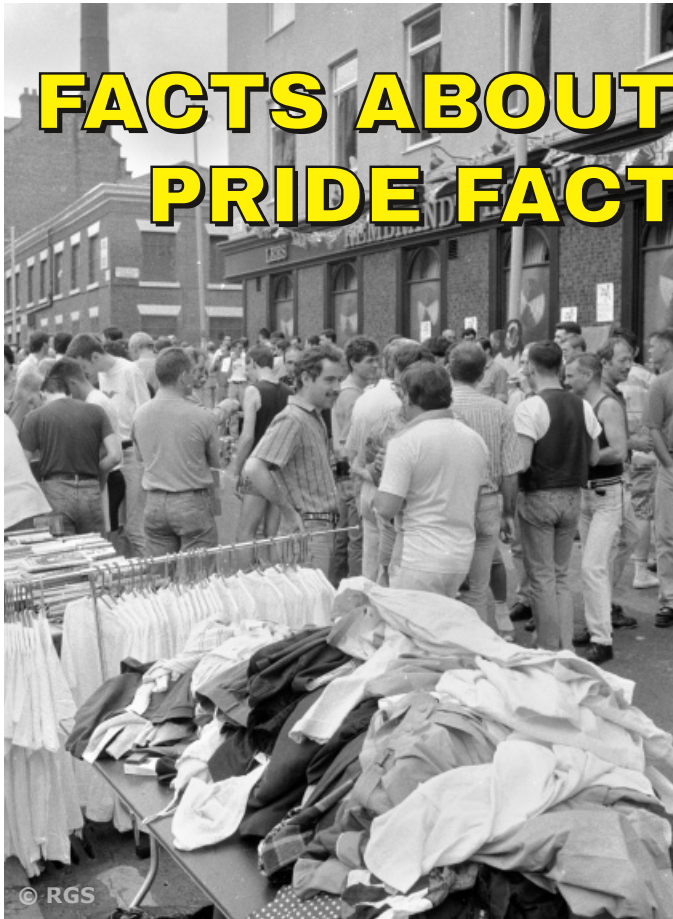


FACTS ABOUT MANCHESTER PRIDE FACTSHEET 2022



Visit our Live Blog all Pride weekend at: FactsMCR.com and email us there.

We have a Facebook group: "Facts About Manchester Pride 2022 - Pop-up Group." Tell us your experience — good or bad.



WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

You can walk into the Gay Village and around the public streets without buying a wristband and without any sort of pass. It's your legal right to do this so you can visit premises (businesses and homes) that can't be reached by any other route.

Some businesses, including bars and clubs, have allowed people in without a wristband every year since at least 2012. However you have a legal right to reach them whether they admit you or not.

No wristband has ever been required to get into the

HIV/AIDS Vigil in Sackville Park on the Monday.

On 22 April 2015, the Local Government Ombudsman ruled that Manchester City Council had exceeded its powers and that the wording of its Traffic Regulation Order for Manchester Pride 2014 was "unlawful."

The full ruling is here: factsmcr.com/go/010

The Order said that pedestrians could access premises by displaying a valid wristband, accreditation, or a resident and visitor pass. This was fault, because the Council has no legal basis in which to restrict pedestrians from accessing premises. Therefore if someone wished to access a particular premise the organisers should have allowed access even if the person did not have a wristband, accreditation, or a resident and visitor pass.

Consumer protection

Each year Manchester Pride tells the public that no bars in the Gay Village will serve them unless they buy a wristband. But every year some bars serve people who are without one.

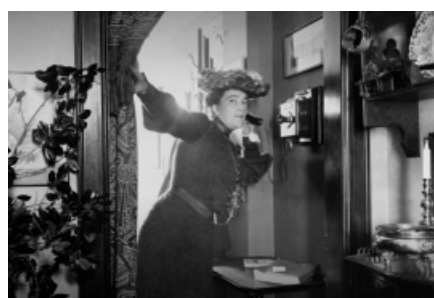
We think Pride may be committing an offence under the Misrepresentation Act 1967.

The consumer organisation Which says "the Misrepresentation Act exists to protect consumers from false or fraudulent claims that induce you into buying something or entering into a contract. It also allows you to claim damages."

Facts incident line

Have you experienced a problem entering the gay village? This year you can leave us a phone message with details on our own Facts voicemail.

The number is: **0161 820 2269**.



Use your camera

Video has played a big role in changing things over the years. Initially with camcorders but now phones

Grab some footage if you see something going on.

City Council numbers

Once again the City Council has failed to provide contact numbers in good time, for those who have a problem with access. So this year we won't publicise any. We look forward to hearing what the Council has done to make the public aware of numbers this year.

GRASSROOTS, NON-PROFIT & FREE — 15 YEARS SINCE GET BENT!

Promoted as "a celebration of queer diversity in Manchester and the North-West," Get Bent! took place from 24 August to 1 September in 2007, as an alternative to the highly commercial, pay-to-attend Manchester Pride.

Get Bent! was non-profit and grassroots, organised by a collective of people on a budget of just a few hundred pounds.

It included film shows, workshops, discussions, cabaret, comedy and poetry nights, a picnic and a music event with dozens of indie bands.

Everything was free to attend and the aim was to hold many of the events away from alcohol.



Members of the Get Bent! collective plan the event at an open-air meeting in Hulme, in June 2007.

At the time, Manchester city centre had a popular non-profit cafe and events space on Lever Street called The



Basement Social Centre, which was also run by a collective. This was intended to be the location for many Get Bent! events.

Sadly a few weeks before, the building next door burnt down. The Basement was flooded, and never reopened.

Get Bent! was a great success. But 2007 was the third and final such event. It was becoming difficult to find spaces that would host anything outside of the rather plastic and corporate Council-approved events.

Increasingly, organisers found doors closed at libraries, the gay centre and universities. It coincided with a crackdown on squatted buildings, which often hosted free events.

Instead of embracing this cutting-edge, diversity which, might add to the

appeal of Manchester, there seemed to be a desire to kill it. Some people who had been involved moved from the city.

Looking back it was the final curtain for the rather subversive, unofficial, gay events and spaces that those of us who are older remember.

And it had been happening for a while. The Huddersfield Pink Picnic, which, at one time, attracted hundreds of people to an unofficial gathering on the banks of a reservoir had long since moved into a pub car-park.

A loss of £375,038 in 2020

Manchester Pride made a loss of £375,038 in the year ending 31 December 2020.

Income was £720,863 and expenditure £1,095,901 — despite the event not taking place due to covid. At the time, Pride had 11 employees.

You can see the 2020 accounts on the Charity Commission site or here (PDF): factsmc.com/go/042.

How did they do in 2021? We have to wait until the end of this year to see those financial documents.

Did Pride give out any money from 2019 as grants? Currently there seems to be no info about grants made from the income in 2021

THE "ROOTS" OF OUR WEEKEND ARE NEITHER PRIDE NOR PROTEST

"Manchester Pride has promised to go back to its roots," writes the Manchester Evening News. Yet the theme of the event this year is "pride is a protest." A slogan Pride has taken from the grassroots protests and alternative events that were held in Manchester 10-15 years ago.

The true roots of the August weekend on Canal Street are neither as a protest nor a pride.



In its September 1985 issue, Manuncian Gay reports on the Gay Centre Fun Day. There's no mention of fundraising, HIV/AIDS or politics.

In those days prides were always at

the end of June, that being the anniversary of the riots at the Stonewall Inn in New York in 1969.

In 1986 Northern Pride took place in Manchester at the end of June. By 1987 or 1988 the annual jumble sale had been established on August Bank Holiday weekend, fundraising to help with HIV and AIDS.

In 1990 in Manchester there was both a pride in June and a jumble sale in August. This shows how these were two separate events.

The booklet for the 1994 annual general meeting of the Village Charity states "many volunteers of the charity get upset when the press call our weekend the 'Northern Pride'. It's not and never has been." It adds that the event is "important but it's not political."

And there you have it from the horse's

mouth — the people who organised the August weekend in those days, when it was known as Mardi Gras.

The weekend wasn't called "pride" until Europride in 2003. By which time there had been gay events on the

August Bank Holiday weekend since at least 1985 — 18 years.

In 2004 Marketing Manchester (the tourist board) renamed the weekend "Manchester Pride," without any consultation with the community.

And it certainly wasn't about politics,

as an official entry of young people in the parade discovered in 2008 when they tried to walk with banners that stated "Pride not profit."

Much of what the public is told these days is a misrepresentation of our history. A fraud.

4. What's it all for?

Many volunteers of the charity get upset when the press call our weekend the 'Northern Pride'. It's not and never has been. It's something unique which other cities are now trying to copy.

From our point of view it's about fun, but it's not exclusively gay or lesbian it's serious, but it's not morbid it's important, but it's not political it's not sorrowful memories, but it is a celebration of life and past lives it's about looking towards the future, being aware of the sexual pitfalls, giving support and friendship to those living with a frightening disease without stigma or recourse.

It is about caring and giving - and having a great time in the process. Enjoy yourselves.