



LEICESTER PRIDE

CELEBRATING 15 YEARS

2023

FESTIVAL GUIDE
SATURDAY 2ND SEPTEMBER 2023
12 - 9PM, ABBEY PARK





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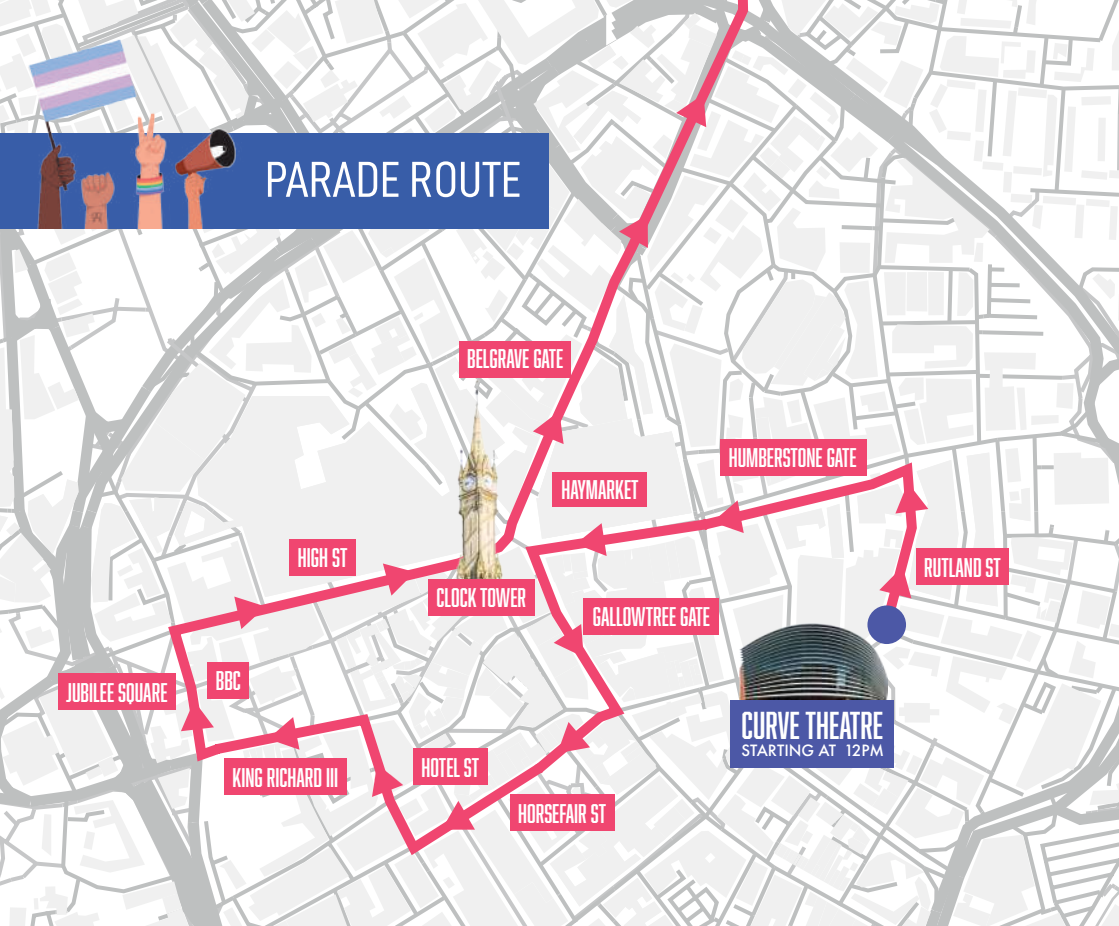
@leicesterpride

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CELEBRATING 15 YEARS

2023



PARADE ROUTE

SAFETY INFORMATION

Please note that the event site is glass free. This means no glass bottles, alcohol or containers are allowed on the event site. During the parade you cannot drink alcohol as most of the city streets are alcohol free areas.

Please ensure that you wear suitable clothing and footwear, remember to use sun cream and drink plenty of water. We will be operating Challenge 25 throughout the day, so please bring identification with you.



We have a zero tolerance on any form of hate crime, if you experience or witness any, please report it to my security team. I hope you enjoy Leicester Pride 2023, rest assured that public safety and your welfare is my top priority.

Craig Thorpe
Security & Safety Operations Director
E-mail: security@leicesterpride.com

BAG SEARCHES ON ENTRY

NO DRUGS

NO GLASS

NO SHARPS

NO ALCOHOL

WELCOME

Hi everyone (yes, we mean everyone)

Welcome once again to the 53rd year of Pride around the world, and Leicester's 15th anniversary Pride. This year at our new home of Abbey Park, a fitting upgrade for a well established and much-loved event, right here in the heart of the Midlands.

We have taken all the best elements of Victoria Park and added one or two extra surprises over the event, so keep your eyes peeled.

Whilst we can't ignore the negative press we have received as a community over the last 12 months, we here at Leicester Pride want to focus on some of the positive LGBTQIA+ news in our own arena and around the world.

Five rainbow plaques will be installed across London to celebrate significant people, places, and moments in LGBTQIA+ history. The new plaques will mark:



1. Beautiful Thing

A 1996 coming-of-age film set in Thamesmead and Greenwich. The plaque will be unveiled at the Greenwich Tavern on 23 July



2. Black Lesbian and Gay Centre

The first centre established in Europe to provide advice and support to the community, in Peckham.



3. Jackie Forster

Journalist, and activist who helped found social group and long-running publication Sappho, in Westminster



4. London Lighthouse

A centre, and hospice for people with HIV and AIDS, in Ladbroke Grove



5. Section 28

Marking the first of its kind Lesbian and Gay Unit, in Haringey Civic Centre

continues on next page



WELCOME

In February, Spain passed comprehensive legislation to advance the rights of LGBTQIA+ people, including a provision allowing for legal gender recognition through a simple administrative procedure based on self-identification.

Five more countries decriminalized consensual same-sex relations, including three Caribbean states Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, and St. Kitts and Nevis.

We know we have a long journey ahead of us, but as a community we have already achieved so much. Sometimes it's difficult to see that progress when the right-wing media only cover things that negatively impact on us, but there is so much to be proud of. We know that the loudest voices are those that think they have the right to dictate our very existence, but they are all lies.

You are the truth, everything you feel, everything you are, everything you dream is true. All you have to do is stay present in what you know is right. This time will pass and living in your truth is the way to bring it about.

Our community has so much to thank our black Trans siblings for, who threw the first rocks that started the civil rights movement. The countless lesbians and CIS gendered women who looked after thousands of dying gay men during the AIDS epidemic and the incredible allies who stand with us through this trying time. These people give us visibility and context, this celebration is as much theirs as it is ours.

Rest assured that this park is your safe-space, and we are determined to move forward together as a community, as friends and as humans, trying to navigate an already complicated existence.

Stay as Proud of yourself as we are of you.

You are Loved. Happy Pride

Martyn Parker
Chairman

Craig Thorpe
Director

Simon Harrison
Event Manager



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"Inclusion at Aggregate Industries means valuing and celebrating differences and encouraging a workplace where employees feel valued and that they belong to the team and the company."

Dragan Maksimovic, CEO

"We're committed to creating a workplace that is inclusive for all. I'm delighted that we are once again able to be a Gold sponsor of Leicester Pride, the largest pride event local to our Bardonia head office, and I'm proud of the difference that this makes to our colleagues and the wider LGBTQ+ community."

Thomas Edgcumbe, Managing Director – Surfacing Solutions

"I've been amazed by how committed Aggregate Industries are to equality and fairness, ensuring that everyone is free to be their best, authentic selves at work each day. There's a real desire to create dynamic and diverse workplaces that encourage personal and professional development."

Aron Simpson-Webb, LGBTQ+ Network Lead

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NEXT

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pride ourselves in supporting our LGBTQ+ colleagues
and their allies.



ANDY SMITH



THE SATURNOS



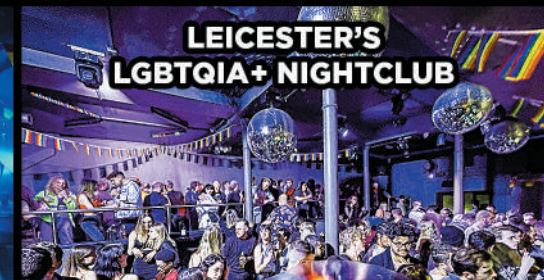
CHRIS BLACKMORE



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King's Meadow Kirby Lane,
Melton Mowbray LE14 2TS

New Lubbethorpe Tay Road,
Leicester LE19 4BF

Wigston Meadows Newton Road,
Wigston LE18 3SH

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

Beeston Quarter Technology Drive,
Beeston NG9 1LA

Fernwood Village Phoenix Way,
Newark NG24 3UA

Gateford Park Gatekeeper Way,
Worksop S81 7SS

Romans' Quarter Phase 2 Ward Road,
Bingham NG13 8GF

Romans' Quarter Phase 3 Dunsmore
Avenue, Bingham NG13 7AB

Stonebridge Fields Stonebridge Lane,
Market Warsop NG20 0DS

The Hawthorns Beck Lane,
Sutton-in-Ashfield NG17 3AH

Thoresby Vale Ollerton Road,
Edwinstowe NG21 9PS

Old Mill Farm Cordy Lane,
Brinsley NG16 5BY

Elm Tree Park Blidworth Lane,
Rainworth NG21 0HF



*Offers are on selected plots and selected developments only and are subject to change. Moving schemes cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer or scheme. *Indicative figures, based on HBF "Watt a Save" report published February 2023. +We, 'our', 'us' refers to the Barratt Developments PLC Group brands including Barratt Homes, David Wilson Homes and Barratt London. We are the only major national housebuilder to be awarded this key industry award every year since 2010. "We" refers to the Barratt Developments PLC group brands including Barratt London, Barratt Homes and David Wilson Homes. Based on HBF star rating scheme from 2010 to 2023 derived from the NHBC national new homes survey at eight weeks (<https://www.hbf.co.uk/policy/policy-and-wider-work-program/customer-satisfaction-survey/latest-results/>), over 90% of Barratt Developments PLC group customer would recommend our brands to a friend.

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DAVID WILSON HOMES
WHERE QUALITY LIVES

At Dunelm, we're proud to support and celebrate our LGBTQ+ colleagues, customers and communities all year round.

To mark Pride Month, we're excited to partner with Rainbow Mind for the second year running. Rainbow Mind is an LGBTQ+ mental health service which is led and staffed by LGBTQ+ people, and offers online 1-1 therapy, plus support groups, courses and online drop-ins for LGBTQ+ people of any age. This year, as well as partnering with Rainbow Mind, we're providing lots of practical support for our colleagues and communities such as:

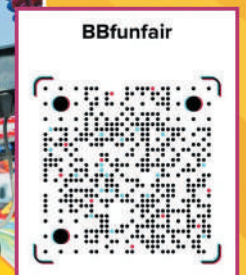
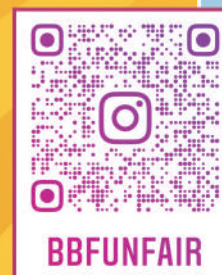
- Sponsoring the Leicester Pride event in September
- Financially supporting colleagues to attend their chosen Pride parades
 - Hosting a live Q&A session for colleagues with guest speakers, including Carl Austin-Behan OBE, focused on 'The Power of Allyship'
- Hosting a workshop for colleagues in partnership with Rainbow Mind on 'Building an Inclusive Culture'
- Sharing resources and support for colleagues, including allyship advice and myth-busting information
- Facilitating both in-person and virtual Transgender Awareness training for colleagues, provided by Mind in Somerset



It has been our pleasure to work alongside such a dedicated and hard working team over the past 15 years.

Congratulations to everyone who has contributed and helped to build Leicester Pride into the fantastic event that it is today.

***From the BB Team to the Pride Team:
Thank you and happy 15th anniversary!***





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HOME OF WALKERS



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with British Gas***



15 YEARS

15 YEARS





KEVIN NCUBE

Kevin hails from Zimbabwe where he was a broadcaster for ZBC. He had to leave for personal reasons.

He moved to Leicester and attained a masters degree at Demontfort University.

He now works as a broadcast journalist for BBC Leicester and has covered everything from Caribbean Carnival to FGM, Boko Haram and the Paris attacks.



What is your favourite thing about yourself?

What you see is what you get. I'm living my truth. I haven't always been able to be a journalist for the state broadcaster in Zimbabwe, ZBC. Journalists there are expected to be the political ruling party's official megaphone, or propaganda tools. Worse still, they are expected to be straight! The thing I like most about myself is being brave enough to flee persecution from the homophobic country because of my sexuality. I feel like a champion.

If you could tell the whole world one thing, what would it be?

Believe in peace love and understanding. Turn your wounds into wisdom and make lemonade out of lemons. Turning our wounds into wisdom means using our experiences to help others. When we've been through something difficult, we can use what we've learned to help others who are going through similar struggles.

Why do we still need Pride?

I've often used this as a mantra - WHY DO SO MANY PEOPLE CHERRY PICK BIBLE VERSES. We need Pride to stand up against indoctrination. A day where we can celebrate ourselves, where there's no prejudice, stereotyping, foolish taboos and discrimination. Going to Pride in Leicester as a refugee in 2002 was affirmation for me. I felt I belong.

What do you wish you could tell your younger self?

'Be a true version of yourself Kevin. It's okay.' Or 'It gets greater later.' I've come full circle. I used to fear being authentically me in a country where you have to act straight - where bravado is everything. Where derogatory language is used to describe people who love differently. I've grown a thick skin. I'm older, wiser, and comfortable in my skin.



15 QUESTIONS

What does community mean to you?

Community means a group of like-minded people. People who are unapologetic of being themselves. I believe in the ethos that NO MAN IS AN ISLAND...IT TAKES A VILLAGE TO RAISE A CHILD. I love that Pride is a community. I love that our allies come to Pride. Community means living in and loving a group of people with a common characteristic.

How would you describe unconditional love?

No holds barred love. A love that knows no limits. A judge free zone. Endless Love. Love no matter what. Love with no conditions.

Have you ever been mistaken for someone else?

How did it make you feel? I have been mistaken for an American soul singer whenever I rock a wig...mostly Angie Stone or Ruby Turner.

What is your favourite thing?

Swimming. I feel rejuvenated after. Lost in the water. I can dream. I feel alive in the water. I love swimming anywhere. It makes me feel brand new and brings out the inner child in me.

Describe yourself in ten words or fewer.

Loving, Family-orientated, Flirtatious, Academic, African, Dancer, Slave-to-fashion, Swimmer, Generous, Gay

If you had to describe yourself with three objects, what would they be?

Hibiscus flower, A Whitney Houston Vinyl record, Sophisticated Gold candelabra.

Which colour best describes you/which is your favourite?

RED

Do you find it easier to forgive or forget?

Forget

Are you a rain or sunshine person?

Definitely Sunshine, my favourite book is After the Rain: Gentle Reminders for Healing, Courage, and Self-Love by Alexandra Elle

Who is your Queer icon?

Sylvester, American singer-songwriter. Primarily active in the genres of disco, rhythm and blues, and soul, he was known for his flamboyant and androgynous appearance.

What quote do you live by?

"When you want something, all the universe conspires in helping you to achieve it". This is one of my favourite quotes by my favourite author, Paulo Coelho.

LINE UP

MAIN STAGE

Grand Firework Finale

DJ Robbie Lewis ft. Rebe & Kyle Shenton on Sax

Wild Boys Typically Tina

The Westenders **Ria Jones**

Hosted by **Lea Martin & Kevin Ncube**
With **Jaymi Hensley & Marty Smith**

Flick The Drag Queen

Fanny Burns The Saturnos

Joshua Taylor-Williams **Nicki Collins**

MAD Studios LGBT Choir

HELSINKI DANCE ARENA

Woody Cook Just Soriah

Andy Smith **Chris Blackmore**

Gareth Hazard

PARK MAP



Enter and exit the festival via Charter St **ONLY**. Abbey Park Rd car park is closed to the public.

A free bus service will be running throughout the day between Rainbow & Dove bar on Charles St and Abbey Park.

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Helen has been a reporter, presenter, producer with the BBC in the East Midlands for 25 years. One of her children is transgender, and she's now on a journey to find out more about the LGBT-QIA+ community, in order to help support her child and because she realises it's something she just doesn't know enough about. You can hear her journey as she co presents the BBC new series 'Time for some LGBTea'.



What is your favourite thing about yourself?

Being open, enthusiastic and interested in the world we live in.

If you could tell the whole world one thing, what would it be?

No matter where we live or what we do it's all about being kind to each other, loving each other.

Why do we still need Pride?

I first went to Pride as a straight teenager, drawn to it because it was fun and exciting. I didn't think about the greater meaning because I hadn't come across any downside to being gay at that time.

Years later I went to our local Leicester Pride as a journalist. There I met and interviewed parents of people who were there celebrating and supporting one of their children who were from the pride community. You could tell they were nervous, for many it was their first time, supporting their child, first experience of publicly being part of the big LGBTQIA+ family. I was actually moved to tears by it. At the time I'd been part of an evangelical church which was led by someone who believed it was wrong to be gay, although not everyone there believed that, but to see it being truly celebrated, and supported by people obviously of all ages, creeds, colours was so emotional.

As the straight parent of a trans child, I think we need pride events as an access point for people who don't normally come across the gay community, so they can see, feel, understand for themselves what it's all about. And to be honest that it's nothing to be scared about.

What do you wish you could tell your younger self?

To trust your intuition. To love yourself.

What does community mean to you?

It's the most important thing. It's all about other people, meeting them loving them.

How would you describe unconditional love?

Acknowledging a person has faults, not trying to change them, but trying to bring out the best in them, we all know what will make someone we love smile, and we know what will piss them off, unconditional love is bringing out the best in someone you love.

Have you ever been mistaken for someone else? How did it make you feel?

Whenever I go back to the small town I'm from I get mistaken for my Mum. We look alike, there's a 20 year age gap but she left the town 20 years ago so people often think I'm her. I've never minded it. It makes me smile to think my Mum has stayed the same age in people's minds never getting older.

What is your favourite thing?

Chocolate and sex, or sex and chocolate.

Describe yourself in ten words or fewer.

Fun, chaotic, energetic, enthusiastic, small, redhead, knows everyone.

If you had to describe yourself with three objects, what would they be?

Yoga mat, wetsuit, a wine glass

Which colour best describes you/which is your favourite?

Sky blue pink, it's a mix

Do you find it easier to forgive or forget?

Easier to forgive, one thing Christianity taught me is how good it feels to pray good things for the person who's hurt you. It releases you from that knot of anger, frustration, hurt.

Are you a rain or sunshine person?

Definitely sunshine. The only time I feel down for a few days is when I come back from a warm sunny climate to a wet cloudy England.

Who is your Queer icon?

Ceri Dupree, she's the first drag queen I remember all my straight friends getting excited to go and see, she's done everything TV, theatre and working men's clubs.

What quote do you live by?

I always tell my kids your job is to make other people's lives easier. If you can, help someone today. It's often the best way of helping yourself as well.



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