



DECEMBER 2017 Ageing Better LGBT EVENTS

Ageing Better LGBT events are social and support activities which promote wellbeing in the LGBT community.

Ageing Better LGBT events are welcoming for people who are 50 or over, and usually open to people of all ages.

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🌈 WORLD AIDS DAY EVENTS - Friday 1st December 🌈

Birmingham LGBT

As World AIDS Day approaches on 1 December, we remind ourselves of the need to continue the fight against stigma, and the importance of raising awareness about HIV.

An estimated 34 million people live with HIV globally while in the UK, around 103,000 people live with the condition. To date, over 35 million people have died from the virus making it one of the most destructive pandemics in history.

In remembrance of all those gone and in solidarity with those living with HIV, Birmingham LGBT will be hosting a FREE event at Eden Bar which will include a vigil, a buffet and a SPECIAL SCREENING of the iconic film RENT, based on the ground breaking original 1996 Broadway musical.

Guest speakers will share personal experiences and there will also be a short talk from Dr David White - one of Birmingham's longest serving HIV specialist doctors - to contextualise how far we have come in the fight against HIV and AIDS. All welcome!

Eden Bar, 116 Sherlock St, Birmingham B5 6NB, from 7pm.

Positive West Midlands

PWM will be present at the World AIDS Day vigil, outside St Philips in Birmingham, both to remember the people we have lost and those still living with HIV. It starts promptly at 7pm, so we intend to be there from 6.30pm. There will be kind words from Canon Andrew and Rev Anthony, the lovely Rainbow Voices and a minute of remembrance, plus the chance to place votive candles.

Birmingham Cathedral St Philip's, Colmore Row, B3 2QB, from 6.30pm

🌈 COMMUNITY EVENTS 🌈

Launch - Coming Out: Sexuality, Gender & Identity

Saturday 2nd December, 1pm

Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery, Chamberlain Square, Birmingham, B3 3DH

FREE for LGBT people

Partnering with SHOUT Festival of Queer Arts & Culture, this public launch will celebrate the opening of the exhibition with a vibrant and free arts afternoon.

At 1pm the exhibition will be officially opened by a very special guest, before an afternoon of performances, art sessions and tours. No need to book - just turn up!

Save the date: Birmingham LGBT Christmas Party - 25th December

More details to follow.

🎭 COMMUNITY GROUP EVENTS 🎭



Acting Out

Thursday 7th December, 7pm - 9pm

The Wellington Hotel, 72 Bristol St, Birmingham B5 7AH

FREE for LGBT people of all ages

Acting Out is an open and diverse theatre and social group, based in Birmingham. We aim to provide the LGBT community and friends with a fun, relevant and interactive theatre experience.

The group currently has around 40 full members who take part in all aspects of putting on productions, from writing scripts and directing to technical and performance.

If you would like to join us, but you're nervous about coming to the first meeting, please contact actingoutchair@gmail.com and we will arrange to meet and greet you.

Back in the new year: 4th January.



Bards & Books

Monday 4th December, from 11am

Birmingham LGBT Centre, 38-40 Holloway Circus, Birmingham B1 1EQ

FREE for LGBT + allies of all ages

The meeting will be a chance for members to bring their own writing on a theme to be decided. This month you are invited to write some prose or poetry, of no more than 500 words, that includes the phrase "That was the best Christmas ever" and bring it along. All are welcome to join us, whether you write a piece or not.

Those who wish to will be going for a Christmas meal at Wetherspoons afterwards.

Get in touch to find out more: bardsandbooks@gmail.com



Brum Bi Group

Networking Meetup: Tuesday 12th December, 7.30pm - 9pm

Birmingham LGBT Centre, 38-40 Holloway Circus, Birmingham B1 1EQ

FREE for Bi + allies from 18+

Brum Bi Group is a safe and friendly social and peer support group for people aged 18+ for anybody who fits under the bisexual umbrella, whether they identify or are questioning their sexuality/romantic life.

Brum Bi Group meets once a month on a Tuesday evening from 7.30pm until 9pm, where topics can be discussed events are planned and a general good old chin wag with bisexual pals who can relate. All over a free drink of tea or coffee. At 9pm we head to a local pub in the Birmingham Gay Village for drinks and a social.

Brum Bi Coffee *Christmas Special*: Sunday 17th December, 1.30pm - 4.30pm

Café Soya, 2 Upper Dean St, Birmingham B5 4SG

Need a bit of a break from mainstream life? Come and have a good chat and a brew at Brum Bi Coffee!

Brum Bi Coffee is a non-scene social group for bisexuals, pansexuals or those who are exploring or questioning their sexuality. We are a very easy-going social group where people can be themselves and meet new people. Brum Bi Coffee meets every 4th Sunday of the month, from 1.30 pm till 4.30 pm, at Cafe Soya.

Look out for a small purple unicorn named 'Xena' on one of the tables to find us.

You are welcome to just turn up, or contact brumbicoffeegroup@gmail.com. We are also on Meetup here: <https://www.meetup.com/Brum-Bi-Group-Meetup/>



Hidayah

Sunday 17th December, 3pm onwards

contact for venue

FREE for LGBT+ Muslims and friends

Hidayah is an organisation created to increase the representation, acceptance and equality of LGBT+ Muslims through providing a public face to the community and creating spaces to communicate. Hidayah is a social group which connects with other LGBT Muslim communities, and can signpost to other support agencies.

Hidayah would like to invite you to our Birmingham Christmas Party. This is a bring and share party - please bring food to share!

If you'd like to come along, please contact: info@HidayahLGBT.org



Illuminate

Sundays 3rd & 10th December, 5pm - 7pm

Sunday 17th December - QUEER CAROLS - 5pm - 6.30pm

Birmingham LGBT Centre, 38-40 Holloway Circus, Birmingham B1 1EQ

FREE for LGBT + allies of all ages

Illuminate is a non-religious space with no formal liturgy sacred and secular music playing. Some silence is observed in a darkened room, a discussion follows led by a group member or an informal chat in the second half.

It is a space for reflection and inspiration without a particular religious dimension.

Journey MCC'S annual Christmas event is happening this year at the Birmingham LGBT Centre, Sunday 17 December 5pm to 6.30pm. Come and join us singing Carols and making new friends.

You are welcome to just turn up, or contact Loz on lbradley1990@outlook.com for more details.



Journey Church Asylum Seekers Social

Friday 15th December, 1pm - 3pm

Birmingham LGBT Centre, 38-40 Holloway Circus, Birmingham B1 1EQ

FREE for LGBT + allies of all ages, including asylum seekers

The Journey Church Asylum Seekers Social is a support and social group for LGBT asylum seekers and LGBT friends, to be a community mixing across generations and cultures.

You are welcome to **just turn up**, or contact Maria Hughes on **0121 643 0821** or mariahughes@lgbt.org for more details.



Journey Film Club

Tuesdays 5th & 19th December, 7pm - 9pm

Birmingham LGBT Centre, 38-40 Holloway Circus, Birmingham B1 1EQ

FREE for LGBT + allies of all ages

Bringing the Silver Screen to LGBTQ Birmingham and Friends, we show the Classics to New Releases!

Journey Film Club aims to show a variety of different types of films to suit all tastes, on first and third Tuesdays of the month.

Doors open for 6.45pm for 7pm start, unless otherwise stated. Admission is free, however donations towards refreshments are welcomed.

5th December - **MOONLIGHT** - 15 - 1hr 51min

Three time periods - young adolescence, mid-teen and young adult - in the life of black-American Chiron is presented. When a child, Chiron lives with his single, crack addict mother Paula in a crime ridden neighborhood in Miami. Chiron is a shy, withdrawn child largely due to his small size and being neglected by his mother, who is more concerned about getting her fixes and satisfying her carnal needs than taking care of him. Because of these issues, Chiron is bullied, the slurs hurled at him which he doesn't understand beyond knowing that they are meant to be hurtful. Besides his same aged Cuban-American friend Kevin, Chiron is given what little guidance he has in life from neighborhood drug dealer named Juan, who can see that he is neglected, and Juan's caring girlfriend Teresa, whose home acts as a sanctuary away from the bullies and away from Paula's abuse.

19th December - **The Muppet Christmas Carol** - U - 1hr 25min

Kermit the Frog, Miss Piggy, Fozzie and the entire cast of the Muppet universe come together to re-tell Charles Dicken's immortal classic "A Christmas Carol" in their first TV appearance following the death of creator Jim Henson in 1990.

You are welcome to **just turn up**, or contact journeyfilmclub@outlook.com or visit www.journeyfilmclub.co.uk for more details.



LGBT Polska

Tuesday 19th December, 7pm - 8.30pm

Birmingham LGBT Centre, 38-40 Holloway Circus, Birmingham B1 1EQ

FREE for LGBT + allies of all ages, Polish and Polish-speaking

LGBT Polska is a social group of friendly people for Polish LGBT community and Polish speaking friends in West Midlands. Our meetings take place every fourth Tuesday of the month at 7:00 pm till 8:30 pm, followed by recreational drink at the pub. Additionally we meet at the pub - Sidewalk (Hurst Street) - every second Friday at 7:30 pm. Just pop in, find us and relax.

LGBT Polska to otwarta grupa zrzeszająca polską społeczność LGBT oraz mówiących po polsku przyjaciół w West Midlands. Nasze spotkania odbywają się w czwarty wtorek każdego miesiąca o godzinie 19:00 - 20:30, po czym rekreacyjnie wychodzimy na drinka do pubu. Dodatkowo spotykamy się w pubie Sidewalk (Hurst Street) w drugi piątek każdego miesiąca o godzinie 19:30. Po prostu przyjdź, znajdź nas i zrelaksuj się.



Pink Sou'westers: Christmas Lunch

Thursday 21st December, 12pm

Court Oak, Court Oak Road, Harborne, Birmingham B32 2EH

For LGBT + allies of all ages - MUST BOOK (£9/£11.50 per person) - see below

We had a great time last year so we are returning to the private room at the Court Oak with cosy fire and festive decor, for a two or three course festive meal with ample choices for £9 or £11.50 respectively. Santa's sack will be there again for your donated gifts to the local LGBT asylum and refugee groups. **Must book and pay in advance including ordering your meal choices*** There is a massive car park and various bus routes connect.

***Booking:** Contact Jan on jcs5005@hotmail.com or ring 07929 601 145. She will always acknowledge your booking within 48 hours; let her know if you have to cancel so we can offer your place to someone on else. For delays or cancellations on the day ring 07929 601 145.

Pink Sou'westers offer affordable, accessible, inclusive, non-scene events and activities. All LGBTs are welcome at all events regardless of age or area of residence. Pink Sou'westers social network is run by a committed group of volunteers with no paid staff.

For general information contact Lesley on swbgroup@blueyonder.co.uk or 07976 274 271.

If you are apprehensive about coming get in touch and we will do all we can to support you.



Positive West Midlands

Mondays 4th, 11th 18th December, 11am - 4pm

Fridays 1st 8th, 15th 22nd & 29th December, 11am - 4pm

Apache, 190 Corporation Street, B4 6QD

FREE for LGBT + allies of all ages

Note new times - open from 11am to 4pm.

Positive West Midlands is a support group for people living with HIV & our supporters & volunteers. Providing social support and sign-posting to other agencies.

Come along, make new friends and share experiences over free tea, coffee and biscuits.

You are welcome to just turn up, contact info@positivewestmidlands.co.uk and also visit <https://www.facebook.com/positivewestmidlands/> for more details.

Queer Women's Skill Share

Queer Women's Skill Share

Sunday 10th December, 3pm - 5pm

Birmingham LGBT, 38-40 Holloway Circus, B1 1EQ

FREE for queer women + allies of all ages

Craft events, queer history talks, reading and supporting good causes.

Fancy having a go a knitting? It's making a comeback! Rhiannon will supply wool and needles. If you have any knitting experience, it will be very welcomed.

No need to book - just turn up!

For more information, and to join the mailing list, please email midlandsqwss@gmail.com or join the Facebook group here: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/128565097819285/>



Rainbow Bridge

Drop-in: Tuesday 5th December, 11am - 1pm

Christmas party: Tuesday 12th December, 11am - 1pm

Birmingham LGBT Centre, 38-40 Holloway Circus, Birmingham B1 1EQ

FREE for LGBT + allies of all ages

Tour & Talk of 'Coming Out': Tuesday 5th December, 1pm - 3pm

Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery, Chamberlain Square, Birmingham, B3 3DH

FREE for LGBT + allies

Rainbow Bridge has been set up to bridge the gaps between lesbian, gay, bi, trans and heterosexual communities, to enable them to find out more about each other and activities, groups and services which are of interest to them.

Rainbow Bridge holds weekly networking coffee mornings to 'break the ice' so that people can meet each other and get a taste of what different community groups can offer.

So, if you've ever wanted to go to a group but felt nervous about not knowing anyone, have always wondered what is offered at Birmingham LGBT Centre but have never visited, or you are looking for a group or activity that is right for you - Rainbow Bridge is here!

We've been invited to an individual tour and talk of the 'Coming Out' exhibition at Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery, following our drop-in on 5th December; and we're holding our Christmas Party on 12th December - we'd love to see you there!

You are welcome to drop in, or contact rainbowbridge@gbt@yahoo.com for more details, or join our Facebook group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/787474638101615/>



Rainbow Spirit

Saturday 16th December, 3pm - 6pm

Birmingham LGBT Centre, 38-40 Holloway Circus, Birmingham B1 1EQ

FREE for gay men of all ages

The spirit of friendship and support - this is what is shared by Rainbow Spirit. We aim to do this by exploring our sexuality, deriving strength and support from each other in the face of continuing homophobia.

The group meets monthly, and offers a variety of activities based broadly on creativity, self-empowerment and mutual support. Our aim is to be inclusive of all ages and ethnic backgrounds, and each meeting offers time to socialise, welcome new members and enable friendships to develop. We are part of the Edward Carpenter Community, a national organisation which promotes the same aims.

The December meet up is in two parts: David W (a professional chef) will be showing us how to use chocolate to decorate cakes - and then eat them! Appropriate for the festive season!

As we come close to the shortest day and the turn of the season, we invite you to share a reading / piece of poetry or a personal experience which relates in some way to change and development in your lives. If your first language is not English, we invite you to speak in your own language.

You are welcome to just turn up. For more details, contact Jon on 07974 477206, e-mail jonghomer@hotmail.com. We are also on the Meetup website as **Birmingham Rainbow Spirit**.



TranSpectrum

TranSpectrum is a Safe Social Space for anyone who identifies under the Trans umbrella (as defined by Stonewall) - whether you are questioning your gender, don't fit in a box or don't want labels, or if you are comfortably identifying as anything other than Cisgender. A meet up for the whole gender spectrum.*

Coffee & Cake: Saturday 9th December, from 3.30pm

3 Threes Coffee Lounge, 17-19 Martineau Way, Birmingham B2 4UW

A fortnightly TranSpectrum coffee and cake meet up at the best vegan coffee and nibbles place in Birmingham!

As usual find us by looking for the Trans Flag and Phoebe the Pink Elephant.

Safe Space Social: Thursdays 14th & 21st December, from 7.30pm

The Fox, 17 Lower Essex St, Birmingham B5 6SN

A Safe Space Social in the Pool Room at the Fox. We have the space all to ourselves, access to the bar in the room, gender neutral toilets, and obviously also a Pool Table.

TranSpectrum Xmas Party: Friday 15th December, 6pm - 8.30pm

Birmingham LGBT Centre, 38-40 Holloway Circus, Birmingham B1 1EQ

We will be celebrating the festive season together in the Cafe space downstairs in the LGBT centre. Please bring food and drink (non alcoholic) with you as it will be a community contribution buffet. The event ends at 8.30pm at the LGBT centre, however we will be heading for drinks in the Gay Village afterwards and celebrating into the night.

For more information, please contact Louie on 07518 152 064, email transpectrum@outlook.com or social media:

<https://transpectrum.wordpress.com/>

<https://www.meetup.com/TranSpectrum/>

<https://www.facebook.com/TranSpectrum/>



Ageing Better works with communities to bring people together with fun social activities, and help to prevent isolation for people 50 and over. It is also about encouraging mixing of age-groups to share different life experiences.

LGBT community groups can access practical and financial support from the LGBT Hub, at Birmingham LGBT.

If you are currently running an LGBT community group, want to set up a group or simply want to find out more, please contact Maria Hughes on 0121 643 0821 or mariahughes@blgbt.org