

Queer Diary

Thank you for signing up

We're very excited to hear what you have to share!

Please [read/listen to the Queer Diary FAQs](#), and check that you have communicated to us all the information on this page.

Everything else in this document is **additional information** which may be useful, but is not required reading.

See you soon,

Beth (host) & Josie (producer)

Before the event

Please tell us about the following:

	<p>A bit about your sharing</p> <p>We just need a general idea of what to expect.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Is it a diary, poem, story, or something else?- What are the main topic/s or mood/s?
	<p>How long is your sharing?</p> <p>About 5-10 minutes is normal.</p> <p>A bit less or more than this is fine, just let us know, so we can plan the evening.</p>
	<p>Any support you may need from us to help you get the most out of taking part.</p> <p>(See page 11: "More Support" for more detail)</p>
	<p>Are there any content notes or warnings?</p> <p>(See page 7: "During Your Sharing" for detail)</p>

Tickets & Publicity

More information you may find useful before a *Queer Diary* event



There is **no need to book a ticket to *Queer Diary*** if you're sharing, entry is included!

If you have friends coming, please **encourage them to book in advance** to make sure they don't miss out (tickets are limited).



Some participants like to post on **social media** before the event to encourage their friends to book tickets.

This is **not** required. If you don't want to share, we do not expect it. We never publish reader's names without permission.



If you do want friends to come, here's a **suggested post:**

"I'm reading at #QueerDiary - the night where LGBTQIA+ adults share their teenage writing live on stage! Come listen to me share my [diary/poetry/story/etc] on [date] [booking link]"



Feel free to adapt/write your own if you want to post. This is just a suggestion.



You're welcome to tag us on Twitter or Instagram: @bethwhatcanido @hasbianshow #QueerDiary.

You can also find our public **event page on Facebook** and share that if you want to.

The Venue

More detail about the venue and finding it



Glass House is a queer-run venue with a bar (Common Counter), a cafe/bookshop (Common Press), and a performance space (The Commons).

The venue does not serve a lot of **food**. You may want to eat before, or bring food. There are lots of cafes and shops nearby.

They host a diverse range of LGBTQ+ events throughout the year - from board games to drag.

Glass House is a new venue. We're still getting used to how Queer Diary fits in their space. Please let us know if you have feedback on this.

Find out more on their website: glasshouse.london



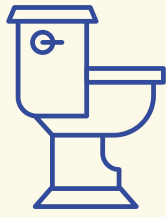
Queer Diary is in the **Common Counter bar**. Enter via a big glass door on the corner of Brick Lane and Bethnal Green Road.

Nearest stations:

Shoreditch High Street
Bethnal Green

[Streetview map here.](#)

Safety & Accessibility



Common Counter (where we'll be) is an airy, high-ceilinged ground-floor space with **gender neutral toilets** and a bar selling alcoholic and soft drinks..

The Common Press bookshop space closes in the evening, but is available to us if you need a **quiet space**. The Common Press quiet space is a strictly alcohol free zone

Service **dogs are welcome** (Glass House allows all animals).



The venue has **step-free access for audience** and an accessible toilet.

There is a 6 inch **step up to the stage**.



Event organisers are **fully C-19 vaccinated**, and still taking lateral flow tests regularly including before in-person events.

We **encourage you to test** before the event if you are able to do so.

If you have trouble getting tests, ask us, we may be able to help.

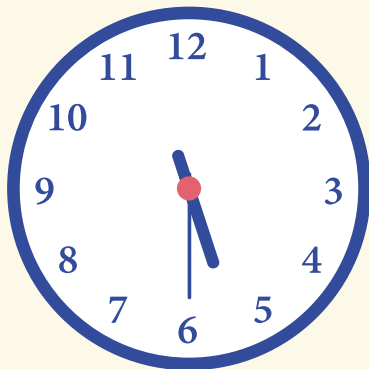
On The Day



The organisers will be at the venue setting up the space **in the afternoon**.

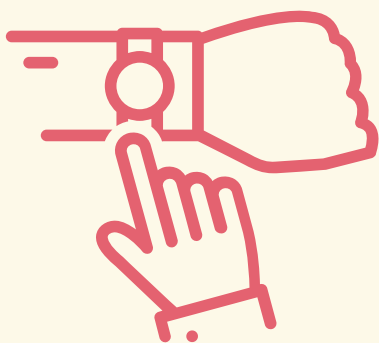
We open to audiences from **7pm**, with readings from **7:30**.

Readings **finish by 9:30pm**, with time to stay after and enjoy the vibe, if you want.



We ask that you **arrive at about 6:30pm** if possible, preferably no later than 7pm.

This is **so we can say hello to each other**, set the running order, check how you'd like to be introduced, etc.



If you want to arrive earlier to get comfortable in the venue - you'll be very welcome.

If you're late, don't worry. Please just let us know when we can expect you.

During the event



Beth will be hosting the night.

This includes warming up the audience with some chat from the stage, and sharing some teenage memories and writings.

Beth will **introduce each of the people who've volunteered to share** in an agreed order. There are usually 2-5 people sharing, maybe more if the readings are short.

If you have a **strong preference** to go **early or late** in the running order, please tell Beth when you arrive.



We sometimes have a photographer (or take photos ourselves) as it helps us advertise future events.

We'll always show you any photos we've taken, to get **your consent** before using them publicly.

If you don't want to be photographed, let us know
We'll respect your privacy & still welcome you to read.

During your sharing

Help make *Queer Diary* more accessible



Please give a brief visual description of yourself & anything you bring on stage.

This helps make our event **more accessible for blind and visually** impaired people.

For example, Beth usually says something like:

"I'm Beth. I'm a smiley white person with shoulder-length dark hair, in a purple t-shirt and pink dungarees. My diary is a blue book with a teardrop doodled on the front".



Consider whether you need to give content warnings.

Warnings give audiences a chance to mentally prepare, or the option to leave or block their ears if there's anything they don't want to hear.

This might include any serious topics covered in your reading, such as: **sensitive subjects, language, or potential triggers.**

You may also think about more trivial things, such as **spoilers** for movies & TV.

During your sharing

Options for how to make the most of your time on the mic



You may want to **include some context** for your reading. For example you might:

- Say **where/when** you grew up.
- Explain any specific **slang**, cultural **references**, or important background information.

This **helps ensure that the audience understand** what they're about to hear.



If you want to **plug anything** you're very welcome to do so while on stage.

This could be **your work**, a good **cause** you care about, an **event** you're organising, your **social media** handle. All is welcome!

You can also **tag us in any social media** posts promoting your projects, fundraisers, etc.

We're always happy to share.

During your sharing

Tips to have the most fun sharing



Top Tip!

If it helps, you might want to **write yourself a note** of your:

- Self-description
- Context notes
- Content notes
- Anything you want to plug

Beth always takes **a short bullet-point list of reminder words** on stage, because it can be easy to get caught up in the moment and forget something important!



Look after yourself first!

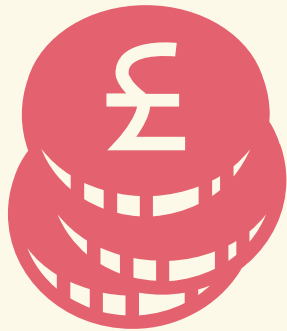
Only share what you're **comfortable** with sharing.

This night is for fun, solidarity and nostalgia. If you have second thoughts about sharing something, we'll support your decision to look after yourself and so will the audience. **There's no pressure to 'entertain'.**

If you're uncomfortable sharing your content/context notes or description, and just want to share your youthful writing and nothing else, then **Beth can read those for you.**

After the event

We'd love to stay in touch with you after your sharing



If you have incurred **expenses** from taking part in *Queer Diary*, we have a small budget to reimburse you (up to £20).

This could help with travel, childcare, refreshments - **whatever enables you to take part.**

Write an invoice addressed to Beth Watson (Queer Diary).

Include the **date** & the **expenses incurred.**



We'd LOVE it if you could fill out **our feedback form!**

Feedback really helps us make sure this event is as fun & accessible as possible for everyone sharing.

We'll remind you in a follow-up email!

More Support

Beth had the idea for *Queer Diary* after reading at a similar night (called *Dear Diary*) in 2018.

Beth says:

"I remember **my first time reading** my diary live. I was so nervous, but LOVED it once I got going. Now I want to support more queer people to experience the same thrill I did. As host **I'm here for you**, to make sure you have the best time."



Things Beth can do to support you:



Have **a chat with you by Zoom or phone**, to go over the event info, answer any questions you may have, or just say hello so you get the chance to put a face/voice to the name before we meet.



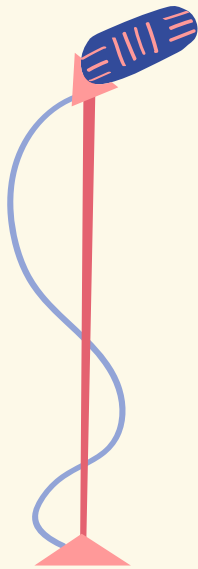
Listen to a practice run. If you want to try out your sharing (so you're not saying it aloud for the first time on stage) we can do that by phone, Zoom, or on the day.



Look over anything you're thinking of sharing. If you send **typed text or a photo**, we can read your material to help figure out how long your sharing will take, decide which bits to share (if you have choices!), and offer advice on any content or context notes.

More support

Other things we can do:



Give you a chance to **speak into the microphone** before the event starts.

If you haven't done anything like this before, or feel nervous, it can be helpful to test out how you feel standing and talking into a mic.

Let us know if you want a **mic check when you arrive.**



Be ready to **step in and read all/some of your material for you**, if you get nervous.

These sharings work best when shared in your unique voice. But if you're unsure, Beth can be on stand-by to take over if needed.



Anything else?

If there's anything we may be able to do, or you have any requirements we can talk to the venue about, let us know.

We'll do our best to support your access, or calm your nerves. **Our priority is for you to have fun!**