

THE ORIGINAL GUIDE TO LEEDS • FOR PEOPLE WHO ARE PASSIONATE ABOUT OUR CITY

FREE

City Dweller

Leeds Guide

leedscitymagazine.co.uk

EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEWS • MARCO PIERRE WHITE • STEPHANIE HIRST • ROBBIE ROGERS • AND LOADS MORE

Issue 123

Cover Model:

HEATHER
SMALL



MARCO PIERRE WHITE



STEPHANIE HIRST



ROBBIE ROGERS

LEEDS PRIDE SPECIAL • EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THIS YEAR'S EVENT

THE NEW CON ACOUSTIC SUMMER BATTLE 2017

HEATS: Thursday 29th of June · Thursday 6th of July · Thursday 13th of July

FINAL: Thursday 20th of July

FIRST PRIZE: Play the main stage in front of 30,000 people at Leeds Pride 2017

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A photograph of three people playing poker at a green felt table in a casino. A man on the left is shouting with excitement, holding a glass of beer. A man in the middle is smiling and clenching his fist. A woman on the right is smiling and looking at her cards. The background is a dimly lit casino floor with other people and slot machines.

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CITY DWELLER MAGAZINE'S LEEDS PRIDE SPECIAL

**AS OUR CITY PREPARES TO CELEBRATE OUR DIVERSITY, WE'VE GOT EVERYTHING
YOU COULD NEED TO KNOW FOR THE EVENT COVERED**

With Leeds' annual celebration of LGBT+ Pride just around the corner, on the 5th and 6th August, we're celebrating its enormous impact on our community.

As Yorkshire's biggest celebration of LGBT+ life, and the largest completely free Pride in the UK, it's no surprise that the city unites for Leeds Pride weekend. With the support of the businesses in the city, the economic impact of Leeds Pride is estimated at over £3 million as over 40,000 people attend the events over the weekend.

In this issue, we've got everything you need

to know ahead of the celebrations on the 5th and 6th August. If you're visiting the city then we've rounded up three of our favourite hotels for you to stay in, with each offering their own unique perks. Whether you want to be in the heart of the action at Malmaison Hotel or the Cosmopolitan Hotel, or if you want to be a little further out relaxing in the comfort of the new ibis Styles hotel in the Merrion Centre, we've got you covered.

We've also got several wonderful messages of support from the biggest venues in the city, including from Brewery Wharf, the Merrion Centre

and Leeds Markets.

If you're just looking for venues to attend on the day then we've rounded up some of the best offers on over the Leeds Pride weekend, including at Revolución De Cuba. We've previewed some of our favourite artists who will be performing as part of Leeds Pride too, including Paul Stone, Blonde Electra and our cover star Heather Small!

City Dweller Magazine are also finding out what Leeds Pride means to the characters of the city. We've caught up with famous LGBT+ figures and other senior figures in the city, from Radio DJ

Stephanie Hirst to former Leeds United footballer Robbie Rogers, to find out what Leeds Pride means to them and more. You can see a selection of their quotes to your right and you can read the full interviews in this magazine.

As always, we've also got plenty more for you in this issue! Including fitness tips, a round up of what's on in Leeds, business advice and so much more.

*Have a Fantastic
Pride!*

**TO KEEP UP TO DATE WITH LEEDS PRIDE, HEAD TO:
WWW.LEEDSPRIDE.COM**



'LEEDS PRIDE IS ABOUT CELEBRATING LIFE AND LOVE AND SPREADING HOPE THAT THINGS ARE GETTING BETTER.'

**ALEXANDRA MCEWAN-HANNANT,
LEEDS PRIDE
DIRECTOR**



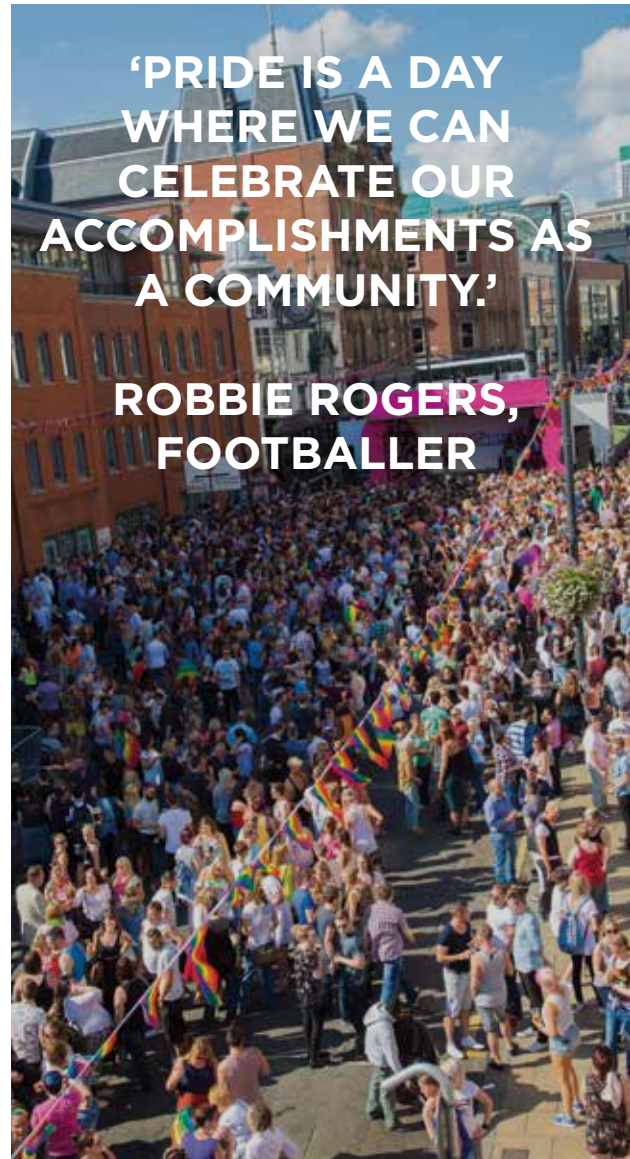
'LEEDS PRIDE IS A GREAT WAY FOR THE WHOLE CITY TO COME TOGETHER TO CELEBRATE LGBT RIGHTS IN THE UK.'

**LIAQAT ALI,
LEEDS PRIDE DIRECTOR**



'LEEDS PRIDE IS ABOUT LIVING LIFE WITH NO FILTER AND BEING YOUR TRUE, AUTHENTIC SELF.'

**STEPHANIE HIRST,
RADIO DJ**



'PRIDE IS A DAY WHERE WE CAN CELEBRATE OUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS AS A COMMUNITY.'

**ROBBIE ROGERS,
FOOTBALLER**



'PRIDE EVENTS ARE AN OPPORTUNITY FOR US TO BE GRATEFUL FOR WHAT WE HAVE, TO JUST ENJOY OUR LIVES AND BE OURSELVES.'

**OWAIN WYN EVANS,
BBC WEATHERMAN**

**TO KEEP UP TO DATE WITH MORE EVENTS IN LEEDS, HEAD TO:
WWW.LEEDSCITYMAGAZINE.CO.UK**



MAKE LEEDS PRIDE 2017 THE BEST ONE YET WITH REVOLUCIÓN DE CUBA

**FROM COCKTAILS TO COFFEE,
TAPAS TO TACOS, THEY OFFER
SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE THIS
LEEDS PRIDE**

As Leeds Pride accommodates people of all ages and backgrounds, everyone celebrates the weekend in a different way! However Revolución De Cuba will satisfy your needs, whatever you're looking for.

The authentic Cuban bar, found on the corner between Lower Briggate and Call Lane, offers everything you could possibly want. From cocktails to coffee, tapas to tacos, they offer something for everyone.

For a kick off, their offers on the day of the parade take some beating! Their Havana Great Time deal on Sunday 6th August offers 2-4-1 tapas, cocktails and coffees all day long! So whether you are looking for a delicious meal to start the day off, some delicious cocktails (their cocktail menu include an unrivalled range of rum cocktails) so you can properly celebrate or somewhere to relax with a coffee and your family while watching the parade, they've got the perfect venue for you.

On the Saturday and Sunday mornings, they'll also be offering Bottomless Brunch up to 1pm! For just £25, you get one brunch dish and unlimited drinks for a 2 hour time period! So whether you fancy treating yourself to a few glasses of prosecco, or a few Bloody Marys to kick the day off,

they've got you covered.

If you're the sort of person who likes to make it a week long event, celebrating by attending their fringe festival events and enjoying everything Leeds has to offer in the days leading up to the event then they've got lots of reasons to attend. Their Happy Hour stretches from 3pm till 7pm and offers 2-4-1 cocktails, £3 pints and more! Plus they have live entertainment, including authentic Cuban music, most nights! This includes their Salsa Social which offers a free beginners class of salsa at 6.30pm every Tuesday.

With all of this in mind, Revolución De Cuba are the perfect venue to visit during this year's Leeds Pride. They offer everything from fun for all the family to never ending cocktails! What more could you ever want?

FACT BOX

Location:

In the heart of the action
64 - 68 Call Lane
LS1 6DT

t: 0113 350 6556

w: www.revoluciondecuba.com/bar/leeds/

fb: [fb.com/decubaleeds](https://www.facebook.com/decubaleeds)

t: @revdecubaleeds

Opening Times:

Mon - Wed 11.30am - 2am

Thu & Fri 11.30am - 3am

Sat 10:30am - 3am

Sun 10am - 2am



CELEBRATE LEEDS PRIDE IN STYLE AT COSMOPOLITAN HOTEL LEEDS

IF YOU'RE AFTER THE PERFECT LOCATION FOR LEEDS PRIDE THEN THE COSMOPOLITAN HOTEL IN LEEDS HAVE GOT WHAT YOU'RE LOOKING FOR

To truly take part in the Leeds Pride celebrations, you need a comfortable hotel to stay in, a lively bar to offer a range of incredible drinks and a venue with a true party atmosphere. The Cosmopolitan Hotel offers all of this.

The hotel has over 80 luxurious bedrooms, offering the right blend of comfort and class, all equipped with televisions, free WIFI and more. The rooms are a delightful combination of traditional and contemporary designs that will satisfy all guests, whether they're coming for business or pleasure.

Located on the thriving Lower Briggate, which is right in the heart of the

action during the Leeds Pride weekend, they offer everything from drink deals during the activities on the Sunday to hosting fringe events in the build up.

These fringe events include the famous Leeds First Friday Event on the 4th August, fitness classes on the 5th August as part of the Leeds Pride LGBT Sport Fringe Festival, an LGBT Faith Event on the morning of the 6th August and the Leeds Lesbian Social night on the evening of the 6th August. These are held in their various function rooms that they've allowed the council and community groups to use free of charge as part of their commitment to celebrating Leeds Pride! To find out more information about the events, get in touch with

them using the details in the fact box.

But if you've ever had the pleasure of drinking at the Cosmopolitan, you'll know that their cocktail selection really differentiates them from the rest. If you've never tried their cocktails before, this year's Leeds Pride is the perfect chance to! They'll be conjuring up a range of classic cocktails, served in authentic plastic cups so you can take them outside to join in the parade of the parties on Lower Briggate, and they're offering a fantastic deal. It's just £6 for a cocktail or two for £10! What more could you ask for?

So if you're looking to celebrate Leeds Pride in style in one of the best

locations in the city, the Cosmopolitan Hotel is exactly what you're looking for! Why not get in touch with them using the fact box and reserve your room?

FACT BOX

Telephone: 0113 243 6454

Location:
In the heart of the action
2 Lower Briggate
Leeds, West Yorkshire
LS1 4AE

Website:
www.cosmopolitan-hotel-leeds.com

Email:
info@cosmopolitan-hotel-leeds.com

Social Media:
[@CosmoLeeds](https://www.facebook.com/CosmoLeeds)
[www.fb.com/cosmopolitanhotelleeds](https://www.facebook.com/cosmopolitanhotelleeds)

**"I WAS WILLING TO LOSE
EVERYTHING
TO BE MYSELF"**



AN EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW WITH RADIO DJ STEPHANIE HIRST

With over 11 years hosting Capital FM's Breakfast Show 'Hirsty's Daily Dose', Stephanie Hirst is one of the biggest radio stars in the country.

After starting her career aged 12, she has had a hugely successful career, winning a grand total of 14 awards for her work in radio.

Stephanie Hirst also revealed that she was transgender in 2014. Since then, she has become a huge influential figure in the LGBT community, aiming to help other people in similar positions as her.

City Dweller Magazine met her to find out what she's up to now and to hear her thoughts on Leeds Pride 2017.

After originally making your name on Yorkshire's radio stations, including Capital FM and Radio Aire, where you started your career at the early age of 12, what are you up to now?

Oh I work at Burger King! *Laughs*.

Sorry, that was too easy! It's actually three years to the day that I finished at Capital FM and now, I do a weekly show on BBC Radio Manchester,

which is all vinyl. Even though I do love new music, I do love some of the older stuff. (Capital FM DJ) JoJo once said to me, "there's two types of music; good music and bad music" and it doesn't matter what genre it's from because if a song is good then it's good!

I literally play anything from the late 50s to the late 90s and everything is played live from vinyl. I have a collection of about 25,000 singles and albums so even if someone asks for a recommendation, I can just go get the record and stick it on. It's the only show like it in the country.

Also, randomly I've started DJing in my kitchen on Facebook and it's gone nuts. I was doing a gig in Wakefield one weekend and I set my DJ stuff up beforehand to go through some new tunes. Anyways I started DJing and streaming it on Facebook Live and all of a sudden, there was 3000 people watching! I thought it was interesting so I've kept doing it... one week about 170,000 people were watching and I just went 'oh my god'.

I'm also doing some national radio in the summer... but I can't talk about that yet! I also speak at schools, work with businesses and that sort of

stuff. A lot of businesses get me to come in and talk to their staff as a motivational speaker.

You see I was at a point in my life where I was hosting the biggest breakfast show outside of London, along with the national chart show on a Sunday, this brought in lots of money, enough to buy an Aston Martin and all the fine trappings in life but it meant nothing. If you're not truly happy in yourself then what's the point in having any of that?

So I blew it all up. In my eyes, I was willing to lose everything to be myself.

Of course. So after going through gender reassignment treatment in 2014 you've been hugely involved in the promotion of LGBT rights. Can you tell us a bit about that?

I knew when I came out publicly that I had a responsibility, I had responsibility to show the public that trans people aren't freaks and weirdos. Basically, our brains form opposite to what we come out looking like, thus we grow up with a disparity between our mind and our body and that's all it is. I knew as early as 5 years old that I wasn't a boy! Explaining

that to the public is hugely satisfying, because it educates. When people have said to me that they don't get it, I just say 'you're not meant to get it'.

If you've got a chronic back pain then I've got no idea how that feels but I can empathise with it and I can accept it; it's all about acceptance. Every single one of us on this planet is born with the ability to accept things so why don't we just use it for the greater good? You're not meant to get it, you've just got to understand it.

In this issue of City Dweller Magazine, we're celebrating Leeds Pride 2017. Can you tell us what Leeds Pride means to you?

It's huge! I'd seen London Pride and Manchester Pride grow over the the years but last year, I was on Leeds City Council's open top bus and to be there and to see people from all walks of life clapping, cheering and waving flags was wonderful. Leeds Pride is about living life with no filter and being your true, authentic self.

You can hear Stephanie Hirst on BBC Radio Manchester, her show is available on the BBC iPlayer.

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CITY DWELLER MAGAZINE MEET YORKSHIRE'S FAVOURITE WEATHERMAN

WE CAUGHT UP WITH EVERYONE'S FAVOURITE FLAMBOYANT TV PRESENTER OWAIN WYN EVANS TO FIND OUT ABOUT HIS CAREER AND WHAT LEEDS PRIDE MEANS TO HIM

Most of our readers will know you as the weather presenter for Look North in Leeds! Can you tell us a bit about your career before moving to Leeds?

I used to be a weather presenter and a journalist in Wales before becoming a weather producer in London but I've been working in Leeds for two years now, I'm moving up soon and I just absolutely love the city so I'm going to make it my home.

One of the great things about this job is that the weather affects everybody! Everyone wants to know what the weather is doing which means I get to be on TV and I get to really talk to my viewers and my listeners about my job, which is basically forecasting the weather!

If somebody wanted to follow in your footsteps,

what advice would you give them?

It sounds so cheesy and really predictable but just be yourself! I have a flamboyant personality and I'm unapologetic about it; I feel that's really worked for me. In the past I've been told to be less camp but I just think you've got to be yourself.

I think a lot of people also think weathermen are given a script but that's not the case, you've got to analyse the forecasts and really understand them.

You're obviously a really busy guy, how do you switch off away from work?

One of things I love doing is playing the drums. I was a semi professional drummer for a time back in Wales, working as a session drummer and that was what I really wanted to

do for a while. My parents probably hated it when I was growing up!

This issue of City Dweller Magazine is celebrating Leeds Pride. What does Leeds Pride mean to you, personally?

Pride events are something that have always been very important in my life. I came out when I was 18 and that was a long time ago now, things have changed a lot since I came out!

It's so important that people have a place where they can see that we're all in this together and where they can see that gay people are now accepted in society! Leeds is a great city for gay people too and I can't wait till Leeds Pride to celebrate this diversity.

A lot of people ask if we still need Leeds Pride events in 2017 because

we've moved forward so much as a society. But I think they're so important! Let's not forget the horrible things that are happening around the world to gay people and I think the Pride events are an opportunity for us to be grateful for what we have, to just enjoy our lives and be ourselves.

Obviously for this year's Leeds Pride weekend, we're all hoping for sunshine! Can you stick your neck out on the line and tell us what the weather will be like for the 5th and 6th August?

I wouldn't be able to! One thing I will say is that I'm going to be doing my sun-dance and praying to weather gods for dry weather.

Want to know more about Owain Wyn Evans? Give him a follow on Twitter at @OwainWynEvans



INSIDE THE NEWLY REFURBISHED ROOMS AT MALMAISON HOTEL LEEDS

WITH THEIR NEWLY REFURBISHED ROOMS, MALMAISON HOTEL IS THE PERFECT LOCATION FOR YOUR NEXT NIGHT IN THE CITY

City Dweller Magazine were recently given an exclusive look inside the new rooms inside Malmaison Hotel in Leeds city centre.

With a reputation for being innovative and stylish, it's safe to say that we expected big things. To no one's surprise, Malmaison delivered.

These new rooms are nothing short of first class. Mixing necessities with comfort, they create the perfect setting for a night in the city centre. Imagine a glass of fizz in a bubble bath, power showers with fabulous fragrances you can take with you on your travels, big, beautiful beds, and

room service whenever you need. When you're looking for a night away in the city, Malmaison tick all the boxes.

But let's not forget all the lovely little luxuries they class as 'the norm'. After all, who doesn't need non-stop wifi, blow-dried hair, crease-free clothes, a delicious hot cuppa when you wake up and the option of getting your laundry done for you?

Combining these rooms with their wonderful Chez Mal bar and restaurant which boasts one of the best food and drink menus you'll find, it's worth a trip to Malmaison whatever you're after. It's also a superb venue if you're

looking for somewhere to stay for the Leeds Pride weekend.

Situated just off Lower Briggate, where the Leeds Pride celebrations come to a wonderful end, Malmaison is in a prime location if you're wanting to be in the heart of the action. Considering it's also a prestigious hotel with some of the most up-to-date rooms in the whole of Leeds, it really is a great place to stay if you're wanting to celebrate Leeds Pride in luxury.

But whether it's for Leeds Pride, or just treating yourself to a night in the city, we can't recommend checking out the new

rooms at Malmaison Hotel Leeds enough. Get in touch with them using the details in the Fact Box.

FACT BOX

Address:

In the heart of the action
1 Swinegate,
Leeds,
LS1 4AG

Website:

www.malmaison.com/locations/leeds

Twitter

@TheLeedsMal

Telephone:

0113 426 0047

Bar Times for Non Residents:

11am - 11pm



BENGAL BRASSERIE

MODEL, EVENT PROMOTER AND CITY DWELLER MAGAZINE COLUMNIST ZACH WILLIAMSON VISITS THE MERRION CENTRE TO CHECK OUT LEEDS' NEWEST INDIAN RESTAURANT

A midweek treat meal in Leeds has always been a favourite tradition of mine. It's a great opportunity to catch up with family and friends whilst sampling some of the city's latest restaurant offerings. One of these restaurants is the new Bengal Brasserie, situated just outside the Merrion Centre which is quickly becoming the area to eat in Leeds Centre.

Over the past few years this area of Leeds has become host to some of the nicest international restaurants in the city including MyThai, Marco's New York Italian, Smoke BBQ & Bulgogi Grill, but Bengal Brasserie is the only one offering mouth-watering Indian cuisine. With the huge on site CitiPark car park (which is very affordable and leaves you with only the shortest of walks to the restaurant) it's perfectly located and is also in close proximity to the First Direct Arena.

As a little after work treat I invited my good friend Rachel along to join me for a beer and to try the à la carte menu and some of its newly added dishes. As we walked into the bar area the beautiful smell of Indian food filled the air and we were warmly greeted by the manager and seated on one of the large white leather sofas. I was firstly taken aback and impressed by the decor and colour scheme used, it was really light and contemporary.

A drinks order was taken in minutes and before we knew it, a beer and a large glass of white wine arrived to wash those midweek blues away. The menu is very impressive, not too much and not too little but the perfect mix of classic Indian favourites with Bengal Brasserie's own twist. As we were looking at the menu, a portion of popadoms arrived at the table complete with a pickle tray which was a nice touch. So far the staff had been excellent and couldn't do enough for us.

I have always been a lover of Indian cuisine so picking from the menu proved quite hard as everything sounded delicious but in the end we chose to share both our picks so we could get a varied taste of the menu. Personally this is how I think an Indian should be enjoyed; we had Lamb Chops and onion bhajis to start. The onion bhajis melted in the mouth, whilst the lamb chops were tender and perfectly cooked. For main we had an absolute feast, we chose Chicken Tikka on the Bone with Garlic Naan Bread and a Prawn Dopiaza with Keema Rice. For those not versed with Indian food, a Dopiaza is a mild to medium curry with a rich sauce and my personal favourite.

Bengal brasserie cooked it to perfection. Even though this was an intimate meal for two, the venue is also great for an after work meal and drinks as it has a varied drinks menu and is very family friendly with a relaxed vibe which makes it great for any

occasion or celebration. They also offer a lunchtime buffet from 12 till 2.30pm daily for just £8.85. As we were nearly bursting at the seams we skipped dessert even though I was tempted as they all sounded amazing.

After a short chat at our table with the manager, who really makes the effort to look after you, we left feeling full and in a great mood. We had a really great experience thanks to the authentic food, the service and the affordability which will keep us and many others coming back time and time again.

Thank you to all the staff, we will be back again very soon.

See you about!
Zach



FACT BOX

Address
11 Merrion Way, LS2 8BT

Website
www.bengal-brasserie.com

Social Media
@BengalBrasserieArenaQuarter

Telephone
0113 246 1853

Opening Times
Mon - Sat 12pm - 2:30pm
5:00pm - 11:30pm
Sun 12pm - 10:30pm



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The Merrion Centre hopes everyone has a fantastic Pride 2017



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INTRODUCING ANDREW REVILL FROM COSMOPOLITAN HOTEL

WE CAUGHT UP WITH COSMOPOLITAN HOTEL'S DEPUTY MANAGER TO FIND OUT WHAT LEEDS PRIDE MEANS TO HIM

Ahead of Leeds Pride, we wanted to find out what Leeds Pride meant to the people of Leeds. One of these is the Deputy Manager at the Cosmopolitan Hotel.

We met up with Andrew Revill to find out his background in the industry, what Leeds Pride means to him personally and what the Cosmopolitan Hotel are offering over the Leeds Pride weekend.

What's your background in the hospitality industry?

I did hospitality at university! Since then, I've worked my way up the ranks. I came to Leeds three years ago and started at the Cosmopolitan Hotel as their Conference and Events Manager, and now I'm the Deputy Manager.

The great thing about working at the Cosmopolitan is that all the

staff have been here for years! We all love working here and it's such an enjoyable place to be.

It's quite a demanding role but it's extremely rewarding. Doing events like Leeds Pride makes it worth it! To be honest, just working in Leeds makes it worth it.

What advice would you give to someone wanting to follow in your footsteps in the industry?

I was always that person who never knew what I wanted to do but then I got into hospitality and it just worked for me. Even though the hours aren't great, the rewards are there; if you start at the bottom and you work hard then you'll go far. If it's not for you then you'll know... but if it is for you then just go for it.

With our city getting ready

for Leeds Pride, what does Leeds Pride mean to you?

I've worked in Leeds for three years and I've really seen what the event means to Leeds. At the end of the day, this is a place where you can be yourself and for me, it's the coming together of the community and people from so many different backgrounds that makes it so special. We're so happy, as a business, that we can get involved with the celebrations but it's not just about us, it's about the whole area.

What are Cosmopolitan Hotel offering over the Leeds Pride weekend?

A huge range of promotions! We've got three function rooms that we've opened up to the council and all of the community groups with free room hire from 7am for them. As a result, we're hosting lots of events

based around Leeds Pride. We've got a Leeds Trans event, and on the Saturday, we've got LGBT fitness classes to name a few! All our staff dress up and because of the atmosphere in the city, they love working that weekend.

The location couldn't be any better either. We've got three bars, plenty of indoor seating but we have an open bar outside as we open all of our shutters and we'll be serving plastic bottles, two for £10 cocktails and more. Lots of people will be staying for the entire weekend and we'll be fully involved the whole weekend. If you're looking for somewhere to stay in the city and you've not booked already, look no further!

Why not meet Andrew for yourself on Lower Briggate, LS1 4AE or get in touch with them by ringing 0113 243 6454.



CITY DWELLER MAGAZINE'S COCKTAIL OF THE MONTH WITH EVERYMAN CINEMA'S JOE BURTON

While Everyman Cinema deserves its reputation as a premium cinema, perfect for a night out and to watch your favourite films, it's so much more than that.

At City Dweller Magazine, we love nothing more than sitting outside on their fantastic terrace and treating ourselves to a few cocktails. You don't even need to be seeing a film!

So this month, we met up with their very own Joe Burton for our Cocktail of the Month!

What do you think makes Everyman Cinema unique?

We blend cinema with a luxury bar and a great space, it's not like anything you'll see elsewhere. In terms of food, you can order it to your seats and it's more 'fine dining' than other cinemas.

Another good thing about Everyman is that even though if you go into a different Everyman Cinema, it's still got the same feel but at the same time, it's quite different. Every one has its own unique touch and it keeps its independent feel.

What's the best thing about working at Everyman Cinema?

The team! The atmosphere here is so good, we do a lot of things outside of work and we're so close knit.

Also, we get offers on films which is pretty good!

Can you talk to us about your cocktail menu at Everyman Cinema?

First and foremost, we're a cinema so we didn't want a huge cocktail menu. So we've put together a smaller menu so

we can make sure we offer only great quality cocktails.

We do specials for films too. If there's a big film out then we try and offer themed cocktails. For Bridget Jones' Baby recently, she's choosing between an Englishman and an American in the film so we made two themed cocktails which you could choose from!

Why did you choose to make an Elderflower Spritz for us today?

It's aesthetically pleasing and it's a perfect summer drink as it is really refreshing. Alongside our Mojitos and Passionfruit Daiquiri, it's our best seller.

Head to Everyman Cinema at Trinity Leeds to find out for yourself! You can ring them on 0871 906 9060 or you can find out more by heading to their website: www.everymancinema.com



ELDERFLOWER SPRITZ

WHAT'S IN IT:

Elderflower Liqueur
Prosecco
Soda
Served with a Lemon

THE TASTE:

It tastes like summer. Just picture sitting outside on Everyman's incredible terrace in, drinking a refreshing fizzy cocktail and basking in the sun. We'll see you there!



CELEBRATE LEEDS PRIDE AT ONE OF LEEDS' NEWEST HOTELS: IBIS STYLES

THIS YORKSHIRE THEMED HOTEL IS A GREAT PLACE TO STAY DURING LEEDS PRIDE! WHILE YOU'RE AT IT, YOU CAN ALSO VISIT MARCO'S NEW YORK ITALIAN RESTAURANT NEXT DOOR...

When it comes to staying over in the city, especially for an event such as Leeds Pride, it's so important to get it right. With so much variety to choose from, you need a hotel that offers great quality, a perfect location and a range of unique personal touches.

ibis Styles Leeds City Centre Arena ticks all of these boxes. Situated on Wade Lane, as part of the Merrion Centre, it's perfect if you're looking for a hotel that is near enough to the action but also away from the huge noise of the Lower Briggate area. As it's only a five minute walk

from Millennium Square, you're still fully involved in the action.

But one thing this 134 room hotel really offers is a lovely Yorkshire theme. They're clearly proud to be in the area and staying here is perfect for anyone who is simialirly proud of their Yorkshire roots.

While this is a chain hotel, it's got an independent feel with nods to its Yorkshire background found throughout. From Leeds Festival inspired artwork in some of the bathrooms to the headboards of each

bed featuring sketches of the Leeds skyline, you'll feel proud to be in the city centre as soon as you walk in this hotel.

There's also pictures of the county littered around the hotel. Even if you're just visiting for Leeds Pride, you'll really get a taste of what it's like to be a Yorkshireman.

It's not just gimmicks though. The hotel really offers a comfortable night's stay in the city centre, with a great atmosphere combining with luxurious decor to create a lovely, welcoming feel. So if you're looking for a lovely,

unique hotel that showcases everything that Leeds has to be proud of, you won't go far wrong with ibis Styles. Whether that's for Leeds Pride on the 5th and 6th August or just for a relaxing stay in Leeds!

Considering it's also next door to the incredible Marco's New York Italian Restaurant, what more could you want for a hotel in the city centre?

If that's just sealed the deal for you, read our interview with Marco Pierre White about his new restaurant at the Merrion Centre below.

MARCO PIERRE WHITE INTERVIEW

WE RECENTLY HAD THE PLEASURE OF SITTING DOWN WITH MARCO PIERRE WHITE AT HIS NEW RESTAURANT MARCO'S NEW YORK ITALIAN IN THE MERRION CENTRE IN LEEDS

It's great for you to be here! As a city we're really proud of our own!

It's nice to be back in Leeds actually. Even though I've lived down south for the majority of my life, I moved down there when I was just a teenager at 19 but you don't forget your roots. Like, I never send red roses to girls - I've only ever sent white roses and I think every Yorkshire man should only

ever send white roses. We've got to bow to the house of York.

So does it mean a lot to you that you've opened Marco's New York Italian in Leeds?

It's nice to be back in Leeds and it's changed a bit but I used to come to the Merrion Centre, to a night club called 'The In Time' I used to go every Sunday. It was weird but it seemed perfectly

normal to me because I used to have Sunday and Monday off when I worked at The Boxtree.

Leeds has changed so much and the one way system makes it all rather complicated! Even though Leeds has changed, Boar Lane is the same, Leeds Markets is the same, the Town Hall is the same and I have a lot of affection for Leeds and my mother always

used to say 'a tree without roots is just a piece of wood' so I think you've got to be loyal and it doesn't matter what you do in the end. Pigeons always come home to roost in the end.

I've been a bit of a gypsy all my life but I love going back to Harewood. That was my playground as a child you see, so that's my favourite place on earth, in the gardens of Harewood.



Along the wharf front down to Woodhall Bridge because that's where I used to fish as a child. I come from humble beginnings, I must've been born on the last council estate in Leeds at the time because I just used to walk up the street, across the golf course and I was on the Harewood estate. So how lucky was I?! Rather than growing up in a city.

What advice would you give to someone who wants to follow in your footsteps?

Well I would never recommend anyone to go in my footsteps, but what I would recommend to any young person who wants to go into my industry, and I look back at the early beginnings, and I would recommend for any young person to put their career in the right hands. If you put your career in the wrong hands at the start, the chances are that realising a dream are very slim.

I was very lucky, I started at a three star hotel in Harrogate called The Hotel St. George and did I learn much about food? No I didn't but did I learn how to be fast? Did I learn how to run? Did I learn how to use a knife like never before? Because that Hotel was so so busy, and in those days everything was fresh.

But when I say busy, if I was doing pomme chateau, where you turn potatoes, you're doing them for 200 people and not for 5 like in a restaurant.

I actually used to polish the clients shoes in the afternoon round the back of the lodge and one day, on the table, there was a small book and on the cover it said 'The Egon Ronay Guide to Hotels and Restaurants in Great Britain' so I started flicking through it, and I noticed two things.

Firstly, that restaurants had stars. I didn't know that restaurants had stars! So I started reading up about it and there was two restaurants in Harrogate, there was Olivers and Number 6 who both had a star rating but then what I noticed was that the best restaurant in Britain, according to Egon Ronay who was the most powerful critic at the time, was just 15 miles down the road at The Boxtree and I went back into the kitchen that night and I thought to myself 'maybe if I want to be a chef maybe I should work at the best restaurant in Britain'. It took me about six months to pluck up the courage to apply for a job.

I always say in life, that success is born out of luck.

Luck is being given the opportunity and it's the awareness of mind that takes advantage.

It's like, how did I get my job in Le Gavroche? I wrote to two restaurants, I wrote to Gavroche and I wrote to a place in The New Forest called Chewton Glen, Gavroche sent me an application back in French, I tried to fill it out, I couldn't read it and made a mess of it, so I was too embarrassed to send it back. Chewton Glen however invited me for an interview so I got the coach from Leeds to London Victoria and then from London Victoria to Dorset. They offered me a job in the pastry but I'm not interested in desserts, so I said I'd think about it.

I got on the coach to come home and when I arrived in the station from Dorset it was rather dark and I was rather lost, I wasn't used to city life! So I asked this Royal Mail man 'how do you get to Victoria Station?' He said 'I'm going there! Jump in' so I jumped in with him, he took me to Victoria coach station and I'd missed my last coach home. The next coach is in the morning at 8/9 o'clock so I thought to pass the time I'll just walk the streets. I set off out of the back of Victoria Coach Station, walked up the

road and thought, if I turn right, turn right, turn right, I'll walk in a circle - there's some kind of logic in there.

So I walk up this road, turn right and I'm walking up that road and I find myself looking through the window of a restaurant. I can see that it's posh and the name above the door was 'Le Gavroche' That was the restaurant that I'd written to for a job, so I thought 'before I get my coach in the mooring I'll knock on the door and ask if they have any vacancies'. And that's how I got my job at Le Gavroche!

And that's why I say success is born out of luck. Luck is being given the opportunity and it's awareness of mind that takes the opportunity.

Book at Marco's New York Italian by giving them a call on 0113 831 4530 Find them at Marco's New York Italian, ibis Styles Leeds City Centre Arena, Wade Lane, LS2 8NJ.

To book your stay at ibis Styles Hotel, ring 0113 831 4530. You can find them both on Wade Lane, LS2 8NJ. You can find out more at www.ibis.com

Chloe Hare
 & The City Dweller Magazine Team



CITY DWELLER MAGAZINE CHECKS OUT THE NEW SPECIALS MENU AT HOTEL CHOCOLAT

THE NEW SPECIALS MENU INSIDE HOTEL CHOCOLAT'S ROAST+CONCH CAFE IS DEFINITELY WORTH TREATING YOURSELF TO

While Hotel Chocolat is famous for its huge range of delicious sweet treats, their cafe is one of their huge selling points! City Dweller Magazine recently visited to get an exclusive preview of their new Specials Menu.

Located on 55 Boar Lane, as part of Trinity Leeds, Hotel Chocolat's Roast+Conch cafe, restaurant and bar is a truly brilliant venue. With lovely wooden decor, a chilled vibe and friendly staff, you'll be impressed from the moment you enter.

Their menu is based around contemporary anglo-West Indian food with a savoury twist of roasted cocoa, and we

guarantee nowhere else in Leeds offers that! It's every bit as exciting and memorable as it sounds, their food is truly great.

But it's their new Specials Menu that has really caught our eye. Served Monday till Friday in their cafe, it's perfect for an afternoon meal or even a business lunch and at 2 courses for £20 or 3 for £25, it's great value.

We'd recommend heading down for a lengthy lunch and soaking in the atmosphere while enjoying a delicious three course meal. For starters, we'd recommend the Marinated Courgette Salad served with sweet potato, crispy onion and a feta-cacao whip but you could also

go for a Ham Hock or their fish beignet. Whichever one you choose, you won't be dissatisfied.

To follow that up, there's a choice between their delicious Marinated Chicken, their unique Aubergine and Spinach Curry or their Seared Sea Bass, offering something for all tastes.

But it's their desserts where they really excel, to nobody's surprise. Offering either a Rhubarb Crumble, three home made sorbets or their Rabot Mousse collection, you've got a huge range of delicious sweet foods. They're all so outstanding that we can't even pick one, you'd have to try it out for yourself!

So what are you waiting for? Why not book your next visit today? Get in touch with them using the details in the fact box below.

FACT BOX

Address

55 Boar Lane
Leeds
LS1 5EL

Website

hotelchocolat.com

Phone

0113 2442 421

Social Media

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Opening Times:

Please see website for details.



**PINK
GORILLA**

**HAURY
LEMON**



What's hotter than Love Island and the recent heatwave put together? Yeah, you guessed it - it's Pink Gorilla's July events schedule! Leeds has been hard to keep up with recently, with new bars and restaurants launching just about every week, and we've been lucky enough to work with the biggest and best of the bunch.

Be At One recently opened their second bar in the city on Boar Lane, and the launch party went off like a sky rocket. There are far too many amazing cocktails on their extensive menu, but if we had to pick one it would have to be the Kinder-inspired Buenot. Amazing!

We've also been working closely with D&D London recently, and helped them launch the fabulous Issho at Victoria Gate with a lavish, star-studded party. The Japanese rooftop restaurant really upped the ante, with free-flowing Laurent Perrier Champagne and sushi on tap, and not to mention the incredible hosting and entertainment. This was hands down one of the best launch parties we've done, and the feedback was incredible despite some very sore heads the next day!

If you've not yet been, we recommend you get a table booked as this is the venue to go to in Leeds this summer. Hot on its heels is D&D London's next venture, East 59th St. Also residing in a stunning Victoria Gate rooftop location, this bar and restaurant takes inspiration



from New York's finest loft bars, and will have a strong focus on cocktails and music.

Look out for the launch party this month, where you can expect some very special entertainment to kick things off in style. We're not allowed to say anymore just yet, but follow us on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter to catch all the latest news - it's going to be big!

And, finally - can you believe Roxy Lanes is almost three years old? Nope, neither can we. We're currently arranging their birthday celebration, and we can reveal that they are going to literally bowl guests over with a party to remember!

That's it from the Pink Gorilla team this month, but we'll be back next month with the latest new launches in Leeds. We hope to see you at a forthcoming event.

Love
PGHL! x



To get in touch with
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CITY DWELLER MAGAZINE AND CROWNE PLAZA LEEDS CELEBRATE THEIR £4.5 MILLION REFURBISHMENT

City Dweller Magazine recently teamed up with the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Leeds to showcase their incredible new look to the movers and shakers of Leeds.

Following a £4.5 million refurbishment, guests were amazed by the

new look and feel of the hotel. As everything from the function bars to the bedrooms have been refurbished, the hotel now boasts one of the most impressive spaces in Leeds.

The night was a huge success with the Leeds glitterati in attendance

being treated to fizz on arrival, a range of delicious cocktails and some wonderful canapes. It was certainly an evening to remember!

Why not check out the newly refurbished Crowne Plaza for yourself? It's the perfect location for

anything from an evening drink to a destination for your dream wedding.

Crowne Plaza Hotel Leeds is located on Wellington Street, LS1 4DL. You can also find out more at www.cpleedshotel.co.uk or by ringing them on 0871 942 9094.

Photography: Oliver Dixon



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TO HAVE AND TO HOLD

Vaughn Thomas from Sovereign Wealth Private Clients, is back with his column.

Arranging insurance for married couples should arguably go hand in hand with saying "I do".

Financial matters are perhaps not the first consideration when getting married. But it is vitally important to review current financial arrangements and establish new plans at the start of a significant new stage of life.

Perhaps the first and most obvious thing to consider is wedding insurance, given that even a simple ceremony and reception will cost many thousands of pounds – £25,090 on average, according to a recent survey. (www.hitched.co.uk, accessed 30 May 2017) But once the honeymoon is over, the serious thinking needs to start, and this is the point at which couples will need financial advice.

At the simplest level, a couple might want to maximise their ISA allowance and other tax-efficient investments, perhaps by moving some assets from one spouse to the other, thus taking advantage of the fact that transfers to a spouse are exempt from Capital Gains Tax. They may also want to think about their pension beneficiaries, dividend income and property ownership; and they will of course want to update their Wills.

But there is another reason why marriage is a financial marker: it is a time when people first start sharing their lives – and their debt – with someone else. Consequently, it is an opportune moment to put some protection in place.

Life insurance should be a high-priority consideration, as it can provide the security that money is available to meet mortgage and other financial commitments should one partner die. Similarly, a 'joint-life second death' whole-of-life policy could help settle Inheritance Tax liabilities when both individuals have passed away.

Life cover should be put in place even by those who do not consider themselves to be wealthy – and it is relatively straightforward to arrange. However, not everyone will be able to secure cover through the standard market.

"Increasingly, people are getting married when they are older or indeed getting married for a second or third time," says Torquil McLusky, managing director at Pulse Insurance, a specialist insurer.

Till death us do part?

We all hope that marriage will last forever, but the fact is that more than 40% of marriages now end in divorce (Office for National Statistics, November 2015). Inevitably, financial plans made as a married couple may not survive a divorce – especially if they no longer make financial sense.

"Unfortunately, divorce is not something that we can insure against," says McLusky. "The best we can probably do is a prenuptial agreement, which, although not yet recognised in statute, the UK courts will at least take into consideration when making a settlement."

Many couples will have joint life insurance policies in place, and often the premium is paid by just one of the parties. If that spouse stops paying or cancels the policy, then the other partner could be left without life insurance. Sadly, lots of break-ups become bitter or lengthy because couples can't agree how to split the finances or continue paying insurance premiums. In those cases, individuals will need some professional financial and legal advice.

"The bottom line is that divorce means thinking again as far as financial planning is concerned," adds McLusky.

*Regards
Vaughn!*

To receive a complimentary guide covering Wealth Management, Retirement Planning or Inheritance Tax Planning, contact Vaughn Thomas of Sovereign Wealth LLP on 0113 414 3590 or email Vaughn.thomas@sjpp.co.uk



LANDLORDS! ARE YOU UP TO DATE?

Louise Burgess, from Levi Solicitors LLP, presents her legal column in City Dweller Magazine.

If you are a landlord of a residential property, it is important that you are up to date with the energy performance requirements.

From 1 April 2018, all properties being let out must have a minimum energy performance rating of E on an Energy Performance Certificate (EPC). Non-compliance could lead to a fine, so it is important that you are ready for the changes.

What properties will this apply to?

The requirements will apply to residential private rented properties in England and Wales. It will apply to Assured Shorthold Tenancies (ASTs), as well as other types of tenancy agreements.

Some types of property are excluded from the regulations. These include some temporary buildings; those intended to be used for less than four months of the year and buildings that are particularly small. Listed buildings and similar may also be excluded to a degree.

What if it is below an E rating?

Landlords will be prohibited from letting out a property with an EPC with an F or G rating. You must carry out energy efficiency improvements to bring the property up to at least an E rating.

Are there any exemptions?

The regulations only require that landlords make appropriate, permissible and cost-effective improvements. Landlords may be eligible for an exemption from reaching the minimum standard, but must provide evidence that they qualify. Some of the exemptions are that:

- The landlord has carried out cost-effective improvements, but the rating remains below an E.
- The landlord requires consent to do the works, but the occupying tenant or freeholder withholds that consent.
- A qualified, independent surveyor has confirmed that carrying out the improvements would cause the property value

to decrease by over 5%. Any measures expected to cause such decrease would be exempt.

You must record all exemptions in a national register. If you do not register the exemption, it will not be effective and you will not have complied with the regulations. The register is planned to open on 1 October 2017.

When will this start?

The regulations will apply from 1 April 2018 when you grant:

- A new tenancy to a new tenant;
- Or a new tenancy to an existing tenant. This includes extensions or renewals to existing tenants, including statutory periodic tenancies that come into existence at the end of fixed term ASTs.

From 1 April 2020, the regulations will apply to all privately rented property (except where excluded from the regulations). This includes those let out on tenancies that started before 1 April 2018.

Fines

Where a local authority suspects that a landlord has not complied or has not obtained an exemption, they can serve a compliance notice. They will request further information that they consider necessary to confirm compliance. If the information is not provided, or is not enough to confirm compliance, a local authority may issue a penalty notice. Individual penalties are up to £4,000, depending on the offence.

Next steps

Landlords have less than a year to make any necessary improvements to their rental properties. If you have a lease coming to an end or are looking at renewing a tenancy, it is advisable to act now. Failure to do so could leave you unable to re-let your property, or liable for substantial fines.

If you require legal advice, call Levi Solicitors on 0113 2449931 or visit www.levisolicitors.co.uk



YOU NEVER GET A SECOND CHANCE TO MAKE A FIRST IMPRESSION

INTERIOR DESIGNER, PROPERTY GURU AND CITY DWELLER MAGAZINE COLUMNIST CHRISTINE YORATH TELLS US HOW IMPORTANT COMMUNAL AREAS ARE TO APARTMENT BUILDINGS



How fabulous to see more new apartment schemes starting up in Leeds, I just hope that the developers will be paying attention to the communal areas which are so important and yet can be overlooked in the development stage.

When I owned the management company 'Flats in Leeds', I saw the interiors of most of the city centre apartment buildings and they varied enormously in appearance

and maintenance. The best sales values and the best rents are achieved where the apartment entrance halls are immaculate, well designed and welcoming.

Over 15 years ago I built 18 luxury apartments at 19 Wellington Street and installed expensive and beautiful light fittings and a bespoke carpet to all the hallways with the grand staircase having a bordered carpet and although I would probably select differently today I am pleased to say the quality is still apparent and the elegance of the building remains unlike so many apartment buildings which have communals looking like a cross between a hospital and an office block.

I was also careful not to sacrifice space and convert so much of the floor space to saleable square footage that the

access to each apartment would have only been served by a corridor.

The buildings with good management and a concierge service usually have a higher quality of appearance but even then can be sterile and impersonal. One of the best examples I have seen locally in recent times is the entrance to The Residence apartments in York where the ground floor hallway is akin to a 5 star hotel lounge.

Conversely, a couple of years ago I broke my ribs on a broken staircase handrail in a small Leeds development on Central Road where the maintenance was so neglected it was dangerous, the same building usually had mountains of post in the doorway due to the lack of a proper postal system for rentals.

It is such a waste when developers overlook the obvious and miss out on such an opportunity. I did the interiors including all the communals for Biba House in York a couple of years ago and it is no coincidence that we achieved higher prices per square foot in sales and higher rentals than had been achieved generally in York city centre before that time.

I hope in the future the discerning buyers and tenants will become more demanding about their expectations for the communal areas of apartment buildings and not only their personal interiors.

For more advice go to www.christineyorath.com or get in touch by emailing christine@yorathgroup.com or ringing 07836 737300.



LEEDS PRIDE IS HERE FOR ANOTHER YEAR OF CELEBRATION

It's that time of the year again when everyone gathers to celebrate the world of LGBT. Kicking off in Millennium Square on the 5th and with the main parade taking place on Sunday 6th of August, Leeds Pride will once again grace the streets of Leeds and this year is set to be a big one! With over 50 floats and 5 hours of entertainment on Briggate, this Pride Parade is one not to be missed.

For those of you who live under a rock, Leeds Pride is

Yorkshire's biggest celebration of LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Trans), the celebration has been running since 2006 and has over 40,000 people attending each year. The event is run by volunteers who put on an amazing and fun filled celebration. The weekend is dedicated to celebrating love, equality and sexuality.

Last year's event was a huge success driving in more and more people as the years pass by. With so much to see and

do it definitely brings people to the city of Leeds.

This year Lucy Whittaker, an up and coming artist is set to hit the stage with her Electro Pop style. As well as Lucy there will be lots more entertainment for everyone to enjoy. Blonde Electra and The Brazen are also supporting the event.

The wonderful thing about the Pride Parade is that everyone is a volunteer, everyone, in some shape or form is there to

support the LGBT community. Whether this is taking part in the parade, riding on a float or just standing from a distance. It is a great way to get the community buzzing.

Once again we will be joining in with the party atmosphere, dazzled by the costumes in the parade and overwhelmed by the love and pride in Leeds.

If you'd like to live in Leeds and feel the love contact Martin & Co using the information below!



IF YOU'RE INTERESTED IN LIVING IN LEEDS, HAVE A CHAT WITH US TODAY:

Martin & Co Leeds City
24 - 28 Bridge End, Leeds, LS1 4DJ
leedscity@martinco.com

0113 245 7174
www.leeds-city.martinco.com

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MEET ANDREW COOPER FROM LEEDSBID

WE MET UP WITH THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF LEEDSBID TO FIND OUT ABOUT THEIR WORK IN THE CITY CENTRE, HIS BACKGROUND IN BUSINESS AND TO FIND OUT WHAT HE LOVES THE MOST ABOUT LEEDS

Hi Andrew, can you tell us about LeedsBID and your role there?

In 2015 the business community of Leeds in conjunction with other organisations had the aspiration and ambition to create the largest Business Improvement District outside of London which I am proud to lead. The BID is funded by 1,000 businesses and organisations to create tangible, visible 'improvements' to the city centre, investing £2.5m a year in Leeds.

LeedsBID is a catalyst for change, providing the glue which brings people, businesses and sectors together to make new things happen. It has already been the driving force behind a number of bold and innovative projects in the city centre from the Welcome Ambassadors and Street Rangers to the Leeds International Festival and A City Less Grey - our work to transform the city continues at pace.

The strength of a Business Improvement District is that it is not-for-profit, business-led and aims to engage with every sector of the community to enhance and amplify all that is great

about our city. I believe no one organisation can achieve this in isolation therefore the ethos of the BID is to work collaboratively so that everyone benefits.

What actually is your background in business?

At 17 I started my working life for the grocery retailer Presto, which went on to be absorbed by the Safeway Group. Then for nearly 14 years I continued my career in retail at Boots The Chemists, specialising in retail logistics.

With a degree in Business, I made a move into 'Place Management' as Town Manager of Stratford-upon-Avon and developed the Business Improvement District 'Stratforward' before going on to Bath to do the same in the World Heritage City.

Since working in Leeds, I am actively involved in the Northern BIDs Group as BIDs become a more recognised and sustainable vehicle for change across the North.

If someone was wanting to follow in your footsteps, what advice would you give to them?

We spend a third of our life at work, so do something you

enjoy. If someone specifically wants to work in 'Place Management', the good news is that people in these roles come from a variety of professional backgrounds; retail, banking, engineering and marketing, to name but a few.

Now recognised as an industry, 'Place Management' has a number of professional bodies such as the Institute of Placement Management and The Association of Town and City Management to support professional roles in this field.

This issue of our magazine is a Leeds Pride special. Can you tell us what you think Leeds Pride brings to the city?

Leeds Pride Director Liaqat Ali and those involved in Pride bring a great energy and vibrancy to the city during the weekend of 5th-6th August. Unlike similar events in other UK cities, Leeds Pride is a free event and we have been working closely to support this event, through the Welcome Ambassadors and our marketing team.

The event brings people from across the UK to the city who then get to see the transformation which is taking place. Events are essential in shaping a place and putting

it on the map. We see this through sporting events, the recent Leeds Sporting International Festival and Leeds Pride. Well done to all those who are involved.

Coming from someone that knows the city better than most people, what do you love the most about Leeds and the LeedsBID area?

We all like food and drink, and what I like and love about the city is all the undiscovered food places that I still come across even though I have now been in Leeds for nearly two years. Whether it's Olive & Rye in Queens Arcade, Café Moor in Kirkgate Market or the new rooftop restaurant in Victoria Gate, Issho; there is such a wide and diverse offer. With over 25 new eating establishments in Leeds opening last year, this sector is thriving. The other observation that shines through is the friendliness of those who live and work in Leeds. This can't be said for all UK cities. The warmth is palpable and I believe it gives Leeds a genuine point of difference and experience for those who come and visit. The 'Welcome to Leeds' experience is excellent.

To find out more about LeedsBID, head to www.leedsbid.co.uk

YORKSHIRE PA OF THE YEAR AWARDS



June 22nd marked the celebration of hard work and dedication of PAs at the Yorkshire PA of The Year Awards. Organised by The PA Hub, it's a night of glamour and showcases the exceptional PA talent we have here in Yorkshire.

Teams and individuals from across Yorkshire celebrated at the recent awards, as the 14 categories were announced. Including the award for 'Best Business Client' sponsored by our sister company, Absolute Media at the Yorkshire PA of the Year Awards, held at The Pavilion, Leeds United Football Ground - a ceremony hosted by BBC Look North's, Tanya Arnold. With Claire Barrett from Deloitte

(pictured below with Tanya) taking home the award for Yorkshire PA of the Year 2017.

Throughout the night guests were welcomed with drinks, followed by a delicious four-course meal and plenty of entertainment, including guest speaker James Bailey, General Manager of the prestigious Victoria Leeds and live music from five piece band, Chequered Band.

For full details on the winners from the evening, and to find out more about The PA Hub, visit: thepahub.co.uk

Photography by Sam Toolsie





SIMPLE WAYS TO INCREASE THE VALUE OF YOUR HOME

HERE'S HOW YOU CAN INCREASE THE VALUE OF YOUR HOUSE THIS SUMMER

When it comes to selling your home, there are certain times of the year which are better than others. Traditionally, those are in spring and autumn, leaving summer and winter as the months where demand slows and prices deflate ever so slightly.

Whilst that's worth keeping in mind, sometimes, you simply need to sell your home. Perhaps you've agreed to buy another property, or maybe you've landed a job in another city. Whatever your reason is, you need to sell your home in summer and you want the most money possible for it.

Leeds based property solicitors **Advantage Property Lawyers**, who complete over 900 housing transactions every week, believe that they know exactly how you can increase demand for your property and increase its summertime value. Here are

their top tips!

Embrace your outside spaces

During inclement months, our outside spaces tend to be secondary areas of focus when we're selling our home. Of course, we'll give potential buyers a tour of our garden(s), but they aren't exactly places you'd want to spend any real time.

When the weather's better though, like during summer, you need to be making the most of your outside spaces. This can be done in a number of ways, but here's a handful to get your creative juices flowing:

- Ensure you cut your grass twice a week, which will ensure a neat and tidy looking garden.
- Repaint or varnish any fences you may have.
- Break out the weed killer and clear out those paths.
- Take a pressure washer

to your flagstones to return them to brand-new condition.

- Hire a professional to trim back any large, overhanging trees you may have.
- Invest in new garden furniture.
- Give any bushes a trim.
- Purchase some new potted plants for use around the garden.
- Repaint any windowsills or wooden doors which are looking worse for wear.

These are just a handful of tips which can revitalise your outside spaces, so get creative. Remember though, you're selling more than just a property – you're selling a dream of what their life could be like. Inviting outside spaces make up a huge part of that, so do make sure you spend the time (and, if necessary) money.

Coordinate your interior decoration with the season

Summer comes quickly,

and that means we can often be caught out with our decorations in summer. Heavy curtains and dark furnishings are commonplace during the colder months, but when the weather turns better, they need to be replaced. Here's some tips to coordinate your interior with the season:

- Replace heavy curtains with light ones, giving your home a breezier, friendly appearance.
- Apply a fresh coat of lighter paint in key rooms of your home.
- Declutter your furniture and furnishings.
- Open your windows and doors, letting fresh air into your property.

Once more, that's just a selection of ideas, but by putting them into practice, you'll be making your property that much more desirable, and therefore easier to sell during summer.

Recruitment tips by Craig Burton from The Works Recruitment



WELLNESS IN THE WORKPLACE: WHY IT'S SO IMPORTANT!

Anxiety, depression and stress are now the leading cause of sickness absence in the UK and an estimated 70 million working days are lost each year because of mental health related illnesses.

If you feel that you are struggling at work then you are not alone! One of the most important steps into making you feel better again is recognising that it's happening and being prepared to do something about it. Here's what you can do to help yourself:

Speak up at work if you feel as though your work life balance is being compromised.

Your boss won't know you are struggling unless you make them aware. Adjustments to your role might help - flexible working hours, regular breaks, restructuring job functions and tasks, further training or development, to name a few.

Look at what you are eating and drinking during the day.

A healthy balanced diet can really help promote a high level of wellness and combat stress. Eating too much sugar and drinking too much caffeine can have a huge impact on stress levels so opt for non-processed food, plenty of fresh fruit & vegetables and drink lots of water.

Keep active.

Studies show that regular physical activity links to better health outcomes, longevity and increased wellbeing. Try to get some

fresh air at lunchtime or go for a short walk to clear your head - it will really help.

Make friends at work.

Having healthy and meaningful relationships at work has been linked to increased feelings of well-being and can be beneficial to helping you feel better mentally. This is because you feel connected and valued if you have a friend you can talk to or hang out with.

Try meditation, yoga or mindfulness.

These are all techniques which can really help with anxiety and stress at work. Mindfulness can be particularly effective as it only takes a few minutes a day and makes you really appreciate the world around you. It gives you a short period of distraction to take stock, enjoy the moment and refocus.

But most of all be aware of your mental and physical wellbeing. If you are feeling overwhelmed or your work/personal life is starting to be affected, do something about it. And don't delay! Whether it's a good talk to somebody you trust or a visit to your local GP, get some help or advice as soon as you can. **For further information please visit the Mind website: www.mind.org.uk**

*Thanks,
Craig*

Craig Burton is a seasoned specialist recruiter of over twenty five years with www.theworksrec.co.uk

Fitness Tips by Great Britain Athlete and British Record Holder John Lane



ADVICE TO HELP YOU GET THE BEST OUT OF YOUR WORK OUT

Eat Smaller Portions

Depending on when you can get away from the desk to eat during the day, it's a good idea to try to eat little and often. Instead of trying to eat breakfast, lunch and dinner. Try and eat 4 or 5 times a day but smaller portions. Smaller portions more often will keep your metabolism going longer and not make you feel as hungry during the middle of the day.

Get to the Beach

If you're lucky enough to live by a beach, then make sure you make the most of it during summer. If you can get down to the beach and exercise this summer your body will thank you later for it. As well as hopefully getting a tan in the process, it's less demanding on your body and you will use muscle groups that you wouldn't normally use if you exercised in the gym or the track.

Use All Day

With the days becoming longer and the temperature increasing, it's a great way to spend the summer doing things with the family. When you do decide to exercise, you don't always have to go

100% all the time. Make the most of the increasing daylight and go for a walk after dinner. Take the dog out for a nice walk after dinner. This will help your food digest and is a great way to spend time with the family.

Eat Lots of Fruit

Eating fruit is a great way of getting that much needed nutrients in during the day. Fruits such as oranges, apple, blueberries and strawberries are great fruits to nibble on whilst on the go. As well as these fruits, it's snacks like dried mango, dried bananas and dried apples that can be a great to snack on while you are busy during the day.

Wear the Right Clothes

With the temperature heating up, it's important to wear the right clothes when exercising in the sunshine. Try and wear light coloured clothes and avoid dark colours such as black. Also try and wear loose fitting clothes whilst exercising. This will help keep you cool and feeling fresh during training.

*Enjoy Keeping Fit,
John Lane*



EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW WITH FOOTBALLER ROBBIE ROGERS

AFTER LEAVING LEEDS UNITED IN 2013, ROBBIE ROGERS MADE HEADLINES AROUND THE WORLD WHEN HE CAME OUT AS GAY. CITY DWELLER MAGAZINE MET UP WITH ROBBIE ROGERS TO SPEAK ABOUT THAT BRAVE DECISION, HIS TIME IN LEEDS AND WHAT PRIDE MEANS TO HIM

On May 26 2013, Robbie Rogers became the first openly gay man to compete in a top North American sports league.

Prior to that, he'd played everywhere from Columbus, Ohio to Leeds United while picking up 18 caps for the United States in the process.

Now, as an inspiration for people around the world, Robbie Rogers is playing for LA Galaxy. We met up with him to talk about his career so far and what it's really like to be an openly gay footballer.

Can you tell us about your time at Leeds United and what it was like living in Leeds?

I loved living in Leeds.

Growing up in LA, I usually only heard about London, but I loved Leeds and thought the people were very friendly and passionate about their city. The club was great with me. I found it tough that I came when there were so many changes with the managers and the club but I still have very fond memories of my short time at the club.

Shortly after you left the club you made headlines around the world when you came out as gay. What inspired you to make that decision, at that moment in time, and how did you find the initial reaction?

I had accomplished almost everything I wanted to in my career and I was still very unfulfilled and depressed. I

decided that the only way to really free myself (I know, sounds cheesy!) was to be open about something that was crushing me for 25 years.

Since leaving Leeds United, you made the decision to retire from football before coming back to play for LA Galaxy. What inspired your decision to return to football and how are you finding life at LA Galaxy?

I was speaking in Portland to around 500 kids that are leaders for their LGBTQ clubs (Gay-Straight Alliances) and after I spoke to them, I realised each one of them would take the opportunity I had to play and make a difference for millions of gay men and

women and that I would be a coward if I chose not to go back to football.

This issue of City Dweller Magazine is a Leeds Pride special. What do Pride events like these mean to you personally and why do you think they are important?

I enjoy Pride for a few reasons. I feel like it's a day or month where we can celebrate our accomplishments as a community but also remain vigilant and vocal about our future obstacles in finding equality for our whole community.

William Rose
 & The City Dweller Magazine Team



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HAVE YOUR CAKE AND EAT IT TOO?

CITY DWELLER MAGAZINE HAVE TEAMED UP WITH JAMES AND JOE FROM SUSTAIN NUTRITION AND THIS MONTH WE'RE FINDING OUT IF WE CAN HAVE OUR CAKE AND EAT IT TOO

Can you really have your cake and eat it too?

Well yes and no?!

Our staple answer for most nutrition answers as always is 'it depends', as frustrating as I'm sure this sounds it's simply because we don't want to lie to you.

Nutrition is never black and white I'm afraid, there are lots of different shades of grey in the food spectrum.

Often times as coaches we get asked is this OK to eat, say it's an all-natural ingredient but high fat chicken curry for example.

Now as the ingredients are all from natural foods just like mamma used to make then I'm all for the JERF (just eat real food) approach but ultimately fat loss will come down to overall calories consumed, if this high calorie curry that pushes you over that calorie limit then technically

it wasn't OK to eat.

Same thing will apply to club biscuits, wine, beer and crisps.

Can you eat these foods and still drop fat, technically yes, so long as you are still in a calorie deficit.

This can be the appeal for people who track MACROS (macronutrients).

They can set a target of calories, protein, carbs and fats and fit their foods in to these targets, this approach can be valuable particularly when a clean eating approach has stalled, after all if you are already clean eating you cannot simply 'eat cleaner'.

The downside of this will be when people use this approach to shoe horn less than optimal food choices like chocolate and cake in.

This approach will presume

that the carbs from a slice of chocolate cake are equal to the carbs you would get from sweet potato, doesn't sound right to me does it.

Not just the hormonal and physical affects will be totally different but it's almost like spending your money on magic beans!

We all know the story of Jack and the Beanstalk?

Eating poor quality foods to hit MACROS is a similar idea, say you have 2000cal to 'spend' on food, personally I don't want to waste 400cal on a piece of cake when I can eat a large chicken breast and some greens for that. One is a moment on the lips, life time on the hips and the other is a filling meal that will take me closer to my goals.

Blowing your calories allowance on poor choice foods is not going to be great from a health or good habit-forming view.

So, whilst you may be able to get away with eating some less than ideal foods for a while this unfortunately won't always last.

There will be a point where you have to drop something to reduce calories, you will have to make the choices of the easy fix of dropping the club biscuit or reducing the healthy nutritious foods, it's a no brainer for me.

*Until next time
Take care & comb your hair
James & Joe*

www.sustainnutrition.co.uk

Keep up with the guys on their Facebook Page: fb.com/sustainnutrition/ or on Instagram: [Sustain_Nutri](https://www.instagram.com/sustain_nutri/)



MEET THE TEAM AT NUFFIELD FITNESS & WELLBEING

DAVID BUTLER FROM NUFFIELD FITNESS & WELLBEING GYM IN THE LIGHT TALKS TO RUPİ PUREWAL, THEIR GROUP EXERCISE MANAGER, TO HEAR HER STORY



This month I've interviewed Rupı Purewal, to hear her inspirational and very motivational story to discover how she uses her own personal experience to help and encourage others...

Rupı: I will always remember the first time I found water THE most refreshing drink ever. 7 years ago, I was at the back of a combat class, wheezing at the 1st minute of the warm up! I was 4 stone heavier, 4 dress sizes bigger and wondered how on earth I was going to keep it up! Looking at me now, many assume I was athletic at school with a sporty back ground, nothing could be further from the truth.

I was overweight and always picked last for sports. I hated PE at school and never took to the gym until the age of 21. I remember sports day at high school when I got lumbered with

the 800 metre run. I was so slow as I reached 500m, they decided to start the boys 800 metre run behind me! But one thing I did not do was give up. I made it round with people cheering me on, and won 3 points for my form. Those points meant that we won the gold cup! That pretty much sums up my life, no matter how hard or long the struggle, I will always finish.

By the age of 24 I had lived enough to know that I needed to follow my own path in life, even if this meant going against traditions and customs. As cliché as it sounds I decided to follow my heart. As much as I knew I was doing the right thing for myself it was a huge battle to convince others close to me. This led me into a 3 year depression which saw me give up on life and so very nearly myself. One valuable lesson I have learned: We may think that following your heart and I suppose even your soul's calling is all happiness and light, it isn't! It's hard work and needs a consistent positive mental attitude and no one to take you off your focus.

I always remember the day my mum sat me down and suggested I should seek help. This was my wake up call. I begged my mum for 4 weeks to sort myself out. At the time I had been paying gym membership for over a year and only attended twice! After all the self-help books I had read and

articles to improve myself my journey to fitness began.

So I found myself in the gym, it was a Tuesday evening, 19.15 and I was attending my first Body Combat class. I was huffing and puffing my way through it, drinking gallons of water and very un-coordinated! But I kept going as this was not about the present uncomfortable feeling, this was for my health, my body and was something I was doing for me. The euphoric high, the energy in the room, the empowerment from doing the moves saw me going in every night. Attending different classes such as Body Attack, Body Pump and Step.

I was feeling happier, my mind wasn't on overdrive, it was like for one hour I was present with, no cares or worries, just me, the moves and the music! Surrounding myself with others who had this amazing 'can do' energy, everyone striving to finish a session to the end was amazing. Instructors who were motivating, encouraging and on some occasions even performing! Suddenly problems did not feel like problems anymore! I was losing weight, I was eating better too so I could sustain my new hobby. Heels were being replaced with trainers. I was addicted and finally I decided to make a career change into fitness. Through home learning courses I passed my group exercise course with

flying colours and 4 months later was employed as a group exercise manager. The rest is history...

My passion for group exercise is very personal for me and why I can get through on average 17 classes a week. It's not just about fitness or looking better, it's about feeling better with yourself. Everyone that comes into my studio will have problems and issues and life to deal with. It is my responsibility to make people forget their worries, push past their make-believe boundaries and reach a better version of themselves. The energy of those people in one room, putting everything into their workout and encouraging others to keep going, when they feel like they just can't do anymore, is infectious.

We have over 60 classes available each week at the club and all are free to members as part of your membership. So why not follow Rupı's amazing example, come down to the club and try a class and it could very well change your life too!

*See you soon,
David*

You can find out more about what we offer on 0113 2337 500 or by going to our website: www.nuffieldhealth.com/gyms/leeds! You can also find us at The Light, LS1 8TL.

Leeds' Own Showcasing the talents and personalities that make Leeds the city we love!



CITY DWELLER MAGAZINE MEETS THE QUEEN OF SPEEDQUEEN

WE SPOKE TO LEEDS LEGEND KAS SHAW ABOUT SETTING UP ICONIC CLUB NIGHT SPEEDQUEEN, LEEDS PRIDE AND MORE!

When you first set up SpeedQueen, what was the aim behind it?

We wanted to set up a night for everybody! For gay people, for cross dressers, for girls on their own; we just wanted a mixed club. We really did try to get everyone together. We had two sixtieth birthday parties one night, and we had 5 wheelchairs in there on another! We used to make sure girls on their own could get straight in and we've never done VIP because we don't believe in it, everybody has to stick together at SpeedQueen.

It was set up in the 90s and I think a lot of people look at that as quite a golden time for going out in Leeds, don't they?

Oh, it was fantastic! Every nightclub for gay people used to be underground... so as soon as the dance scene started, everyone mixed together. Everybody just danced together and it was a really special time.

A lot of couples met each other and there's been a few children born because of SpeedQueen! We do parties now and we get three generations of people going.

Do you recognise the cultural effect that SpeedQueen has had on Leeds? Do you think the fact you're still throwing parties now shows it's lasted the test of time?

I don't recognise it but obviously I was in the thick of it. I just set it up for people who were working Monday to Friday and wanted to have a good time on the weekend. People do still say to me how amazing it was for them.

We made sure we had everyone involved too, from the dancers to the people that created the decor. Everybody got a piece of the cake! We had a little family going on there. We also nurtured a lot of girl DJs including Alice Bailey, Ms. Melodie, Lucy Locket, Gina Breeze and Adele Roberts.

I think it's lasted the test of time because it's so community based. Some club nights are all about the music and the DJs but for us, it was about everyone and we made sure it had this village feel. I don't know if any other club night has ever had that in Leeds. I'd say 75% of my friends are people I've met through SpeedQueen.

A lot of people associate SpeedQueen with the iconic SpeedQueen image (pictured). Can you tell us about the meaning behind it?

We went on a trip to India and we saw pictures of this woman everywhere. We just loved her. When we got back, we decided to take her on board and use it, so when we got back we drew her and used her on everything we did for SpeedQueen.

She just says everything about SpeedQueen, she is saying 'welcome' and encouraging you to come in and have a good time.

You're taking over Bar Fibre and Queens Court on the 5th August for Leeds Pride. Can you tell us a bit about that?

We were asked to do it last year as part of Leeds Pride's 10th anniversary celebrations. It was really cool to be asked but we were a bit worried about it! Anyways we did it and everyone loved it, so we've been asked again this year. It's really nice to be involved in Leeds Pride.

Personally, what does Leeds Pride mean to you?

It's so good for everybody to come down, get together and celebrate. It's not about being gay, it's about celebrating gay pride and appreciating that we can do this party in the centre of Leeds without any hassle. I just think it's amazing.

SpeedQueen returns to Leeds on the 5th August at Bar Fibre and Queens Court. Head to SpeedQueenLeeds on Facebook to find out more.



RAPPORT HAIR AND BEAUTY SALON

STYLIST, IMAGE CONSULTANT AND CITY DWELLER MAGAZINE BEAUTY COLUMNIST
LINDSEY BENSON HEADS DOWN TO RAPPORT SALON

I have been going to this family run salon for a couple of years now and every time we go, whether it's to get the girls hair cut or a full day treat for yours truly, we are treated like royalty. Enough cannot be done to make sure you have the most relaxing and enjoyable time.

On my most recent visit, I had my hair, nails and HD Brows done. A 9.15am arrival, after a usual traumatic double school run, I was greeted with beaming smiles from Leah and Ashley, as they probably knew I would enter like a whirlwind and look like one too! Coat taken and hung, I was escorted to my new throne for the day. An instant wash of calm came over me and I don't just

mean the gorgeous caffeine fix I received.

Discussions over my locks began, would I be pink? Would I be blue? Or do I go lilac? Lilac it is. Now I'm not going to pretend I understand the ins and outs of toners and dyes and bleach, oh my! But I trust them 100% and so they begin their magic...

Whilst the mane is doing its bit, I head upstairs to work on the rest of my broken bits! Nails first! And boy are they broken!

Alex and Julie (pictured below) are the angels of beauty upstairs. Julie's massages have sent me to sleep on more than one occasion, to feel that relaxed is amazing. I've previously

had facials, 3D lipo and waxing amongst other delightful treats that make me feel more like a woman and less like a crazy bag lady!

Alex starts on my nails whilst I witter on at her about how hectic my life is and try to come up with an explanation as to why my nails are in such a state. I fail. No judgemental face from Alex, just a smile and sympathetic ear. Even when I spend 15 minutes deciding on a nail colour, as the selection is unreal, she does not falter from doing a fantastic job with my chewed nails and anxious skin bitten hands.

Once my nails are completed, I head back to my first throne for a conditioning treatment to

my locks. Already amazingly relaxed from the ambience upstairs, they begin to blow dry my hair. Anyone who doesn't enjoy their hair being blow dried by someone else, has issues (sorry, not sorry). Finished with a quick style and a final caffeine fix before heading back up to the angels for my HD Brows.

Again, Alex is my beautician and she completes my final tweak in order to feel like a woman once again. I never realised the importance of good brows, until I had good brows and now... I have fabulous brows!

And here I am, ready to take on the world once more!

I cannot recommend Rapport enough, fabulous salon and even more fabulous people!

*Speak soon!
Lindsey*



FACT BOX

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And for the guys... you can never go wrong with a jean, t-shirt and blazer combo! A sure fire winner at any racing event this year!

THE SUMMER PARTY



Keep it casq with trousers and trainers! Team the look with a hat for the ultimate summer look!

Ladies, get bold with bright floral looks this summer. For those parties this summer you really can't go wrong with this look. If the dress code is smart-casj, just add a blazer and you're ready to go.



WITH RIVER ISLAND

THE WEDDING



Make sure you keep things slick. Choose a light-coloured check suit; classic but cool. Go for a plain, white shirt and when it comes to your tie, pick a contrasting colour or a printed design. Tan accessories will stop you from looking like you're heading to the office.



You already know that white is out of bounds, go for pink and you'll be making everyone wink. You'll hear wedding bells, they'll see a wedding belle.



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NEWBY HALL

CITY DWELLER MAGAZINE HAS TEAMED UP WITH THE GUYS AT WELCOME TO YORKSHIRE TO LOOK AT SOME GREAT YORKSHIRE DAYS OUT

If you're looking for a beautiful location to soak up the summer sun which boasts glorious gardens, excellent exhibitions and fun for all the family then look no further – Newby Hall has it all.

Situated just off the A1 in Ripon, the stunning structure was built in the 1690s. Lose yourself inside the house where you can discover hundreds of treasures including a rare set of Gobelin Tapestries, a gallery of classical statuary and some of Chippendale's finest furniture.

But this is not just a stately home – it has so much more to offer.

In a paw-purse built wooden

house you'll find one of the world's largest collections of teddy bears as Newby Hall is currently hosting Gyles Brandreth's assortment of toys. There are around 1,000 teddies to see, all arranged into fun scenes from a teddy bear's picnic to a Royal Family balcony.

Newby Hall is also home to one of the finest collections of dolls houses, a mesmerising display of gorgeous creations with intricate detail, miniature features and furniture.

But the treasures at Newby Hall don't stop inside – step outside and into the sunshine as you wander around the award-winning gardens

boasting vibrant colours as far as the eye can see. There's an exquisite variety of picturesque scenes, from the herbaceous borders, to the rose garden, the water garden, woodland garden and many more.

Relax on the luscious green lawns and picnic tables while the children burn off some energy on the adventure play areas. There's swings, climbing frames, bridges, a water play area, aerial slide and even pedalo boats to keep little legs busy.

Jump aboard the fabulous Miniature Railway and take a trip alongside the River Ure on one of the two Severn Lamb Western gas locomotives

or the Royal Scot steam locomotive.

Soak up some Zimbabwean culture with the stunning sculptures in the Matombo exhibition. Watch artists Dudzai Mushawepwere and Matthew Nakhawale demonstrate how these wonderful sculptures are created and throughout the summer you can even try your hand at the art.

Newby Hall also hosts events around the year, from the spectacular Firework Championships to the StrEat Food and Family Fun Festival so there's something for everyone to enjoy.



FACT BOX

Address

Newby Hall, Ripon,
HG4 5AE

Website

newbyhall.com

Opening times

Please see website

Telephone

01423 322 583

For more days out visit
leedscitymagazine.co.uk



HOLIDAYS FOR THE LGBT COMMUNITY AND THEIR FRIENDS

CITY DWELLER COLUMNIST AND SEASONED TRAVEL EXPERT, YASMIN MACIS, MAPS OUT THE BEST PLACES TO GO TO ENJOY A FANTASTIC LGBT COMMUNITY AWAY FROM HOME!



Today there is certainly no shortage of gay-friendly holiday destinations, where same sex couples can relax and enjoy hospitality.

Some tour operators now offer holidays tailor-made for LGBT couples. It's important to recognise that attitudes and customs vary greatly in

different parts of the world, and it's my job to ensure that clients are aware of potential issues and choose destinations where they can feel safe, relaxed and accepted.

One of the first places to make its name as a destination that welcomed gay men to its shores was the Greek island of Mykonos. This legendary spot retains its reputation as a gay-friendly party island, with turquoise seas and quaint whitewashed houses. Unspoilt by high-rise hotels, accommodation tends to be in guest houses and B&B's, although there are some larger resorts for those looking for more onsite facilities. Mykonos would make a lovely place for a honeymoon, especially if choosing a boutique hotel.

Slightly closer to home, Sitges in Spain, is a stone's throw

from Barcelona and now considered one of the "Big 4" gay destinations. It has popular Gay Pride events and many of its bars and clubs are rocking all year round, although the season really takes off from Easter onwards. Carnival, Pride, Bears Week and Fiesta Major are all excuses for parties, not to be missed!

Further afield, New York City is a vibrant melting pot of cultures that coalesce in an atmosphere of tolerance and acceptance. The city's queer credentials are well established and neighbourhoods like the West Village, Chelsea and Hell's Kitchen offer a huge choice of gay-friendly accommodation, plus all the nightlife you'd expect of 'The City That Never Sleeps'!

With a similarly cosmopolitan and Bohemian feel, Berlin needs

little introduction as the home of hedonism, with a gay history dating back almost 100 years. The annual Gay Pride event is the jewel in its crown but there's a year round choice of bars, clubs and restaurants that same sex couples will feel happy and relaxed in.

I've only just touched the surface with these destinations but can also recommend Skiathos, Palm Springs, San Francisco, Reykjavik, Toronto and even far-flung New Zealand, as great places to holiday or even tie the knot! Just call me for further advice and more exciting holiday recommendations.

*Bon Voyage!
Yasmin x*



Don't keep me a secret, please feel free to share me!
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DIRTY DANCING **LEEDS GRAND THEATRE** **24TH - 29TH JULY**



Exploding with heart pounding music, breathtaking emotion and sensationally sexy dancing, Dirty Dancing is back.

Seen by millions across the globe this worldwide smash hit tells the classic story of Baby and Johnny, two fiercely independent young spirits from different worlds, who come together in what will be the

most challenging and triumphant summer of their lives.

Featuring 35 hit songs, including 'Hungry Eyes', 'Hey Baby', 'Do You Love Me?' and the heart stopping '(I've Had) The Time Of My Life'.

Don't miss your chance to see this sensational new production! Head to Leeds Grand Theatre to get tickets today!

LEEDS WEST INDIAN CARNIVAL **CHAPELTOWN** **MONDAY 27TH AUGUST**



Thousands of visitors are expected to flock to the city's Potternewton Park on Bank Holiday Monday for the dazzling procession of floats and stunning costumes from across the UK. The parade looks set to break records with around 2,000 revellers made up of over 30 costumed troupes and 50 large scale King, Queen, Prince and Princess costumes

signed up to take part on the big day.

Organisers of the Leeds West Indian Carnival, which in 1967 was the first of its kind in Europe to feature all three essential Caribbean carnival elements of masquerade, music and a parade, have been working closely with artists, funders and partners on a programme of events.

A FESTIVAL DAY OF JAZZ **MILLENNIUM SQUARE** **THURSDAY 3RD AUGUST**



What better way to spend a summer afternoon than relaxing in Millennium Square, listening to jazz music and eating delicious street food?

The Inaugural Festival Day of Jazz, organised by Jazz Leeds, brings that experience to the heart of Leeds.

There'll be free jazz music throughout the afternoon and

a variety of quality street food stalls.

Plus, bring the kids along for a special beginners guide to playing jazz in the Carriageworks.

Finally, don't miss the chance to see Leeds legend Snake Davis headline the evening! This unique family friendly event is part of the Summer Series at Millennium Square.

ZARA LARSSON **O2 ACADEMY LEEDS** **SUNDAY 22ND OCTOBER**



See the award-nominated popstar Zara Larsson as she embarks on her first UK and European headline tour in support of her latest album, So Good.

Larsson rose to fame in 2008 when she won the Swedish adaption of 'Britain's Got Talent' aged 11. Six years later, she released her debut album in Sweden, which went straight to

number one and made her one of Sweden's biggest celebrities. It wasn't until June 2015 when Larsson would grab the attention of the British public. Her debut single 'Lush Life' reached the top 5 in the United Kingdom and led to similar chart success with 'Never Forget You' (with MNEK), 'Girls Like' (with Tinie Tempah) and I Would Like.

MORE EVENTS CAN BE FOUND ON OUR WEBSITE:
www.leedscitymagazine.co.uk

MEET THE LEEDS BASED BROTHERS ON A MISSION TO MAKE REGGAE AVAILABLE TO ALL

WE CAUGHT UP WITH CONRAD AND MICHAEL CRUISE TO FIND OUT ABOUT HOW THEY'RE BRINGING THEIR MUSIC TO THE PEOPLE OF LEEDS

Leeds based music producers, label owners and band colleagues Conrad and Michael Cruise have released 'Wisdom of Roots,' a collection of sounds combining modern music making expertise to create a varied album of music with Jamaican popular music at its core.

Working under the band name DX1, Conrad and Michael have taken some material they originally wrote some years ago and combined it with newly penned material to produce 'Wisdom of Roots'. Both brothers wrote all the material and provide the musical backing between them in taking care of percussion, guitar, and state of the art keyboards.

They've enlisted the help of two seasoned local vocalists Rickey Smith and Clifford Hughes who, between them, imbue the sung material with different feels and moods appropriate to the tracks they appear on. As Conrad explains: "our aim here is to make Jamaican music accessible to all and to show the breadth of styles and emotions this great musical form provides."

'Wisdom of Roots' covers a varied range of subject matter from earnest love songs to moody and edgy city instrumental soundscapes through to more upbeat 'party style' flavoured sounds, sometimes through adroit re-workings of a similar

musical refrain that's appeared elsewhere on the collection, to create different moods and emotions.

The album is designed to be enjoyed by those already fans of the reggae and roots sound along with those exploring and sampling this type of music for perhaps the first time.

The brothers' desire to extend Jamaican music's appeal is not surprising as they both work tirelessly to achieve this through their production and music making endeavours with their label, Cruise International. They champion music from both exciting newcomers and artists who recorded many years ago; they believe in giving a chance for hitherto older music to 'live on' through being released on their label.

As Conrad further comments: "so many people would enjoy music that they may not ever get the chance to listen to, so we're doing our bit to put people in touch with music they'll like and may even become passionate about."

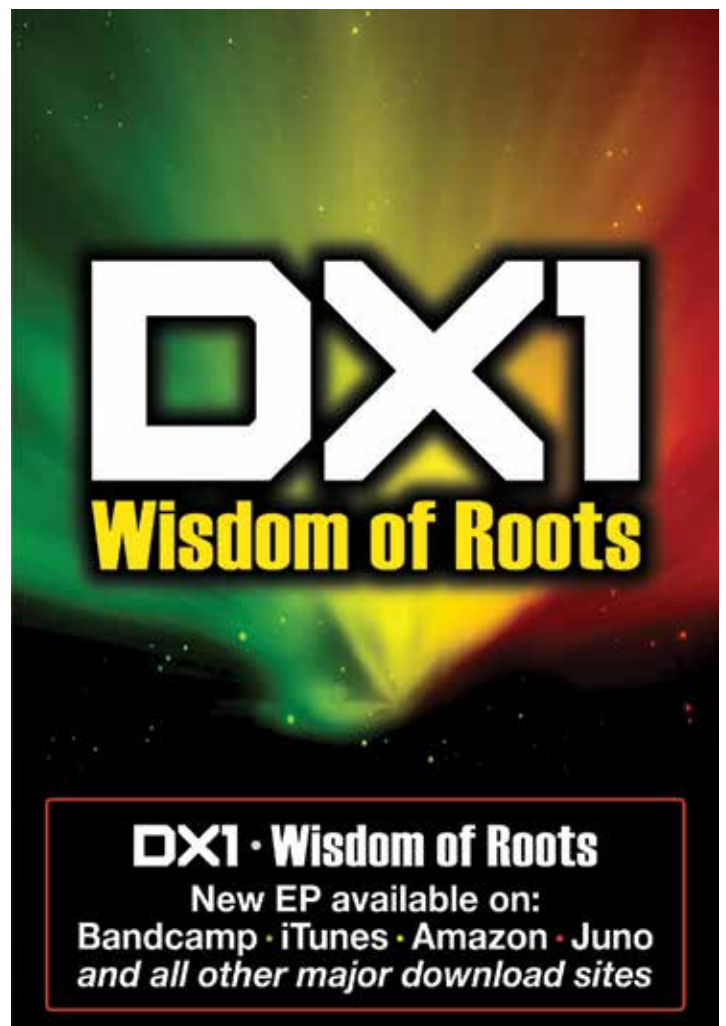
To achieve this, along with the release of 'Wisdom of Roots' showing that reggae based music can be accessible and its roots and characteristics shine through even while being made with modern music making technology, the Cruise International website is designed to

be easy to navigate and download music from. Working as music creators through their work with DX1, and pursuing their roles as producers and providers through running a label, puts Conrad and Michael in the position of seeing music creation from both a music maker and a publisher's perspective, so giving them a unique take on the situation: "we can empathise with the artists we work with and they know they're dealing

with people who have been, and still are, in their position" said Conrad.

A wide and ever-growing selection of older and newer reggae, roots and related music can be downloaded from Cruise International; get in touch by visiting www.dx1music.bandcamp.com/releases

DX1's 'Wisdom of Roots' can be downloaded from popular platforms such as Spotify, Amazon, iTunes and Juno.



ANDREW FLINTOFF

TO STAR IN FAT FRIENDS THE MUSICAL AT LEEDS GRAND THEATRE

**THE RETIRED ENGLAND CRICKETER AND FORMER
PROFESSIONAL BOXER FREDDIE FLINTOFF
PREPARES TO MAKE HIS STAGE DEBUT IN LEEDS**

Former England cricket captain and star of Sky's A League of Their Own, Andrew "Freddie" Flintoff, will swap the cricket pitch for the stage as he joins an all-star cast for the world premiere of Kay Mellor's Fat Friends - the Musical which opens at Leeds Grand Theatre on 7th November 2017.

Freddie will play Kevin Chadwick opposite the previously announced Jodie Prenger as his fiancée, Kelly. X-Factor winner Sam Bailey will also feature with further casting to be announced.

Speaking about his debut, Freddie said: "I am really excited to be starring in Fat Friends - The Musical at Leeds Grand Theatre in November and at some other great venues around the UK in 2018. Having had the pleasure of recently working on an episode of Kay's latest TV series, it's great to have the opportunity to work with her again. I loved the TV series and think Fat Friends - The Musical, is going to give people a great night out. I'm really looking forward to it."

One of the world's most recognised cricket stars, Freddie Flintoff won the BBC Sports Personality of the Year award in 2005 after playing a pivotal role in regaining the Ashes from Australia. Since the Lancashire Lad's cricket career ended in 2010, he has forged a career as a much-loved presenter and broadcaster appearing as a captain on SKY's 'A League of Their Own' and being crowned King of the Jungle in the first Australian version of 'I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here!' Freddie has also launched a clothing range 'Flintoff by Jacamo'. Having just filmed a part in Kay Mellor's new ITV series, this role will see Freddie continue to affirm his acting credentials after bowling over the show's creator, Kay Mellor and composer Nicholas Lloyd Webber during auditions.

"I was introduced to Freddie at one of our TV casting sessions" said Kay. "It was clear to me that he could leave his cricket bat behind, embody a character and understand the drama. It was a no brainer... he got the part. Then, as we were talking through Fat Friends - The Musical, I wondered if Freddie could sing. I was ecstatic when Nick met him and agreed his voice was perfect for the role.

"I am thrilled and delighted that Freddie is able to join us for our run at Leeds and part of the tour as well, playing our leading male. I can't wait to start working with the super talented cast we've got so far!"

Nicholas Lloyd Webber added: "I am thrilled that Freddie will be joining our stellar cast of Fat Friends - the Musical. He immediately really impressed us in his audition and we are so excited to be working with him on our show. Our starting XI is now nothing short of sensational."

The award-winning TV drama has been adapted for the stage by its creator and one of the UK's most prolific writers, Kay Mellor, whose extensive television credits include hit series Band of Gold, The Chase, The Syndicate and In the Club, and whose stage credits include A Passionate Woman.

Fat Friends hit television screens in October 2000, following the lives of a group of overweight friends as they struggled with the absurdities of modern dieting. Running for five years on ITV, the show starred Alison Steadman, Gaynor Faye and Lisa Riley, and launched the careers of James Corden and Ruth Jones. Written by Kay Mellor, the show was nominated for multiple awards including the BAFTA for Best Drama Series.

**Fat Friends - the Musical is
at Leeds Grand Theatre from
Monday 7th Nov to Saturday
2nd Dec 2017.**



City Nights Out

CIARAN BINGHAM FOUNDATION TRUST GLAMOROUS BLACK TIE BALL

Recently the first ever Ciaran Bingham Foundation Trust Glamorous Black Tie Ball took place at The Marriot Hotel to raise awareness for the charity.

The night was a fantastic chance for all of the guests to enjoy a VIP red carpet arrival, a fizz reception, a 3 course meal with wine, live entertainment and lots more surprises along the way!

During the night guests were entertained by a number of acts, including Leeds born singer Tom Bleasby who rose to fame

by performing on X Factor and duetting with Jessie J on The Ellen Show. It was a night to remember from beginning to end!

In combination with the ticket sales, there was also a raffle that took place on the night which saw prizes such as a luxury break at Tottergill Farm Exclusive Holiday Cottages and meals from all over the city won. The night was a huge success raising almost £12,000 for the charity and it's service users.

Get more information on the charity here: www.cbft.co.uk

Photography: Oliver Dixon





Image Credit: Terry George

THE MUST SEE LIVE ACTS AT LEEDS PRIDE 2017

HEATHER SMALL

After selling several million records, winning two Brit Awards and the Mercury Music Prize, Heather Small is one of the most successful female recording artists of recent years.

As part of M People, hits

such as Moving On Up, One Night In Heaven and Search For The Hero including albums like Elegant Slumming, Bizarre Fruit and Fresco achieving massive worldwide success, Heather became one of the seminal British voices of the 90s, with the band winning the Best British Dance Act Award at the Brits in 1994 and 1995, as well as the

Mercury Music Prize for Elegant Slumming.

Heather has since had great successes with two solo albums, the title track of her Proud album has gone on to become the soundtrack to a whole host of very special events including London's successful 2012 Olympic bid, the 60th anniversary of VE Day in Trafalgar Square, the launch of Queen Mary 2, the Tsunami Relief Concert, England's victory at the Rugby World Cup celebrations, and the official ceremony marking the handover of the Olympic Games from Beijing to London.

And when Oprah Winfrey was looking for a song to sum up the work she'd been striving to achieve over her twenty-year career, she got in touch with Heather, who somehow managed to squeeze in a trip across the

Atlantic to perform on the show right in the middle of her last UK tour with M People "If Oprah calls, you go!" she once said, adding that the first lady of chat was "very sweet to me".

Well known for her charitable work, Heather was also recently made an ambassador for the children's charity Barnardos and is continually involved with fundraising and helping lend her valuable support to projects around the country.

So what gives Heather the impetus to keep moving forward, to keep challenging herself, to keep trying new things and not resting on her laurels? "If you got the feeling I do when I sing," she said, "you'd understand".

Heather Small will headline the main stage at Leeds Pride on Lower Briggate on Sunday 6th August.





BLONDE ELECTRA

Blonde Electra are a British pop duo who formed in Germany in 2013.

You may know them from their time on the X Factor or just because of their infectious, care free pop music.

The two sisters have been making music from an early age and have worked as songwriters in Europe and the United States, creating a reputation as eccentric crowd pleasers.

They are best known for their performances in the

eleventh UK series of The X Factor in the 'Group' category, mentored by Louis Walsh. The duo reached the finals and took part in the first live show. Although the duo did not advance to the second week, the choreography and fashion style of their

live performance stood out and since then they've maintained a reputation for being a truly entertaining live act.

To know when and where they'll be performing, keep an eye on Leeds Pride's Twitter: @LeedsPride

PAUL STONE

Paul Stone is a Yorkshire born swing singer who has worked with a host of huge names in the industry, including legendary song writer Diane Warren.

Paul Stone is a simply brilliant live act, with a reputation for combining his original soul songs with covers of modern hits, he's a must see performer at this year's Leeds Pride.

He has also received support from local press and even the BBC with DJs Steve Wright and Paul O'Grady praising him on Radio 2.

A very proud Yorkshire man, Paul Stone is delighted to be performing at Leeds Pride. Speaking about his local

roots, Paul Stone said, "I see myself as a local lad! There's a lyric in my song 'You'll Never Ride Alone' that says 'See the old man, say hello. Just watch his eyes and know, the smile is not for show.'" and the meaning of that is that Yorkshire people are always approachable and they always want to welcome you. There's just a certain charm about Yorkshire people."

There will be an announcement about exactly where you can see Paul Stone perform at Leeds Pride soon.

For more confirmed headliners and more news about the Leeds Pride celebrations, head to www.leedspride.com



CITY PARTIES

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FOR NIGHTLIFE IN LEEDS VISIT

WWW.LEEDSCITYMAGAZINE.CO.UK



POP STAR'S PARENTS WITH DARRYL MORRIS



We've all been there, no matter our age. A loud bang from the utility room and suddenly a bunch of plug sockets wont work. We'd like to think we can step up and take the situation in our stride, but the reality is different. Phone out. Call Dad.

I made lasagna this weekend and got little more than 4 minutes into the preparation before measurement panic set in and... phone out. Call Mum.

Thankfully, you'll be pleased to know that our favourite pop stars are no different. As much as it may appear they know what we don't and have their lives down to a complete tee, they also reach for Mum and Dad on speed dial.

When Harry Styles launched his much-anticipated solo career, he dropped by the Radio Aire evening show and told me that he still regularly checks in with Mum and step Dad for advice, including playing them his new material.

"Mum cried," he told me, "I think that's a good sign." I think it's

safe to say it is. Things got a little more complicated with his step Dad, though.

"I had one piece of feedback from my stepdad, one of the songs on the album has a vocal effect in the background. And it finished and he went, "How did you get a duck in the studio?"

His former bandmate Niall Horan told me he also checks in with Mum.

"She calls me every day and tells me where she's heard my songs!" Cute.

It falls to Ed Sheeran, who paid his parents back for their support with a new house and by building them a swimming pool and gym, to tell me the best Dad story ever:

"We (Ed and hid dad) were at the Warner after party of the Brits one year when he lit up a cigarette right in the middle of the party. Somebody went up to him and said he couldn't smoke, asking him to leave. He turned to him and said, "I am Mr. Warner!" He got left alone and was allowed to smoke!"

Can't live with them, can't live without them.

Darryl x

Catch Darryl Morris, Sunday to Thursday from 7pm on Radio Aire with all the biggest hits and all the biggest stars.



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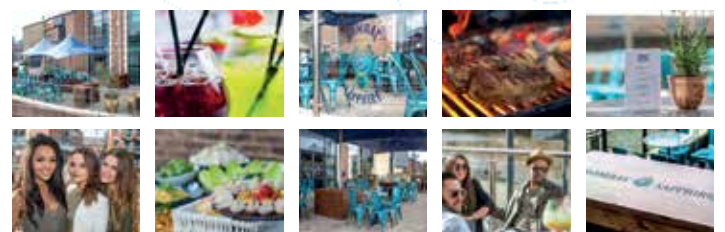
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ORACLE'S BOMBAY SAPPHIRE TERRACE IS AVAILABLE FOR PRIVATE AND CORPORATE HIRE

Overlooking the River Aire, this stunning, newly refurbished terrace makes the perfect setting for BBQ's, cocktail parties and outdoor events.

Available for groups of 30 to 300, Oracle offers a wide range of bespoke catering menus, including a hog roast and an extensive range of drinks and cocktail packages.

For further information call 0113 246 9912 or email info@oraclebar.com





One of the biggest, and most important events of the year in the city is rapidly approaching - Saturday 6th and Sunday 7th of August will once again be the Leeds Pride weekend!

This year marks the 11th Pride in Leeds and each year it manages to get bigger and better, last year over 35,000 people visited across the weekend! Sunday is the main day of Pride, and if you've never experienced this event then you are missing out! The city is transformed into a vibrant, colourful, happy, musical, and a very warm and accepting place.

Friends, families, visitors and more all gather along

the parade route to take in the sights of the amazing parade, full of floats built by local bars and venues, businesses and members of the community, before heading to Lower Briggate to continue the party with international and local stars on the main stage.

The feeling of love and togetherness hits me every time, people are relaxed and they can be truly themselves. Sometimes, and at times myself included, people question the need for such events in "this day and age", but sadly both local and international events prove that we're not quite there yet when it comes to complete equality. It's been a difficult few months across the country, so let's come

out, party, and make this a weekend of love for the whole of Leeds.

It was great to catch up with Sigala and Ella Eyre, both of them are behind the summer banger "Came Here For Love". The last time I saw Ella it was at her gig at the sadly missed Cockpit back in 2015, then I was responsible for organising the after-show party at Fibre. The guys have a bunch more songs coming over the next few months which they wrote on a trip to Thailand - however, it was nearly ruined by a squirrel taking out the whole cities electrical supply, you can listen back in full at capitalfm.com.

Big shout out to all the new additions, (and places to



spend our money in town) - the absolutely beautiful Tattu held a great opening party and raised a load of money for Simon on the Streets, Issho (sister to Craffthouse and Angelica) opened above Victoria Gate with stunning food and roof terrace, and Marco's New York Italian has opened near Leeds Arena, attached to the impressive Ibis Styles hotel. The main man, Marco Pierre White returned home for a special lunch (and took an instant shine to JoJo!) Meeting him on his giant grand chair brought back feelings of visiting Santa aged 5!

*Big Love!
Adam x*

**Come say hey on twitter:
@AdamOnCapital**





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