

CVF Members Meeting Minutes

Date: Friday, 19th April

Time: 10:00am - 12:00pm

Venue: The Rockwell Community Centre, 6 Summerfield Rd, Bradford BD10 8DP

Introduction from Co-Chairs

The meeting opened with a welcome from the Co-Chairs who highlighted a significant increase in new memberships. They announced the next meeting in May and the upcoming Annual General Meeting, which will focus on the future direction of CVF over the next two years.

Introduced the four Co-Chair candidates who were in attendance.

Bloomin Buds

Katie Mahon introduced Bloomin Buds: A Theatre Company based in Bradford, focusing on creating work surrounding working class narrative, community-centric initiative, discussing its purpose and activities.

Members of Bloomin Buds and the CVF members in attendance sang together. [Learn More](#)

Gerry Bell

Gerry Bell delivered a captivating drag king performance.

This was followed by a presentation on the history of drag kings, discussing notable figures and the cultural significance of drag performance in the LGBTQ+ community: Annie Hindle, Vesta Tilley, Hetty King, Ella Shields, Gladys Bentley.

Gerry is skilled Living History Interpreter and performer and is available to work with any organisation within the Bradford area, to create site specific characters for their site.

Email: gerrybell21@gmail.com

Queer Arts Presentations

Leon Fleming

- As a playwright and producer, Leon discussed his work which melds queer themes with broader societal issues.
- Talked through his previous works.
- His approach aims to spotlight the complexities and richness of the LGBTQ+ community, offering a nuanced perspective that challenges mainstream portrayals.
- Leon emphasised that his theatrical work is particularly designed for queer audiences, advocating for genuine representation. This focus allows the content to resonate on a deeper level by bringing authentic voices and hidden stories to the forefront.
- Through his discussion, Leon illustrated how queer theatre is an essential medium for communication within the community, serving as both a mirror and a megaphone to express, explore, and advocate for the diverse experiences of its members.

[Learn More](#)

Lisa Mallaghan

- Representing Sonia Sandhu, Lisa discussed the breadth of LGBTQ+ programming and gatherings that Sonia has facilitated, emphasising empowerment and community-building through these initiatives.
- With BPH's support and resources, in the role of LGBTQIA+ Arts Instigator, Sonia has been able to:

- Provide one-to-one support, advice and signposting towards training and funding opportunities to individual artists/producers/creatives.
- Create spaces where artists have been able to connect to find peer support, new collaborators and strengthened social connections when going to see inspiring queer live work and talks together.
- Develop commissioning opportunities.
- Be in dialogue with local queer producers about their events and projects, and support through BPH via marketing, audience reach, and funding towards access costs.
- Advocate for a more joined-up approach between arts organisations and artists; putting forward queer artists for commission opportunities, suggesting arts organisations consult with BPH when programming queer work at their venues.
- Be on the steering group for Bradford Pride in 2023 and support with access costs via BPH.
- Supported approx. 130 LGBTQIA+ creatives through this work.
- [Check out Sonia's full report here!](#)

Alice Parsons

- Alice Parsons is the director of the [Bradford Queer film Festival](#).
- Spoke on the evolution of the Bradford Film Club into the Bradford Queer Film Festival established in 2022. She recapped the festival's success in November of the previous year, which featured 80 films, various speakers, and workshops, drawing around 800 attendees.
- The next festival is scheduled from November 21st to 24th and will expand to multiple venues.
- Alice also covered the OUT OUT initiative, starting in early 2022, highlighting its significance as West Yorkshire's premier drag king event, noted for its accessible spaces and robust staff training.
- Recently ran UK's first Drag King residency.

Bradford 2025

- The Bradford 2025 team, including Janina Mundy, Rob Abbey, and Gaby Lees, provided updates on the preparations for the UK City of Culture year.
- Bradford 2025 Presenters
 - Janina Mundy, Director of Audiences: Janina.mundy@bradford2025.co.uk
 - Rob Abbey, Marketing Manager – Audiences: rob.abbey@bradford2025.co.uk
 - Gaby Lees, Engagement Programme Producer: gaby.lees@bradford2025.co.uk
- Upcoming events and opportunities at Bradford 2025
 - [Osman Yousefzada – Where it Began](#)
 - [Compagnie Off – Les Girafes](#)
 - [Volunteering](#)
- New Brand. They discussed the new brand image launched recently, emphasizing its connection to Bradford's identity. The colours and design elements of the brand image were explained, reinforcing their local significance. Zayn Malik's enthusiastic involvement was highlighted, with his appearance in the brand trailer receiving over 2.1 million views.
 - [Download the Love Bradford logo](#)
 - [Watch and share the new brand film](#)
 - Get in touch with suggestions about how to use our brand: audiences@bradford2025.co.uk

- Plans for a programme announcement in September were mentioned, alongside ongoing efforts to engage community participants, with an aim to involve 3,500 volunteers and various creative professionals in the upcoming events.
- Additionally, the introduction of five community connectors was noted, tasked with linking communities to the Bradford 2025 programme and informing its approach by building strong local networks.

Closing Remarks and Member Updates

The meeting concluded with an open discussion among members, who shared updates and engaged in discussion about future initiatives and current projects.

If any members want these added onto the website/ in the next mail out – please submit these [here](#).