



## **Essex Pride Celebrates 21st Anniversary**

It is the biggest LGBTQ+ community celebration in Essex, and is all set to return on Saturday 21<sup>nd</sup> June 2025 in Chelmsford.

The celebrations begin with the City Centre Pride March, which arrives at Central Park, where the main pride festival opens with something for everyone to celebrate the 21st anniversary of Essex Pride.

Each year Essex Pride welcomes around 4000 people, this is an event for the whole community, and it's more than just a huge party. Pride inspires everyone to embrace equality, and demonstrates that people from all walks of life can join together and celebrate diversity.

### **The City Centre Pride March**

The pride march returns with the aim of bringing LGBTQ + visibility, reflection & celebration. The march is free to join and sets off from Popworld Chelmsford at 11:20am, and follows an accessible route winding through the city centre to finish at Central Park - where Essex Pride's annual festival will take place.

Attendees joining the pride march are asked to register in advance on the [Essex Pride Website](#) and then to gather on the day at PopWorld Chelmsford from 10am.



## The Central Park Pride Festival

The Pride Festival in Central Park opens at 12pm midday and closes at 10pm, with the last entry at 8pm. This year's celebrations offer a huge lineup of artists performing live, along with entertaining stalls, pride merchandise & gifts, businesses and organisations offering advice & support for the LGBTQ+ community, plus great food & licensed bars.

With 2 live entertainment stages to choose from and a huge lineup of artists hosted by local legend Nina Ambrose, the multi-talented Saski and the incredible local drag artist Carrot.

Expect outrageous drag queens, and emerging local talent. Headlining will be The Vengaboys, Louisa Johnson, Rupaul Drag Race Queens Tia Kofi & La Voix, plus there'll be a Dua Lipa tribute, and Vicky Jackson performing live as PINK!



## The POPWORLD Silent Disco Dance Tent

Essex Pride have teamed up with POPWORLD for the ultimate pride party experience! Grab up your headphones from the dance tent entrance, and you can choose between the 2 styles of music from Club Classics and Party Tunes! The dance tent is open from 12pm midday to 10pm



## The Family Zone with First Essex Buses

Head over to the big Essex Pride Firstbus for craft activities and story time readings throughout the day, especially for families with younger children. Hosted by award winning author Ollly Pike. Be sure to also check out the Circus Skills Workshop!

**ESSEX PRIDE**  
AND first bus  
PRESENT THE FAMILY ZONE  
HOSTED BY:  
**POP n' OLLY**  
Pop'n'Ollly  
Craft activities and story time  
readings throughout the day with  
award winning author Ollly Pike.  
Find us at the first bus Pride bus.

**ESSEX PRIDE**  
AND FIRST BUS PRESENT:  
**POP n' OLLY**  
Pop'n'Ollly  
**FAMILY ZONE  
TIMETABLE**  
12:30 - 2:00PM  
CRAFT TIME  
2:00 - 2:30PM  
STORY TIME  
2:30 - 4:00PM  
CRAFT TIME  
4:00 - 4:30PM:  
STORY TIME  
PLEASE ACCOMPANY YOUR  
CHILDREN AT ALL TIMES

## The Party Continues

The Essex Pride festival in Central Park closes at 10pm, but for committed partygoers, the celebrations continue into the night with afterparties at BarPlus in Mousham Street, Chelmsford and PopWorld in Springfield Road, Chelmsford.

## The History

Essex Pride first started in 2004 at Smiths Bar in Chelmsford. The venue was the beating heart of the LGBTQ+ community, and the event has grown year on year to become the largest LGBTQ+ community pride celebration in the county.

Garry Ormes, Chair of Essex Pride, says: “Essex Pride is a safe and inclusive event for LGBTQ+ individuals, families and allies, and offers an opportunity for the whole community to join together. Essex Pride began in the now-closed Smith's bar in Chelmsford, before becoming too big for the venue and moving to Central Park.

Pride is more important than ever, and we welcome your support of this important event, which aims to encourage LGBTQ+ people to be themselves in their local communities. Pride plays a big part in encouraging acceptance of everyone regardless of gender or sexuality. We look forward to seeing you there, regardless of who you love”



## All Around the City Centre

[Chelmsford For You](#) will be decorating the city centre with Pride murals. Local artists will be designing and painting celebratory and educational murals at varied locations across the city centre.



We are proud to be announce our headline sponsor for Essex Pride 2025



“Anglia Ruskin University (ARU) is dedicated to transforming lives through innovative, inclusive, and entrepreneurial education and research. We’re proud to be at the heart of the communities we serve and with main campuses in Chelmsford and Writtle, we’re thrilled to continue our partnership with Essex Pride for this year’s festival.

ARU celebrates diversity and we are home to students of all backgrounds – in 2023 we were honoured to be named the UK’s University of the Year for Social Mobility. We’re committed to fostering an inclusive and welcoming environment for everyone, including our vibrant LGBTQ+ staff and student community, and we look forward to celebrating our diversity at this summer’s Essex Pride.”

Tickets for Essex Pride are available now at [www.essexpride.org](http://www.essexpride.org)



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