

**NORTH SOMERSET **LGBT+** FORUM**

# Newsletter



December 2023



The Forum team helped out at three Somerset Carnival events in November, collecting cash donations to ensure the events continue to run every year!

## **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY AT A GLANCE**

**World AIDS Day Vigil**  
Friday 1st December

**BIG Christmas  
Rumble in the Jumble**  
Sunday 3rd December

**Portishead Poacher Quiz**  
Wednesday 6th December

**Forum Xmas Party**  
Sunday 17th December

**Retro Pop Quiz**  
Thursday 21st December

*See inside for times and venues*

## **PLEASE NOTE:**

**Our HQ will be closed  
18th December 2023 -  
2nd January 2024**

*We will re-open 3rd January*

**NORTH SOMERSET LGBT+ FORUM'S**  
**THE BIG CHRISTMAS**

**Rumble in  
the jumble**

**10AM - 4PM**

**FREE  
ENTRY!**



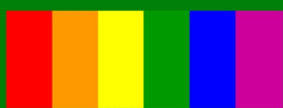
**ARTISAN STALLS, PRE-LOVED & VINTAGE ITEMS, CRYSTALS,  
CANDLES, HANDMADE GIFTS, LGBT+ MERCH & MUCH MORE!**



... and  
many  
more!

**SUNDAY 3<sup>RD</sup> DECEMBER**

**AT THE FOLLOWING VENUES** on Meadow Street:



**NORTH SOMERSET  
LGBT+ FORUM**



**THE  
OTHER  
PLACE.**

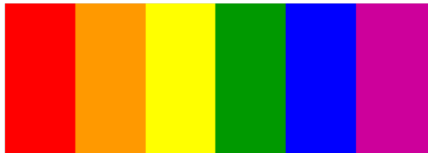


**NORTH SOMERSET LGBT+ FORUM**  
**Newsletter**

**December 2023**

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

*A large print A4 version of this newsletter can be requested via email.*



**NORTH SOMERSET  
LGBT+ FORUM**

**Reg charity no. 1174545**

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

**support@nslgbtforum.com  
www.nslgbtforum.com**



**eBay Store**

Seller: nslgbtforum



**Discogs Store**

Seller: NSLGBTForum



**Etsy Shop**

Seller: nslgbtforumshop



# Letter from the Editor..

**Hi all,**

Welcome to our December Newsletter.

December has a habit of coinciding with a certain festive celebration, and 2023 is no different! No surprises then that the majority of the events we are hosting this month are a little bit Christmassy. Be sure to read the following pages to find out more - there's even a very special Christmas Party on the 17th to which you and your friends are invited! Find out more on page 5.

December also marks the annual World AIDS Day event, which takes place on the 1st of the month. We'll be hosting a vigil in Weston which you can read about on the next page. Be sure to pick up a red ribbon from our HQ and help raise awareness and commemorate the lives lost to HIV and AIDS.

As we say goodbye to 2023, we at the Forum would like to thank each and every one of our supporters, followers and visitors for their help and generosity this year. We have had a fantastic twelve months and are determined to make 2024 even better! Your donations, support, and continued solidarity is hugely appreciated. You can see some of the many highlights of our year in the centre pages.

A huge thank you also to our wonderful team of trustees, volunteers and community partners, who have tirelessly given their time to keep things running throughout the year!

If you fancy helping us out over the quieter winter months, you can access our online stores via the links listed in the column on the left of this page. Alternatively, if you wish to donate via PayPal, head to [paypal.com/paypalme/nslgbtforum](https://paypal.com/paypalme/nslgbtforum) or scan the QR code (right).

We wish you a very Merry Christmas and look forward to seeing you in '24!

*Thom x*



Scan for our PayPal link to donate



# WORLD AIDS DAY

1st December



## Vigil at Grove Park Friday 1st Dec

Our community members and allies in North Somerset are invited to join the North Somerset LGBT+ Forum at Grove Park on **Friday 1st December** for our World AIDS Day vigil. Arrive 6pm for a 6.30pm start. The vigil is taking place to remember those whose lives have been lost to AIDS, to celebrate the lives they had, to understand the progress that has been made to date, and to better understand the work that is still being done across the world to combat HIV & AIDS as this is still an issue in many countries.

Attendees will be invited to tie Red Ribbons around the Bandstand which will remain in place for the weekend as a sign of remembrance of these lives lost, and are encouraged to listen to a few of our guest speakers who will be speaking for a few short minutes during the evening about their own personal experiences, the support available out in our communities, and to encourage self testing and good practices.

Unfortunately, we are unable to allow real candles/tealights within this event, however you are encouraged if you wish to bring a battery

equivalent that you are welcome to hold during the event. The

Forum will also have some of these positioned around the Bandstand during the evening.

### **Guest Speakers:**

**Steve Winter-Gray** Chair of the North Somerset LGBT+ Forum

A representative from **Pride in Weston**

**Ben Rossiter** The Eddystone Trust

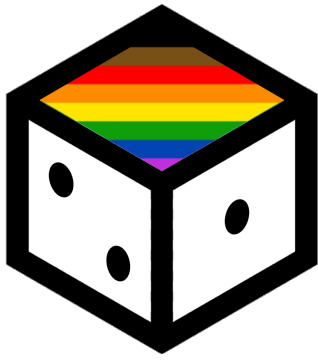
**Cllr Catherine Gibbons** Labour for Milton

At 6.58pm we will pause for a two-minute silence to remember those who we have lost and who are forever in our thoughts.

At 7.00pm we will retire to The Blakehay Theatre where we can provide warm drinks and mince pies and you are encouraged to stay to chat for a short while before we look to conclude the evening at 8.00pm.

Information and support stands will be provided by Eddystone Trust and the North Somerset LGBT+ Forum for anyone who wishes to find out more about the support available to our communities.





**GAYME**

# Christmas PARTY!

With our monthly Gayme night normally taking place on the last Sunday of the month, we thought we would have to skip December and invite you to play board games with us in January instead... But then we thought, why not bring it forward a few weeks? And *then* we thought, why not make it a big Christmas party while we're at it?

So, whether you are a regular at Gayme, a visitor to our weekly drop-ins 50+, Trans+ or family+, a member of Socialites or our Young Socialites group, or a community member or supporter, you are **all** invited to our very special Christmas Party on **Sunday 17th December** at the Bridging the Gap Together!

hub from 5-8pm! Entry is free, everyone is welcome although under 13s must be accompanied by an adult. We'll have our regular Gayme tables, plus a yummy buffet, chillout space, social areas and music.

The Bridging the Gap Together! Hub can be found at 59-61 Meadow Street, opposite our HQ. Parking is free on a Sunday, and the venue is fully accessible. Gluten-free, vegan and vegetarian options will be available at the buffet, but feel free to bring your own food if you prefer.

We cannot wait to see you and wish you a very Merry Christmas in person!



**GAYME**

**Sunday  
17th Dec**

**5-8pm**

*All welcome!*



**IT'S PARTY TIME!**

# Goodbye 2023!



## Bournville Pride

The South Weston Activity Network hosted the first-ever Bournville Pride in June, bringing the community together in style!



## Taunton Pride

It may have been wet, but the team had a great time in Vivary Park this September - we can't wait for the next one!



## Drag Diva Live!

The queens returned to the stage in February for a night of music and laughter at the Winter Gardens. Huge thanks to our vice chair Paul!



## Pride Tide Dash

Our chair Steve, secretary Theresa, and treasurer Laura bravely took part in the Weston Pride 2k Tide Dash in June, as well as having a go on the bouncy castle!



## Meeting the Mayor

Cllr Ciaran Connelly visited the Forum several times this year, as well as the previous mayor Sonia Russe. Both are incredibly supportive and are welcome to pop by anytime :)



## Jumble Sales

Our Rumble in the Jumble events took place across multiple venues in Meadow Street throughout the year, raising funds from your generous donated goods!



# 2023, what a year!

Check out some of our highlights from across the district. We can't wait to see what 2024 has in store!



## The Good Old Gays

Lady Imelda had the crowd in tears of laughter as part of our outrageous night of cabaret, comedy and music at The Front Room!



## Prizes Galore!

As part of our Biggest EVER Rumble in the Jumble event, across four venues, young support Asha won a bag of chocolate treats!



## A Street of Flags

We asked the shops and venues of Meadow Street to display rainbow flags for Pride Month, and were blown away by the response!



## Portishead Quiz

Our monthly Quiz Nights at the Poacher started in March, with hilarious rounds and fun-packed games. Turn to page 7 for future dates!



## Bridgwater Pride

September saw the first-ever Bridgwater Pride take place, which was a huge success and we hope to be taking part in again next year.



## Portishead Pride

The Poacher in Portishead held their first-ever Pride in May, packed with artisan stalls, performers and, um, our chair Steve on karaoke!



# News in Brief



Forum Chair Steve attended November's Elimination of Violence Against Women and Girls March and Ribbon Tie event, reading a poem to the crowd as well as attaching ribbons to the railing of Grove Park. This powerful event was held to highlight domestic abuse against women. For more information, head to [sigbi.org/weston-super-mare/](http://sigbi.org/weston-super-mare/)



If you are in Nailsea on **Friday 1st December**, you may wish to pop by and enjoy the Nailsea Community Christmas Fayre at the Crown Glass Shopping Precinct and High Street. The event runs from 4-8pm, and the Forum will be holding a stall with a festive tombola packed with prizes!



If you love nabbing a bargain, you may be interested in browsing our charity eBay store. We have a variety of donated goodies listed, including rare LGBT+ books, vintage and collectable items and sought-after CDs and vinyl. All proceeds go directly to the Forum. Head to [ebay.co.uk/usr/nslgbtforum](http://ebay.co.uk/usr/nslgbtforum) to see what we have listed, and be sure to save us as a Saved Seller to see all of our newly listed items.



Every Christmas, it's inevitable we get the odd gift that doesn't quite hit the mark! If you receive any unwanted books, toys, games, gifts sets, music or DVDs from a well-meaning relative or friend, we would be very grateful to receive them. Sales made from donated stock help fund the work we do and keep our HQ open, and ensure unwanted gifts do not end up in landfill and instead enjoy a new life in someone else's life. Feel free to drop any donations to our HQ in January when we are back open!

If you have an event you wish to advertise in our next Newsletter, please email [support@nslgbtforum.com](mailto:support@nslgbtforum.com) FAO Thom.



## Retro Music Quiz Part 2!

A huge thank you to those who joined us last month for Frostie's Retro Music Quiz Night at the Black Cat Micropub, the place was packed! We are thrilled to announce that we will be returning on **Thursday 21st December** for a second instalment - this time dancing through the decades with a festive theme!

Join us from 7.30pm for an 8pm start. Entry is £2 per person, with all proceeds donated to Weston Food Bank.

The Black Cat can be found at 135 High St, Weston-super-Mare BS23 1HN, next door to the Samaritans building.



## It's the BIG Christmas Rumble!

**Sunday 3rd December** is the date of our next BIG Rumble in the Jumble event, filled to the brim with artisan craft stalls, vintage and collectable jumble and Christmas goodies - plus our regular LGBT+ merch, family friendly activities, chill out areas and an exciting clothes swap! It's the ideal place to find some unique Christmas gifts and support local and independent businesses.

Join us between 10am - 4pm at The Other Place and the Bridging The Gap Together! hub on Meadow Street, Weston-super-Mare. We will be joined by the wonderful Pixie Dust Resins, Chipper the woodcrafter, Tower of Temptation with crystals and tarot cards, Rolcaine's Candles and Wax Melts, and much more! Both venues are fully accessible and parking on Meadow Street and the surrounding streets is free on Sundays. Be sure to pop by and have a browse.!



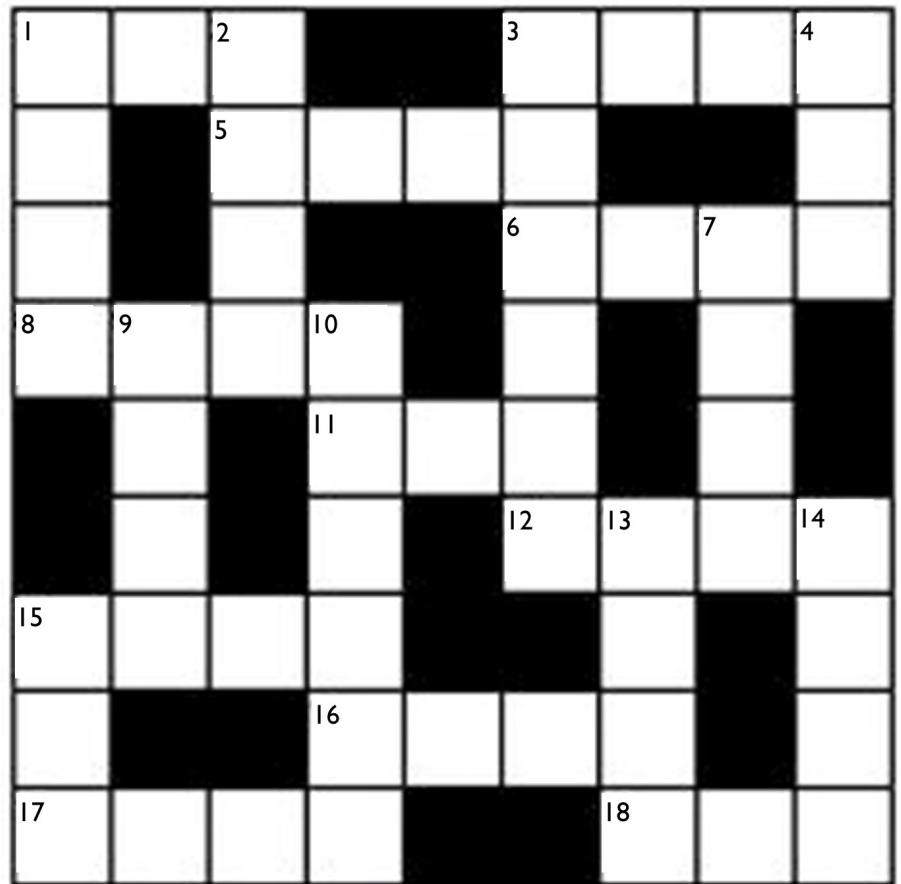
## December Crossword

### Across:

- 1. A camp Christmas pastry (3)
- 3. To agitate or wake (4)
- 5. A place to sleep (4)
- 6. The noise made by 15-down (4)
- 8. What the best things in life are (4)
- 11. Long-running music magazine (3)
- 12. Christmas log (4)
- 15. The number of socks you'll get this Christmas (4)
- 16. \_\_\_ The Word, famous LGBT+ bookshop in London (4)
- 17. Available in fifty shades (4)
- 18. Appropriate (3)

### Down:

- 1. The Magic Dragon (4)
- 2. U2 guitarist (4)
- 3. Popular flavour for bacon (6)
- 4. Morty's mentor (3)
- 7. Mr Blobby's Christmassy partner (4)
- 9. Where to find out when you are next off work (4)
- 10. Measured in Joules (6)
- 13. A Latin bear (4)
- 14. \_\_\_\_\_ 17, 90s boyband (4)
- 15. The animal that does 6-across (3)



## 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*

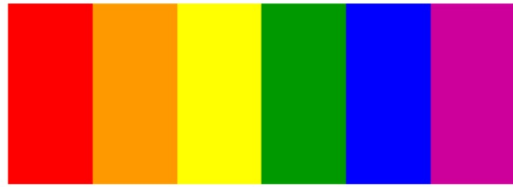
*Arrive 7pm for a 7.30pm start*

### Raising funds for



Reg. charity no. 1174545





## **NORTH SOMERSET LGBT+ FORUM**

**Registered Charity Number 1174545**

No 68 Meadow Street, Weston-super-Mare BS23 1QN

## **LOVE OUR HQ?**

We love our new Safe Space, if you do too and want to book our Community Lounge Area for your own group meetings let us know.

### **Available booking times**

Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays 9.00am till 12.00pm

Tuesdays & Thursdays: 12.00pm till 5.00pm\*

*\*Other times may be available, please contact us to discuss*

## **WE CAN PROVIDE:**

Sofa seating for 4-6 people

Table and Chairs for 4\*

Free Broadband WiFi

PC, Printer and 50" LED Screen\*

Tea, Coffee, Squash & Biscuits included

### **Suggested Donations:**

Community Partners - Free of charge

Other groups £10.00 per hour

For further information or to book please contact us on  
**0843 8865428** or email **support@nslgbtforum.com**

\*When table and chairs seating is used, the LED Screen is partially obscured

Please note we require at least 48 hours notice for your booking on a first come, first served basis.  
A member of our Management Trustee Team will be on site at all times during your booking.



**NORTH SOMERSET  
LGBT+ FORUM**

**FREE TO  
ATTEND**

# 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!

**TRANS**

## **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.



**NORTH SOMERSET  
LGBT+ FORUM**

## **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](mailto:support@nslgbtforum.com)

