

SHREWSBURY LGBT+ HISTORY FESTIVAL 2022



1st - 3rd April 2022
Festival Programme



***'Remembering the Past, Celebrating
the Present and Creating the Future'***

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



**COMMUNITY
FUND**



• www.shrewsburylgbthistory.org.uk •



01

WELCOME

02

VENUES

03

VENUE ACCESS

04

FRIDAY THE 1st

06

SATURDAY THE 2nd

10

SUNDAY THE 3rd

14

EMBRACE: THE COVENANT

16

OUR COVID PRECAUTIONS

Welcome

Welcome to the 7th Shrewsbury LGBT+ History Festival. This year we have a variety of events taking place across Shrewsbury, from presentations to book signings, showcases to live music. As always, we welcome friends and allies, as well as LGBT+ people, to come along and enjoy.

We also have a giant projection running after sunset each evening from the 1st - 3rd of April upon Shrewsbury Market Hall, courtesy of Andy McKeown & Wild Strawberry.

TICKET INFORMATION:

This year all of our events are FREE to attend, apart from our No Ordinary Evening. Tickets are £10, with optional £5 minimum for low income guests

For all events booking a ticket is essential. Tickets can be booked via our website:

www.shrewsburylgbthistory.org.uk



Venues

This year the festival is taking place across two venues within Shrewsbury, as well as the projection onto the Market Hall Building.

1. Shropshire Wildlife Trust

193 Abbey Foregate

Shrewsbury

SY2 6AH

Phone: 01743 284280

2. The Hive

5 Belmont

Shrewsbury

SY1 1TE

Phone: 01743 234970

3. Market Hall Building

Mardol Head

Shrewsbury

SY1 1HD



Please contact James (Events and Volunteers Officer) at james@lgbtsand.com or 07951 786784 if you have any access needs or questions, or if you'd like help with covering the cost of transport or parking.

Venue Access

	Arriving on foot	Arriving by car	Inside the venue
Shropshire Wildlife Trust	- 10-minute walk from Shrewsbury train station - Main entrance through Abbey Foregate Pay & Display	- Park on Abbey Foregate Pay & Display - Main entrance is via car park, just past coach park - Friday: Free parking after 6pm - Saturday: 50p per hour. Blue Badge holders get one hour extra	- Check in, and we'll direct you to Abbeygate Hall - Abbeygate Hall is on the first floor, access via stairs or lift - Wheelchair access and accessible toilets - Reserved seating near front for hearing loop users.
The Hive	- 5-min walk from Shrewsbury train station	- Very limited Pay & Display parking just outside venue - St Julian's Friars (5-min walk; free after 6pm; Sat £1.00 per hour; Sun 50p per hour; prone to flooding) - Wyle Cop NCP (5-min walk, £6 up to 4 hours) - Abbey Foregate Pay & Display (10-minute walk; free after 6pm and Sun, otherwise 50p/hour) - Frankwell Pay & Display (10-minute walk, 70p per hour)	- The Hive is all on ground level - Wheelchair access (via portable ramp) and accessible toilets

Friday the 1st

On Zoom

1.00 pm QUEER Family History

Zoom presentation with author Gill Rossini

The 'hobby' of family history is predominantly seen as the stories of people who were part of a traditional family unit, married to someone of the opposite gender, had children and lived their lives as 'normally' as possible. But what of the relatives who were attracted to same-sex partners? Like the majority, some of them also married, and buried their feelings in the bustle of everyday family life; others stayed single but abstained from relationships altogether, to 'keep safe'. A number managed to live openly and proudly as themselves, challenging the prejudices and misconceptions of the day; yet more lived their lives as honestly as they could, but behind a veil of half lies and misinformation.

This 1 hour presentation offers all genealogists, beginner to experienced, valuable insights into researching this often-neglected aspect of family history, using many real historical examples from the author's research.

Gill Rossini has been teaching family history, queer history and women's history in the post 18 sector since 1988 and has a wealth of experience to draw on which she will share with her audience.



Friday the 1st

Arrivals from 6.30pm - Shropshire Wildlife Trust

6.45pm **Launch Night**

Enjoy a short film premiere, a first public screening of SAND's historical look at '70 years through LGBT+ eyes', statements of support from local organisations and a sneak preview of the festival weekend, washed down with canapes from STOP! Café and wine. A great opening night is in store.



Saturday the 2nd

Arrivals from 10.15am - Shropshire Wildlife Trust

10.30 am

Shropshire Lesbian & Gay
Switchboard, 1977-2002



Presentation with Daisy Haywood & Peter Roscoe

Ran from volunteers' spare rooms, and with little support or training, the Shropshire Switchboard is a story of mutual aid in the face of misinformation, prejudice and struggle. Volunteers took calls from young gay people looking for safe spaces to meet; from wives, mothers, husbands and fathers who hid their true sexuality from their families;

and gay men who sought sexual health advice during the HIV AIDS crisis.

This event will present the findings of a year-long research and oral history project on the Shropshire Lesbian and Gay Switchboard, and will feature archive material and extracts from interviews conducted with former volunteers of the Switchboard. The Presentation will enable a discussion about what life was like as a gay man or woman on the frontline of Shropshire's LGBT community during the 1970s, 80s and 90s and how Switchboard's volunteers played their part in giving support to individual LGBT+ people and the need for change.

Sponsored by Border Women: The network for lesbian and bisexual women on the English-Welsh border.

ADVERTISEMENT

The Shropshire Gay & Bisexual Men's Health Project

- We are funded by Shropshire Health Authority to promote health and advice to gay and bisexual men in Shropshire
- The health project employs two gay men to provide confidential, free, advice and outreach to places in Shropshire where men meet to have sex with men
- We also fund a counselling coffee shop in Shropshire, produce a newsletter, supply free condoms & lube and employ part-time and volunteer workers

For more info, about the work of the health project, to arrange a meeting, to talk about any health issue covering you please phone:

01743 344 179

ALL CALLS ARE CONFIDENTIAL

If you are

- ... gay or bisexual or you have sex with other men?
- ... worried about HIV AIDS or other sexually transmitted diseases?
- ... not sure what's safer sex or you need to know how to be a partner?

If you want

- ... free condoms & lubricants we provide extra strong condoms & lubricants for buying one with other men.
- ... to find out what is safer sex we provide explicit information on exactly what you can do while enjoying safer sex.
- ... info on sexual health we provide easy to understand leaflets & information written by and for gay and bisexual men.
- ... to talk it over with another gay or bisexual man then maybe we've got what you want

SHROPSHIRE Lesbian Gay & Bisexual HELPLINE

A Confidential Service For Shropshire & Mid Wales

01743 23 23 93

Or write to: P.O. Box 41 Wellington Telford TF1 1ST



Saturday the 2nd

Arrivals from 11.45am - Shropshire Wildlife Trust

12.00 pm

50 years since the first
Gay Pride March

Presentation with Andrew Lumsden

Where are we today with Pride and Pride marches? Well, London is struggling to emerge from the militarisation of its main Pride event in 2019.

During the event, an armaments company was allowed a mobile cinema, advertising warplanes being sold to the Saudis for deployment against civilians in the Yemen.



This year, two entirely demilitarised central London Pride parades will take place on 1 & 2 July, and there'll be local Pride events with all the fun of a fair. The concept of Queer Pride flourishes even where new governments have been seeking to pedal back into enforcing shame. One example is Poland, whose government is self-harming with assaults on its own judiciary, on women's reproductive rights, and on LGBT+ people. Polish cities, together with allies from other countries, will hold Pride events throughout this spring, summer and autumn. Ever since two students brought the Gay Liberation Front from New York to London - and therefore to Europe - in 1970, the core principle of Pride survives. The first Pride March in Europe was in central London on 1 July 1972 from Trafalgar Square to Speakers Corner. Andrew Lumsden was there....

Photo Credit: Peter Tatchell Foundation

Saturday the 2nd

Arrivals from 2.30pm - The Hive

3.00 pm Young People's Showcase

Schools confirmed so far: Shrewsbury Academy, Priory School, Mary Webb School, Shrewsbury Colleges Group, The Marches, Bishops Castle College, Meole Brace.

Schools will be sharing all the amazing things they do to support LGBTQ+ young people plus what they did to celebrate history month in February. The session will hopefully end with a dance performance from Shrewsbury Academy that everyone can join in on!

This year's Young People's Showcase is Coordinated by Lucy Frederick at Shrewsbury Academy and sponsored by Amana Lettings & Property Management.

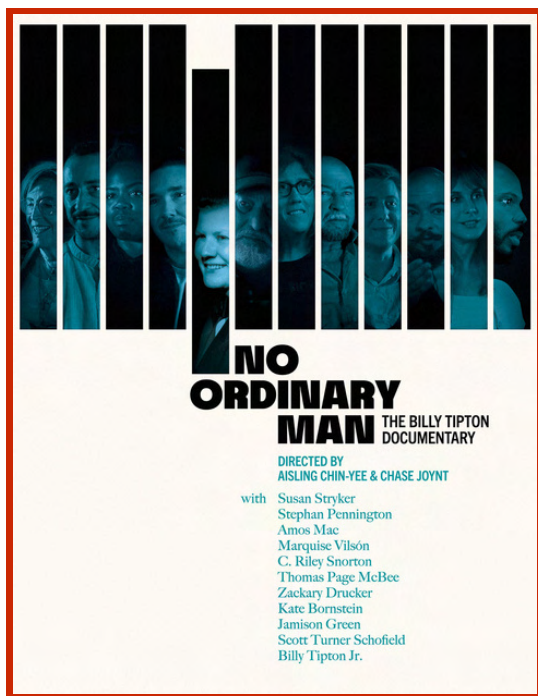


Saturday the 2nd

Arrivals from 6.30pm - The Hive

7.00 pm

No Ordinary Evening



7.00pm

Singer Zoe Hanna May sets the scene for the evening - grab your complementary glass of fizz, find your seat and make yourself comfortable.

7.30pm

No Ordinary Man (1hr 23 mins)

No Ordinary Man is an in-depth look at the life of musician and trans culture icon Billy Tipton. Complicated, beautiful and historically unrivaled, this groundbreaking film shows what is possible when a community collaborates to honour the legacy of an unlikely hero.

9.00pm

Discussion led by Helen Sandler: programmer and compere at Aberration, who previously ran the York Lesbian Arts Festival, compered at London's Bar Wotever and worked for Diva magazine, as well as being a writer of fiction and poetry.

9.30pm

Singer Zoe Hanna May rounds off our evening with some soft sounds that Billy Tipton may well have liked.

Sunday the 3rd

Arrivals from 11.00am - The Hive

11.30 am Creu Cranogwen/Creating Cranogwen

Presentation with Jane Hoy

Victorian mariner, temperance campaigner, poet and women-loving-woman, hear about Sarah Jane Rees (1839-1916), also known by her bardic name Cranogwen.

In her lifetime Sarah Jane Rees was considered a force to be reckoned with, well known throughout Wales for her forthright views on women. 'Gender difference is nothing' was a term she often used. She believed that women should do whatever they wanted.

In 2018, Cranogwen was chosen as one of the top five women in Welsh history. This led to a revival of interest in her life and a team of women in her home village of Llangrannog have successfully fundraised to immortalise Cranogwen through the creation of her statue.



Sunday the 3rd



Penguin
Books

Arrivals from 1.30pm - The Hive

2.00 pm

Writing Ourselves
Back into History

... or, Why we still need queer historical fiction

Talk & Book Signing with Jay Taverner

Jay Taverner is the author of three linked novels - *Rebellion*, *Hearts & Minds* and *Liberty* - spanning the eighteenth century, and a millennial spin-off, *Something Wicked*.

The novels are the creation of not one but two people: Jacky Bratton and Jane Traies, writing together as Jay Taverner. Jacky lives in West Sussex with her partner and an elderly cat; she also publishes academic works on the history of theatre.



Jane is an oral historian who has edited two books of lesbian life stories and lives near Brighton. The inspiration for the Brynsquilver stories came from a deserted cottage that they came across many years ago, and from their shared interest in writing woman-loving-women back into history.

Although the stories stretch across space and time, they all have a connection to Brynsquilver, an ancient cottage in the Shropshire countryside close to the Welsh border.

This event is sponsored by Penguin Books.

Sunday the 3rd

The Hive

4.00 pm It's a Wrap!

In 2020, SAND was invited by MediaActive and Arts Alive to take part in a project to engage older LGBT+ people in 'Creative Conversations' on the topic of 'a message to my younger self'. The idea was to create an artistic 'something' (!), working with local artist Dea Paradisos and technician Richard Benjamin. The resultant film is fun, interesting and has attracted really positive feedback.

Spurred on by this, MediaActive invited SAND to work on a second project - this time with an intergenerational LGBT+ group discussing clips of old films portraying LGBT+ people. This new film will premiere at this event.

While we are in film mode - and to accompany tea and cake - you are also invited to sit back and view the new short film from SAND which pulls some highlights from the last seven years - a bit of a 'History of Shrewsbury LGBT+ History Festival'. This premiered at Launch Night 2022.

Sit back, relax, enjoy!





OTIUM STAYS

Short Stays & Relaxing Getaways

Modern & Luxury stays in Cheshire

Rooms, Apartments & Houses

From £44 per a night



otiumstays.co.uk



@otiumstays



AMANA

LETTINGS AND PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

Known for **raising the bar** when it comes to HMO, co-living and residential property management

24 hour service, 365 days a year

Latest and Innovative Systems

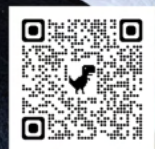
Stress Free and Reliable Property Management Service

01270 699100

amanalettings.co.uk



@amanalettings



The Covenant

*Pledges made by groups and organisations to EMBRACE
A Culture of Inclusion*



"How would I know that I would feel safe and comfortable approaching your organisation for support, advice or a service?"

As part of SAND's Campaign to EMBRACE A Culture of Inclusion, we are encouraging health & social care providers and other organisations, groups and services which LGBT+ people may need or want to access as they age – to make 'pledges' in the form of a Covenant.

These 'pledges' are practical actions to ensure their service is welcoming and inclusive.



Early Adopters:

- Citizen's Advice Shropshire
- AgeUK Shropshire Telford & Wrekin
- Wrekin Housing

Find out more:

www.lgbtsand.com/projects/embrace/covenant/

Contact: sue@lgbtsand.com

SAND is already in conversation with:

- Shropshire Council Adult Social Care
- Shropshire's Integrated Care System People Team
- Shropshire Partners in Care
- Severn Hospice
- Midlands Partnership Foundation (MH) Trust



**COMMUNITY
FUND**

MAKING IT GREEN: A PATHWAY TO ECO-FRIENDLY ART

£25 per workshop / £80 for the full course of 4 sessions / All sessions will run 1.30pm - 4pm

THE CREATIVITY VS. DESTRUCTION PARADOX

Friday 6 May

An introduction to going green with your art. Special focus on: Land Art and reducing, reusing and recycling.

EMBRACING IMPERMANENCE

Friday 20 May

A study of temporary art forms that challenge our materialistic lives. Special focus on: Installation Art and Performance Art.

WORKING WITH NATURE'S RICHES

Friday 13 May

Deep dive into natural mediums. Special focus on: Using organic materials from the natural world.

BEYOND MATERIAL PRODUCTION

Friday 27 May

An exploration of new technologies and their relative environmental impacts. Special focus on: Digital Art, video, and photography.

Ages
16+

THE HIVE

Book online at: hiveonline.org.uk



Pengwern
Books

SHREWSBURY'S
INDEPENDENT BOOKSHOP

01743 232236

www.pengwernbooks.co.uk

Fish St, Shrewsbury SY1 1UR



Creative Conversations with SAND



a
short film
by

Dea Paradisos
and
Richard Benjamin

creative-conversations.co.uk
project website goes live 1st April 2022



SHREWSBURY
LGBT HISTORY

To book tickets to an event please visit:
www.shrewsburylgbthistory.org.uk

OUR COVID-19 PRECAUTIONS

As we go to print with our festival programme, COVID-related restrictions are being lifted in England. However, we do understand that this does not necessarily mean we are out of the woods and many of us still feel uncertain, and unused to being in public spaces or going to events.

With this in mind, we aim to ensure that our events feel both safe and welcoming and, for those of you who just do not yet feel comfortable out and about, we have scheduled one live Zoom event to get us going, at 1pm on Friday.

Everything else will take place at one of two venues – either at Shropshire Wildlife Trust or at The Hive. Both are local charities which have weathered the storm of Covid and are delighted to welcome us for the 2022 festival.



If you have symptoms or test positive for Covid please do not attend



We will not aim to fill either venue to capacity for any event



We will have volunteer stewards on hand to help you find what you need



We will air rooms in advance of events



We will provide hand sanitiser



We recognise that masks are a personal choice to be respected



Reach 

Reach offers support to our older LGBT+ community through telephone companionship

We provide older LGBT+ people with a regular, confidential phone call from a friendly volunteer.

You choose what you would like to talk about. We have someone who will listen.

In partnership with:

sand 
Safe Ageing No Discrimination LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, TRANS


Herefordshire
& Worcestershire
ageUK

For more information please call

01743 233 123

email enquiries@ageukstw.org.uk

or visit ageukshropshireandtelford.org.uk

Age UK Shropshire Telford & Wrekin is a charitable company limited by guarantee and registered in England and Wales
Registered Charity Number: 1090445
Company Number: 4292896
Registered office is 3 Mardol Gardens, Shrewsbury Shropshire SY1 1PR

COMING UP...



Dates for your diary

In The Café - Get together with a theme

At Palmers Café in Shrewsbury on the fourth Wednesday of the month 2 – 4pm, including 23rd March, 27th April and 25th May

A chance to chat, share information and talk about things that affect LGBT+ people as we age. Come along for a warm welcome and interesting conversations.

Contact fran@lgbtsand.com or call 01734 590023 to find out more.

Legal Surgeries for LGBT+ People in Shropshire

Taking place on the third Tuesday of the the month 2-4pm, including 15th March, 19th April and 17th May

Appointments can be held face-to-face (SAND office) or via Zoom

SAND's latest partnership with Lanyon Bowdler Solicitors.

Free, twenty-minute, one-to-one sessions. Experts from Lanyon Bowdler's Private Client team are able to answer your questions about legal matters.

To book an appointment contact: james@lgbtsand.com

.....

To find out about future SAND events sign up to our monthly newsletter please email: trudy@lgbtsand.com