

Shropshire Telford & Wrekin LGBT+ History Festival

2020

All events open to LGBT+ people, friends, family, allies & supporters



January - March 2020

Welcome to the 5th LGBT+ History Festival taking place in venues around Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin

We are delighted to bring you an exciting programme of events: from teenagers who fancy a go at clowning, spoken word enthusiasts in Church Stretton, film buffs in Oswestry, to bird watchers in Shrewsbury, we feel confident there is something for everyone in this collection.

Have a browse through the programme and encourage your friends, family and colleagues to come along.

Ticket Information - all events are priced separately and many are free (donations welcome). Please buy tickets and/or book places via the website www.shrewsburylgbthistory.org.uk

HIRE THE HIVE
FROM £10
ON WEEKDAYS

Spaces include; a meeting room,
performance space & band
rehearsal space

The Hive is located in Shrewsbury
town centre, 5 Belmont, SY1 1TE

hiveonline.org.uk/hireaspace
01743 234970



Singing Workshop

LGBT+ Anthems

Sunday 26th January

At The Hive, 5 Belmont, Shrewsbury SY1 1TE

Tickets: Full price £20; Discounted price £10;

Young person price £2. Advance booking encouraged

1pm - 4.30pm

Singing workshop led by Jamie Dawes-Hughes from the Natural Voice Network, in collaboration with Roxane, a harmony junky! Jamie is an avid singer, arranger and choir leader based in North Wales. Jamie firmly believes that singing should be good fun, and that it should be for everyone, and not just the privileged few. He can't wait to come to Shrewsbury in January to share some of his favourite LGBT+ anthems and get everyone singing! Even if you've never sung before, come along and sing loudly and proudly. All are very welcome.

www.shrewsburylgbthistory.org.uk

Official Festival Launch

Saturday 1st February

At The Hive, 5 Belmont, Shrewsbury SY1 1TE

FREE Entry

2pm - 5pm

Founder member of Gay's the Word bookshop in London and foremost collector of books of LGBT+ relevance, Shrewsbury resident Jonathan Cutbill, who died in 2019, was also a keen bird-watcher and photographer. This unique tribute afternoon brings together all of those passions, with an exhibition of his bird photographs and two Memorial Presentations.

Everyone is encouraged to come along to celebrate the start of the Festival.

2pm opening of the festival exhibition, which will run throughout February: Jonathan Cutbill's bird & wildlife photos

2.15pm Declaration of Festival Launch, welcome and overview of events

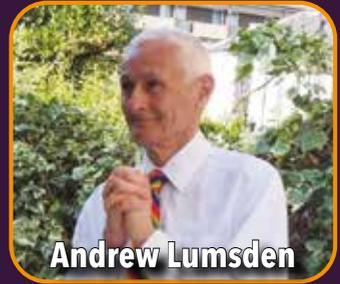
2.45pm Presentation 1 - Jonathan Cutbill's life, 'Gays the Word', an impressive LGBT+ library goes to London

Presented by: Andrew Lumsden, a long-term friend (and Gay Liberation Front activist) and Maria Castrillo, Head of Special Collections at the University of London, which will be housing an extensive LGBTQ+ library.





Maria Castrillo



Andrew Lumsden

4.00pm Presentation 2 - Saving Gay's The Word: An illustrated presentation by Graham McKerrow, activist and journalist who launched 'Capital Gay'.

In April 1984, Customs officers raided Gay's The Word bookshop and the homes of its staff and directors including Jonathan Cutbill's, seizing thousands of books, many by respected authors, claiming they were indecent.



Graham McKerrow

They wanted to stop the importation of all LGBT fiction and non-fiction and brought a hundred charges of 'conspiracy to import indecent material'. A major Old Bailey trial was set.

Defend Gay's The Word campaign fought back. In 1986, shortly before the trial was due to start, Customs dropped all the charges and returned all the books. This is the story of a triumph.

**Shropshire Telford & Wrekin
LGBT+ History Festival**

2020

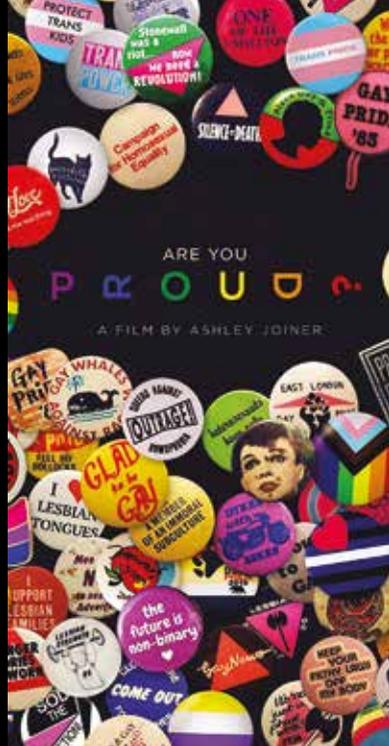
www.shrewsburylgbthistory.org.uk

Film Screening

Are You Proud?
**Sponsored by the Shropshire
Rainbow Film Festival**
Saturday 1st February
**At The Hive, 5 Belmont,
Shrewsbury SY1 1TE**
Tickets: £5
7.30pm (doors open 7pm)

Every Pride season, we see and hear more about the LGBTQ+ community. But Pride is more than just a few weekends of parades and celebration - it marks important historical movements and, many argue, should still be a protest for further change.

Are You Proud? is an illuminating, heartening



and honest documentation of the queer world, Pride and LGBTQ+ communities in Britain, using rare archive footage and interviews from across a spectrum of historical campaigns.

As well as celebrating achievements the film also explores division and conflict within the community - and examines how we can all stand together. 50 years after the Stonewall riots in America, this is a timely moment to take stock and question how much attitudes have changed, rights been achieved and what the future holds.

Are You Proud? Is essential viewing for us all.



OCTOBER 2020

entertain
educate
challenge
change

www.rainbowfilmfestival.org.uk

Talk & Book Signing

**Rainbow Revolutions with
Jamie Lawson**
**Brought to you by Button &
Bear**
Friday 7th February
University Centre Shrewsbury
Free entry
Times to be confirmed

'Rainbow Revolutions', written by queer anthropologist Dr Jamie Lawson, explores the rise of the LGBTQ+ rights movement during the 20th Century.

Whilst relevant to everyone, Jamie wrote the book with older children and teenagers in mind, wanting to connect young queer people to their own history, reminding us that 'LGBTQ+ identities haven't just sprung up recently and out of nowhere'!! This timely, and beautifully illustrated book looks at the historical origins of oppression against LGBTQ+

people, and at queer radical activism itself, celebrating the courageous individuals who stood up and demanded recognition.

Button & Bear

28 Castle Street, Shrewsbury, SY1 2BQ
01743 341407 www.buttonandbear.co.uk



We are a specialist children's bookshop with diversity at the heart of everything we do.

We offer:

- . 20% off our LGBTQ+ book-list during Feb 2020
- . Personalised advice to find the right book
- . Fast ordering, many titles with next day delivery
- . Events & activities
- . The best Children's/Teen & YA books selected

Presentation

**Growing Up Gay: Coming out
and finding gay liberation in
the early '70's**
Thursday 13th February
**At Wellington Library,
Wellington, Telford TF1 1LX**
FREE entry.
7pm - 8pm

Geoff Hardy will talk about growing up gay in the 1950's/60's "There was nothing that reflected who I knew I was. I grew up knowing what I wasn't, not what I

was"
Geoff's journey to self-acceptance/ coming out through Gay Liberation Front in 1971 - when he was a student at Goldsmiths College, London. What it was like attending the first Gay Pride March in July 1971. How and why this fuelled a lifetime of activism.



Double Bill: Behind the Lines and Living Histories Cymru

Double Bill: Tell me I'm Forgiven and Queer Tales from Wales
Sponsored by Border Women

Saturday 15th February

At STOP! Café, Shrewsbury Museum & Art Gallery, The Square, Shrewsbury SY1 1LH

£5

7.30pm (Doors open 7pm) - 10pm



Tell Me I'm Forgiven: The Story of Forgotten Stars Gwen Farrar and Norah Blaney. Alison Child and Rosie Wakley return to Shrewsbury to present highlights from the lives of these two music hall performers, partners off stage as well as on. Both were accomplished musicians who sang popular love songs of

the day to each other, satirising fashions, fads and famous figures of the 1920s. Blaney & Farrar toured the UK, making hundreds of recordings, appearing on radio, TV and in film. Rosie and Alison have re-imagined their double act and this performance includes songs and readings from Alison's new biography of Gwen and Norah - on sale for the special price of £10.

Queer Tales from Wales present three stories, written and presented by Jane Hoy, Helen Sandler and Ruth Fowler. Come and hear about:

- champion wrestler and harp-maker Merged ferch Ifan and her copper-mine girl
- Amy Dillwyn, the cigar-smoking novelist and industrialist who wrote some very queer novels inspired by her dear friend Olive
- Goronwy Rees, intimate friend of the infamous homosexual spy Guy Burgess, and champion of gay rights from the Pink House at Aberystwyth University



Short Film Programme with Director Rachel Dax

Sponsored by SAND
Sunday 16th February
At The Hive, 5 Belmont, Shrewsbury SY1 1TE
Tickets: £5.
2pm - 4.45pm (Doors open 1.30pm)



This film programme explores the diverse experiences of older LGBTQ folk from an array of backgrounds and cultures. In our documentary choices we visit an elderly trans woman who dances in the streets of Lesbos, and the oldest drag queen troupe in the USA. Our fiction selection varies from couples who have weathered life's storms together, to those who meet again and those who meet for the very first time. We are also introduced to solo characters who are reflecting

on their past journeys and making sense of the present by themselves. Each film gives insight into how different LGBTQ folk have negotiated the difficulties (and sometimes horrors) of history and how they are facing the challenges life brings them today. The selection includes Director (and Rainbow Film Festival Programmer), Rachel Dax's own multi-award winning short film "Time and Again"



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Clowning and comedy workshop (ages 13 - 18)

Saturday 22nd February
At The Hive, 5 Belmont,
Shrewsbury SY1 1TE
Tickets: £15 and £5
10.30am - 12.30pm

All levels and experience are welcome from experienced performers who are keen to brush up on their comedy skills

to those who've never tried something like this before and want to develop a new talent. There's no pressure to be funny, just to come learn and have some fun.

This is quite a physical workshop - you should bring comfy movement clothes and a bottle of water. If you have any access requirements, please let us know and we can adjust the workshop accordingly (email sal@hiveonline.org.uk)



Performance



Yours Sincerely - with Arts Alive
Saturday 22nd February
At The Hive, 5 Belmont, Shrewsbury SY1 1TE
Tickets: £10 and £5
2.30pm - 4.30pm

The year is 2017. Average graduate debt has hit £50,000, Kylie Minogue is making a comeback and Will Jackson has accidentally stolen 300 second class stamps from the post office. But he's making them count. He's going to write letters. From reconnecting with old friends and ex-boyfriends to run-ins with the marketing department at John Lewis, stamp collecting has never looked so sexy... Based on real life correspondence; storytelling and lipsync cabaret collide in this queer coming-of-age comedy about the complications of 21st-century communication.
Suitable age 13+

In Conversation

Silence was the Answer

Tuesday 25th February

At The Hive, 5 Belmont, Shrewsbury SY 1 1TE

FREE entry

7.15pm - 8.45pm

Mike Fry, now in his early 80s, recently caught sight of two young men walking along nonchalantly holding hands. In brotherhood, he introduced himself and during their chat asked if they'd received any adverse comments. They hadn't! Whilst we know that in 2020 there is more acceptance, in post-war Britain, attitudes to homosexuality were by and large

hostile and entrenched, potentially leading to harassment, blackmail and even imprisonment.

Mike's newly published 'memoirs and musings' tell of a child, gay and born out-of-wedlock who grew up with 'twin sins' and the many silences that ensued.



Presentation

The Love that Dares to Speak its Name: Mary Whitehouse and her Shropshire Girls

Thursday 27th February

At Wellington Library, Wellington, Telford TF1 1LX

FREE entry

7pm - 8pm

It was while Mary Whitehouse was teaching at Madeley Modern School in 1963 that her determination to tackle what she saw as a rising tide of immorality came to fruition.

Her targets were many; she became a 'household name', developing a style of attack that was all her own. Many people today are unaware of her, and it now seems incredible that she was able to use blasphemy law to censure the newspaper

'Gay News' for publishing James Kirkup's poem 'The Love that Dares to Speak its Name'.

This Presentation, by Peter Roscoe, reviews where she was coming from, why we had to endure her and how, with great ingenuity and fun, we fought back.



Spoken Word Show

Raise the Roof
Friday 28th February
Church Stretton Library, 5 St
Laurence Cl, Church St, Church
Stretton SY6 6DQ
Ticket price: £5 / £2 concession
Tickets on the door
7pm - 9pm

Raise the Roof is a solo spoken word piece which takes you on a journey towards knowing that your dignity is innate. The show links personal story and professional understanding to champion body respect for all. It challenges us to revisit taken-for-granted ideas in public health that ignore discrimination and trauma, to give unhelpful messages that reduce wellbeing to 'eat less, move more'. With an astonishing lyrical vulnerability that saw them crowned "the literary lovechild of Jeanette Winterson and Allen Ginsberg" (Broadway Baby), Lucy Aphramor takes the audience through a mesmerizing 45 minutes, weaving together abuse, fat shame, faulty nutrition practice, queer identity, Grenfell Towers and the Black Lives Matter movement.

Rosie Carnall will facilitate questions following the performance.





Presentation

Meet your Old Testament Transcestors
Friday 28th February
At Shrewsbury United Reformed Church, Coleham Head,
Shrewsbury SY3 7BJ
Donations
7pm - 9pm

There are many characters within the Old Testaments in the bible that act outside the prescribed gender and relationship roles. Looking at these stories through queer eyes we meet some surprisingly queer people. So, come meet the boy with the princess dress, a smooth skinned plotter who is an excellent chef and a warrior princess and her sidekick who is deadly with camping equipment.

Chris Dowd spent a decade planting a queer friendly fresh expression called Journey in the West Midlands. At the same time, he served as a special category minister for the United Reformed Church as a University Chaplain at Aston University. He later retrained as a minister of Word and Sacrament within the United Reformed Church and currently serves in two Churches in Birmingham. He finished his doctorate in 2015 on the pastoral care of gender variant people. He is the co-author of two books on making churches more friendly for gender variant people and those who love them.

Organised by www.shrewsburyurc.co.uk



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Creative Conversations An Invitation

Led by Arts Alive and MediaActive Projects, and working with a range of partners, this Countywide programme offers opportunities for older people aged 55+ to share and celebrate their life experiences and worldviews, through artist led creative adventures. The resulting exhibitions, films and performances will tour across the County in 2020: a public and diverse Celebration of Age, of older people's perspectives, ideas and creativity.

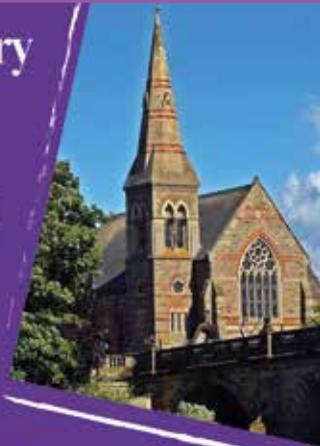
In partnership with SAND, we would like to invite older members of the LGBTQ+ community to take part, as makers and curators, in a new series of workshops. Sessions are free, no experience needed. To register interest, or to find out more, please email info@mediaactive.org



MediaActive



Shrewsbury United Reformed Church



Everyone Welcome.

A warm welcome awaits everyone at Shrewsbury United Reformed Church, on the English Bridge.

Visit www.shrewsburyurc.co.uk, or our Facebook/Twitter pages for more details of activities and worship opportunities.

Border Women

The network for lesbian and bisexual women on the English-Welsh border

www.borderwomen.net



LGBT Youth/School Event

Know Our History, Make Our Future
Saturday 29th February
At The Hive, 5 Belmont, Shrewsbury SY1 1TE
Free entry
2.30pm - 5.00pm

Hosted by young people from Shropshire Youth Association XYZ group with Alice Cruttwell, Public Health Curriculum Advisor, this will be the 4th consecutive year of this successful and joyous event!! It will provide an opportunity for schools, professionals, teachers and members of the LGBT community, allies, supporters, friends and family to come together to learn from young people, explore and celebrate Shropshire good practice and consider ways forward. As well as the traditional rainbow cake, music, art and discussion - all attending will go away with information, ideas and inspiration.

www.shrewsburylgbthistory.org.uk

A Celebratory Evening of Songs and Comedy



From Fairly Vocal to Varifocal

Saturday 29th February

At The Hive, 5 Belmont, Shrewsbury SY1 1TE

Tickets: £12 / £5.

7.30pm - 9.15pm

One of the funniest women in the country' - What's On

Clare Summerskill is a stand-up comedienne, singer-songwriter, actress and playwright who combines many of her amazing talents in this show which explores the lives, loves and reflections of a middle-aged lesbian!

Her humour is warm, and often far too close to the bone. Women (and men) of any age and sexual orientation will adore her unique take on matters of age, looks, weight, love and lust. Her comedy songs are hilarious and her ballads are moving and poignant.

www.claresummerskill.co.uk

www.shrewsburylgbthistory.org.uk



Film Screening

Portrait of a Lady on Fire
Wednesday 4th &
Thursday 5th March
At Kinokulture, 9 Arthur
St, Oswestry SY11 1JN
Check the website for
times and prices

Rave reviews for this film!
In 1770 the young daughter of a French countess develops a mutual attraction to the female artist commissioned to paint her wedding portrait.

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LESBIAN GAY BISEXUAL TRANS



The site for all the Lesbian, Gay, BI and Trans stuff happening in the Shrewsbury area.

Several groups meet regularly, and extra stuff happens too. The

site's eleven pages contain

links to everything.

lgbtshrewsbury@hotmail.com



Shrewsbury Unitarian Church
High Street Shrewsbury SY1 1LR

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**SHREWSBURY XYZ YOUTH
GROUP FOR
LGBT+ YOUNG PEOPLE**

For secondary age young people, up to their 18th Birthday



Meeting Dates :



14 -15.30pm on the 2nd and 4th Saturday of each month

8th/22ndFebruary/14th /28th March

11th/ 25th April /9th/23rd May and so on

For venue details and further information, please contact
Vanessa Postle 01743 730005
or nicky@sya.org.uk or info@sya.org.uk



March is Diversity Month at University Centre Shrewsbury

Hidden Lives to Open Lives: LGBTQ History in Shropshire, 1938 - the present.

Exhibition: 2nd - 15th March

**Exhibition opening: 2nd March 6.30pm with wine & nibbles,
followed by the presentation**

Free entry

With a focus on LGBT+ people in Shropshire, this presentation will look at some of the history - and our lives - between 1938 and the present day. It will cover campaigns, locally and nationally, that led to the legal changes that we have in the UK today and what needs to be done to increase visibility and acceptance here and worldwide.



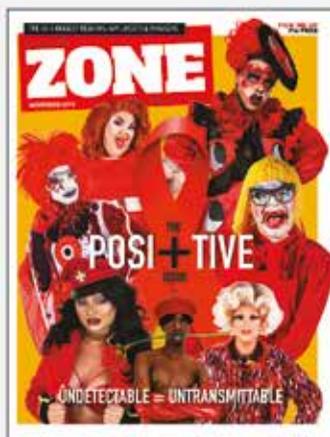
**Clare Summerskill creative writing
workshop**

Sat 14th March

Free entry

Clare Summerskill will be running an exciting one day creative writing workshop which explores autobiography that focuses entirely on stories from Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer people. With Clare's guidance, you will explore a range of creative writing styles including short stories, radio and theatre scripts recorded personal testimony, and stand up. **For more information contact David Clarke: clarke.d@chester.ac.uk**

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