton
You can find out more about Drag Bus at
www.dragbus.co.uk or by calling 01273 220088

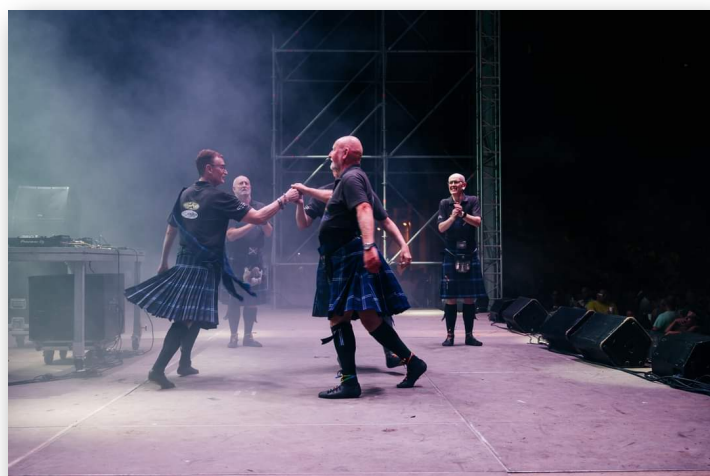
The Gay Gordons Manchester

The Gay Gordons Manchester were formed in 2007 by three friends who felt that the Scottish Country Dancing community needed more male dancers. Their first event was a feeler session to see if anyone would be interested in Scottish Country and ceilidh dancing in the Manchester gay community. An advert was placed in gay publications, and they invited members of a group in London called The Gay Gordons to take part.

The name is derived from a Scottish ceilidh dance of the same name, which was a nickname given to the Scottish Highland Regiment the Gordon Highlanders. Those who attended the event were asked if they would be interested in Scottish Country dance classes and the overwhelming result was "Yes". The classes started later that year, just after their first ever public display outside New York, New York on Bloom Street, Manchester.

The first classes were initially held on Mondays and Wednesdays in the Outpost Bar, part of the Hotel Interannual. A committee was set up and a constitution agreed, and they became The Gay Gordons Manchester (Scottish Country Dance and Ceilidh Group), and with the backing of several bar owners along Canal Street the following summer they would perform displays within the Manchester Gay Village. These were to promote their classes as well as raise funds for organisations and charities.

The Outpost was closed on Hogmanay 2012, and they had to find new premises for their weekly Monday classes. The host for these classes was NYNY on Bloom Street with thanks to Tracey and Peter. The classes were later moved to upstairs bar in The Thompsons Arms, where they remain.



Classes start at 7.45pm and end around 9.30pm and at £2.00 per class with a £10 annual membership reducing this to £1.50 is a very inexpensive night of exercise and laughter. Membership benefits are that classes are cheaper and there is a discount for dance events and Christmas meals. Also, this allows members to have a say in the running of the club through the Annual General Meetings.

The main annual event is the Tartan Day dance held on the nearest Saturday to April 6th, which is International Tartan Day. There are dancers from around the Northwest of England as well as London and Edinburgh. In 2019 a Day School of Scottish dancing was organised and was open to anyone who wanted to learn some basic and more intricate steps. These are taught by an RSCDS (Royal Scottish Country Dance Society) trained teacher, with the help of a musician. These classes are then followed by the Tartan Day Dance.

The Monday SCD classes were augmented by a ceilidh class on Saturdays in 2018 in the Middleton area of Greater Manchester. These were set up originally to get people more active and using dancing was a great way to do so. Dancing is great for the body

and mind and is a fun way to keep fit and meet people. These classes are £5.00 each due to the rental cost of the hall, but tea and biscuits are thrown in!



There are regular ceilidh dances through the year (approximately every 3 months) and recently a New Year's ceilidh was added. The quarterly ceilidhs have live music, the Hogmanay use recorded tracks.

Each summer they have dance demos along Canal Street with the help and support of Bar Pop and The Church (Formerly Churchills). These are promotional events with the group dancing and having audience participation dances, which would hopefully encourage people to join them. The average membership is 17 and it is hoped that they can start to grow this.

They pride themselves as being welcoming to all who wants to dance, and after each class there is the chance to have a few drinks and get to know each other.

Over the years they have performed at Manchester Pride and since 2010 have taken part in parade and having added their friends from The Oldham and District Scottish Pipe band, as well as members of the Manchester Community Pipe Band have gained a lot of followers. Other Pride events to be supported are Oldham, Bury, Stockport and several smaller Prides in the Northwest which have made the group very popular.

Until recently the farthest the group had performed was Birmingham in 2014, but this past year they added Benidorm Pride to that list. These have given them their largest crowd to date – over 4000 in the arena and another 1500 at Benidorm Palace. They plan one more trip in 2024.

The group are well known fundraisers in Greater Manchester and for some are the first on the list of performers to ask. They have raised funds for several LGBT+ charities including Albert Kennedy Trust, George House Trust and LGBT Foundation, as well as Wateraid, Manchester Children's Hospital and Cancer Research.



The Gay Gordons Manchester as well as the Gay Gordons London and Edinburgh are affiliated to the RSCDS and regularly get together for the other's dances. The RSCDS recently sent round some guidelines and one of those was to allow anyone to dance

any gender they wanted in a dance. This has come about by the presence of the three Gay Gordons Groups in the UK, as we regularly dance on both sides of a "set" 2 men together.

Website –

www.gay-gordons-manchester.co.uk

Facebook – Gay Gordons Manchester

Also Twitter, Tik Tok and Instagram



WORLD AIDS DAY
ROCK THE RIBBON
1 DECEMBER 2023

WEAR THE RED RIBBON
FOR PEOPLE LIVING WITH HIV

NATIONAL AIDS TRUST
Securing rights
Stopping HIV

#ROCKTHERIBBON WORLDAIDSDAY.ORG

World Aids Day 2023

@FOREVERWITHPRIDE

HAPPY HOLIDAY

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EVERWITHPRIDE/**

Why not give yourself a treat this Christmas and join us on Instagram? Just click on the poster to be taken directly to our page.



Sunset Boulevard



The reviews for Nicole Sherzinger in her second outing in the West End ('Cats' was her first) in 'Sunset Boulevard' are in, and her performance has been called 'captivating', 'a bravura performance,' as well as 'Sherzinger smashes it.' It's a performance you will unlikely forget in a show that you will also unlikely forget.

Sherzinger plays aging Hollywood film star Norma Desmond. Forget what you know about the previous productions and the 1950 classic hit film. This is an entirely different retelling. Sherzinger in no way looks like an ageing movie star, but to perfection she nails it nonetheless, and it's obvious from the beginning that this show is all about Sherzinger/Norma, while the rest of the cast also gives us their best in Jamie Lloyd's re-imagining of this classic.

Tom Francis plays young and penniless screenwriter Joe Gillis who by chance meets Norma, and he immediately accepts the job Norma has offered him, to write the script for her comeback film. And to make it all the more interesting, she puts him up in the apartment over her garage, and becomes attached to him quickly, even

questioning when he goes out. But her butler Max (David Thaxton) has seen this all before (he is Norma's ex-husband), and sublimely warns Joe about what may become of this 'working' relationship. Soon enough Joe starts to fall for a local actress, who happens to be married to one of his friends, all the while Norma is dreaming about her big comeback, while it seems all of Hollywood is snickering about this behind her back. And after you blink your eyes through all the imagery and closeups and the black and white hue Joe and Norma end up in a relationship which complicates matters for everyone involved, but mostly for Joe, as we all know what happens, as the show opens up, and ends with, this.

But it's in the telling of the story, and not the actual story, that makes this production a tour de force. Using an onstage camera, Lloyd is able to pull off the masterstroke of allowing us to see, up close and personal, warts and all (which live theatre can't) the faces of the actors, the emotion, the sorrow, the lust, combining the art of live theatre with video in a visually stunning production (there is a large screen over the stage).

With this, and the performances, we hardly take notice that there is

absolutely no set on stage, no grand staircase, no furniture, and not even a room. And the spectacle continues with the start of the second act when a camera follows Tom Francis' Gillis walking through the backstage dressing rooms and passing fellow cast members while walking outside and back into the theatre,

all the meanwhile singing, and it blurs the line between what the show is about and a wink and nod to the audience to let them know it's just a show it's just a show. I am not sure why this is as it takes us away from the dramatic tone of the show, but immediately after we get Scherzinger who sings 'As if We Never Said Goodbye.' Both songs received rapturous standing ovations on opening night - I've never seen this happen before. And as the show continues, we accept the fact that we are witnessing something special here. It's a bold, bold production that takes liberties with the stage and the concept of live theatre, but everyone involved 'smashes' it. While Francis is in all the scenes in the first half and most in the second half, it's Scherzinger as Desmond who you will not be able to forget long after you've left the theatre.

<https://sunsetboulevardwestend.com>

Photo by Marc Brenner

Bernie Dieter's Club Kabarett



The fabulous, and naughty Bertie Dieter is back in town with a show that's jam-packed with adult entertainment in a venue that is one of the best in the West End. 'Bernie Dieter's Club Kabarett' is at the wonderful venue The Boulevard Theatre which is situated right in the heart and soul, and the nitty gritty back alleys, of Soho.

There's nothing nitty or gritty about Dieters' show - it is one of the hottest nights out in town with its array of performers that show more than just their acrobatic skills - there's lots of skin on show - of course because it's Soho, and Bernie and her performers do it just right!

Bernie Dieter has been in the business a long time (born in Germany), and has established herself, and her team, as one of the best in the burlesque business. Bernie, with her playful fun laugh and sexy voice commands the stage, and your attention, the minute she starts the show.

We are treated to an array of talented performers including Bella Diosa, who does amazing things with her hair; the Seifert Sisters who take new meaning to the saying 'twins have double the fun.' Then we get to see trapeze artist Adam Malone, who does amazing things with his body, aerialist Joe Keeley, and others where I advise you to not blink your eyes as you might miss a trick or two. And these amazing performers are backed up by the an house band (led by Mark Elton (Bass), Frankie South (Guitar) and Laura Williams (Drums) that accompanies Dieter and her band of misfits throughout the show. This show is so jam-packed you get more than your money's worth.

And after the show you might bump into Dieter herself and some of the other performers in Boulevard's outstanding sleek and stylish bar and restaurant that would be a perfect ending, and/or beginning, to your night at Boulevard. The show, and the venue, should be a must-do on your list!

Now playing until Jan. 6th, 2024 - 90 minutes including interval.

To buy tickets click [here](#).

Merry Christmas
Happy New Year



**Click to
Donate**

2024

Please be kind and show your support for all of the hard work that we've put in throughout 2023 bringing you our free to read e-magazine each month.

Every little bit helps us stay free for everyone to read.

To donate click here or go to our website
Thank you for your support



Dear England



If you love football, and the English football team, then you'll love love 'Dear England.'

Reopening after a very successful run at the National Theatre earlier this year, 'Dear England' tells the sad, and at times depressing tale, of the English Football Teams quest, and failure, to 'bring it home' in the last few championship games.

Star Joseph Fiennes is an almost exact lookalike of coach Gareth Southgate - his demeanour and style is eerily an exact match. However, some of the actors playing some of the team members don't quite come close to their real-life selves.

This almost 3-hour play opens up with the search for a new coach, and Southgate easily fits the bill. Then we are introduced to the players, one by one, football match style - their names called out via loudspeaker, names splashed out on the circular screen on stage (and on the back of their shirts). This play should have enough to say about the team and their matches but in centres around a phycologist (played by Dervla Kirwan) who is brought on board by Southgate to examine why the team always lose the big games (always during penalties - which is true).

She also wants to know why the team members don't make eye contact when it comes time to kicking the ball during penalties, what makes them tick, and what is causing them to lose. But we never really don't get an answer to any of these questions in the show. The long play continues to delve into each game, cleverly recreating the penalties action on stage (though not with a real ball). We get to witness disappointment after disappointment after disappointment in the play that follows the England men's team under [Southgate](#) in the run-up to, and aftermath of, three tournaments: its unexpected run to the [semifinals at the 2018 World Cup in Russia](#), its disappointing defeat in the [2020 European Championship final at Wembley Stadium](#), and its quarterfinal exit from the [2022 World Cup in Qatar](#).

'Dear England' is a love letter to football and the England team, with some standout performances including Fiennes, who owns and commands the stage whenever he is on, and Will Close as Harry Kane, who is just downright funny and,

Kane, who is just downright funny and, whenever he is on, and Will Close as Harry Kane, who is just downright funny and, god forbid, spot on. We also get Marcus Rashford (Darragh Hand), Raheem Sterling (Kel Matsena), Wayne Rooney (Gunnar Cauthery), all simply ok but with not a whole lot to contribute as there are just way too many characters. We do, unfortunately, get poor caricatures of prime ministers who show up from time to time in cringy moments that are not even funny and don't hit their mark.

It's an impossible job, being coach, one that Roy Hodgson, Sven Goran-Erisksson and others have failed to do. And while this show doesn't fail to entertain us, it doesn't really rile and excite us, something it should've done as it focuses on a team that is near, and dear, to our heart - but breaks it every single time. 'Dear England' the show does a bit of that.

Now playing until January 13, 2024 - Prince Edward Theatre, London

For tickets, please go to:

<https://dearenglandonstage.com>



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CLOSET BREWING

good beer with good people

Introducing Closet Brewing, a queer-owned, women-owned brewery in Edinburgh's vibrant Leith neighbourhood. Starting out as homebrewers in 2018, they began trading commercially in 2022, making them Edinburgh's (and quite possibly Scotland's) smallest brewery.

Their motto is 'Drink good beer with good people' because they believe that beer is only ever as good as the people you share it with. It is very important to them that Closet Brewing is a community-focused brewery. In the last year they've hosted and led tasting events and launch events across Scotland's central belt, sharing their beers and their story with beer fans and LGBTQ+ folk alike. A particular point of pride for them was their partnership with legendary Leith pub Dreadnought in June to support the local community's efforts to clean up Newhaven's iconic 'Pride Bridge'.

Aside from Scottish events, 2023 has seen them travel around the UK collaborating with other breweries that share their ethos and community outlook, getting to share an enthusiasm for brewing and learning from brewers across Scotland, England, and Wales.

The brewery is a two-woman operation: Lucy, the head brewer; and Lizzie, the Comms and Events manager. Lucy began brewing at the tender age of 18, with just a plastic bucket, a sachet full of yeast and a draughty closet to keep it all in. Although those first brews could barely be described as drinkable, they sparked an interest that would sit, mostly unfulfilled, until 2018 where a move to a new city would allow her to start taking brewing more seriously.



Lucy emptying the mash tun after a brew at Otherworld Brewing



Lucy filling a barrel of beer at Wilderness Brewery



Lucy, Lizzie and Bernie on the repainted Pride Bridge

During the succeeding years, Lizzie became a decent malt stirrer, bottle filler, can seamer, description writer and photo taker for the brewery and, four years on, Lizzie and Lucy took the leap to become a licenced brewery, meaning they could finally share their beers with their community. With community on their minds once again, they decided to only stock their beers in independent bottle shops, of which Edinburgh is extremely popular for.

Their small size allows them to experiment with the range of beers they produce, creating beers for everyone to enjoy, from connoisseurs to ale-adverse drinkers. Their core range features Lost in the Sauce (a New England IPA), Mieter*innen (a German Helles), and More Berries Than Sense (a Summer Berry Sour), with all three being finalists at this year's Scottish Beer Awards. In December they will be releasing their festive chocolate porter; Cocoa Cannonball, alongside a limited edition smoked pineapple gose, called Smoke Signals.

They now regularly stock their beers in shops across Edinburgh and Glasgow, and occasionally run tap takeovers and special events in pubs and bars. For those who live further afield a few of their suppliers operate online web stores that deliver throughout the UK, and for those people who want to support them but don't fancy a beer, their merch is sold through the brewery's website- most recently they released a winter jumper designed by queer Edinburgh artist, Audrey Subra.



Lizzie wearing the newly released Closet Brewing jumper

Instagram: www.instagram.com/closetbrewing/

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Everyone thinks December is a month when you can't do anything in the garden when in fact there are always things you can do if you have the time. Christmas is a great time of year for most but you might just want some time on your own and the garden is perfect for that.

There are next season's seeds to consider, clear out and brush up the bird boxes, clean and top up your bird feeders – we still have lots of birds in the garden and it can be a tough time of year for them if you don't put food out. Be careful if you decide to tidy up the leaves and fallen twigs from the recent storms. There may be hedgehogs sheltering underneath so you need to be careful how you clear the mounds of rubbish – there may be some live treasure underneath!

Surprisingly you can sow Sweet Pea seeds in cold frames or an unheated greenhouse at this time of year. They will produce strong plants ready for placing outside in the spring. It's not too late to take hardwood cuttings from woody plants. If you have a near empty greenhouse you can always clean the glass both inside and out. Keep an eye out for plant pests as these can quickly multiply and damage any over wintering plants you might

have in there. You can use the chemical free yellow cards in between your plants as a useful and effective pest catcher. Bugs are attracted to the yellow colour and then get stuck on the sticky surface. They are cheap and easy to use and no harm to the environment.



Far left – Primroses grown in pots for flowering inside at Christmas – add to arrangements for more impact.

Left – Paperwhites Narcissus that act like an air freshener and really brighten up the room at this time of year.

Now is a good time to clean your used plastic and terracotta plant pots. Just use warm soapy water and pour onto the garden when finished rather than risking blocking your drain. Check on your over wintering plants such as Fuchsias – they need at least a little water to keep them alive but not wet. Equally, Dahlias – make sure they aren't getting too warm and shrivelled and any leaves that have fallen off your plants, make sure you remove else they will be homw to Botrytis.

Don't forget in your new season plan to rotate your crops. If you're re-using some of your compost like from your tomato pots, this can be used for the potato sacks and likewise the other way around. If you use the same compost for the same plants, you risk a build up of pest and disease. Remember too that this compost will have less nutrients so you will need to feed earlier. Spent mushroom compost is a great additive to your compost and garden soil if you can get hold of it. You will probably get some bonus mushrooms too!



Far left – a rich red Amaryllis flowering inapostat Christmas.

Left are a range of bulbs in pots ready for bringing inside to flower and enjoy. If you can keep them cool they will last a lot longer. Being in pots you can move them around.

If you've planted bulbs in pots for Christmas, be careful not to bring them into the warm too early. The last thing you want is to peak too early! Keep them cool for as long as possible and they will last longer. Increase the watering when in the warmth but don't overdo it.

If you want to get an outside plant that flowers in December, there are the Hellebores (Christmas Rose) that are very hardy and come in a range of colours. Another beauty is Viburnum bodnantense 'Dawn' which flowers before coming into leaf and has a delicate scent, so good for alongside a walkway. Its small but numerous pink flowers light up a dull corner, they can take up a chunk of space though when established. A very merry Christmas to one and all and remember you don't want to peak too early!

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Crystal and Queenie

Crystal & Queenie: The Epic Journey of Drag Queens Turned Radio Stars

In the captivating world of Drag, we, Lady Crystal and Queenie Buffay emerged as the dynamic duo taking the stage by storm. From the vibrant venues such as Funny Gals Barnsley to the airwaves of Rhubarb Radio, we're here to share our fascinating journey with you.

"I was always told not to title your work until it was finished, So we will decide on the headline at the end." Always wise words from Lady Crystal, Headliner of Funny Gals Barnsley. "If we ever make it to the end of this article" forever bringing us back to reality our Queenie Buffay, Fellow Funny Gals Barnsley headliner and accountant to the stars!

And here we are, Lady Crystal and Queenie Buffay, at your service! Forever with Pride has given us the incredible opportunity to share our (not-so-wise) thoughts in this brand new monthly article. So, what will we talk about?

"Retirement, perhaps?" Crystal's first suggestion perfectly sums up the changes we have made this year, leading us to where we are today.



Lady Crystal

"How many years have we been going, Crystal?" Queenie asks. "Far too many."

Queenie reminisces about her days, pre-COVID, where she could be found DJing 5 or 6 venues a week. She recalls those dark, tiring nights, wondering how she managed it all especially as over the past 5 years, Queenie has expanded her businesses. She has now transitioned to working only two nights a week in drag.

On one of our many drives to London (to catch yet another show, *Darling*) the not-so inevitable conversation occurred;



Queenie Buffay

"How long can we DJ until 5am for?"

This is where our rollercoaster of a year began - it was agreed that these long nights aren't sustainable, but what else could we do with our Drag? We look fantastic (*at times*) and at times we are mildly entertaining.

Fast forward to August, a week before Wakefield Pride 2023. Rhubarb Radio based in Wakefield approached us to produce a 2-hour radio show for their Pride special. Following this broadcast and some amazing feedback from the producers we committed to our own weekly programme - the '*Crystal and Queenie Show*' was born.

Radio turned out to be a drag queen's best friend! Who knew we had so much to talk about? Drag was essentially a license to party, we've seen it all - *Most of which could never be repeated*, Well not on the Radio anyway...

Joggers and no shaving... It's my favorite gig of the week", a welcome relief for Crystal who juggles sequins alongside her full-time job.

If not DJing or performing on stage, what else can two semi-retired Drag Queens do? We have our stories to tell but previously no platform to tell them. When Forever with Pride approached us about a monthly article we knew we were onto a winner! Who would have thought the '*Crystal & Queenie Show*' would have led to this!

Why do Drag Queens have to perform or DJ in nightclubs and venues? Divina De Campo has positively taken over Theatreland and you can't flick through any channel these days without The Vivienne smashing it! Why can't we do the same?

A Radio show and a monthly article?
Not Bad Eh? The Nightclub circuit will always be close to our hearts, as will all the Prides and private events we host - If other Queens can diversify, *Why can't we?*

"But are we feeling positive Queenie? We started making these changes six months ago, look what we've achieved, I've got my positive pants on today", "At least you're wearing pants today Crystal"

So, there you have it, folks! Our journey from *Mainstream Drag* to radio stars has been nothing short of extraordinary. We've achieved more than we could have imagined, so far and yet, our hunger for success keeps driving us forward. We invite you to join us on this wild ride, as Crystal and Queenie become a household name. We can't wait to see where it takes us next!

Stay tuned for more adventures, only at Funny Gals Barnsley, live on Rhubarb Radio every Wednesday from 8-10pm, and, of course, right here at Forever with Pride!



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Issue 01



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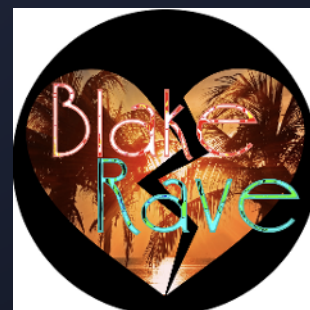
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