

NORTH SOMERSET **LGBT+ FORUM**

Newsletter



March 2024



06.04.2024

Drag Diva Lockdown LIVE is back on Saturday 6th April for a night of outrageous performances!

Read all about it on page 4.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY AT A GLANCE

**Young Socialites
Beads & Bracelets Workshop**
Tuesday 5th March

Portishead Poacher Quiz
Wednesday 6th March

Free HIV Testing
Thursday 14th March

Rainbow Readers
Thursday 28th March

Gayme
Sunday 31st March

See inside for times and venues

PLUS

Our Weekly HQ Drop-Ins

50+ Mondays 3-5pm

Trans+ Wednesdays 3-5pm

Family+ Fridays 3-5pm

Please note our HQ will be closed the following days:

Sun 3rd, Fri 29th, Sun 31st March,
and Mon 1st April



FREE TO ATTEND

**NORTH SOMERSET
LGBT+ FORUM**

Weekly Drop-Ins

68 Meadow Street, Weston-super-Mare, BS23 1QN



Mondays 3-5pm: 50+

A drop-in for any LGBT+ community members aged 50 and over. Join us for a chat and a cuppa!



Wednesdays 3-5pm: Trans+

A drop-in for any transgender, non-binary or gender-questioning community members aged 18 and over.



Fridays 3-5pm: Family+

A drop-in for parents, carers or guardians of LGBT+ children to talk with others about their experiences or ask questions.



Sundays 10am-4pm: HQ Open Day

Our door is open all day for visitors to grab a cuppa and chat with our volunteers, browse resources or purchase LGBT+ merch!

Our HQ is also open to everyone 12-3pm every Mon, Weds and Fri

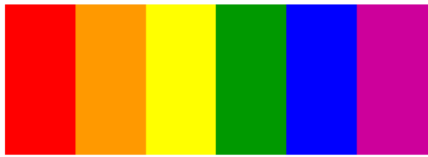
For all enquiries, please email support@nslgbtforum.com

@nslgbtforum @nslgbtforum @nslgbtforumsupport @nslgbtforum

NORTH SOMERSET LGBT+ FORUM
Newsletter

March 2024

Compiled, designed and printed at our charity HQ by volunteer trustees. All information is correct at the time of print.



**NORTH SOMERSET
LGBT+ FORUM**

Reg charity no. 1174545

**68 Meadow Street,
Weston-super-Mare
North Somerset
BS23 1QN**

Our HQ is open 12-5pm every Monday, Wednesday and Friday, and 10am-4pm every Sunday (excluding Bank Holidays).

support@nslgbtforum.com
www.nslgbtforum.com



eBay Store

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Discogs Store

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Letter from the Editor..

Hi all,

Welcome to our March Newsletter.

We've almost made it through the winter months and I think we can all agree the spring sun will be appreciated as we enter the Pride season and beyond!

This month, we have our usual mixture of regular events - our monthly Quiz at the Poacher in Portishead, our accessible LGBT+ board game night Gayme, and our weekly drop-in sessions at our HQ in Weston (see opposite page for details). In addition, our Young Socialites group is hosting a craft evening for any LGBT+ community members (and their friends) aged 13-17, and the Eddystone Trust are returning to our HQ for more free HIV testing and advice. We'll also be popping up at various events across the district, so be sure to say hi if you spot us!

The trustees and volunteers at the Forum are dedicated to providing accessible, affordable and enjoyable events, activities and groups across North Somerset, so if you have any suggestions or ideas for things you'd like to see happen in your area, please email us via support@nslgbtforum. Equally, if there are any elements to our current events and activities that are a barrier for you (time, location, environment, etc.), please let us know. We are always happy to look at ways we can support you and your community.

Don't forget, if you fancy helping us out, you can access our online stores via the links listed in the column on the left, or you can donate via PayPal by scanning the QR code on the right. We also have an opportunity for the Forum to receive a donation of £1,000 - flip to page 5 for details.

That's all for now, see you soon!

Thom x



Scan for our PayPal link to donate



Drag Diva Lockdown 2024

Our vice chair Paul Doble reveals the details of this year's exciting drag event!



Scan the QR code for a quick link to the Eventbrite ticket site!



BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!

I am proud to bring Drag Diva Lockdown Live to Weston-super-Mare once again for our third large scale event. The last two events were held in two iconic venues; the Grand Pier in August 2021, and the Winter Gardens in February 2023. Once again, in-keeping with iconic venues, this year's event will be held at the Grand Atlantic Hotel on **Saturday 6th April 2024**.

Once again, we are proudly supporting **North Somerset LGBT+ Forum** which is a local registered charity formed to support members of the LGBT+ community including their friends and families within the local area. We will also be supporting the amazing volunteers of the RNLI, who will be in attendance on the evening. For more info about the RNLI, head to their website: www.rnli.org.

About DDL

In April 2020, Drag Diva Lockdown became an online entity providing a safe space for acts and performers who were unable to use pubs/clubs and other venues to showcase their amazing art. Over time, it became a place for the community to entertain and support each other. In the years since our first live event in

2021 we have successfully raised over £4,450 for the North Somerset LGBT+ Forum, who have put this to use by providing a safe inclusive space for everyone, support groups and days out. In 2021 we raised £1,418, and in 2023 we raised a staggering £3,048!

CHECK OUT THE 2024 LINE UP OF AMAZING ACTS:

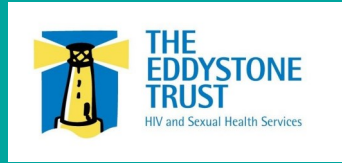
- **Aunty Ginger**
- **Justin Drag**
- **Blanche**
- **Miss DQ**
- **Baroness Mary Golds**
- **Aura Jay**
- **Method Dance Company**
- **Gypsy Divine**
- **Plus your host Miss Annie!**
(You may recognise her...!)

Please note that this is not the running order, please keep an eye on Drag Diva Lockdown's social media pages for updates.

To buy your tickets for this amazing event, head to www.tinyurl.com/56yc27cw or scan the QR code above.

Free HIV Testing 14th March

Eddystone Trust are returning to our HQ on Meadow Street for a third session of free HIV testing and advice on **Thursday 14th March**. This is a fantastic opportunity for confidential support and guidance around HIV, as well as a chance to pick up condoms, red ribbons and literature. The session runs from 12 - 4pm and there is no need to book a space. We'll also be offering tea, biscuits and a cosy space on our sofa, so feel free to pop by!



I TEST.

It's the only way to know if I have HIV, so I can stay in control of my health.



If you're at a loose end on **Sunday 10th March**, **Sunday 17th March** and **Sunday 24th March**, why not head down to our HQ

on Meadow Street between 12-3pm? Join us for our Socialites Coffee, Cake & Chatter get-together! We have tea, coffee, cake and biscuits available, plus some lovely new sofas! No need to book, just pop along when you can. See you there!



Our friends at Bridging The Gap Together! are looking for volunteers who can assist with the following:

- Newsletter content
- Activity preparation
- Hub coverage, support and organisation
- Light cleaning
- Book keeping

For more information please contact Liz: liz.kelly@bridgingthegaptogether.org.uk

Fancy helping the Forum receive £1,000?



Please nominate the North Somerset LGBT+ Forum for a £1,000 donation through the Movement for Good awards.

Please visit the following link to nominate us: www.movementforgood.com

Click on the blue box that says 'Nominate a charity for £1,000', and search for us by name or charity number (1174545). Our charity type is 'community'. You can then add your details to nominate the charity, and you'll receive an email confirmation. Your nomination is greatly appreciated!

Looking back on February...

February was a busy month for the Forum! It was **LGBT+ History Month**, so we were thrilled to collaborate with Pride in Weston to curate a display of LGBT+ icons in Grove Park as part of the popular **GLOW Festival**. This was accompanied by adorable handmade flowers, some of which were made by our Young Socialites members. A huge thank you to Casie at Pride in Weston for her support!

Meanwhile, Race Equality North Somerset hosted events as part of **Race Equality Week**. One of these, LGBTQ+ Histories

Amplified, was held at The Other Place in collaboration with the Forum, and was well-attended. Thanks to Ian and Alison for their work in organising this and all the REW events.

And finally, our chair Steve and vice chair Paul attended the Avon Fire & Rescue Service **Children's Wellbeing Event**, which was hugely popular and attracted hundreds of visitors. Paul in particular enjoyed the firemen!



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Need to talk to someone in person ?



Find it hard to travel to your nearest Town?



Can't afford to pay for private counselling?



Want to use a local charity with an excellent reputation?

OUR ROVING COUNSELLOR CAN COME TO YOUR LOCAL AREA OR HOME



OUR MOBILE COUNSELLOR

Marie is a professionally trained and supervised counsellor who will work at your pace, to discover the best ways to help you. She will work with all areas of difficulty such as anxiety, stress, worry, depression, relationship & work issues, trauma, grief and many more.*

Anyone* can self-refer to our service. It starts with a phone assessment conversation about your needs. Please get in touch with us to arrange this.

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www.wellspringcounselling.org.uk

Please leave a message or email us and we will get back to you promptly.

Around 12 sessions

Short waiting list

Affordable subsidised fees

*We do not work with drug and alcohol addiction or do couples counselling but would be able to signpost you to specialist services

MIND IN SOMERSET

WESTON-SUPER-MARE

MARCH COMMUNITY DAYS

NORTH SOMERSET **LGBT+** FORUM

68 MEADOW STREET, WSM,

BS23 1QN

Community Day 10-11am at LGBT+
Forum HQ in Meadow St.

Contact -
kara.boleym@mindinsomerset.org.uk

18+ Sessions

**Bookable MH navigation single
sessions 1-3pm**

Citizens Advice Shop - The
Sovereign Shopping Centre.
High St.

Visit: <https://bit.ly/3T2ziZq>
to book!

Friday March 1st
10:00 - 11:00
Active Friday
Wellbeing Walk

Friday March 8th
10:00 - 11:00
Connect Friday
A cuppa, biscuits &
MH chat!

Friday March 15th
10:00 - 11:00
Fun Friday
Conversation card
games and us!

Friday March 22nd
10:00 - 11:00
Craft Friday
Make your own
mindful craft with us.

Coming Soon
Creative Writing

Art for all



News in Brief



Delve into books with LGBT+ themes or characters in the Rainbow Readers queer book club presented Super Culture and hosted by the Forum!

This month's book is the 2021 Weston-super-Anthology, with February's session taking place at the Bridging the Gap Together! hub between 6-8pm on **Thursday 28th March**. Email Mel via mel@superculture.org.uk for further details and to request a copy of the book!



GAYME



Our next board game night Gayme is on **Sunday 31st March**, 5pm till 8pm at the Bridging the Gap Together! hub, 59-61 Meadow Street, WSM, BS23 1QL. Please note that the 31st is Easter Sunday, and whilst we considered moving the event to another weekend, we have decided to stick to our regular date (last Sunday of the month). Entry is free and there's no need to book. Your LGBT+ friends and allies are welcome to join us. We will also have our Tuck Shop on site, selling food and drink at affordable prices. See you there!



YOUNG SOCIALITES

If you're aged 13-17, come along to our next Young Socialites activity on **Tuesday 5th March** between 6.30-8.30pm at our HQ on Meadow Street. We'll be using beads to make bracelets and other items, which you can either make for yourself or perhaps create a personalised Mother's Day gift! Materials will be supplied, and there's no need to book a space.



The Forum will be holding a stall at the Together For SEND event hosted by Bristol Parents Carers on **Wednesday 20th March**. This is an event that aims to bring SEND solutions to both families and SEND practitioners living or working in Bristol. The event takes place at the BAWA Club, Filton BS34 7RG between 8.45am-4.45pm. No diagnosis is required to attend, however you will need to reserve a ticket, available via Eventbrite: <http://tinyurl.com/w34brnns>

If you have an event you wish to advertise in our next Newsletter, please email support@nslgbtforum.com FAO Thom.

History Month Quiz Answers

How many icons of LGBT+ history did you identify in our last Newsletter?

1. **Gladys Bentley** (1907 - 1960)
American blues singer and entertainer.
2. **Tove Jansson** (1914 - 2001) Finnish author and creator of the Moomins
3. **Ellen DeGeneres** (1958 -)
American comedian and TV host
4. **Annie Lennox** (1954 -)
Scottish singer and AIDS activist
5. **Janet Mock** (1983 -) American writer and trans rights activist
6. **Graham Norton** (1963 -)
Irish comedian and TV host
7. **Grace Jones** (1948 -)
Jamaican singer and model
8. **Elliot Page** (1987 -)
Canadian actor and activist
9. **Chaz Bono** (1969 -)
American actor and musician
10. **Harvey Milk** (1930 - 1978)
American politician
11. **Russell T Davies** (1963 -)
Welsh TV producer and writer
12. **Jan Morris** (1926 - 2020)
Clevedon-born historian and author
13. **George Michael** (1963 - 2016) British singer songwriter
14. **Alison Bechdel** (1960 -)
American cartoonist
15. **Derek Jarman** (1942 - 1994)
English film maker and gay rights activist
16. **Sir Ian McKellen** (1939 -)
English actor and Stonewall co-founder
17. **Sylvester James** (1947 - 1988)
American singer songwriter
18. **Mark Ashton** (1960 - 1987)
British activist and LGSM co-founder
19. **Tracey Chapman** (1964 -)
American singer songwriter
20. **Quentin Crisp** (1908 - 1999)
English raconteur

For more LGBT+ History icons, head to www.nslgbtforum.com/lgbt-icons



MONTHLY CHARITY QUIZ!

1st November 2023 7th February 2024

6th December 2023 6th March 2024

3rd January 2024 3rd April 2024

£2 entry per person, max five per team

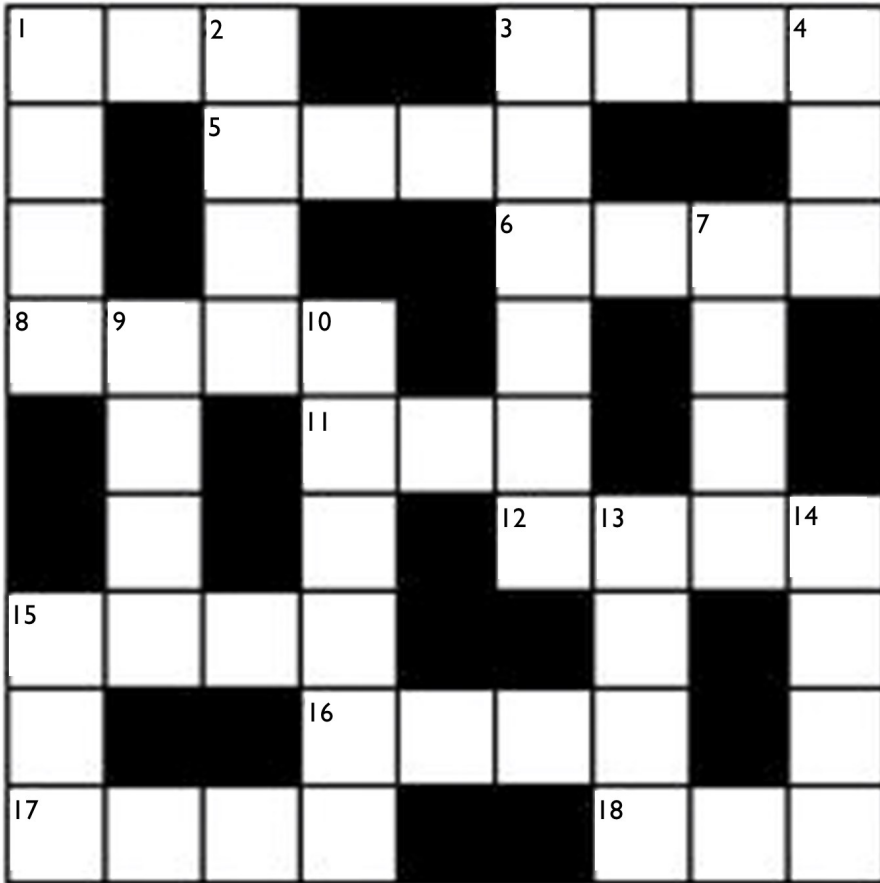
Arrive 7pm for a 7.30pm start

Raising funds for



Reg. charity no. 1174545

March Puzzle Page



Crossword

Across:

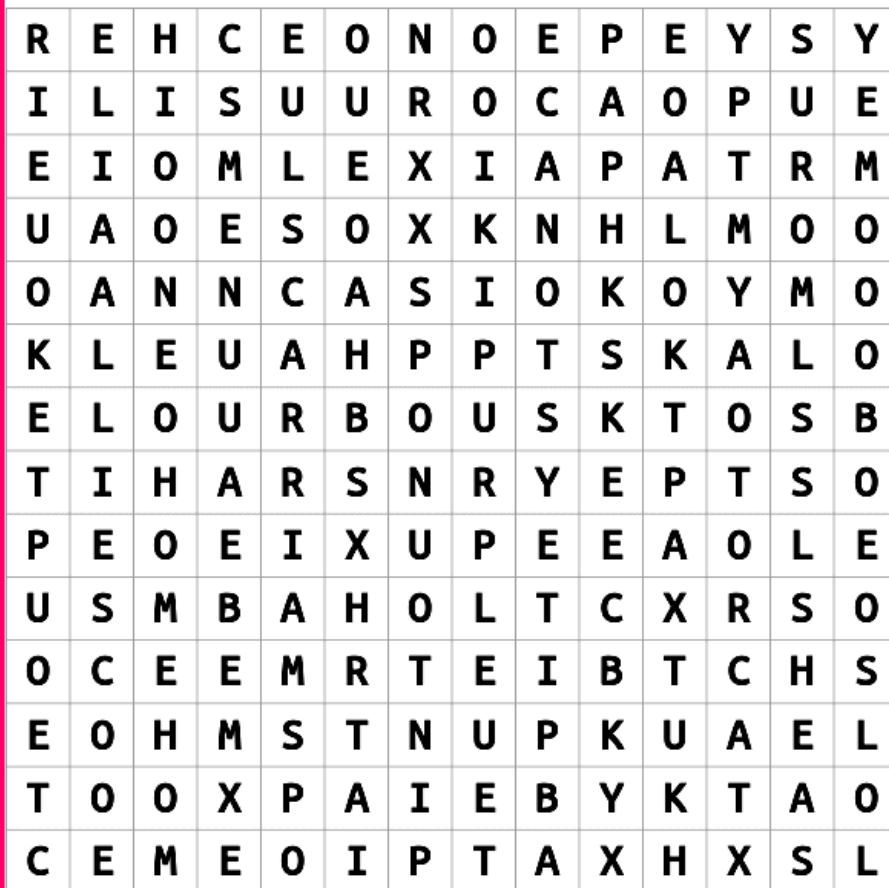
1. Edible cubes (3)
3. A measurement for milk (4)
5. Sweetheart (4)
6. Where you can skate on ice (4)
8. A type of African butter (4)
11. To laugh out loud (3)
12. A sound that bounces (4)
15. Himalayan ape (4)
16. To leave (4)
17. Green and furry (4)
18. Leamington and Bath have one of these (3)

Down:

1. Unit of electrical resistance (4)
2. A woodwind instrument (4)
3. The colour at the bottom of the rainbow flag (6)
4. Half of a Tuk Tuk van (3)
7. Famous for his ark (4)
9. Where the heart is (4)
10. People who are supportive and stand in solidarity (6)
13. A meow-sical by Andrew Lloyd-Webber (4)
14. A type of whale (4)
15. Very tasty! (3)

Wordsearch

Once you've finished the crossword above, see if you can find your 21 answers in the wordsearch below!



OVER 18's ONLY

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Lifeboats



HOSTED BY MISS ANNIE
BLANCHE AUNTY GINGER
BARONESS MARY GOLDS
JUSTIN DRAG GYPSY DIVINE
MISS DQ METHOD AURA JAY

Saturday 6th April 2024

The Grand Atlantic Hotel

Tickets - £25pp | Arrival 7pm | Showtime 7.30pm

Need to contact us: DDLDEVENTS@OUTLOOK.COM

