

A tan-colored baseball cap is shown from a top-down perspective, densely decorated with various LGBTQ+ Pride-themed pins and badges. The items include:

- A red circular badge with the text "My pronouns are he/him" and the URL "scg.ac.uk/lgbt".
- A rainbow heart-shaped badge with the text "central coop".
- An oval badge with a rainbow gradient and the text "National Trust".
- A circular badge with a rainbow border and the text "KEELE PRIDE 2024".
- A silver police-style badge with a rainbow center and the text "POLICE WITH PRIDE".
- A black and white triangular patch with the word "PRIDE" and stylized figures.
- A rainbow infinity symbol pin with the text "Define 'Normal'".
- A rainbow banner-shaped pin with the text "UK PRIDE".
- A circular badge with a rainbow border and the text "SSH C SSHCHARITY.CO.UK WITH PRIDE".
- A large circular badge with a rainbow border and the text "#BE MORE HPG".
- A circular badge with a rainbow border and the text "I'M A RISK WORTH TAKING".
- A circular badge with a rainbow border and the text "SOHO".
- A circular badge with a rainbow border and the text "BEGINNING Nancy".
- A circular badge with a rainbow border and the text "S JOKE".
- A circular badge with a rainbow border and the text "Pride".
- A circular badge with a rainbow border and the text "Pride".

The cap itself has a yellow drawstring at the back. The background is plain white.

Stoke-on-Trent & North Staffordshire

THE UNICORN INN
(Meeting place in the 1920s)

THE ANTELOPE PUB THE STAGE DOOR
(Gay friendly pubs in 1940s)

first 'Gay News' listings for Stoke-on-Trent (early 1970s)
mentioned THE ANTELOPE

THE STAR INN
(from the 1970s)

————— OPPOSITE ————— 141 / ONE
Stokes first gay club
opened May 1973
(Hanley)

THE VINE
(Vine St. Hanley 1970s)

THE WAGON + HORSES

THE CONTINENTAL
BAR (Hanley)

MATE'S

THE EXCALIBUR
(1980s. Hillcrest St. Hanley)

TWENTIES
(1980s - mid 90s, Glass St. Hanley)

MONIQUES
(@ THE WOODMAN)
Hanley

THE FACTORY
(Hanley)



Our History is Important

Stoke-on-Trent is home to richly diverse communities including LGBT+ people of all ages and non-binary gender identities.

For the largest part of the 100 years since Stoke-on-Trent became a city, people have been unable to live openly with publicly acknowledged LGBT+ identities. This has meant their lives and experiences has been hidden from view and memory.

By identifying, collating and documenting this heritage for the future we celebrate and commemorate the participants, their lives, achievements and identity, ensure that the heritage is no longer at risk, and that people's lives and experiences are visible and part of the city's centenary celebrations.

In March 2025 the North Midlands LGBT+ Older Peoples Group (OLGBT+) hosted a two-day LGBT+ Memory Fair in Stoke-on-Trent.

The event started a conversation and created a space to explore and celebrate the identity and heritage of LGBT+ residents during the 100 year anniversary of the city.

Stories of love, life and loss were shared through objects, clothes, photographs and archival documents. A selection of content from these days is shown in this zine.

Would you like to take part in the project and share your memories?

Contact:

Hello@GRAINPhotographyHub.co.uk

twenties club for STOKE

■ IT was only back in July that we gave you a round-up in this column of the scene in **Stoke-on-Trent**, and yet it seems that it's 'all-change' in the **Potteries** once again.

Well-known club entrepreneur **Colin Murphy** has bought the **Twenties** disco in the **Hanley** area of the city and turned it gay. This quietly up-market venue has the



BLANCHE, CLITTY & BIG COL

HOTSPOTS

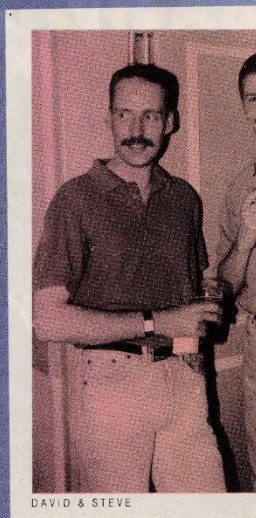
words & pictures
by bill short

capacity to hold over 700 which makes it one of the biggest gay discos in the country.

But what makes the story even more remarkable is that 'Big Col', as he is affectionately known across the North, has also bought out and closed down the **Excalibur Club**, his main opposition in Stoke. The intention is to reopen the Excalibur after a refit, as a gay fun-pub to work closely with, and thus complement the new club and disco.

This extraordinary turn of events all happened rather quickly and for a week or two rumours were rife in Stoke. In the end however, all the gossip merely served to help publicise the new club. With the added attractions of free entry and a lavish buffet there was a huge turnout for the first night of Twenties, and the evening turned out to be one of the biggest openings of the year. Clubland celebrities were out in force and not one voice of dissent was heard as everybody gave the club the thumbs up. **Bob and Ray**, former owners of the Excalibur very nobly went on stage to help open Twenties, and to say goodbye and thank you to the crowd that they can justifiably claim to have built up over the last four years.

Aided by the motorway accessibility of Stoke the Twenties should do well, especially at weekends. Colin Murphy, his partner **Foo Foo** and his manager **Lyn** are no strangers to running clubs and the fact that they own several others, albeit straight ones, is evidence enough that they have the money to finance their new venture in its early days. The club is already



DAVID & STEVE

Members' emo

STOKE PRIDE 2008

and our presence there...

This event is taking place on Saturday 9th August, on the car park on Hillcrest Street, Hanley (next to 'The Club'). Staffordshire Buddies will be there between 3—9 pm with a stall raising awareness about the Charity, and letting visitors know about volunteering opportunities with us.

So... we could do with some volunteers to stay with the stall during that time. It should be a fun event, and won't be hard work. So if you are prepared to spend a

SATURDAY 9TH AUGUST 2008 - 3PM - LATE

minimum of 1 hour on the day please contact me on 01782 628889 or the Hanley Office (01782 201251), and we can sort something out. I am prepared to go along early and set up, and David will be packing up. This will be a fun no-pressure event, with entertainment thrown in—so if you would like to know more, give me a ring.

Maureen Cuell



In loving memory of Keith Rigby Groom

I am writing to let you all know that we received a cheque for **£53,990** which was left to us by Keith Groom in his will.

I am amazed delighted and humbled by the enormity of Keith's generosity to Staffordshire Buddies; it is a wonderful bequest that I hope will be spent wisely in his lasting memory and honour.

Andrew Colclough



STAFFORDSHIRE Buddies
The HIV Charity for Staffordshire

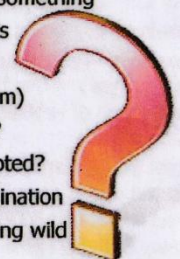
Congratulations

To Stephen Robbins and his partner Paul on their recent Civil Partnership.



Question

What would you do with something that is 8¼" (21 cm) long? Tempted? Imagination running wild



Do you see more
or less acceptance
of LGBT+ people in
society?

A stylish new *Coffee Shop* has arrived in Hanley

The Polari Lounge is a lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans social enterprise open to everyone.

Ideally located opposite the Regent Theatre, we provide a trendy but contemporary environment to have lunch, meet after work or visit on the way to the Theatre.

Menu

Selection of freshly ground Coffee & Teas from around the world. Handmade Paninis & Sandwiches with a selection of Cakes & Muffins.

Services

Pride shop, gift cards, civil partnership stationery, LGBT magazines and free internet cafe.

Open

Monday - Thursday
Friday - Saturday

11 AM - 9 PM
11 AM - 7 PM

Opening times may be extended to compliment Theatre times



Which places in Stoke-on-Trent
are important to you?



Wearing leather became a popular sub-culture within the gay community in the 1970s. **Andrew Colclough** (above) pictured here in Stoke in 1995 was a member of an MSC (a gay Motor Sports Club) popular with men into leather and bikes.

Do you have a 'Coming out in Stoke' story that you'd like to share?

Ken Scholfield (right) was born in 1935 and lived the early part of his life with his parents in Shelton. He joined the Royal Navy at the age of 16 and served for 23 years. He entered into a Civil Partnership in 2006, publicly celebrating the gay identity that he could not be open about for the entirety of his Naval career.



Keith Groom (left) was a leading campaigner who fought for gay rights when homosexual relations between men were still criminal offences. He remained an activist and advocate throughout his life until his untimely death at the age of 69 in 2007. Keith was involved in many local organisations and had a huge impact on the lives of those who knew him.

Maurice Greenham (below) - a gay man and long-term HIV and AIDS survivor with members of the **Vic Theatre Marathon team** 1984.

At the time of the photo, Maurice was already living with HIV, but didn't know he was.



North Staffordshire Pink Lobby Newsletter

Safety on Our 'Scene'

Over the last few months Community safety has become an issue for many of us out on the Scene. After a spate of incidents which have occurred towards, and within our community, the Pink Lobby asked the commercial Scene what they are doing to tackle and address 'our' safety.

Many of us believe that although we all have a responsibility to look after each other, pub and club owners have a special responsibility to ensure the safety of those who wish to have an easy and enjoyable safe night out.

The Pink Lobby asked Paul Yarwood, manager of the

Club, how the Club together with the Three Tuns was addressing and dealing with safety issues.

We have been informed that these venues have invested in four more security cameras, two of which have been added to the Three Tuns to tighten up on security. The installation of the new cameras along with other equipment means that the Three Tuns along with all areas of the Club, are now covered by closed circuit television which is recorded and can be used as evidence of an incident at a later date.

Paul also informs us that full 'bouncer' security is in place on the main nights (Wed, Fri and Sat) with other nights being scaled down due to venue areas being closed. Paul added that Club membership would also be here soon to tighten up on security further by having a

selected clientele group (see Scene News).

If you do have any worries or concerns about your safety, whether it be on the scene or possibly even in your home and you want to report an incident in confidence, please contact:

● Mike Wolfe (Community Forum/CAB) on (01782) 201234

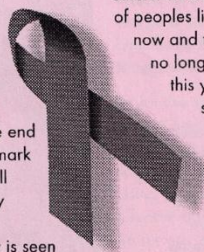
● Mark Fudge (G-Mhap - Gay Mens Health Alliance Project) on (01782) 744444

● Phil Vaughan (LGB Police Liaison Officer) on (01785) 232422

Alternatively, you can pick up an "Action on Hate Crime" leaflet/incident self-reporting form from The Piccadilly Project, CAB and various Scene Venues

Together we can tackle and stamp out crime.

This months edition sees our community involved with World AIDS Day; though the actual day is the 1st December there are many events happening at the end of this month to mark and remember all those affected by HIV and AIDS. World AIDS day is seen as a period of remembrance as well as a chance for us



all to take stock of our own lives and how we affect others. It's also a celebration of peoples lives - those alive now and those who are no longer with us. So this year, why not see what's going on and get involved. Riot with Bob, Rave on the Bus and Sing in solidarity with Maurice.

Sweating and Panting are out!

But panting enough to make you breathe more heavily than usual is definitely in!! Try Badminton, Football or Squash. See details on page 2.

Feeling good inside!
Issue 11
November 1998

Inside this issue

● Relaxation Day
22nd November

● World Aids Day
HealthCheck

● Galaxy Youth

● LGB Local History Project

● Good news for Hepatitis A vaccinations

● Safer Sex Quiz

● Club goes 'Members Only'

● Goodbye Dorothy Perkins?



The Voice of People living with HIV in Staffordshire



Positive Lives

January - February 1999

Issue 8

CONGRATULATIONS

INSIDE THIS ISSUE..

+ WORLD AIDS DAY 1998

+ Reviews

+ Personal accounts

+ Arts Page

+ Robert's Recipes

+ Complementary Therapies

+ Treatment Issues

+ HIV Forum News

and much, much more...

Positive Lives looks back at World AIDS Day 1998 and believes that all those involved should be congratulated and should give themselves and each other a resounding pat on the back. World AIDS Day is not simply a time to raise cash - it is perhaps the best opportunity in the year to raise awareness about the issues around HIV and AIDS and to challenge the prejudices and ignorance which still exist.

Events like MUSICAID and the Red Ribbon RIOT pointed out the global situation as well as informing people of the need to continue our efforts in our own community in the dangerous face of complacency. Readings of prose and poetry throughout the week allowed the feelings and changing attitudes of people living with the virus to be made public. Rehearsed readings of Larry Kramer's "The Normal Heart" allowed us to see how slowly progress has been made in the treatment of the disease and how little peoples attitudes have changed. The play also highlights the fact that 13 years after it was written there is still no cure.

However funds as well as consciousness were raised as the Red Ribbon Riot set a new record of over £3,000. With the sale of the videos this is likely to be even higher. This year's procession had a much greater visual impact and was more effective in every way. Traffic was stopped on Piccadilly permitting a more impressive display and a captive audience who not only donated money but were given leaflets, offered red ribbons and explanations about World AIDS Day. And there was a band and a group who played Labbi Siffre's song "So Strong"!

But despite the success of all these events, we did receive reports of complacency from the general public right here in Staffordshire. Some of this years volunteers experienced appalling attitudes and ignorance of the facts and issues surrounding HIV & AIDS. This issue contains accounts of both the positive and negative aspects experienced during this year's events.

Dame Burta and Paul Segynowycz, Stoke Pride, 2011



When did you first attend PRIDE in Stoke-on-Trent?



Factory Pride Fundraiser, Hanley, 2011

Maurice

(8)

The Dreaming

Elation!
No truth!
It never happened!
It was a nightmare!
We can wake up now!

There is no sexually transmitted virus
There is no condemning finger pointing
There are no bodies suffering in the world
We can mix secretions without unknown secrets
We can celebrate our sexuality
wherever, whenever, however and with whoever we want
We can experience the joys of the good old days
Man can love man can love woman can love woman
The only things being reclaimed will be rubber by
industria and fetishists
Freddie is alive. Long live Queen.

Still - on we sleep . . .

Gorden Thomas-Purdy

LGBT+ Photography and Heritage Project

A new project, launched this year, explores and celebrates the identity and histories of older LGBT+ residents of Stoke-on-Trent and the North Staffordshire area. GRAIN Projects, will be working in collaboration with the Older LGBT+ Peoples Group, and others across the city, to save, protect and share LGBT+ heritage.

Photographers and artists, including Ming de Nasty and Daniel Lyttleton, will be working with participants to create photographs, scan archival documents and record oral histories.

Amongst the outcomes will be a new LGBT+ community archive, an exhibition and a publication, that feature photography and oral histories telling the unique story of LGBT+ lives in the city, delivered during the 100th year anniversary of city status.

This unique heritage content, celebrating and commemorating the participants, their lives, achievements and identity, will be gathered throughout the project process.

The project is supported by the National Lottery Heritage Fund.

If you would like to take part, please contact;
Hello@GRAINPhotographyHub.co.uk
www.grainphotographyhub.co.uk
@GRAIN_Projects



The North Midlands LGBT+ Older People's Group

The North Midlands LGBT+ Older People's Group (OLGBT+) was formed in 2009 by older LGBT+ people in and around Stoke-on-Trent and North Staffordshire. The group became a registered charity in 2019.

We are a friendly group of local older LGBT+ people who support each other through regular meetings and social activities. Most of our physical meetings currently take place in or around Stoke-on-Trent. We also have weekly online social meetings on Zoom.

Our group provides opportunities to make new friends and to expand social networks, to seek advice and to gain health information. Our core aim is to combat isolation and loneliness and promote good mental health. We also network with other charities and community groups to promote the inclusion of older LGBT+ people in local services and our wider community.

As part of our fifteenth year celebrations, we are actively engaged in projects that explore our history and evolving LGBT+ identities.

For more information;
www.olgbtstoke.org.uk

**'More of this -
we have always
been here in the
city and always
will be.'** - Participant

**'Our history
should be
recorded and
remembered.'**
- Participant

THE CLUB
(Hanley, 1995)

MYSTIQUES
MUSIC BAR
(Hanley)

CHAPLINS
BAR
PINK (2006)
Hanley Club.

THE THREE
TRANS PUB
(1996)

POLARI CAFE
BAR
(2010-13)
Hanley

TIGER LILS
(Hanley, late 1990s)
GODIVAS BAR

GOSSIP (2014)
Hanley