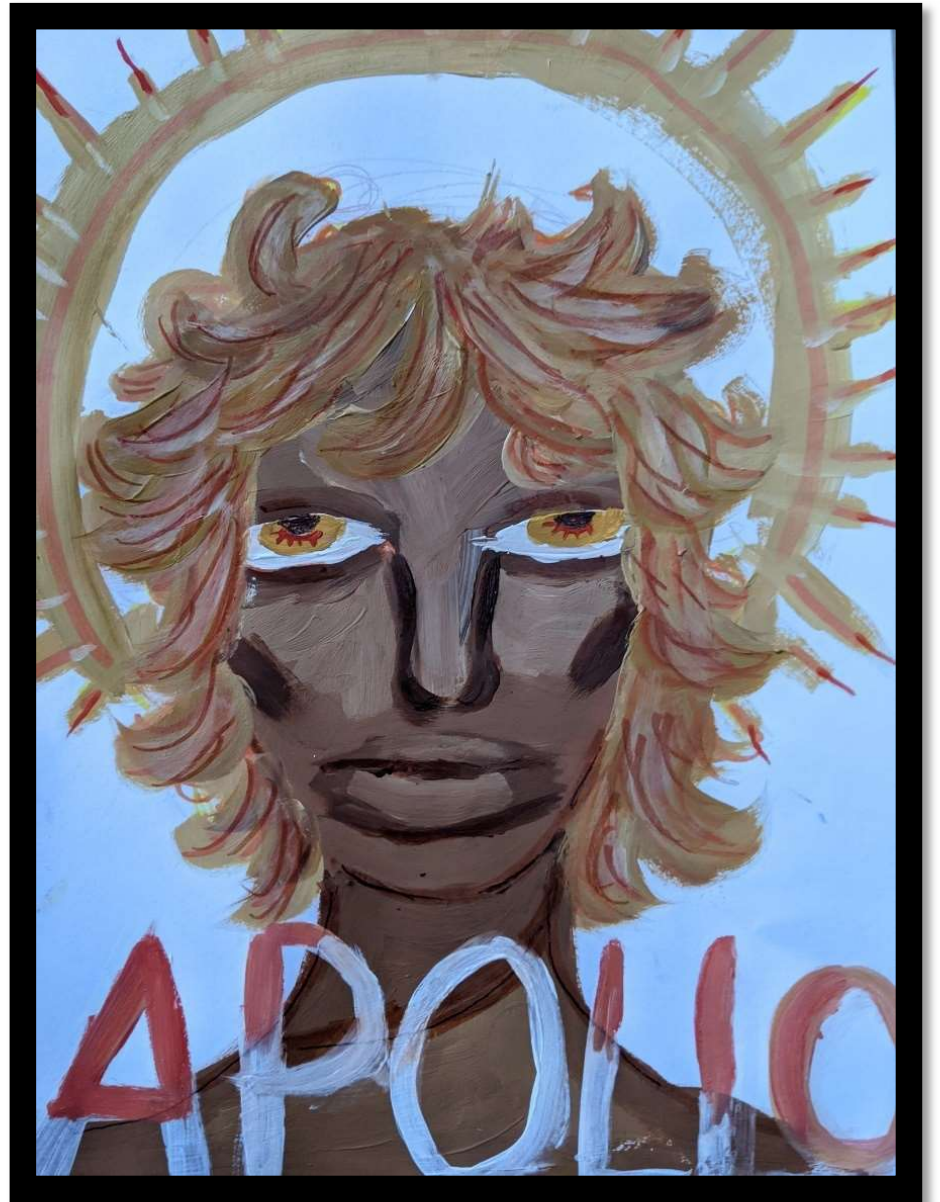


*Apollo is a bisexual Greek God. Apollo was openly known as having both male (Hyacinth, Cyparissus) and female (Kassandra, Marpesia, etc.) love interests.*



*Sappho was an ancient Greek poet who lived on the island of Lesbos, which is where the word lesbian comes from. She was known as a poet who wrote love poetry for women as a woman.*

**Artwork and Captions By Dara-Grace McCabe Lvnagh**

# The 'Sœur Sourire'

By Kieran Syal



*Sister Gabriel singing her dreary 1982 disco version of 'Dominique', emotionless and unhappy.*

The 1963 hit song 'Dominique', reached Number One in the American charts and awarded the lead singer, sister Luc Gabriel, better known as 'Sister Smile' (Soeur sourire), widespread fame for a brief period. Sister Luc Gabriel was born to a Belgian Patisserie owner and at an early age signed herself up to a Catholic youth group, before having powerful premonitions convincing her she was to become a nun.

After a five-year spell teaching sculpting, Gabriel did indeed resign and join a convent; 'The Missionary Dominican Sisters of Our Lady of Fichermont'. It was here where she formed a troupe of 'singing nuns', who later sang 'Dominique'; a jaunty, tuneful, merry little ode to St Dominic, whose clique of devoted supporters and him walked barefoot across Europe in the 13<sup>th</sup> century, spreading the word of God. St Dominic was also the founder of the Dominican order Sister Gabriel was part of.

Their beautiful, choral singing - and the humorous sight of an ensemble of modest nuns making such popular, harmonious music - won the 'Soeur Sourire' a contractor, who promoted 'Dominique' worldwide. It took America by storm and hit Number 1 for a full three weeks. Delighted with the nuns' sudden fame, Gabriel's superiors wasted no time in thrusting her into the limelight, seeing it as a chance to advertise the order. The nun's life was suddenly abuzz with activity, and to top it off Sister Luc Gabriel donated all her profits (£100,000) to the convent (95% of the profits went to the contracting company 'Phillips'), before the senior nuns sent her to Coventry, denying the other nuns all contact with her due to her 'bad influence'. She was shunned by all after a clash with her superiors, involving a disagreement with their teachings.

And so, with this damning expulsion, Sister Gabriel left. She never abandoned the strict disciplines of the nunnery though; she felt that staying chaste, praying several times a day, and maintaining a simple lifestyle kept her sane. Frustrated at the jolly, friendly presentation of herself that the convent had been keen to keep up, she started releasing albums full of lowkey, miserable songs. Her 1968 album 'I am not a star in heaven' included the prophetically titled 'Sister Smile is Dead', perhaps hinting at her unforeseen and tragic passing later on. She pointedly dismissed the 1966 film 'The Singing Nun', starring Debbie Reynolds and loosely based on her, as 'absolutely idiotic' and 'fiction'.

It was at the period of time after her dismissal, that Sister Gabriel reunited with her friend, whom she had met at summer school as a youngster, Annie Pelcher (a Theologian and a fellow nun). They moved into an apartment together, and according to Gabriel remained celibate. Having read speculation around their relationship, she wrote: "*The answer is still obvious that I am not homosexual. I am loyal and faithful to Annie, but that is a whole other love in the Lord. Anyone who cannot understand this can go to the devil!*"

Annie reportedly grew quite controlling and possessive of Gabriel, and they were both together ousted from the Catholic Church after Gabriel wrote an unseemly song called 'Glory Be to God for the Golden Pill!' (referring to the contraceptive pill). It is this characteristically rebellious streak that forced her to end a Tour of Canada abruptly after an audience in Quebec was upset by her new, seemingly un-catholic song lyrics. She still remained true to her faith though, and never let go of her Catholic leanings.

Then, in the 1970s, her and Annie suffered a terrible blow. Gabriel had been presented with an unpaid debt of £63,000 in taxes for her successful 1963 song 'Dominique'; it had come back to haunt them. The convent refused to contribute, and the contracting company, Phillips, didn't pay a penny. Both women spiralled into poverty, and in a last, fruitless attempt to pay back this enormous debt, Gabriel desperately tried to restart her musical career. She recorded a 'Disco version' of 'Dominique' in 1982, reluctantly adopting her former title of 'Sister Smile' and deserting all her former disciplines and good taste.

In the music video of this new disco version, she is traipsing sullenly up and down a gravel pathway to a backdrop of a crumbling church. The rhythm's curiously downbeat for disco, and her singing hollow, dull, and melancholy. She and Annie were certainly in dire straits, for in 1985 both Annie and Gabriel took an overdose of drink and drugs and died. In their suicide note, they requested to be buried together.

## NBH PRIDE AND DIVERSITY PROJECT



*Artwork and Gallery  
Description by Xavier  
Lewis, Kasper  
Nicholson and Max  
Green*

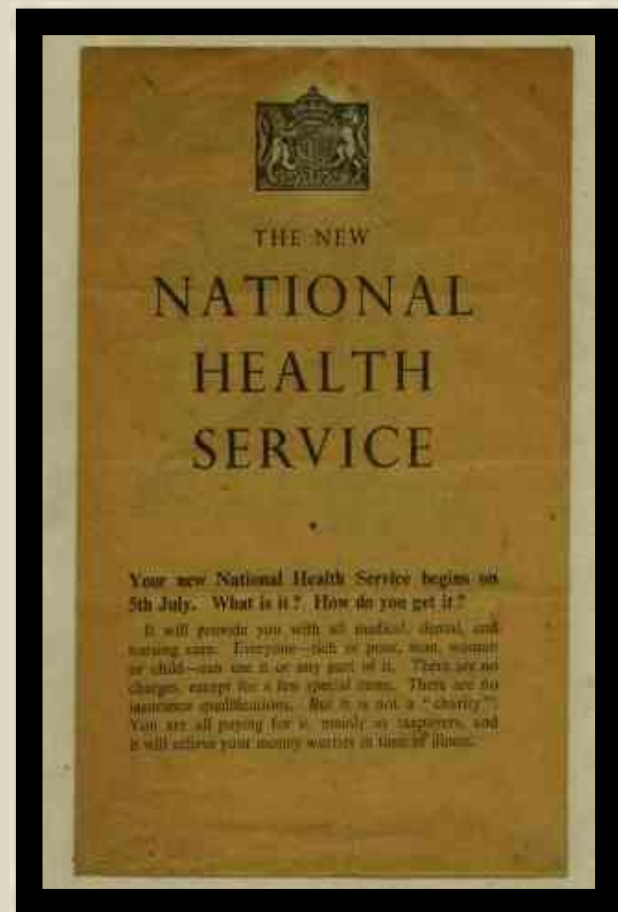
During the late 20<sup>th</sup> century, Pride was an outcast, ostracised by society in a multitude of nations, who felt that this movement could not follow religious ideology and their politics, who were very much an obstacle in promoting the movement. However, fast forward 30 years, and Pride and Diversity have been strongly integrated into the societies of many European countries including the likes of the UK, France and Italy whilst also being slowly assimilated into the powerhouses of Southern America such as Argentina, Brazil, and Colombia. This exhibition aims to both show awareness and appreciate Pride and Diversity in North Bridge House, but also to explore Pride and Diversity through art in a variety of different media. Several groups have

been working on the project with materials varying from paint on canvas to clay as well as utilising plaster, paper airplanes, collages, cardboard and many more. The message of each group has differed in some areas but generally has been the same: although Pride and Diversity are recognised and incorporated in many civilisations across the globe, more things need to be done to ensure that there is a brighter future for Pride and Diversity. And that is where you can make a big difference. By immersing yourself in the artworks of this gallery, you'll not only be able to comprehend that Pride and Diversity is beautiful, but also understand that we need to do more if Pride and Diversity is to flourish in the foreseeable future. I hope you enjoy the exhibition.

## On This Day in History...

July 5<sup>th</sup>, 1948

The Beginning of the National Health Service Act



On July 5<sup>th</sup>, 1948, the United Kingdom's National Health Service came into effect. The service was founded in order to give access to free healthcare to all residents of the United Kingdom. The Emergency Hospital Service, established during World War 2, not long before the NHS, gave the public a sense of what having free healthcare was like. During the war, medical care had been unreliable and inadequate, and those with less money often relied on charities or smaller organisations when sick. Labour came to power in 1945 and put in place a number of new operations that ensured the welfare of the public. The Minister of Health, Aneurin Bevan, was tasked with introducing the NHS. He believed that 'a doctor should be able to meet his patients with no financial anxiety'. The organisation has helped and saved the lives of many British citizens for the 73 years that it has been functioning.

Over the course of more than 7 decades, the NHS has had many great achievements. It is the first free healthcare service in the world that is funded by taxes, rather than insurance or fees. In other areas around the globe, such as the USA, healthcare is far from free, and people often struggle to pay medical bills. The average American will pay over \$500 on healthcare per month, while in the UK, it is predominantly free. During the Covid-19 pandemic, we have often referred to NHS workers as heroes. According to the NHS chief executive, Simon Stevens, 'one million lives may have been saved around the world' by our health service during this time.

## Is Pride fit for Purpose?

By Adam Mulholland

Some of you may see writing about Pride in this way as brave. Others may see this as vulgar or downright wrong. But, when I say that I am questioning myself, it may take the edge off what I am about to tell you.

I question the point of Pride in the modern day because I believe that it does not fulfil some of its promises.

Firstly, I feel that Pride can cause division, by alienating others. Pride marches were first organized to commemorate the landmark gay uprising against a police raid at New York's Stonewall bar in 1969. They now number in the hundreds, and some have grown into big-budget extravaganzas supported by dozens of corporate patrons.

Critics like myself complain that Pride parades are more about partying and selling rainbow-colored flags and teddy bears than about protesting continued discrimination. "A political movement simply can't have corporate sponsorship," says Sarah Schulman, an author and lesbian activist who stopped attending pride parades altogether after seeing a Coors beer float pass by.

I do understand that the LGBTQ community has and will unfortunately continue to be discriminated against.

However - in the modern day and in this country - they are not discriminated against by law, as per the Equality Act of 2010. Those who do discriminate will not be persuaded by an intrusive "propaganda" campaign. Following an increase in public support for Pride from corporations, we have seen the rise of far-right ideologies promoting - among other things - an anti LGBT message. These include the Spanish Vox party who want to ban the flying of the rainbow flag in public. I think that Pride is therefore doing more harm than good in promoting LGBT people's right to love anyone despite their gender or identity.

I see attraction, and the question of who loves who, as a fact of life to be overlooked, not shamed or praised. It was Martin Luther King who called for us to 'judge people on the content of their character', rather than any other defining feature. For some like me, this question of attraction has become an unhealthy obsession.

Margaret Thatcher strayed far from King's motto when she introduced 'Section 28' to Parliament in 1988, which prohibited the promotion of homosexuality in any context. She accompanied this ban with this rallying cry: 'Children who need to be taught to respect traditional moral values are being taught that they have an inalienable right to be gay. All of those children are being cheated of a sound start in life. Yes, cheated!'

It was with these words that Thatcher made life for many gay people growing up before 2003 - when Section 28 was lifted - miserable, being unable to turn to or trust any member of authority and unprotected by the law. But that was then. When there was discrimination against LGBT that needed to be addressed. Now, the gear level of mainstream opinion has swung quite suddenly into drive, in danger of looping back on itself, and regressing. Companies have now adopted this new 'progressive' thinking, and as part of pride month, Oreo dyed and stacked their biscuits to look like the pansexual flag. Ben and Jerry's have announced that 'Love comes in all flavours' on their advertisements, adorned with

multicoloured cows. I don't want to be forced to eat political opinions. I'm not sure buyers would want to be reminded of their love lives while purchasing pudding either.

I feel, secondly, that Pride does not do enough to spread the message of acceptance worldwide. In Africa, for example, identifying with the LGBT community is illegal. In ten out of the eighteen countries in the Middle East, identifying as gay is also illegal and is, in some cases, punishable by death. In short, although being able to publicly identify as part of the LGBT community is commonplace in Europe, this is quite often not the case elsewhere. In Russia the leader of the orthodox church said that same sex marriage is a "dangerous sign of the apocalypse". When was the last time you heard Pride address that? In Turkey, the president - Erdoğan - said that LGBT people do not exist, and he proceeded to water cannon down Pride protesters. Countries like these are places where Pride is really needed. If Pride's purpose is to promote the acceptance of LGBT people, then we still have a long way to go. Clearly, we need to re-evaluate our priorities and focus on ensuring LGBT equality worldwide.

The anniversary of the Stonewall Riots, 28th June, was first celebrated as Pride Day, before morphing into Pride week and eventually stretched out to an entire Pride month. A pride day, to commemorate the day when gay people stood up to police violence raiding their only available gathering space, is a respectful way to celebrate. A pride month is a step too far, and a step - no, a leap - closer to exasperating the temperaments of those who disagree.

From the outside, although the point of Pride is well understood, it could be construed as a large and rather meaningless party. If we used the resources involved in the creation of these Pride celebrations in London to promote LGBT acceptance in other places such as the Middle East, Africa, and China surely the movement would shed its glacial pace in these areas.

My stance against Pride does not mean I am anti-LGBT people in any way. It just means that I think the Pride month does more harm than good to the reputation and effectiveness of the LGBT acceptance movement. I would be happier to support Pride if it actively included people who would otherwise be critical of the LGBT community, if it actively encouraged those who feel alienated by its aggressive "propaganda" and encouraged acceptance of LGBT in countries where it is not accepted. At the moment, however, I feel as if we have lost sight of the real reason as to why we celebrate Pride. With the unnecessarily extravagant celebrations in the UK, this message is being lost both here and in countries - whole continents even - that have trouble accepting the LGBT community.

Was it not Stonewall, themselves, that said: "some people are gay, get over it"?

I believe it is time that we all took heed of that message.

## Key Counterarguments

By Lara Doburacilar

Debate and discussion of different ideas and perspectives is important. In the interest of parity, below outlines some counterarguments to the opinion article 'Is Pride fit for purpose?'

1) **Law versus Reality.** The article suggests that modern law, such as the Equality Act of 2010 or Section 28, means that anti-LGBTQ discrimination is a thing of the past ("But that was then.") The reality is that discrimination still very much impacts the lives of LGBTQ+ people today. A 2017 report from the LGBTQ charity Stonewall, found that:

- One in five LGBTQ people have experienced a hate crime or incident because of their sexual orientation and/or gender identity in the last 12 months.
- Two in five trans people have experienced a hate crime or incident because of their gender identity in the last 12 months.
- Four in five anti-LGBTQ hate crimes and incidents go unreported, with younger LGBTQ people particularly reluctant to go to the police.

Stonewall recommends that rather than diminishing the existence of LGBTQ discrimination, we should take a visible stand. Some ideas include: supporting campaigns; calling out online anti-LGBTQ abuse; and report incidents of homophobic, biphobic or transphobic discrimination to teachers, service providers, and authority figures.

2) **Purpose of Pride.** The idea that it is Pride's purpose, or responsibility, to convert prejudiced people to the LGBTQ 'cause' is misdirected. Rather than seeing Pride as an event held to "persuade" critics, it should be seen as a celebration and opportunity for a historically marginalised community of people to be 'proud'. The suggestion to call the movement 'Pride' came from the activist L. Craig Schoonmaker who in 2015 said: "A lot of people were very repressed, they were conflicted internally, and didn't know how to come out and be proud. That's how the movement was most useful, because they thought, 'Maybe I should be proud.'"

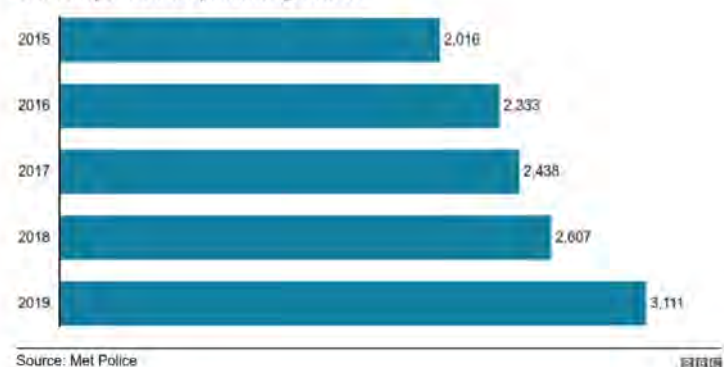
3) **Other countries.** The article accuses Pride of not doing enough to address more discriminatory laws and societal cultures across the world. This is an unfair accusation. In a globalised world, Pride offers intersectional communities a chance to unite. Organisations and charities, such as the American OutRight Action International, have worked alongside LGBTQ activists, diplomats and policymakers to advance community-focused solutions to create lasting legal and social transformation. Indeed, in 2020, with many countries in lockdown and cancelling public events, Global Pride online gave people the opportunity to unite under the phrase 'exist, persist, resist'.

Pride is not only global – it's political. It started in the West with a focus on 'liberation' and protest against discriminatory laws. Today, you still see many activists protesting to highlight global human rights abuses that impact LGBTQ communities. Examples include: protests against the Russian 2013 'gay propaganda law', the criminalisation of homosexuality in Iran and Saudi Arabia, and right-wing repression of LGBTQ protests in Hungary and Poland – to name a few.

Advocating for 'worldwide equality' and raising awareness is surely more powerful than criticising the existence of Pride?

4) The article argues that "the question of attraction should be overlooked". This argument feels very similar to the 'I don't see colour' comment, which undermined and ignored the complexities of systemic racism and the 'Black Lives Matter' cause. In an ideal world, gay people holding hands, a lesbian couple on a bus, or simply a queer person walking down the street should be 'overlooked', as in, not looked at. The reality, however, is that being visibly queer in society can be dangerous, as evidenced by the growing number of homophobic hate crimes in the UK, and London especially. Pride provides an opportunity for LGBTQ people to be visible and safe in numbers, and to hopefully engage people in the importance of tackling hate crime.

Homophobic hate crimes in London  
Crimes reported in the year ending October



Finally, the question of whether Pride is adopted by commercial businesses for hollow marketing purposes and the mere illusion of inclusivity is certainly valid – there has been much written exploring the danger of 'rainbow washing'. Pride, at its roots, has always included political activism alongside celebration and commemoration of all the LGBTQ community has achieved over the years. We can all agree that this should not be rainbow-washed away.

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## PRIDE MONTH

By Mae Poole

### Why do we celebrate pride?

In 1969 New York, in a place called The Stonewall Inn, the LGBTQ+ community would gather to meet. This was one of the few places that people were accepted and could go to be themselves. At this time in history, the LGBTQ+ community more often lived outside of what was considered 'normal' society and were at best not treated as equals and at worst, as criminals, mentally or physically unwell and openly abused. The Stonewall Inn was a sanctuary and a safe place to gather and meet and created a sense of family and belonging rather than of being ostracized. People felt safe to be who they really were. Many of these bars that accepted LGBTQ+, including The Stonewall Inn, were owned by the Mafia and often raided by the police throughout the 1960's. On the night of 28th June 1969, the local police raided the Stonewall Inn to arrest the residents, though this time things quickly began to escalate, and the police lost control of the situation. People finally fought back when the police became violent. This series of spontaneous demonstrations erupted into more protests the next evening and again several nights later. This left the police with no choice but to retreat and back down. Tensions between the NYC

police and the LGBTQ+ residents were running high, and the people had had enough. This is when the people of the LGBTQ+ community decided to stand together as a group and protest these raids. Within weeks, residents of these bars began to form activist groups demanding the right to live openly no matter what their gender or sexuality was and without fear of being abused or arrested.

This series of riots became known as The Stonewall Riots (also known as the Stonewall uprising or the Stonewall rebellion).

Exactly one year later the first gay pride marches were held in Chicago, Los Angeles, New York and San Francisco to commemorate the community standing together and in honor and memory of the Stonewall Riots.

More than 5 million people came together to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of The Stonewall uprising. New York City Police Commissioner James P. O'Neill gave a formal apology for the actions of the NYC police force and a National Monument was placed at the site of the riots.

These celebrations have grown exponentially over the last 50 years and still today they are held annually to celebrate and to remember what a pivotal moment in history for humankind it was.

### How to celebrate pride:

**Pride 2020 was cancelled so this year will be a big one! The marches will be in September this year in London and plans are still being finalised but until then lets celebrate now.....**

- Create your own parade celebration in your gardens, on your balconies or at home.
- Attend or organise your own virtual pride party and invite your friends.
- Wear lots of colorful rainbow clothes.
- Take good care of your mental health and well-being. Life has been tough for the past year or so, so treat yourself with kindness and remember to be full of PRIDE :)
- Make colorful tie die rainbow facemasks (or t-shirts, bags, etc.)
- Make your own pride flags.
- Watch LGBTQ+ tv shows and films. And have a PRIDE themed home cinema night – don't forget the rainbow popcorn!
- If you just fancy a good old night in on the sofa or dancing for one and a cheer up then there are a host of virtual drag shows (don't forget to check age settings!), Ru Paul & Michelle Visage to keep you company and even just your favorite play list.
- Read a good book either written by someone who is part of the LGBTQ+ community or that is promoting LGBTQ+
- Learn all about the history of pride - there are great podcasts, books and films to educate yourself and learn about the people who fought so hard for equality and freedom.
- Decorate your home inside and out with bright rainbow colors (e.g., rainbow bunting etc.)
- Museums are open again (ticketed timings for now) so pop to see some LBGT+ art at the British Museum.
- And don't forget to create your own rainbow emoji :)

## Great recipes to celebrate pride month!

Get your bake on! We all love to bake and what's better than baking a colorful masterpiece. Here are a few good recipes to use if you want to get baking, and if you are feeling healthy try making these delicious rainbow salad pots (the recipe is also below 😊)

## Rainbow cake:



### Ingredients:

You'll need 3 x these ingredients for six sponges.

- 125g butter, softened, plus a little extra for the tin.
- 225g plain flour
- 150g golden caster sugar
- 3 medium eggs (Very important to use the correct size)
- 1 tsp baking powder
- pinch of salt
- 1 tsp vanilla extract
- edible food colouring - red, orange, yellow, green, blue and purple, plus optional pink (see below)

### For the icing

- 1 tsp vanilla extract
- 750g soft cheese or mascarpone
- 350g icing sugar

## Method

- **STEP 1:** Heat the oven to 180C/160C fan/gas 4. Butter 2 x 20cm round sandwich tins and line the bases with baking parchment. Tip all the sponge ingredients, apart from the food colouring, into a mixing bowl, then beat with an electric whisk until smooth.
- **STEP 2:** Working quickly, weigh the mixture into another bowl to work out the total weight, then weigh exactly half the mixture back into the mixing bowl. Pick two of your colours and stir a little into each mix. Keep going until you are happy with the colour – the colour of the batter now will be very similar to the finished cake, so be brave! Scrape the different batters into the tins, trying to spread and smooth as much as possible – but try not to waste a drop of the batter – a rubber spatula will help you. Bake on the same oven shelf for 15-20 mins until a skewer poked into the middle comes out clean. Don't worry if those sponges are thin, there are many layers.
- **STEP 3:** Gently turn the cakes out onto a wire rack to cool. Wash the tins and bowls thoroughly and start again from step 1 – this time using another two colours. Unless you're making the optional pink layer, repeat one more time to get 6 sponges, all different colours. Leave them all to cool.
- **STEP 4:** To make the icing, very briefly beat the vanilla and soft cheese or mascarpone with an electric whisk until smooth. Sift in the icing sugar and gently fold in with a spatula. Be careful – the more you work it, the runnier it will get, increasing the chance of splitting.
- **STEP 5:** Smear a little icing on your cake stand or plate – just a splodge to stick the first sponge. Start with the red, then spread with some icing right to the very edge. Repeat, sandwiching on top the orange, yellow, green, blue and finally purple sponges. Spread the remaining icing thickly all over the sides and top of the cake. For more expert advice on how to create the perfect rainbow cake, check out our tips, below.

## Rainbow salad pots:



### Ingredients

- 350g pasta shapes (De Cecco is a good brand that stays nice and firm)
- 200g green beans, trimmed and chopped into short lengths
- 160g can tuna in olive oil, drained
- 4 tbsp mayonnaise
- 4 tbsp natural yogurt
- ½ small pack chives, snipped (optional)
- 200g cherry tomatoes, quartered
- 1 orange pepper, cut into little cubes 195g can sweetcorn, drained

## Method

- **STEP 1:** Cook the pasta until it is still a little al dente (2 mins less than the pack instructions) and drain well. Cook the green beans in simmering water for 2 mins, then rinse in cold water and drain well. Mix the tuna with the mayonnaise and yogurt. Add the chives, if using.
- **STEP 2:** Tip the pasta into a large glass bowl or four small ones, or four wide-necked jars (useful for taking on picnics). Spoon the tuna dressing over the top of the pasta. Add a layer of green beans, followed by a layer of cherry tomatoes, then the pepper and sweetcorn. Cover and chill until you're ready to eat.



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## **THANK YOU FOR READING THE PRIDE EDITION OF THE TRUE NORTH!**

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**Submit good quality writings/artworks (or send in a request to become a regular contributor) to [thetruenorthnorthbridgehouse@gmail.com](mailto:thetruenorthnorthbridgehouse@gmail.com), and, after review, they may then be included in the next edition.**

As this school year comes to a close, we would like to thank those who have helped us publish all eight of our editions. Without all of your help, the paper would have been a total disaster, and riddled with errors! None of this would have been possible without the guidance and hard work of...

- **Ms Jones** – Thank you so much for your contribution to the newspaper and for your unwavering belief in us. You are always there to lend a hand and we do not know what we would have done without your sunny disposition. It has been such a pleasure!
- **Clair** – Thank you for helping us set up online meetings, create teams, printing and emailing out the newspaper, and much more! We would still be back in March of 2020, trying to figure out how to conduct online meetings, had it not been for your help.
- **Charlie** – Thank you for looking over the final versions and correcting spelling mistakes.
- **Mr Jones** – for dealing with our erratic scheduling and still finding the time to edit and look over our editions to ensure that they were suitable for publication.
- **Mr Stickland** – for letting us use your fabulous room and being party to many of our debates!
- **All our contributors** – your commitment and dedication will not be forgotten. The newspaper could never have made it to where it is today without your contributions and, for that, we will remain eternally grateful.