

Forever with Pride

December 1st

2024 Issue 37





Let us take a heartfelt moment to honour the friends, family, and individuals we never had the chance to know, whose lives were cruelly taken by the devastating diseases of HIV and AIDS.

It is our duty to carry their memories forward, not just to keep their spirits alive, but to ignite the fire within us to continue the relentless fight for a cure. We must strive for a future where these insidious diseases and the suffering they bring are eradicated once and for all.

Remember them with love, not with sorrow.

Editor FWP



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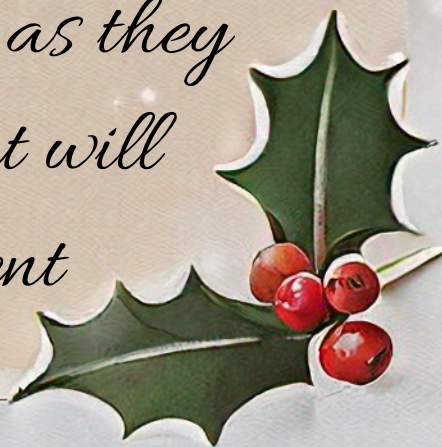
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*Don't forget to click on the
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may contain links that will
take you to more content*





'Iceni RFC - Norfolk's First LGBTQIA+ All-Inclusive Rugby Club!

Iceni Rugby Football Club became the first LGBTQIA+ all-inclusive rugby club in Norfolk when we were first founded back in September 2022.

Based at Wymondham Rugby Club in Norfolk, our team initially started out with only a few individuals, and has grown substantially in its' first year, with regular membership now reaching nearly 40 people and more joining every week.



For many, the club has acted like a beacon for those in the LGBTQIA+ community who have been searching for a social way of keeping fit but may have had reservations about pursuing a team sport.

Historically, many within the LGBTQIA+ community have had to deal with the stigma and bigotry of homophobia and transphobia when participating in sport, usually during their school years. This has fostered high levels of anxiety and shame for some and has led to many either hiding their true selves by staying closeted, or not wanting to participate in a sport at any level or any form.

Katy Doidge, Chair of Iceni RFC, says:

"Joining Iceni has had such an impact on my life. As someone who came out as queer later in life, I felt very separate from the LGBTQIA+ community and Iceni became the greatest chosen family I could ask for. They supported me in finding my identity and made me feel like I could be entirely myself."

"Since being diagnosed with a chronic illness at a young age, team sports were always something that I struggled to access. But touch rugby is the definition of inclusive and I have been able to develop as a touch rugby player at my own pace, flourishing more than I thought I could ever hope for."

This is exactly the all-inclusive message our club has consistently promoted over social media these past months, driving and ever-increasing membership for all walks of life, with a wide spectrum of experience and ability.

On this point, Iceni RFC reiterates our unwavering support for our Transgendered family, especially in light of the ongoing vitriol and bigotry surrounding trans rights.

As a team, we want to again make it clear that we fully support our trans community in all aspects of life, including access to healthcare, education, and involvement in sports.



Over this past summer, the 'Tribe', as we lovingly refer to our team, participated in Norwich Pride, for the second time, as partners of pride with the honour of marching with the trans pride flag. We were keen to showcase our dedication to our ethos of diversity, inclusivity, and community.

In addition to this, we hosted Pride On Pitch, a rainbow and pride inspired fancy dress touch rugby game and training session.

Furthermore, Iceni RFC has continued to play competitively with the club fielding teams at tournaments in London, Birmingham, and Newcastle, and subsequently hosting a successful tournament in its second year, the 'Boudica Cup 2024' in August.

A notable achievement has been our team's formal induction to the IGR (International Gay Rugby), the umbrella organisation for the world's gay and inclusive rugby clubs and recognised by World Rugby as the representative organisation of the LGBT and inclusive rugby community.

Plans for the upcoming year include further competitive matches, including participation in several competitions hosted by other IGR affiliated teams. We also aim to join the IGR Touch Southern Series to further evolve our team, pursue sponsorship and grow our membership in order to keep building up our Iceni RFC family.

If you are a member of the LGBTQIA+ community or an active ally and want to learn some touch rugby skills while meeting wonderful people, then come along to a taster session and meet our tribe!

Follow the team and contact us via Instagram and Facebook.



www.instagram.com/iceni_rfc/

www.facebook.com/IceniRFCUK/



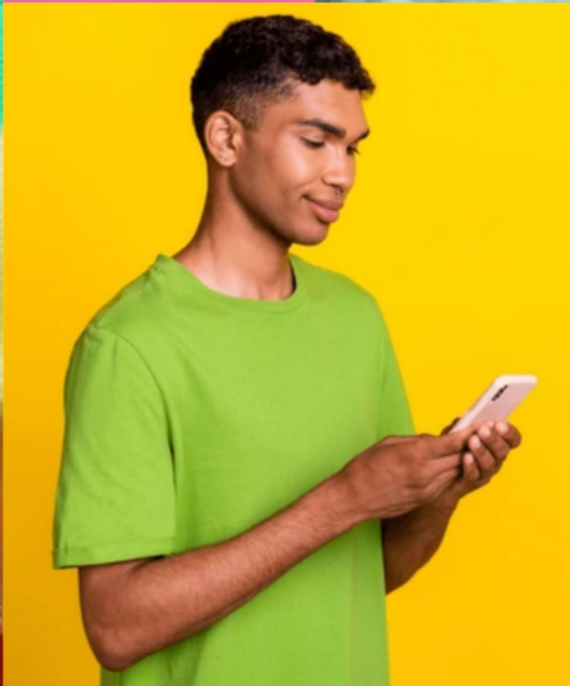
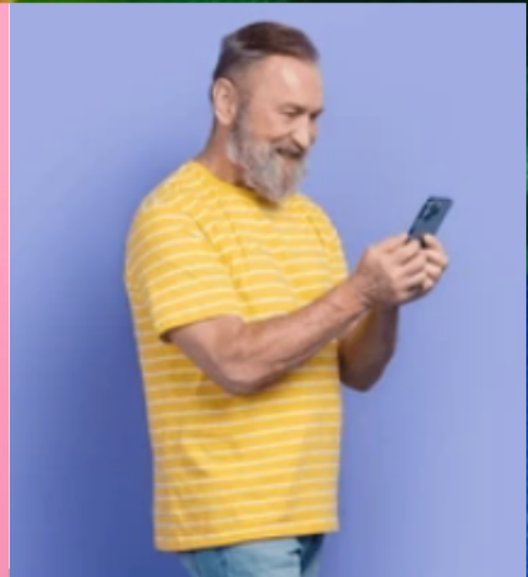
Training sessions are every Wednesday evening, from 7:00pm to 9:00pm at Wymondham Rugby Club, followed by a social chat and drink in the clubhouse bar.'

By Drew Turner



Here at Forever with Pride we're All Things Blog/Vlog & YouTube

COME JOIN US



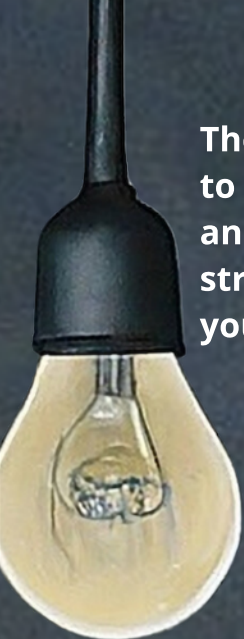
IT'S FREE!

Do you own an LGBTQ+ Blog or Vlog or YouTube Cannel?

Would you like to join our bloggers and vlogers and YouTubers here in FWP?

If you have answered yes and would like to share it here in Forever with Pride each month we would love to hear from you.

Oh, and joining us is free so come and get seen!



There are many powerful ways to elevate your mental health, and embracing these strategies can truly transform your life:

Sleep

Ah, the gift of sleep! It's essential for your mental well-being. Adults thrive on 7–9 hours of quality sleep each night. Consider crafting a soothing bedtime routine, dimming those screens before you drift off, and creating a sanctuary of calm in your bedroom—dark, quiet, and oh-so-comfortable.

Exercise

Feel the rush of life with regular physical activity! It's not just good for your body but works wonders for your mood too. Get moving by taking a stroll in nature or dive into the camaraderie of a team or club. Let the endorphins flow and embrace the joy of movement!

Eat well

Nourishing your body is a profound act of self-love. Fuel your mind with a vibrant diet rich in fruits and vegetables, while keeping processed sugars and fats at bay. Delight in foods that bolster your mood: beans, legumes, fatty fish, heart-healthy nuts, creamy avocados, and lush dark leafy greens. Your plate can be a palette for happiness!

Yet, I believe that the next three elements are vital for nurturing profound mental health.

Find purpose

Seize each day with intention! Discover purpose through acts of kindness—volunteer, nurture relationships, and care for others. Dedicate precious time to **yourself** every single day. Relish those fleeting good moments. **Engage in activities** that light your soul on fire! Embrace challenges as opportunities for growth, viewing them as hurdles you can leap over with steadfast determination. Remember, with patience and time, you will triumph!

Connect with others

Feel the warmth of human connection! Strengthen your existing bonds or forge new friendships by participating in shared activities. Frequently carve out time to **connect** with friends, family, classmates, co-workers, or even **new acquaintances**. These connections can weave a tapestry of support that enriches your life.

Take a break from negative information

Take a stand for your mental health by stepping away from negativity. Strive for harmony between positive and negative emotions. Engaging with like-minded individuals can provide solace—a problem shared is a problem halved. As social beings, we thrive on healthy, robust **relationships**. Lean on your support network to navigate even the darkest days.

Always remember, you are never truly alone. Countless organizations are ready and eager to help. Visit our website and explore our Support e-magazine; just click on the e-magazine tab.

What began as a personal blog, a space to share my journey of living with mental health challenges and disabilities, has blossomed into a community. Over time, dear friends joined me, each with their own impactful stories to share.

If you have a story that resonates with you, we invite you to connect with us. We would love to hear it and even share it for others to read—for free!

This content is for informational purposes only. For professional medical advice or diagnosis, please consult a healthcare expert.

By Editor FWP

www.foreverwithpride.com/e-magazine/



Click On The Bubble To Share The Christmas Love



For four incredible years, Forever with Pride e-magazine has passionately shared the love by giving LGBTQ+ groups, charities, services, and individuals a powerful voice right here in our free for all to read monthly e-magazine.

We humbly ask you, our cherished reader, to return that love, so we can continue our mission of uplifting the queer community, providing them with a vibrant platform to stand up and boldly express themselves without fear of having their voices silenced or stifled in any way.

Our ambition is to extend this opportunity to even more LGBTQ+ voices by offering a free space for their blog, vlog, podcast, or YouTube channel right here in our e-magazine.

Take care, and thank you passionately for your unwavering support.

Tales of the Second City

Misadventures on Birmingham's Gay Scene

Like Electricity

I encountered *The Choir with No Name* performing a festive singalong on Hurst Street... adding even more colour to the concentric rainbow of Birmingham's Hippodrome Square.

This nameless group were part of a programme of Christmas events from *Inclusive Gatherings*, a 'Diverse, Justice-Seeking Church'. Members of this choir had experienced homelessness and now meet regularly to connect, support, eat, drink, and belt out a tune.

I paused to listen, nodding and smiling to familiar faces amongst the crowd, but was surprised to recognise one young face... when a ten-year-old Chinese lad turned to beam at his parents.

The last time I saw this child, he had made a big impression... whilst upstaging a drag queen.

My partner and I were concluding a Sunday funday with cabaret at *The Loft Bar*.

The venue was particularly packed when we rolled in, with our dog and an entourage of friends and acquaintances accumulated along the way. We found space with a view and the dog plonked herself under a table for a nap.

The first act burst onto stage with sass and style. I wondered how the residents of the flats opposite enjoyed the view, as the performer cavorted in front of the bar's floor to ceiling windows in tight black leotard, exposing midriff and shapely buttocks clad in nowt but sheer tights.

The act was in full outrageous swing, when a Chinese couple and their young son came strolling along the pavement outside.

The lad stopped in his tracks, gawping at the ample arse on display. The parents paused too, while their son got an eyeful. He may have strolled down that path a boy... but he was going to leave a man! I wouldn't have been surprised had all his teenage hormones hit early, in one massive dose, and he'd spontaneously sprouted a full beard, his voice not just breaking, but SHATTERING, going from high falsetto to full on Brian Blessed in a single gulp.

The drag act acknowledged the unanticipated rear-view audience with a cheeky wave and smile, announcing, "It's like working in a window in Amsterdam."

Much to our amusement, the family continued to watch... and watch... and watch. They were loving the show.

The intrigued lad started to emulate the performer's moves: If they twirled, he twirled... If they sashayed he sashayed, drawing laughter and applause from the audience in the bar.

Suddenly, he broke into a spontaneous dance performance: spinning, leaping, arching his back, and waving arms with gay abandon... 'Like a fire deep inside - Something bursting wide open impossible to hide'... then surprisingly concluded his improvised routine with a perfectly executed 'slut-drop'. The bar went wild!!! There was shouting, whooping, cheers, and thunderous applause. People stood on chairs and benches, hollering and punching the air! Drag act forgotten, all attention was on little 'Billy Elliot of Southside'.

The lad grinned proudly through the window, while his delighted parents bobbed and bowed their appreciation.

I spoke to the drag artist after. It had been their debut performance and they were deflated at being so completely upstaged.

"Don't be disheartened," I assured them. "You handled it brilliantly. It may not have been the performance you planned, but it was unique... and one of the best things I've ever seen on the scene."

An interesting looking character emerged from the choir and took centre stage. He was a solid fella, with long dark hair in a ponytail, a heavy beard, and colourful knitwear. He is how I like to imagine Santa Claus looked in his younger days (before *Coca-Cola* got their hands on his image and decked him out in their brand colours).

He sung a boisterous foreign language rendition of *Jingle Bells*.

The chorus was contagiously catchy and soon we were all enthusiastically joining in.

I approached one of the organisers and asked, "Excuse me, but what language was he singing in?"

"Farsi... Persian. He's from Iran," I was told.

A Middle Eastern, far from home, finding support and shelter.

It doesn't get more Christmas than that.

Find more tales from the gayside of the UK's second city at talesofthesecondcity.com



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Testicular Cancer is one of the most treatable types of cancer, and the outlook is one of the best for cancers.

Month	January	February	March	April	May	June	July
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Hi I'm Jordan,

An operations manager by day and part time underwear model, radio host and charity fund raiser by night and in my spare time. I organise and facilitate events for my local pride and other charities.

For my latest project I have launched a charity calendar, inspired by the calendar girl movie, to help raise money and awareness for testicular cancer via the Odd Balls Foundation and my local pride in Swale Kent.

The calendar features local guys from my gym who wanted to make a difference and get involved as well as featuring a testicular cancer survivor. It was great to engage with the local community with our launch party and planned pop up stalls around our local area as well engaging with local radio stations, publications and spreading awareness via social media.

Did you know there are 2,400 new cases of testicular cancer every year, with men being diagnosed every 4 hours, and mainly affecting guys between 18-49!

So please ensure you check yourselves and contact your GP if you have any concerns!

If you want to get your hands on a calendar or donate, then you can order your calendar online or donate to our go fund me page using the links below below

www.payhip.com

www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/jordan-chan



It would be great Christmas present whilst also supporting an amazing charity

Or to keep up with all my projects feel free to give me a follow-on Instagram

www.instagram.com/jordanwch_92

www.instagram.com/swalepride_official

Photographs taken my M words photography

Wacadoddles

Merry Christmas and a
Happy New Year



www.wacadoddles.com

Finding Home in Music

HOME is an album about self-reflection and personal growth. Creating it involved a journey from Middle of the Map, USA to the outskirts of London. Home is indeed where the heart is found, and with music in the heart, home can present itself in some unexpected places.

HOME



Blake Rave

Recorded at Weeks Weeks Weeks Studio (weekswkswkswkswk.com) in a chapel built in the late 1870s, the spirit of this album reveals itself as an apparition of past, present and future. This intimate portrait of mental health, first dates, heartbreaks and discovering a home within came to life in a foreign land, a land which spawned an unexpected love and a new world of possibilities.



@blakeravemusic



Finding Love in Strange Places

For the Lovers and the Dreamers



Merry
Christmas
Everyone





Reach Out

Although there are often subtle signs that someone may be struggling, recognizing when someone feels lonely can be quite challenging. The most effective way to truly understand their feelings is by initiating a conversation.

If you have a sense that someone might want to talk, trust your intuition and start a dialogue. Simply being present for someone can make a significant difference.

You might ask them how they're feeling or if there's anything you can do to help. Engaging in a heartfelt conversation about their emotions can provide clarity and comfort. Sometimes, just knowing there's someone ready to listen can offer immense relief.

Reassure them that it's absolutely normal to feel lonely and gently remind them that support is always within reach.

Keep in mind, those grappling with loneliness may initially find it difficult to connect, especially if they have been feeling this way for a prolonged period. It's important to take that extra time to check on them and consistently remind them that you're there for them.

When they do begin to open up about their feelings, it's crucial to listen with compassion. Aim to listen without instantly giving advice, drawing comparisons to your own experiences, or attempting to fix their problems.

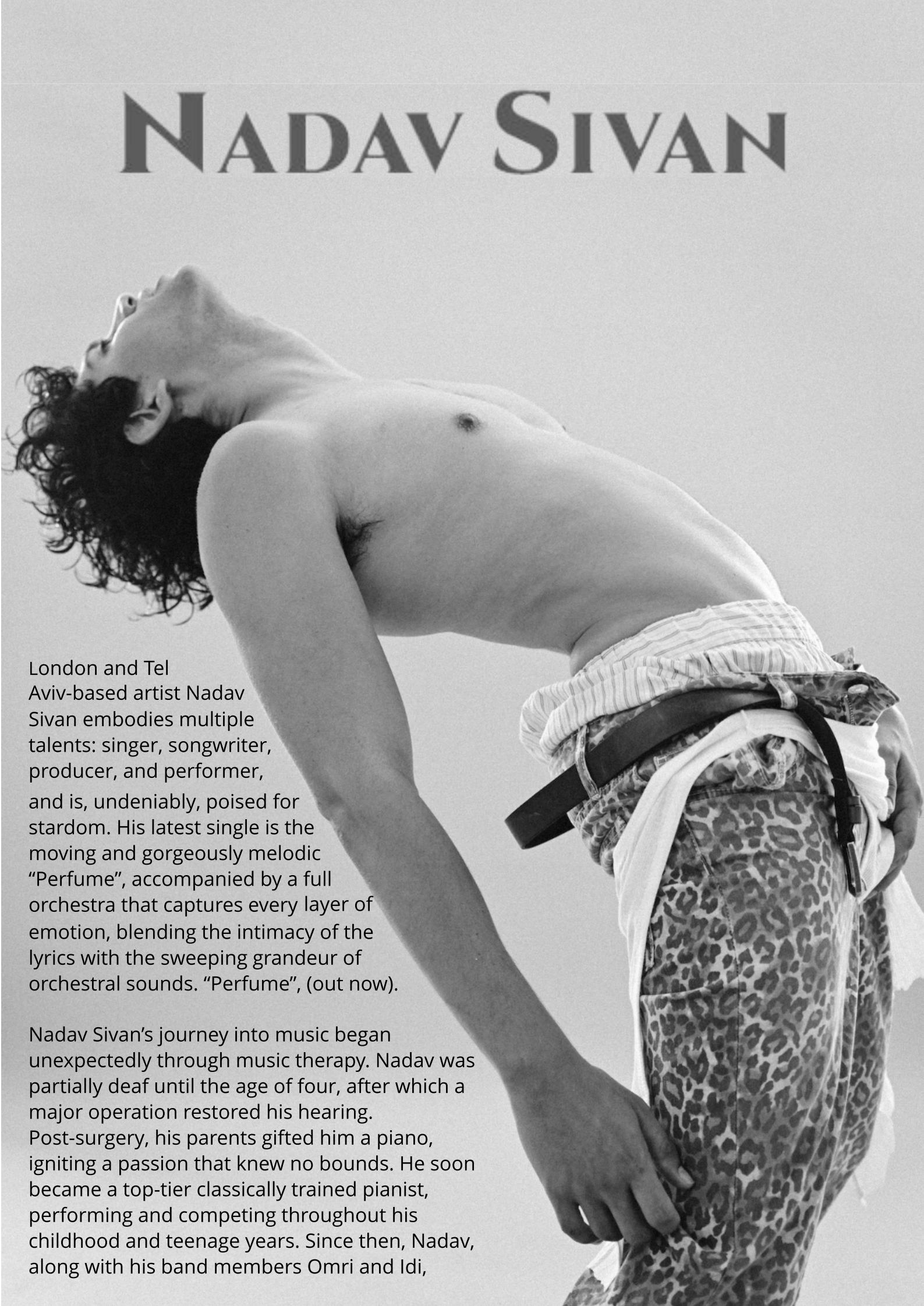
Remember, you don't have to be an expert; often, just being a supportive listener can help someone navigate through their emotions. Our SHUSH tips on being a good listener might be a helpful resource for you.

By Editor FWP

www.mind.org.uk



NADAV SIVAN



London and Tel Aviv-based artist Nadav Sivan embodies multiple talents: singer, songwriter, producer, and performer, and is, undeniably, poised for stardom. His latest single is the moving and gorgeously melodic "Perfume", accompanied by a full orchestra that captures every layer of emotion, blending the intimacy of the lyrics with the sweeping grandeur of orchestral sounds. "Perfume", (out now).

Nadav Sivan's journey into music began unexpectedly through music therapy. Nadav was partially deaf until the age of four, after which a major operation restored his hearing. Post-surgery, his parents gifted him a piano, igniting a passion that knew no bounds. He soon became a top-tier classically trained pianist, performing and competing throughout his childhood and teenage years. Since then, Nadav, along with his band members Omri and Idi,

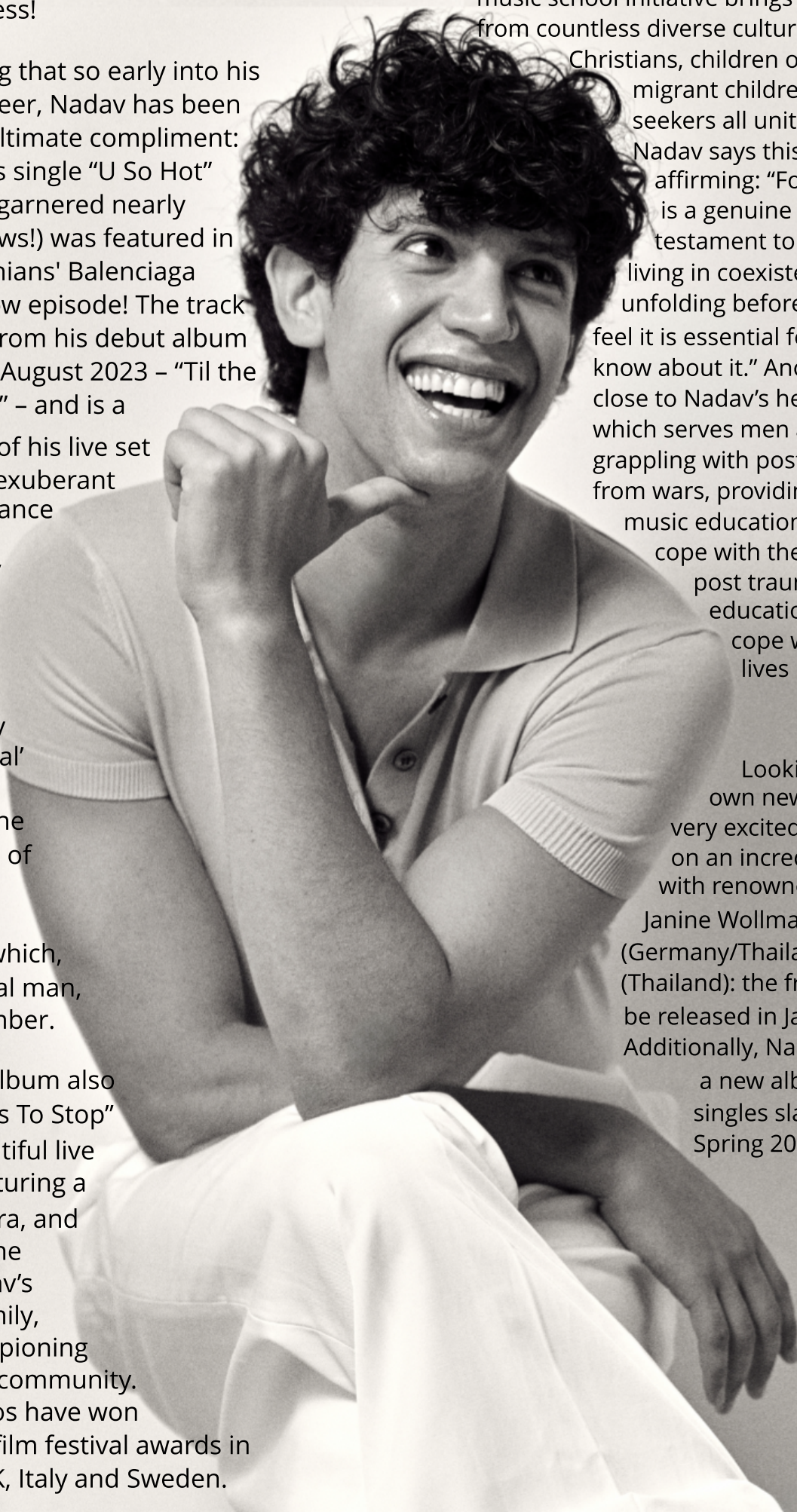
has been busy performing acclaimed red-hot shows in Berlin, Cannes, and London and has caught the eye of many notable music industry movers and shakers in the process!

It is amazing that so early into his musical career, Nadav has been made the ultimate compliment: his previous single "U So Hot" (which has garnered nearly 150,000 views!) was featured in the Kardashians' Balenciaga fashion show episode! The track was taken from his debut album released in August 2023 – "Til the Day We Die" – and is a major part of his live set along with exuberant signature dance moves. The track boldly celebrates individual charisma beyond the superficially 'conventional' and deftly highlights the importance of LGBTQI community inclusivity which, as a bisexual man, he is a member.

His debut album also includes "Us To Stop" with a beautiful live version featuring a full orchestra, and a second one about Nadav's story of family, while championing the LGBTQ community. These videos have won numerous film festival awards in the USA, UK, Italy and Sweden.

Beyond his regular work as a musician Nadav is involved in community projects that are very close to his heart. One of these is an incredible project called the Children's Music Project, a music school initiative brings together children from countless diverse cultures: Jews, Muslims, Christians, children of foreign workers, migrant children and asylum seekers all united through music. Nadav says this work is life affirming: "For me, this project is a genuine and heartfelt testament to the possibility of living in coexistence. I witness this unfolding before my eyes, and I feel it is essential for more people to know about it." Another project close to Nadav's heart is 'Soul Key', which serves men and women grappling with post-traumatic stress from wars, providing them with music education that helps them cope with their complex lives post trauma. music education that helps them cope with their complex lives post trauma.

Looking ahead to his own new music Nadav is very excited to be embarking on an incredible collaboration with renowned rappers Alissa Janine Wollman (Germany/Thailand) and Joelong (Thailand); the fruits of which will be released in January 2025. Additionally, Nadav is busy writing a new album, with new singles slated for release in Spring 2025.



New single "Perfume" is a beautifully sweeping and melodic track and holds a special emotional significance for Nadav: "It was inspired by one of my students who was part of a children's music project where I was the musical director. She arrived in Israel from Ethiopia as a young girl, and the more I got to know her, the more I heard about the complex and challenging life she had lived through.

She is one of the most remarkable singers I have ever encountered, brimming with talent and charm. I wanted nothing more than for her to soar far beyond the circumstances she faced. That's why, in the chorus of the song, I wrote about her: "Run away, Run away, leave everything behind, run away, run away, like the sun, you will surely rise."

The live performance video, along with the full orchestra, was filmed at Hangar 11 in Tel-Aviv creating a stunning visual and sonic experience.

Capturing Nadav Sivan's essence is no easy feat. Picture flamboyance, vibrant creativity, and extraordinary "peacock swagger" marking a star in the making, conveying both intimate and grand human emotions. His blend of boldness and sensitivity defies definition, seamlessly transitioning from heartfelt piano ballads to pop tracks infused with electronic and hip-hop influences. His style mixes nostalgia with cutting-edge modernity but is always fresh and current.



Photo by Meir Cohen

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<https://www.tiktok.com/@nadavsivan>

https://open.spotify.com/artist/31df2v3gHRY9RJUBtGtwQi?si=A2Q_DleWQbGRGAY9lqWJvg



December 2024

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**Gay Gardeners UK, Plants, Seeds and
surplus Exchange Group**

December is a cold month but you often get some bright days so no need to think you can't do anything in the garden this month because of course you can.

Contrary to what people think, you can plant bare rooted plants now as they will have gone dormant and they are a lot cheaper to buy than container grown plants. Bare rooted Roses are a good example and the same goes for any trees you want to plant. They will then burst into life again in the spring not even knowing they have been moved.

Sweet Peas can be sown in pots and placed in cold frames for the winter which will give them a head start over ones sown in spring. Just make sure your frames are mouse proof as mice can smell the seeds and love to eat them. You can often get special offers on spring bulbs at this time of year so watch out for good deals, there is still time to plant them in the garden. If you have a vegetable patch and haven't already dug it over then do it now and leave the soil in large clumps and the frost will break it down and make it easy to rake and prepare for your plants in the spring. Digging helps the birds get access to any underground pests and helps drain the soil and builds air holes into it making it easy for plant roots to penetrate.



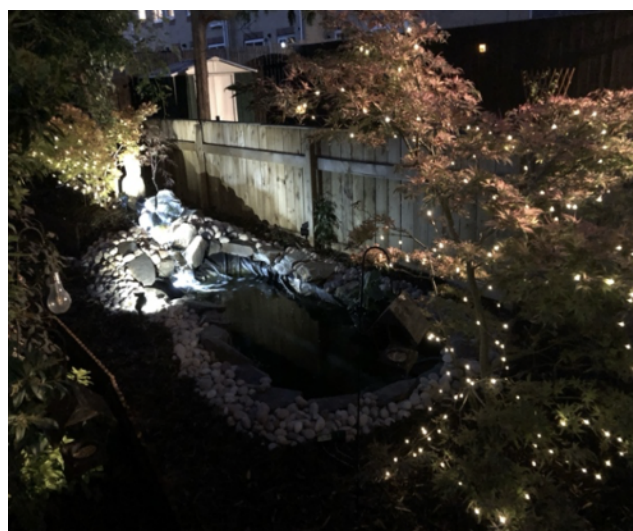
It's an ideal time for cleaning your terracotta and used plastic pots ready for the new season. If you have the time you can do the same with your greenhouse glass and staging. Cleaning like this isn't just about making things look better it helps get rid of pests and disease. It is also the perfect time to plan for the new season including selecting your new seeds from the catalogues and remember to alternate where you place your plants. Don't plant tomatoes in the same compost as last year for example as pests and disease will build up and may damage your crop. If you have hard ground or have a fresh piece of vegetable patch then use potatoes as your first crop as they break up the soil.

You can prune shrubs if you need to but try not to if there is a frost forecast as that may cause some die back in the open cut stems. If you're lucky enough to have access to evergreen branches, you can make your own Christmas wreaths – they are easy to do if you create a wire frame to work your foliage around and secure with florist wire. That will save you lots of money and is also great fun and satisfying knowing it's something you made. As well as looking good they also have a great seasonal smell like an air freshener.

When thinking about your Christmas tree you might want to consider a live one in a pot. Make sure it has good roots and has been container grown. If you make sure it doesn't dry out inside, you can move it back outside in January and bring it inside again next year. It will grow as you increase the size of pot and it stops all those needles being dropped and is more environmentally friendly than a plastic

one, as well as being far less expensive. You can still add decorations as you would do with other trees.

If you have grown, or bought, inside bulbs don't forget to keep them moist and try and keep them in a cool place so they last longer. They also need light so a wide window ledge might be a suitable place for them. If you turn the pot each day then it will help stop the bulbs growing towards the direction of the light.

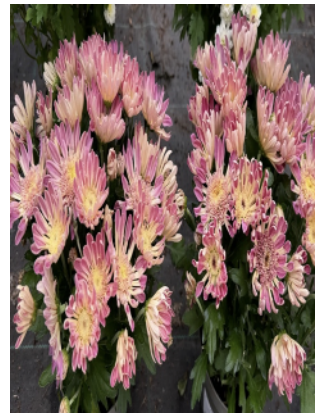


Just some ideas of what you can do in the garden with lighting even in the winter and it can still act as an outside room at Christmas for people to see through the windows as they enjoy a mince pie and a drink!

There are some beautiful house plants available at this time of year such as Christmas Cactus, Cineraria of course Poinsettia but those must be kept out of draughts and not over watered, otherwise they will quickly drop their leaves so be careful where you buy them from and where you position them in the house. Primroses are a colourful low-cost house plant available now that love to be kept cool and have so many different colours of bright flowers. Amaryllis are another seasonal favourite with amazing large flowers that grow on huge stems and they grow so fast you can almost watch them develop.

- Plant of the Month -

There are still shrubs that flower during winter if you want some colour in your garden. Viburnum tinus being one that has a profusion of small white flowers in clusters and is an evergreen. Viburnum bodnantense 'Dawn' is another that has clusters of small pink flowers and is also scented so excellent for planting near paths or by a pergola.



left - Cyclamen which are a classic house plant for Christmas with bright coloured flowers and attractive leaves. Best to keep cool so they last longer.

right - 'Pot-mum' small chrysanthemums in pots available in a wide range of colours grown as house plants to add colour.

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year



LGBTQIA+ mental health



Being LGBTQIA+ isn't a mental health problem. And it doesn't cause mental health problems.

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The UK AIDS Memorial Quilt is an irreplaceable piece of social history. It's made up of 42 large blocks, each containing eight panels commemorating someone in the UK who died of an AIDS-related illness at the start of the pandemic during the 1980s and 1990s. Panels were lovingly made by their friends, lovers and family members. Memorial quilt making has continued over the years and new individual and large pieces have been added to the collection to form a living memorial with a focus on celebrating the lives, passions and interests of people lost to HIV.



The idea to create a quilt in memory of friends and loved ones lost to the AIDS epidemic emerged in San Francisco in the mid 1980s, the idea of Cleve Jones a human rights activist, author and lecturer. The American quilts were first displayed on the National Mall in Washington DC on October 11, 1987 and it was not long before the idea was adopted in other countries.

The Names Project UK was based in Edinburgh from the late 1980s to the late 1990s. For many years after the Names Project closed the Quilt was kept in storage, first in Edinburgh and then in Manchester. Then in 2013 The partnership of charities that now looks after the Quilt was formed.



The Food Chain, Terrence Higgins Trust, Sahir, George House Trust, Positive East, Positively UK and Waverley Care came together to bring the Quilt out of storage and back into public view. All these charities provide support services for people living with HIV today and continue to work to ensure people living with HIV face no barriers or stigma and can live long healthy lives.

Siobhán Lanigan who volunteers for the Quilt partnership says “As we approach World AIDS Day it is especially important to remember all those we have lost to HIV over the years. In the paperwork that accompanies the Quilt panels, one maker wrote “I just want him to be remembered”. We do remember, and we celebrate the lives of all those lost. In doing so we continue to raise awareness of the difficulties and stigma faced by some people living with HIV even today, and of the need to continue working to eradicate this preventable condition not just in the UK but around the world”

The Quilt is a vibrant, celebratory story of lives lived well but lost too soon.

Lives remembered include those of the writer, Bruce Chatwin; the actors, Ian Charleson and Denham Elliot; Freddie Mercury, gay rights activist, Mark Ashton and the photographer Robert Mapplethorpe.

In addition, emotive testimonials, photos, and personal documents that tell the story behind the panel accompany many of the quilt panels.

The quilts represent approximately 384 people from all around the UK. Each of the panels tells a story – many have their own folder that is a personal tribute to the people being commemorated, containing photographs and letters.



The Quilt partnership works on a voluntary basis to ensure the panels are cared for, conserved and made available for public display whenever that is possible and in as many places as possible.

To see images of the full quilt and the stories of those remembered visit our website

AIDSQuiltUK



There are many ways you can get involved with the work of the Quilt partnership. If you would like to host a display of one or more Quilt blocks, do get in touch. If you know someone commemorated in the Quilt please share your information so it can be included and saved on the website. If you would like to volunteer at one of the public displays of the Quilt let us know. The Partnership receives no funding so if you would like to donate all contributions will be welcomed and used to continue to care for the Quilt for years to come.

Keep an eye on our social media to hear more about the Quilt and when and where it can be seen on public display.



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Creating a highly personalised ceremony, just for you.





Pop'n'Olly: The UK's Leading Provider of LGBT+ Educational Resources for Primary Children, Parents, Carers and Teachers.

It was through a successful career in children's entertainment that former CBBC actor, West-End performer and founder of [Pop'n'Olly](#), Olly Pike (*he/him*), discovered the power of storytelling.



In his own words, "Storytelling and fairy tales transported me to another world - a world that felt safe and full of joy, where I felt free to be whoever I wanted to be. A world that, sadly, felt starkly different to my reality,

where I often experienced negativity surrounding my LGBT+ identity and developed deep-rooted, internal shame."

In 2012, Olly started a [Youtube channel](#) for children - the perfect platform for him to share his creativity and build a bridge to his imagination. Eventually, Olly started to create and share content that featured different LGBT+ characters and identities. Through his videos, Olly wanted to share the joys of a queer existence; and let children know that they can be whoever they were meant to be.

The reaction that Olly received was overwhelming...

"I had messages from children and young people about how they felt seen, from parents thanking me for helping their children to feel like they belonged and from teachers saying that they were using my videos in their classrooms".

Olly had laid the first bricks for what would be his own fairytale castle - a castle made of stories, joy, fun and education, of parents and teachers, of allies and supporters who all firmly believe in Pop'n'Olly's mission and power.

Over the last decade Pop'n'Ollly has become a beacon of joy and positivity for children not just across the UK but in over 70 countries around the world. The organisation has grown and now includes not just Olly but a team of 4 with over 50 years of experience working with children and young people. Mel Lane(*she/her*), Primary School Teacher & Head of Education; Jack Lynch(*they/them*), Workshops & Training Lead, and Alex Canning(*they/them*), Education Consultant.



Today, Pop'n'Ollly is the UK's leading provider of LGBT+ educational resources for primary aged children, parents, carers and teachers. We've distributed over 30,000 of our [LGBTQ+ children's books](#) worldwide, of which over 12,000 have been donated to UK primary schools through our '[Pride in Primary](#)' campaign. Millions of people have engaged with Pop'n'Ollly's inclusive [YouTube videos](#), LGBT+ storybooks, [classroom resources](#) and [teacher training](#) that combat homophobia and transphobia.

Pop'n'Ollly's 'castle' has gone from strength to strength, and now houses a huge rainbow community, all of whom contribute to a shared mission.

From patrons, who help to fund monthly book donations, to corporate sponsors and organisations who elevate our voice, to a network of teachers, educators, parents and carers who inspire children with our resources. The common message from them all being... "If only Pop'n'Ollly had existed when I was growing up, life would have been so much better.

Pop'n'Ollly exists to inspire others, be it families or schools, to build their own inclusive castles. We want to empower children to turn what might seem like a far-off dream world into a reality.



So, do you truly believe in the importance of supporting queer authors and queer literature, regardless of what bigots and haters may say? We stand firm in the conviction that queer voices across all forms of art deserve protection and unwavering support—at all costs!

You may hear someone question, "Why did that character have to be gay, lesbian, trans, or just queer? What's the point?" Well, the point is simply this: WHY NOT?

I grew up in the '70s, a time that felt worlds apart from today. Yet, we still face the same age-old haters who would prefer to keep us hidden away, as if we were some family secret to be ashamed of, or a dreadful social freak meant to divert attention from what they deem normal and right in this world.

Let me be clear: by choosing not to stand up and wholeheartedly support these incredible individuals, we become our own worst enemies.

Meet Robin, a truly fabulous author whose brilliance will leave you speechless! He has penned the first two captivating books in the "A Haunting Through Time" anthology, alongside five enchanting short stories that offer profound insights into the characters and their journeys.

These magnificent works are available in various formats on Amazon—e-book, paperback, and hardcover—and they would make the perfect Christmas gifts for someone you cherish, or even as a treat for yourself!

When searching on Amazon, simply use either "Robin S. Goodfellow" or "A Haunting Through Time" to discover these literary gems.

Thank you for taking the time to read this post! If you have any questions for Robin, feel free to visit his website at www.robingoodfellow.uk or email him directly at office@robingoodfellow.uk. He would absolutely love to hear your thoughts on his incredible books!

Out Now In Time For Christmas



www.robingoodfellow.uk

FFRINJ QUEERTAWE FRINGE



Curtain Up on Queertawe Fringe

Queertawe launches 4-day long celebration of queer life in Swansea.

The culmination of a year of intergenerational creative workshops for the queer community of Swansea, Queertawe members invite Swansea to join them for Queertawe Fringe celebrating queer culture in the city from Thursday 5th to Sunday 8th December.

Led by artists Bethan Marlow and Cerian Hedd, supported by Mess Up the Mess, the project focuses on creating safe, inclusive, sober spaces where queer Swansea can celebrate itself and its stories.

More than a decade ago, the team created A Queer Christmas, an epic interactive multigenerational promenade performance with and for the queer community of Swansea.

As time passed, the call and desire to co-create new work, with and of that community grew; and so with support from funders and partners, Mess Up the Mess brought together Bethan Marlow (writer of A Queer Christmas) and original participant Cerian Hedd, who is now an interdisciplinary artist, to develop a new project featuring the bold spirit of its predecessor.

As a result, Queertawe was born, a participant-led project with a queer heart and creative focus; celebrating queer history, present and future across Swansea, developed during more than 100 workshops, with subjects ranging from writing to directing to movement.

With events for all ages, over four days and six locations, there is something for everybody and the team is keen for people from all walks of life across Swansea to join in the fun, as Bethan explained:



"I feel like I'm in a queer, creative playground and it is so much fun! I feel so lucky and excited to be amongst such talented and imaginative people, which includes the creative team and the participants.

It is so refreshing (and rare!) to be encouraged by our partners to be as imaginative and bold as we can be, to be ambitious in our ideas and so, with the participants' brilliant suggestions, that is exactly what we have done. Participants said they always wanted to go to prom as their true selves so we're going to have a queer prom cabaret!

There was an ask for sober events so we'll be at the old Swansea Library opening our weekend with short films, a panel discussion, creative canapes by Queer Flavours and tasty drinks generously donated by DropBear.



We have story time for families, we've created a space for young people to come and express themselves, we're visiting Tramshed Tech Palace to remember what was once an iconic gay club and we even have the director of Heartstopper joining us to answer questions.



From fine art to a sea swim to a murder mystery party at a non-binary wedding! I honestly feel we've something for everyone, celebrating queer joy and togetherness at the centre of it all. All of this is created alongside our fantastic participants; none of this would be possible without them".

Venues are located across Swansea, many of which are iconic. The opening and closing events will be held at UWSTD Reading Room; loved by many as the old Swansea Library, it's known to others as an iconic Doctor Who location.

In a coup for the group, Saturday evening's event is called Queers Back at the Palace, with exclusive access to Tramshed Tech Palace, which opens its doors as a business hub this month after years of dereliction set in following the iconic club's closure more than 15 years ago. The dip in the sea will see the group head to Caswell on Sunday morning.

With less than a month to go until Queertawe Fringe, there is a lot of creative work still taking place, so people can still get involved as participants. Creative workshops are ongoing and will continue in 2025. Workshop participants must be aged 16 and over.

This long weekend of events has been created by the queer community for Swansea. Now the project opens its doors to invite all of Swansea to come and enjoy, celebrate and support their vibrant queer community.

For the full programme, ticket booking, more information on the workshops and how to get involved, visit the Queertawe website.



Forever with Pride LGBTQ+ Free to Read Monthly E-Magazine

Support our cause!

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Win a PS5 Pro bundle!



About our cause

Forever with Pride LGBTQ+ Free to Read Monthly E-Magazine provides a much loved and valued service for the community. It's getting harder to enjoy reading your favorite magazines due to their cost. Forever With Pride Magazine has taken care of that by launching it as a free to read e-magazine. We've stayed away from print editions, by being a digital-only publication.

We need your help so we can continue to offer and even expand our free service we need your help!

Thank you for your support and good luck!

Yours sincerely,

Forever with Pride

£156.00 of £1,300.00 target

6 tickets of 50 ticket goal

Buy tickets





Forever with Pride would like to extend warm wishes for a Merry Christmas and a joyful New Year to each and every one of you.

As you celebrate this festive season, please remember to take care of yourselves while enjoying time with loved ones. Keep an eye on your drinks, ensuring they remain with you, and never let them out of your sight to safeguard against the unpleasant risk of spiking.

Amidst the festivities, it's also important to find a balance. We want you to cherish the wonderful moments with your friends and create lasting memories, rather than having to visit the doctors and nurses in A&E. Your safety and well-being are our top priorities this holiday season.



We're Not A Good Gift For Christmas

Every year, especially during the festive season, our hearts swell with the joy of giving. However, too often, we see dogs, cats, rabbits, and other small mammals wrapped up like mere gifts. It's crucial to remember that these are not just objects; they are sentient beings, deserving of our care and love. Sadly, many of these innocent creatures end up abandoned or in shelters once the holiday cheer fades away.

Pets are gifts in a deeper sense.

In a profound way, companion animals are truly a gift. They add immeasurable joy and warmth to our lives, becoming part of our families. But before you consider presenting a dog, cat, or even a guinea pig as a gift, pause and reflect on the ramifications. This consideration becomes even more vital if the recipient is a child. While children may feel a deep emotional bond with animals, they often lack the maturity to shoulder the responsibilities of caring for them. Although many

parents see a pet as a fantastic birthday or holiday surprise, the harsh reality is that children frequently lose interest after a brief period.

Pets are a long-term commitment – up to 20 years of responsibility! Animals are living, breathing beings, each with their unique needs and personalities. When you bring a pet into your life, you are making a profound, long-term commitment—sometimes for over 20 years!

This commitment means nurturing and providing for an animal that relies on you for its entire lifetime. Reflect on the depth of this responsibility; are you ready to embrace it for the dog, a cat, or any furry friend who enters your home?

Before even thinking about gifting an animal, have an open and honest discussion with the recipient. Ensure they truly want this commitment and understand the weight of caring for a pet throughout its life. When you give an animal to someone, you are not just providing a companion but entrusting them with a life—an act of immense responsibility that shouldn't be taken lightly.

Careful consideration of these critical questions is essential to prevent a well-intentioned gesture from becoming a heart-wrenching story of neglect or abandonment. Imagine the heartache if, overwhelmed by the pressures of pet ownership, the new caregiver falters—leading to a life left in want or a place in an overcrowded shelter.



Gifting an animal to yourself.

If the desire to bring joy through an animal gift is strong, consider gifting it to yourself—but only after deeply reflecting on these vital questions:

- Are you prepared to embrace the reality that this energetic bundle of joy will one day grow old and face age-related challenges?
- Do you have the unwavering commitment to care for this companion through life's ups and downs?
- Are you ready to face the little mishaps, like scratches on your hardwood floors or fur on your sofa?
- Can you provide a stable financial, emotional, and physical environment for your new friend?
- Are you willing and able to share your life permanently with an animal, fully acknowledging all the responsibilities and obligations that come with it?

Let these reflections guide you, ensuring that your choice leads to a lifetime of shared joy rather than heartbreak.

Why don't you go online pick an animale charity and donate and feel like you have done the right thing, rather than hate your self for adding yet another poor animale to life in a rescue centre.

CAUSEWAY



Actor Alicya Eyo

When it comes to providing services for its 1000+ users each year, Causeway is an organisation that combines practical needs, with emotional support.

The national charity, which has bases in Liverpool, Sunderland, and Sheffield, supports survivors of modern slavery across its safe houses and outreach programmes, as well as running initiatives for crime reduction and safer communities

It's modern slavery support services help people who have been affected by forced labour, sexual exploitation, domestic servitude, human trafficking, and criminal exploitation. They offer housing, signposting to legal and medical support,

education, and employment programmes, and community groups that help survivors form friendships and learn life skills.

It's crime and violence reduction programmes work with offenders to address the cause of their behaviour and address any issues they have in a trauma-informed way, with the aim of preventing re-offending, and making people safer.

The charity has a strong LGBTQ+ support base thanks to it's fierce allyship with the LGBTQ+ community, its support of LGBTQ+ survivors of exploitation, and its LGBTQ+ celebrity following.

Joining the charity during this year's Liverpool Pride March, were LGBTQ+ actors and television personalities Shelley King, Miles Asteri, Theo Mayne, Zoe Clifton, Jenna Robinson, Matt Jameson, and Alicia Eyo.

Actor Alicia Eyo, who appeared in *Bad Girls* and *Emmerdale* has since gone on to lend her support to Causeway's ReFocus programme, a scheme aimed at reducing levels of domestic abuse. Causeway staff work with 'low level' perpetrators, to provide education and intervention, with the aim of preventing abuse from escalating, thereby protecting and preventing new victims. Alycia provided the voice over for the promotional [video](#) used by Causeway to spread the message about

how impactful early intervention programmes can be on reducing rates of domestic abuse.

"Domestic abuse ruins lives, and destabilises families and communities," Alicia said.

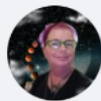
"Any programme that can help prevent violence and abuse from happening or escalating, is integral in the fight to reduce violence and make people safer in their homes. I'm proud to support Causeway in their work to reduce violence, and reduce the number of victims of domestic abuse."

You can find out more, or donate to Causeway's work, by visiting their [website](#).



Alicya Eyo (centre) with tv personalities Theo Mayne, Miles Asteri, Zoe Clifton, Jenna Robinson, Matt Jameson, Shelley King, and Diane Carson, with Causeway staff and supporters at Liverpool Pride 2024.





Deborah's fundraiser for Mermaids

Fundraiser for Mermaids by Deborah Mclean

£0 of £150 raised

Want to join me in supporting a good cause? I'm raising money for Mermaids and your contribution will make an impact, whether you donate a lot or a little. Anything helps. Thank you for your support. I've included information about Mermaids below. Mermaids has been supporting trans, non-binary and gender questioning children and young people, and the important people in their lives since 1995. Our vision is a safe, inclusive society where trans children and young people are empowered to live their best lives.

To make a donation, you'll need to use your personal Facebook account.

[Click Here To Donate](#)



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Addam &
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Northants
Celebrant

I am incredibly grateful to all of our amazing supporters and friends who have contributed to making 2024 such a fantastic year! Thanks to each of you, numerous individuals who might not usually have the means to enjoy a magazine like *Forever with Pride* are now able to do so. I have heard heartwarming stories about how the e-magazine has fostered a sense of connection within the LGBTQ+ community, and that it truly brings joy. We are eagerly looking forward to 2025—let's make it even more extraordinary together!

Blake Rave
Music

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2025

www.foreverwithpride.com

HAPPY NEW YEAR

2025

