



out & about

freshers
guide
to
london

"All men are created equal. No matter how hard you try, you can never erase those words." - Harvey Milk



Imperial College Union **LGBT**

Bank of America 
Merrill Lynch

IQ would like to thank its sponsor, Bank of America.

contents

4

all about IQ



5

a note from
the president



6

information



10

who am i?



14

a little bit of
culture



15

gay bars



18

nightclubbing



20

soho map



22

i dont feel like
dancing



25

timeline



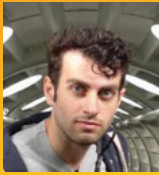
about IQ

introduction

IQ, or Imperial Queers as we're sometimes known, is the LGBT society for Imperial College Union. We're here to help people get to know each other, to provide support for people and generally to have a bloody good time doing it.

Events wise we do everything from going out clubbing, to discussions about really important things, with a few film nights and days out thrown in on the way.

committee 2011/2012



president
Alfredo Carpineti
alfredo.carpineti07@
imperial.ac.uk



treasurer
Matthew Cottam
matthew.cottam09@
imperial.ac.uk



secretary
Russell Hills
russell.hills09@
imperial.ac.uk



events
Christopher Socha
chris.socha09@
imperial.ac.uk



web&publicity
Sebastian Grubb
sebastian.grubb10@
imperial.ac.uk



women's officer
Samia Gottardi
samia.gottardi09@
imperial.ac.uk



welfare
Iona Robinson
iona.robinson08@
imperial.ac.uk



postgrad
Sharan Gill
sharanjit.gill09@
imperial.ac.uk

The committee would like to make a special thanks to Sebastian Grubb and Chris Kurzeja for their time and efforts in creating the professional design and thoughtful original content of Out & About.

welcome

a word from the president

When we decided to write an LGBT freshers guide four years ago, we wanted to create something that might be helpful in your London life. We remembered how scared we were when we approached IQ, when we started coming to the events and we wanted to find a way to tell people it was OK, we have all been through that and this was the beginning of a shiny new chapter.

During my time in IQ I've seen this society grow a lot and I've seen more and more boys and girls who approached our stand with their heart thumping turn into men and women happy and confident to be who they were born to be.

I feel incredibly honoured to be your president this year, and I'll try to continue the good work of my predecessor. I wish your time in London is as good as it is for me, a weird brilliant city that you can call home, full of crazy, silly and marvellous people you can call your friends.

Alfredo Carpineti

important info



Q-Phone

Call or text this number to contact a committee member to find/contact us during an event.

07963005676



facebook page

[facebook.com/
iqlgbt](https://facebook.com/iqlgbt)



website

[union.ic.ac.uk/scc/
IQ/](https://union.ic.ac.uk/scc/IQ/)

information

Sometimes you just have a burning question (or something else burning) that you need help with. Sometimes friends are helpful, but most of the time you just want to find out anonymously. This section lists places and people that are there to help you out.

info & advice

Imperial College Counselling

The Student Counselling Service offers short-term counselling to registered students of Imperial College London. It is free and confidential. Counsellors are available at the South Kensington, Hammersmith, Wye and Silwood Park Campuses.

Website: www.imperial.ac.uk/counselling



An international gay youth website based in the UK providing 'interesting and useful content' with a growing community of members making up a support network.

Website: www.thegyc.com



A lesbian guide to London. Check it out girls, this is one of the biggest online communities targeted for you in the United Kingdom.

Website:
www.gingerbeer.co.uk



London Lesbian & Gay

Switchboard

The LLGS provides information, support and referral service for lesbians, gay men, bisexual people and anyone who needs to consider issues around their sexuality.

The volunteers that work for the line will not judge you or tell you what to do; they provide suitable support, information and discuss any relevant options with regards to your problems.

10am to 11pm, 365 days a year. **Website:** www.llgs.org.uk

Phone Number: 020 738 77324 **Text Number:** 020 768 98501



QUEER YOUTH
network

A National LGBT Youth Organisation in the UK. Run by and for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Trans Youth and Teens.

Website: www.queeryouth.org.uk

Terrence
HIGGINS
TRUST



The THT is the largest HIV and sexual health charity in the UK. Don't ignore them just because you think HIV has nothing to do with you - their website has some great info on sexual health.

Website: www.tht.org.uk

sexual health

Sex. Sex, sex, sex, sex; you're not going to be able to avoid it. In fact you'll probably have some, and enjoy it too. The important thing to remember is that you have got to look after yourself, have safe sex and get yourself checked out sometimes.

For more information about all things sexual, there is a guide from the London LGBT Student Network. For places to get yourself tested in Central London contact the following clinics. Remember, if you're worried about something, it's better to sort it sooner rather than later.

JOHN HUNTER CLINIC

Chelsea & Westminster Hospital, 369 Fulham Road, London, SW10 9NH.

Website: <http://www.chelwest.nhs.uk/hiv-sexual-health>

Phone number: 020 884 66699

JEFFERISS WING CENTRE FOR SEXUAL HEALTH

St. Mary's Hospital, Jefferiss Wing, Winsland Street, London W2 1NY.

Phone number: 020 788 61225

clinics

MARY'S CLINIC

GUYS: this clinic caters especially towards gay and bisexual men.

W. Churchill wing, St Mary's Hospital, Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust, Praed Street, London W2 1NY

Website: <http://www.imperial.nhs.uk>

Phone number: 020 7886 6790

THE GOLD SERVICE

(Gender Identity Clinic)

Opens 3rd Wednesday of each month, 1:30–4pm. To access the clinic book an appointment by calling.

179–183 Fulham Palace Road, London, W6 8QZ (above Sainsbury's)

Phone number: 020 8846 1579

CLASH

11 Warwick Street, London
W1B 5NA.

Phone number: 020 773 41794

SOHO CENTRE FOR HEALTH & CARE

20-30 Soho Square (entrance on Frith Street), London, W1.

Phone number: 020 753 46500

VICTORIA CLINIC

South Westminster Centre for Sexual Health, 82 Vincent Square, London, SW1P 2PF.

Website: <http://www.chelwest.nhs.uk>

Phone number: 0845 811 6699

WEST LONDON CENTRE FOR SEXUAL HEALTH

This includes two specialised clinics:

-Orange clinic: women who have sex with women, every other Wednesday, 1:30 – 7pm, by appointment only.

-West 6: men who have sex with men, Tuesdays, 5:30 – 7:15pm, preferably by appointment but can walk in.

Ground Floor, South Wing of Charing Cross Hospital, Fulham Palace Road, London, W6 8EP.

Website: <http://www.chelwest.nhs.uk>

Phone number: 020 884 66699

These are just some of the many clinics available across London and facilities such as PEP are available at some A&E Departments. Gay/bi men should also get vaccinated against hepatitis B, which is free from these clinics.

so what happens?

It's all very well having a list of phone numbers to ring and sexual health centres to visit, but you might think it doesn't apply to you.

Well, first of all the sexual health centres are important and here for everyone. Men, women, sexually active or not - the vast majority of us do use them. For starters all gay and bisexual men should register with a clinic and get their free hepatitis B vaccination. This is a course of three jabs and a booster which will protect you from hepatitis B in the future. You should protect yourself even if you aren't sexually active at the moment.

Also, these clinics can provide free condoms and lube (which you can also get from the union). Always useful to know.

They'll help you if you think you've got a sexually transmitted infection too. Their records are kept confidential (they won't even reach your GP, so you don't have to worry about that). If you think you've been exposed to HIV then you should either visit a clinic or a hospital where you may be treated with PEP - a month's course of medication which may prevent infection.

The clinics also offer general checkups and can answer all your questions.

who am i?

When we started writing this guide, we knew straight away we didn't want a normal advice section; we don't have all the answers and information to do that! So we decided to put together a collection of stories about coming out and the things that people don't necessarily talk about freely. It's not always happy but we always get through and things work out in the end...

discovery

"I'm gay"; not the easiest words one ever has to say. For some people coming out is as natural as a sunrise and to everyone around them the fact that they're gay is just as obvious as one. The rest of us are left with the long night beforehand.

Being thirteen is never easy but it was a particularly tumultuous year for me. In the space of a year my parents were divorced and I was living on the other side of the world to pretty much everything I had ever loved. And there I was, lonely, in a dank and grey Midlands city; wondering how my lot could get much worse. Then puberty hit me like a punch to the groin. I couldn't imagine a worse time to become a moody little brooder. At first, though, things were pretty normal for a boy of my age, you know... ummm...'exploring', 'discovering' and other such euphemisms. But

then a disconcerting thing happened. It dawned on me, rather suddenly, that I was much more attracted to men than women.



The difference in attraction was akin to that between a dingy and an aircraft carrier. An aircraft carrier full of sailors, but I digress...

Scared by this sudden realisation, I decided to hide my discovery away. I couldn't deal with it myself; how was anybody else supposed to? Even thinking the word 'gay' was difficult.

Something vital to my being was

locked away in a dark and secret place, left to slowly stew. Years passed, where I tormented myself with my secret. It gnawed away at me from the inside. Lies were woven but eyes seemed ever watchful. I had to keep my tongue in check and not get caught.

And so it was for five years. What was left to stew came steadily to a boil. Depressed and angry I knew I had to set my secret free on the world, though still I hadn't the courage to do it. Then I left home and arrived at university, scared, lonely and depressed, I saw a chance to change it all. To throw off those years of confusion, anxiety, anger and sadness and be who I really was.

first night nerves

I'm standing on the staircase of the Coronet Theatre, Elephant & Castle. Yet another coffin is carried up the stairs by 4 pallbearers. No, I'm not at a funeral; I'm at Duckie's Gay Shame – the "Annual Festival of Homosexual Misery," a tongue-firmly-in-cheek anti-Pride celebration. I'm scared shitless. Not only because every

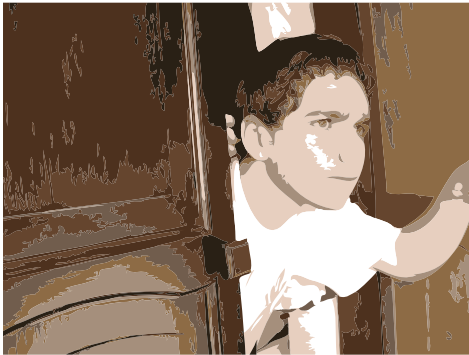
hour another coffin is brought up of someone who'd just faked their own death on stage, but because this is my first proper experience of the London "gay scene".

Now this may not seem the most traditional of first scene experiences, but in retrospect I wouldn't have had it any other way. Having grown up as a confidence lacking country boy from a tiny village in the North West, I was completely fed up of the stereotype presented on TV and knew there must be more to homosexual culture than one big pink sea. Not that I was particularly tempted to explore it. While all my friends started progressing from drinking cider in the local park on the Friday night to exploring Liverpool's nightlife, I shied away, keeping to my studies. I was *that* cool.

It's 2nd July 2005 and I'm in London with a friend to see New York singer Justin Bond at the Soho Theatre. Going down to London as often as I could was more my way of having fun, rather than drinking myself into a stupor (how things change). We thought we'd make a weekend of it to celebrate finishing our GCSEs. It happened, by coincidence to be

the weekend of London Pride. Equally intimidated and uninterested by the OTT display of homosexuality, I avoided it at all costs. While I was comfortable, I didn't yet feel confident enough to be "proud" of whom I was.

It just so happened that after Justin's show he was performing his



drag cabaret act, Kiki & Herb at Gay Shame, the antipride – aimed at "Sad Old Queens, Lonely Lesbians, Closet Cases, Bitter Bull Dykes, Men who have sex with Men, and their Friends and their Fans" – perfect! Intrigued and terrified, my friend persuaded me to go along. After adding a few years to my age with some Black Kohl eyeliner, I tried to stop my nervous shakes as I walked past the bouncers standing between my first scene experience and me. As they looked up and down me I was convinced they'd

ID me. By some miracle they didn't!

Fresh from our under-aged success, we headed straight to the bar and with some much needed Dutch courage, we hit the dance floor. Expecting the place to be filled with attitude, it was refreshingly attitude free. Everyone was having an amazing time, with awesome music – Primal Scream to Girls Aloud. It felt liberating to be at a place where you could actually be whoever you wanted to be and not be judged in the slightest (You may want to pick up a sick bucket for the next sentence...). I felt freed from the shackles of conformity! As we worked away towards the stage, the performances began. Every hour, a different homosexual would "commit suicide" on stage in a variety of ways. With fake blood splattered everywhere, a mixture of sailors and freaks came on stage, dancing as the body was placed in a coffin and then carried through the audience. I'd never felt so laid back about my sexuality. To see so many people being comfortable and proud of whom they were, yet able to poke fun at themselves was a revelation. As the night drew to a close, we

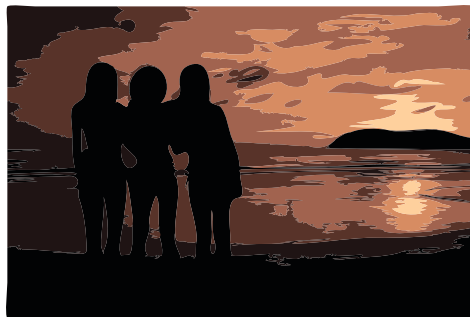
stumbled out of the Coronet and caught the night bus home, on a high all the way.

Since then, I've not looked back.

friends

Telling my friends and flat mates was the first big step I made in coming out. I was scared that they wouldn't want to live with me, and that I was going to lose all my friends and be isolated. But I felt that I had to do it eventually, because sneaking guys out of the house before anyone woke up wasn't the best environment to start a relationship in, and I was sure that my flat mates were getting suspicious at the amount of time I was spending with my 'drama' friends.

It was a hard first step to take, but one that in the end brought us closer together. I suggested we go to a pub one evening, and I gave myself a bit of Dutch courage, two pints in, and I suddenly said, 'I need to tell you guys something.' They both stopped chatting and put their drinks down and stared at me, I felt as if they were already waiting for such an announcement, and then I said it out loud for the first time, 'I am



gay', and then just in case, added, 'but I am still the same me'. There were a few seconds of silence, followed by, 'oh, right', then they started asking some questions, which was welcome, because it prevented an awkward silence. I proceeded to tell them how I had been lying about where I had been disappearing to on weekends, and to tell them about my boyfriend. They laughed about it, and told me it was no big deal, and that they would love to meet my boyfriend, that it made sense now, because they were kind of worried about me, and all the late nights I was having.

After my flat mates, it became easier and easier to tell my close friends, of course there was no need to tell everyone, or rub it in people's noses, but it did mean that I could integrate both parts of my life. For me it was one of the best things I have ever done.

pride

London Pride has been run by several organisations since the first UK Gay Pride Rally, on the 1st July 1972; 2000 people came. That number has been growing steadily as the event goes from strength to strength. A political rally has been held since 2004, and more and more events are organised to help celebrate the diversity and culture of the gay community.

In 1992 London was selected to hold the first Europride, with attendance estimated at 100,000. London again held Europride in 2006 with an estimated 600,000 participants.

the parade

Large numbers of LGBT-friendly people from all walks of life take part in the parade; a celebration of diversity and a key event for the community.

Since 1991, the Friends of Dorothy Society of Change Ringers have rung the bells of the church of St Martin in the Fields in Trafalgar Square during the morning of Pride, and as the parade passes.

For many the most iconic image is of a long rainbow flag carried along with the parade.

Since 2006 Regent Street and Oxford Street have been closed off to allow the parade to pass through. Many in the LGBT community see this as a sign of wider acceptance, although the parade once marched down Oxford Street illegally in protest in the 80s.

Groups who participate include The OutZone, Youth Project for gay and bisexual young men, Mosaic LGBT Youth, Queer Youth, Out On Thursday, Metro Centre, Youth@Pride, The Pink Paper, Transport for London, Metropolitan Police, London LGBT Student Network and many others. Since 2004 the Mayor of London has participated by walking part of the route with the rainbow flag.

London bars

Gay bars. If you want to head out for an evening of chilling out with your mates we've put together this list of bars to go to.

soho



Three bars spread across three levels with a different vibe in each. Good selection of drinks, reasonable food, friendly staff and located on Soho Square so perfect for drinks on a sunny afternoon.

11 Soho Square, W1

12pm to 1am (Mon-Sat) and 2pm to 11.30pm (Sunday)

Website: www.edgesoho.co.uk



Circa is the new boy in town. It's a slick bar, it will make you feel like you're relaxing in a living room. The music here is a mix of pop to commercial house, including the classic club anthems. This fits in with its trendy young clientele.

62 Frith Street, W1

4pm to 1am (Everyday)

Website:

www.circasoho.com



A lesbian venue in Central London, Candy Bar spans 3 floors of pink femininity. Love it, hate it, it's one of the few we've got! Drinks can be pricey but it's still friendly.

4 Carlisle St W1

5pm to 11.30pm (Mon-Thur)

5pm to 2am (Fri-Sat)

5pm to 11pm (Sun)

Website:

www.candybarsoho.com



A tiny little venue, very cosy and hidden away. Typical London prices for drinks (which are only doubles), good music and lots of Barbie dolls and trolls stuck to the ceiling. Check it out.

Basement, 79 Wardour St W1

12pm to 1am (Mon-Sat) and 2pm to 11.30pm (Sun)

Ku

The original Ku Bar on Lisle St has two bars across two levels, with decent drinks and friendly staff. Girls will enjoy Ruby Tuesdays! The new Ku Bar on Frith St has a fairly large lounge bar in the basement. Both are usually busy with a good atmosphere.

30 Lisle St, W1 and 25 Frith St, W1
12pm to 12am (Mon-Sat) and 12 pm to 10:30 pm (Sun)

G-A-Y

Camp pop classics, cheap cocktail pitchers, always busy with a good crowd for those random fun evenings with friends.

30 Old Compton Street, W1
12pm to 12am (Mon-Sun)



A traditional pub with a gay twist in a very central Soho location. Standard prices and friendly staff.

77 Wardour St, W1.
12pm-11pm (Mon-Wed)
12pm to 12am (Thur-Sat)
12pm to 10.30pm (Sun)



A courtyard bar and lounge area with a wide range of cocktails. Slightly more professional crowd and happy hours 6pm till 8pm Monday to Thursday.

57 Rupert St, W1.
2pm to 11.30pm (Mon-Thur) and 2pm to 12am (Frid-Sat)
2pm to 10.30pm (Sun)



green carnation

A unique venue inspired by Oscar Wilde. Three floors with good facilities. A nice alternative venue for an evening.

5 Greek Street, W1D.
4pm to 2.30am (Mon-Sat)
3pm to 12.30am (Sun)

RUPERT STREET

A large bar with a slightly older crowd and average prices. Often busy in the evenings and with a good range of cocktails. Limited seating but lots of standing space indoors and outside.

50 Rupert St W1
12pm to 11pm (Mon-Frid)
11am to 12am (Sat)
11am to 10.30pm (Sunday)



Two floors with a lounge area, friendly staff and a different crowd to other bars. Standard drinks prices.

2 George Court, WC2N.
5pm to 11pm (Everyday)

general

TWO BREWERS

South London's busiest club bar

Cool bar and cabaret venue.

114 Clapham High Street,
SW4
5pm to 2am (Mon-Thur, Sun)
5pm to 4am (Frid-Sat)



The Hope & Anchor is a friendly pub with a beer garden in Hammersmith. Perfect for summer.

20 Macbeth St, W6
11am to 11pm (Mon-Sat)
12am to 10pm (Sun)

A modern bar with friendly staff, well-placed next to Islington Green for post-picnic drinks and 5 minutes from Angel tube.

74 Upper Street, N1.
4pm to 12am (Mon-Wed)
4pm to 1am (Thur)
12pm to 2am (Fri)
11am to 2am (Sat)
11am to 12am (Sun)

the green.

oak bar

A casual, friendly and well-priced lesbian bar. The Oak Bar is a little way out in Islington, but served by the no.73 bus from Central London.

79 Green Lanes, N16
12pm to 12am (Mon-Thur, Sun)
12pm to 1.30am (Fri-Sat)

nightclubbing

Sometimes it's time to spend the night dancing away. Here are our suggestions on where to go.

soho

Ku

Small club, reasonably priced drinks, different music every night and a reasonable crowd. Ku Klub's staff are always friendly.

30 Lisle Street, WC2H
10.30pm to 3am (Mon-Sat)

G-A-Y

Late

Camp pop classics, cheap cocktail pitchers; essentially G-A-Y Bar continuing into the night.

5 Goslett Yard
11pm to 3am (Every night,
Sunday is members only)



Indie club night now located at The Den. Good crowd, okay drinks, three music rooms and a good night out. Best to get there early though, and download the webflyer to get free entry!

The Den, 18 West Central St WC1A
10pm to 4am (Fri)

ESCAPE

A small venue in Central London with a mixed crowd of young people, playing the classic pop you'd expect. It is one of the most affordable outings in Soho so check it out!

10 Brewer Street W1
18 pm to 3am (Mon - Sat)



Shadow Lounge tends to have a slightly older crowd than its neighbours but it's mostly unpredictable and you could find yourself clubbing with a young crowd. The club's nice blue and gold decor may be what convinces you to pay its high drink prices!

5 Brewer Street, W1
10pm to 3am (Mon-Sat)

general



Several different rooms with music to suit your mood and slightly expensive drinks. It is however one of London's most famous gay nightclubs so it's worth going there at least once. New home of G-A-Y, and some women's nights some Thursdays.

Under the Arches, Villiers Street, WC2
10.30pm to 3am (Mon, Wed)
10.30pm to 5am (Fri, Sat)



Easy going but slightly older crowd, good music, variety acts some nights and a nice break from Soho. Comedy acts and even bingo make for refreshing nights when you don't feel like partying. Check their website for details.

372 Kennington Lane, SE11
5pm to 2am (Mon-Thu, Sun)
5pm to 4am (Fri, Sat)

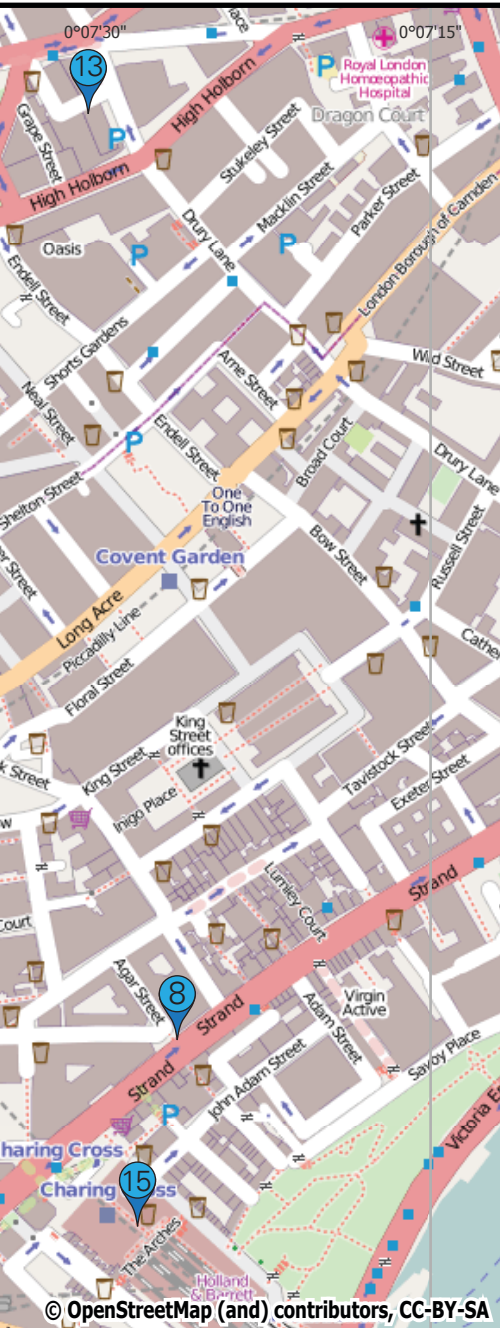


The Roxy isn't usually a gay club but every bank holiday it hosts a "100% babe party". Playing house, R&B, pop and all the great old schools it promises a great turnout. Also check their facebook page for the occasional parties they host at the Den and Centro.

The Roxy
3 Rathbone Place, W1P 1DA
8:30pm to 3pm

soho map





© OpenStreetMap (and) contributors, CC-BY-SA

bars

- 1 - the edge
- 2 - G-A-Y bar
- 3 - friendly society
- 4 - candy bar
- 5 - rupert street bar
- 6 - ku bar (lilse st)
- 7 - ku bar (frith st)
- 8 - retro bar
- 9 - green carnation
- 10 - yard bar
- 11 - duke of wellington
- 12 - the blue posts

clubs

- 13 - popstarz
- 14 - G-A-Y late
- 6 - ku klub
- 15 - heaven
- 16 - shadow lounge
- 17 - escape

other

- 18 - balans cafe
- 19 - balans bar and restaurant
- 20 - first out cafe bar
- 21 - foyles bookshop
- 22 - comedy camp @ barcode

i don't feel like dancing

It's not all about the bars and clubs; there are always those times when you want to do something different.

london gay symphony orchestra

Run by members for members. A repertoire committee chooses the music played. Concerto auditions and composer auditions are held every year for members and non members.

lgso.org.uk

out for sport

A website that provides information about gay sports clubs in London including 'Out To Swim' LGBT swimming/water polo and 'London Titans' football club.

www.outforsport.org

prowler

A chain of gay stores that sell gifts as well as essential supplies (i.e. condoms, lube).

www.prowlerdirect.co.uk

coffee, cake and kink

Currently in the process of relocating, Coffee, Cake & Kink will

be somewhere you can get your caffeine hit whilst browsing kink from art and books to homeware and stationery. Watch this space.

coffeecakeandkink.com

balans

At no. 34 Old Compton Street, Balans is an established café right in the heart of Soho. Apart from a delicious range of food and drinks, Balans offers WiFi and is open all hours of the day and night. For their combined bar/restaurant, just wander down to no. 60.

www.balans.co.uk

first out cafe bar

The First Out Bar is definitely worth a mention (especially with their Girl Fridays) but First Out has more to offer than space to drink and socialise, with regular LGBT art and photography exhibitions and one-off events advertised on their website.

www.firstoutcafebar.com

52 St Giles High St, WC2

foyles

The Foyles Bookshop on Charing Cross Road has an extensive gay section with everything from fiction, classics and biographies to books on art and sex. Students get 10% off everything.

www.foyles.co.uk

113 Charing Cross Road, WC2

lesbian discussion group @ gay's the word bookshop

Every Wednesday (weekly) 8-9pm, this discussion group for lesbians covers a range of subjects as advertised on their website. The bookshop itself is also a must-visit for the largest range of gay and lesbian books in London.

freespace.virgin.net/gays.theword

66 Marchmont St, WC1

the women's library

Check out London Met. Uni's library with resources on women's history and an exhibition space.

www.londonmet.ac.uk/thewomenslibrary

25 Old Castle St, E1

freedom cars

Don't even think about using the dodgy minicabs driving round Soho late at night. Freedom Cars is a gay/lesbian-friendly minicab company licensed by Transport for London. Black cabs are another safe bet.

www.freedomcars.co.uk

Book online or by phone:

0800 600 006 (free number)

bisexual underground

Every second Tuesday of the month, 30+ bisexual men and women meet in the upstairs bar of The Blue Posts. Go along for friendly faces and a pint from 6pm.

www.bisexualunderground.org

The Blue Posts, 81 Newman St,
WC1

attitude magazine

A slightly more intelligent gay lifestyle magazine than its competitors, published monthly and available from most magazine retailers.

www.attitude.co.uk

comedy camp @ barcode

Downstairs at Barcode in Soho every Tuesday, Comedy Camp is a straight-friendly night that's usually a good laugh. See the line up and buy advanced tickets online, or queue for limited tickets at the door. Shows usually start at 8.30pm and finish before 11pm.

www.comedycamp.co.uk

Barcode, 3-4 Archer St, W1

diva magazine

Europe's largest-selling magazine for lesbians and bisexual women, published every month with news, entertainment, travel, features, music, scene and listings.

www.divamag.co.uk

the london lesbian and gay film festival

The LLGFF takes place every spring. It began as a season of gay and lesbian films at the National Film Theatre in 1986 and 1987 under the title "Gay's Own Pictures", curated by Peter Packer of the Tyneside Cinema, and was renamed the London Lesbian and Gay Film Festival in 1988. The 22nd LLGFF took place from Thursday 27 March to Thursday 10 April 2008 and featured over 200 films.

Organised and run by the British Film Institute, most LLGFF screenings take place in the BFI Southbank. Open and closing gala screenings take place at the Odeon in Leicester Square. Every summer, a selection of feature films and short films shown at the Festival goes on tour around the UK.

timeline

London is totally gay! It's a place where many a gay man and woman have found refuge and an ability to be themselves without inhibition. As the political, cultural and financial hub of Britain it has also been at the forefront of much change. Here we take a glance at how London has changed gay life in Britain, starting after the law which partially de-criminalised homosexuality in 1967.

1970

The London Gay Liberation Front (GLF) founded at a meeting in the London School of Economics on the 13th October.

First gay demonstration in the UK took place in Highbury Fields, Islington.

1971

The first gay march through London, protesting against the unequal age of consent for gay men (21) and ending with a rally in Trafalgar Square, took place in August.

1972

The first UK Pride carnival and march through London to Hyde Park held on the 1st July.

1974

London Gay (later Lesbian and Gay) Switchboard launched in a bookshop on Caledonian Road. With a year it was running 24 hours a day. The South London Gay Community Centre opened in a Brixton squat.

1979

Heaven, London's first mainstream gay club, opened in the Adelphi Arches.

1981

Ken Livingstone, the new leader of the Greater London Council (GLC), promised support to gays and gave the first 'gay grant' to the London Gay Switchboard.

1984

Chris Smith, MP for Islington South, first MP to come out while in office. Gay Times began first publication in May.

1985

With a grant from the GLC the London Lesbian and Gay Centre opened in Farringdon.

1988

Section 28, preventing the 'promotion' of homosexuality by local authorities, came into force. Ten thousand protested in London.

1989

The Stonewall Group set up in response to Section 28.

1990

The direct action group Outrage! formed in May. First action takes place at Hyde Park Public Toilets to protest Metropolitan Police entrapment of gay men cruising.

1991

Outrage! held a kiss in at Piccadilly Circus.

1992

London hosted the first Europride.

1994

The House of Commons voted to reduce the gay male age of consent to eighteen. The crowds outside were bitterly disappointed that it had not been reduced to sixteen and a riot ensued in the precincts of parliament for 150 years. Crowds rampaged to the G-A-Y disco and owner Jeremy Joseph gave them free entry.

1998

The House of Commons overwhelmingly voted for equal age of consent. It was defeated in the House of Lords.

1999

A lone Neo-Nazi extremist nail bombed the Admiral Duncan pub in Old Compton Street, killing 3 and injuring 70, in the third in a series of bombs targeted at various minorities in London.

2001

The Great London Authority (GLA) was the first local authority in the country to officially recognise same-sex partnerships, paving the way for Civil Partnerships. Parliament finally equalised the age of consent.

2003

Section 28 Repealed.

2004

Civil Partnership Act passed by Parliament.

2007

The Equality Act (Sexual Orientation) Regulations became law.

trivia

The Scala nightclub, until just recently home to the alternative gay night Popstarz, used to be a cinema which showed gay erotica in the 70's.

The 'grassy knoll' next to the Royal Vauxhall Tavern, south London's oldest surviving gay pub, is all that survives of the Vauxhall Gardens, which was closed in 1859 because it was used by gentleman to pick up working lads.

The Royal Vauxhall Tavern, an early Victorian music-hall, was where Lily Savage's career started.

The Coleherne in Earls Court counted amongst its regulars such famous gays as Freddie Mercury, Kenny Everett, Rudolph Nureyev, Anthony Perkins and Armistead Maupin back in the 80's. These days it attracts a less glamorous crowd.

Bank of America Merrill Lynch



Bank of America Merrill Lynch's Associate Affinity Groups (AAGs) are professional networks run by our employees. They create an environment that accepts, values and encourages diversity and inclusion. One of the bank's AAGs is the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Pride Resource Group (LGBT Pride.) All employees are encouraged to bring their whole selves to work. Members and allies of the LGBT Pride are committed to raising awareness about LGBT issues and opportunities in the community.

