



# ACCESSIBILITY GUIDE

## Oxford Pride 2026



**OXFORDSHIRE  
COUNTY COUNCIL**

*Our Accessibility Sponsor*



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# INTRODUCTION

Oxford Pride is a registered charity led by a dedicated team of volunteers who work year-round to create safe, welcoming and inclusive spaces for LGBTQIA+ people and our allies.

Through events, partnerships and community outreach, we aim to build connection, visibility and belonging across Oxfordshire.

Our mission is to promote awareness of LGBTQIA+ rights by providing information, education and entertainment in an environment where everyone feels supported and encouraged. Pride is both a celebration and a reminder of the inequalities our community continues to face.

Pride Day, with our Parade through the heart of Oxford is a moment for us to come together, stand in solidarity, and celebrate the milestones we've achieved. It's a day rooted in community, visibility and shared joy.

Pride is for everyone. Whoever you are, however you identify, and whatever your access needs may be, we invite you to join us and be part of our community.



## Accessibility Officer



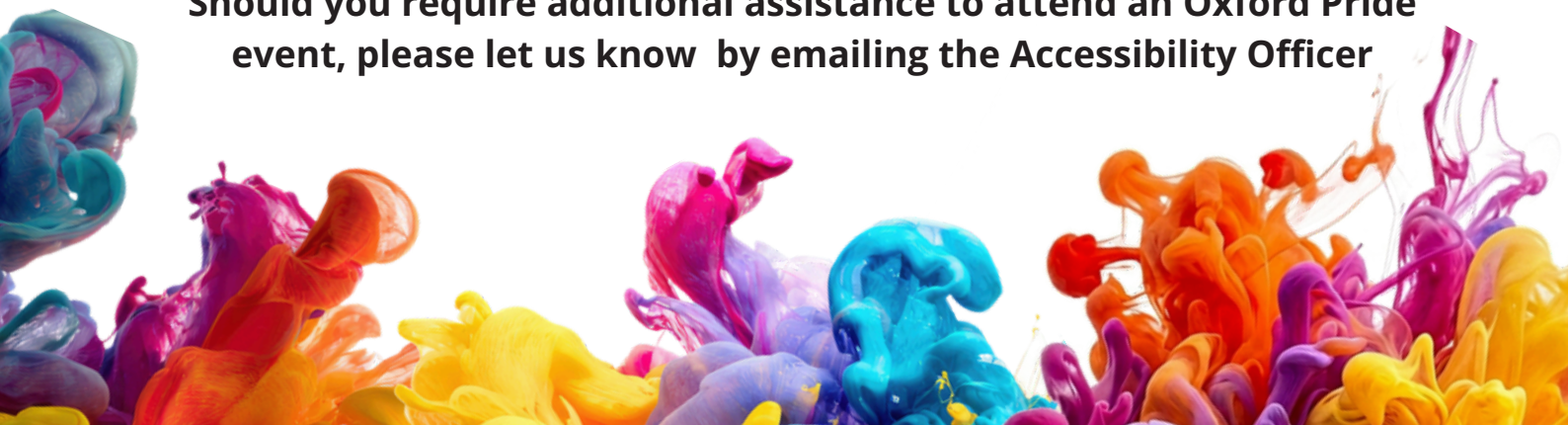
**Pete Stevenson**  
He/Him

Pete is a qualified Nurse with 30 years post-registration experience and also a RAF veteran, having served for 24 years in the military

This is Pete's third year as the Accessibility Officer, and his fourth of being involved with Oxford Pride

**[accessibility@oxfordpride.uk](mailto:accessibility@oxfordpride.uk)**

**Should you require additional assistance to attend an Oxford Pride event, please let us know by emailing the Accessibility Officer**





## Site Description

The main event includes a parade and festival with the festival split between three locations, Castle Quarter, Leiden Square, Paradise Square/Paradise Street and County Hall. The four festival sites are within a quarter of a mile of each other.

## Parade

Participants wishing to join the parade can do so at the the starting point of Paradise Square

Once moving, the Parade marches right onto Paradise Street, then left, uphill on Castle Street. At the Rainbow Crossing its right in to Bonn Square and Queen Street. Another left turn at the Carfax Tower takes the parade up Cornmarket Street, Turning right into Broad Street and then a right into Catte Street, where the Parade will finish at the Radcliffe Camera (Parade Distance 0.6 miles/1 km approx.)

Although mostly flat, Castle Street does include an uphill section. Most of the route is on tarmac roads except for the cobbled area around the finish point at the Radcliffe Camera. Roads will be closed to traffic for the duration of the parade



## **Leiden Square - Main Stage and Community Stalls**

Located in the heart of the Westgate Shopping area, there are multiple access points with the easiest being Norfolk Street. If accessing from the North Arcade/Queen Street lifts are located next to TK Maxx and a second set near John Lewis. There is access to the Lower ground level and South Arcade, Turn Again Lane, Castle Street and then further down Norfolk Street/Bridge Street at John Lewis.

## **Paradise Square Gardens - Retail Marketplace/Food**

Access via Castle Street/Norfolk Street or Paradise Street/Paradise Square, to an open, flat area that will allow access between Leiden Square and the other sites, as well as the Jolly Farmer Gardens. Here you will find market stalls including a refreshment stall.

## **Castle Quarter - Sexual Health and Community Stalls**

This year the Castle Quarter is also the location for all our community stalls and a Wellbeing area. Using both the Service yard and the Castle Yard. Access to these is via Paradise Street, however for step free access to the Castle Yard please use New Road.

## **County Hall – Family and Wellbeing**

Accessed by New Road, with stalls outside and the quiet zone inside being accessible via a lift..

### **Zones**

Our aim is to provide a slightly different zone in each location

- Leiden Square - busy, entertainment space
- Paradise Gardens - Fun, Queer retail and food.
- Castle Quarter - Cultured, quieter activities.
- County Hall - A calmer space





## Paradise Street – Cabaret Stage

As evening arrives, our event moves to Paradise Street, outside the Jolly Farmers. This area becomes our evening entertainment space and will be fully closed to traffic for the duration of the event.

### Crowds

**Leiden Square** will become busy from around 12:15pm as people gather for our daytime entertainment which kicks off at 12:30pm. This is our main performance area, and footfall will increase steadily throughout the afternoon.

- **Ground-level viewing:** the main square offers multiple vantage points with clear sight-lines to the stage.
- **Accessible viewing area:** A dedicated accessible viewing space will be located close to the stage. This area is intended for Disabled attendees and those who need additional space, clearer sight-lines, or reduced crowding.
- **First-floor balcony views:** The Westgate balconies overlooking Leiden Square provide alternative viewing spots that are often less crowded and may feel more comfortable for those who prefer some distance from busy areas.

**Other locations** - crowds are to be expected at the other locations and our army of volunteers will be available in each location. Given the age and location of the other sites, we will endeavour to make them as accessible as possible.

# Travel Guide

## Rail

The start of the parade is a 10 - minute walk from Oxford train station, with the Radcliffe Camera a 15-minute walk.

## Driving

Access to Oxford is well signposted and car parks are located at Westgate Shopping Centre, Oxpens and Worcester Street, and Gloucester Green, all of which have disabled parking spaces. All of which are a short distance from the parade start and stage locations.

### Botley Road Closure



Botley Road continues to be closed, with the Seacourt Park and Ride buses terminating at Osney Island.

## Park and Ride

Oxford has five park and ride locations, the closest being either Seacourt or Redbridge. Buses take approximately 10 minutes to reach the city centre. Further info can be found at [Oxford Park and Ride](#).

### Congestion Charge



If parking in Oxford, you may be liable for the Congestion charge (currently £5.00 per day). Further information can be found at [Oxford Congestion Charge](#)





## Arrival and Services

Oxford Pride is a free, open event spread across multiple locations in Oxford City Centre. Attendees are welcome to move between areas at their own pace and enjoy the different stages, marketplaces and community spaces throughout the day.

## BSL Interpreters

We welcome back, to the main stage, for the third year Amy and Christine, BSL interpreters providing BSL interpreters for those Deaf or hard of hearing.

Please note that this year there will not be any Captioning Services and BSL will not be available at the Cabaret Stage.

## Strobe Lighting

No strobe lighting will be used during the event, and any use of repetitive, flashing lights will be (where possible) announced by the Main Stage host prior to the act taking to the stage.



## Toilets



Inclusive



Baby Change



Accessible

Toilets within the Westgate Shopping Centre and County Hall are accessible and include a baby change facility. In Paradise Square/Paradise Street and the Castle Quarter accessible toilets will be available, with baby change facilities

## Emergency Services

All areas within the Oxford Pride event will be covered by EMFS (Emergency, Medical and Fire Solutions) with any serious incident covered by 999 emergency services. Should you have any specific medical concerns please contact us prior to the event by emailing [accessibility@oxfordpride.uk](mailto:accessibility@oxfordpride.uk). Volunteers and marshals will be on site throughout the day should you need to access medical provision.

## Digital Guide

A full event guide, including maps and accessibility information, will be available closer to the day to help you further plan your visit.

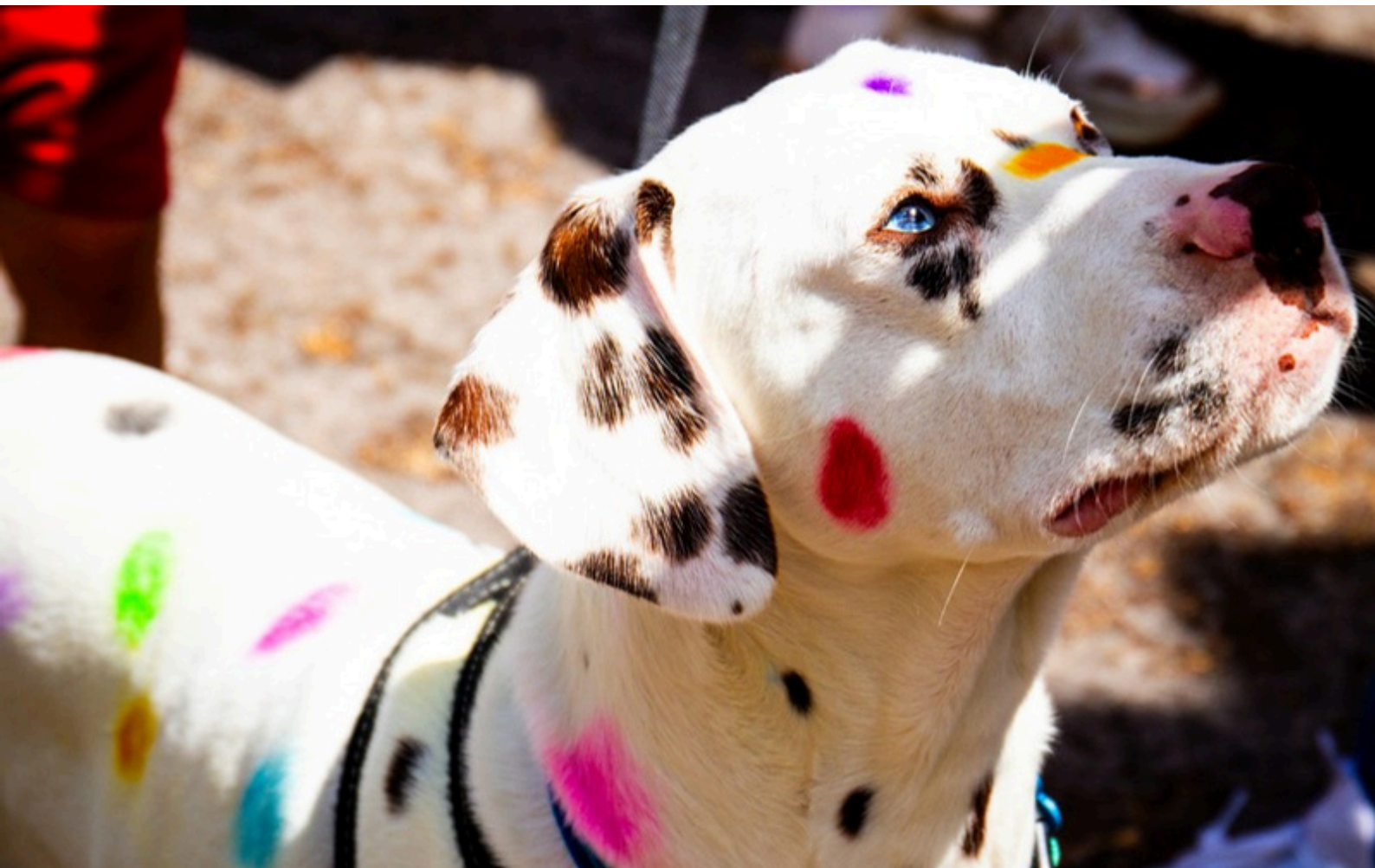
**Please visit our website [oxfordpride.uk](http://oxfordpride.uk) for further details.**

# Assistance Dogs

We welcome assistance dogs at our event. The Equality and Human Rights Commission states that Assistance dogs are highly trained which means they:

- ✔ **Will not wander freely around the premises.**
- ✔ **Will sit or lie quietly on the floor next to their owner.**
- ✔ **Are unlikely to foul in a public place.**

We recognise that not all assistance dogs are registered with Assistance Dogs UK members and assistance dogs can be trained by their owners. Where an assistance dog has not been trained by Assistance Dogs UK, we may need to ask visitors to demonstrate that their dog has been trained to the above standards. All dogs should be kept on a lead or harness at all times.



# Hidden Disabilities

Oxford Pride is a Sunflower member, and support those with hidden disabilities. If you choose to wear a badge, lanyard or wrist band from the Sunflower organisation and require assistance at the event, please contact any of the volunteers on the day who will be happy to help. If you have any specific needs that you would like to make us aware of before the event please email the Accessibility Officer by no later than 1st June 2026.



## Support for Carers

We want all attendees of Oxford Pride Day to enjoy the event and we recognise that some of our patrons may be attending Pride to support someone else in a caring capacity. If at any point you require assistance during your caring responsibilities, please alert one of the volunteers/marshals who will be happy to help.



## Accessibility Officer

Peter Stevenson (He/Him)

Email: [accessibility@oxfordpride.uk](mailto:accessibility@oxfordpride.uk)

Please note accessibility emails are not monitored daily and it can take up to three days for us to respond.

# Thank you



[www.oxfordpride.uk](http://www.oxfordpride.uk)