

# Barnsley Pride

**Introduction**

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# Where we have come from

Barnsley Pride debuted in 2009, within the Barnsley town venue, Chicago Rock on Pall Mall, as part of Camp Rock Barnsley's LGBTQIA+ inclusion programme, with original drag hosts Gina Tina and Tess Tickle.

Since then Barnsley Pride has had many hosts in the town centre as it grew, to facilitate the growing LGBTQIA+ community it promoted. - May Day Green, Peel Street, Eldon Street and Wellington Street to name a few.



**Pictured** Tess Tickle (left), Gina Tina (right)



Pictured Dua Lipa Tribute | Barnsley Pride 2019 at Wellington Street, Barnsley

The recent journey of Barnsley Pride from 2017 to recent, initially hosted at Project on Wellington Street after 2 prides picked up momentum, and quickly gained support from Barnsley Council and by 2019 was granted road closures to move to a bigger space, with plans to develop for the following year we were hit with the cancellation for 2 years due to the pandemic.

After a 2 year break, the team got back to work with new plans, and strived to bring back pride to Barnsley. After creating strong links with Barnsley Council and The Barnsley Civic, pride was brought to Mandela Gardens in 2022. We took feedback on creating a space for families, and space for over 18's separately, and our second stage at The Garrison was born.



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Pictured Ellie Etoile's Burlesque | Barnsley Pride 2024 at Mandela Gardens

Due to being in the immediate vicinity of Mandela Gardens, in the last 3 years we have made strong, lasting connections with Barnsley Council, Barnsley Civic and The Garrison.

Having these connections enables us to grow, provide and plan an entertainment and activities programme designed to welcome all age ranges, and accessible to all.



**Pictured** Stephanie Hirst | Barnsley Pride 2024 at The Garrison, Barnsley

# Our vision

## Barnsley Pride

Our vision for Barnsley Pride is to ensure that the entertainment reflects the community it initially brings together. It also strives and continues to promote, encourage and raise the visibility of the LGBTQ+ community in Barnsley.

## The LGBTQ+ Community

Through advocacy, education and community building, we strive to create a society where everyone's identity is respected and celebrated, where all LGBTQ+ individuals are treated with dignity and inclusion is 'the norm'.

# Our values

- to create safe, joyous and inclusive spaces for LGBTQ+ individuals and communities
- to encompass 'community' in everything we do
- to empower individuals and communities to create change in their own community
- to celebrate visibility of LGBTQ+ individuals & communities and challenge inequality

# Why do we have pride?

Pride is about acceptance, equality, and celebrating the work of LGBTQIA+ people, education in LGBTQ+ history, and raising awareness of issues affecting the LGBTQ+ community.

You may be right in thinking pride is a celebration of the various LGBTQ+ rights that are now protected by UK law. But, it's also a protest against those that are still yet to be passed by law, and in solidarity for those people around the world, who can still be given a long prison sentence for just wanting to be their true authentic self.

That being said, in the UK in recent years, progress has stalled. Hate has risen – online, on our streets and in public. And it's having a real impact on our lives, creating an environment where we're increasingly isolated as we think twice about how we dress, where we go, and even something as simple and human as whether we can hold our partner's hand.



# We're not just a one day fling...

For 2024/25, we will be launching our new 'bit on the side' and breaking out in to the community.

Being LGBTQ+ is 365 days a year, so why, we ask, isn't Barnsley Pride? We will be providing an online safe space for individuals, businesses and organisations to connect, share, create and help build a stronger LGBTQ+ community.

Alongside planning Barnsley's annual pride event, we will work to put together a programme of events and activities, that appeal to all ages, identities and disabilities throughout the year working in partnership with local communities.

Events such as **Drag Story Hour** in partnership with Barnsley Libraries for LGBTQ+ and ally families with children. **The Big Queer Prom** to promote 'love is love' and offer an opportunity for all to attend their ideal prom without prejudice and **Pride on Tour**, coach trips to other Pride events to combat isolation.





Pride in the Community will give us the opportunity to work closer with our own LGBTQ+ community year round.

In brief, we strive to;

- Facilitate training in areas of LGBTQ+ awareness and ED&I
- Promote hate crime awareness in partnership with South Yorkshire Police
- Create and promote a database of LGBTQ+ social groups, support services and signposting
- To be the go-to 'hub' for LGBTQ+ services and advice in Barnsley
- Work with Barnsley Council to promote inclusion in town centre events by Barnsley Pride taking part in Bright Nights for example
- Organise monthly and quarterly social events
- To create a self delivered workshop that highlights LGBTQ+ issues for the public and private sector
- Launch and run at least 1 social activity depending on need
- Work in partnership with digital media services to report on local and national LGBTQ+ issues
- To identify and work with areas of the LGBTQ+ community, which are unrepresented and/or isolated such a BAME
- To provide advice and guidance for businesses wanting sucess in The Stonewall Champions programme



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**Equality.**

**Inclusion.**

**Visibility.**

**Barnsley Pride**



