

Queer Diary

Thank you for signing up

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

Please [check 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:

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

Tickets & Publicity

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



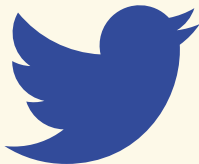
There is **no need to book a ticket** to *Queer Diary* **if you're sharing, entry is included!**

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 can tag us on Twitter or Instagram: @hasbianshow #QueerDiary.

You can also find our public **page on Facebook (Queer Diary CIC)** and share that if you want to.

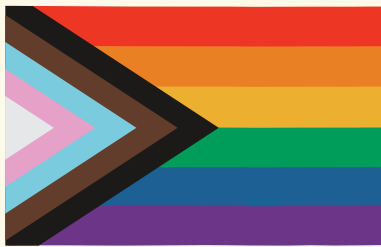
Safety & Accessibility



Queer Diary visits lots of **different venues across the country**, including some that are new to us..

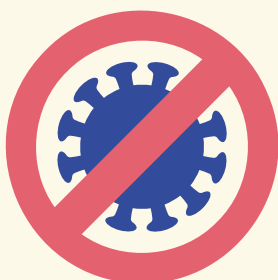
We prioritise choosing step-free venues with accessible toilets and parking, and a quiet space, but cannot guarantee this in every location.

Please **check the ticket booking page for detailed information on access** at your local *Queer Diary* event, and email us with any further access requirements or questions.



We are an all-LGBTQIA+ team, and prioritise choosing venues that are LGBTQIA+ run and centred, but cannot guarantee this will be the case in every location.

At all venues we visit, we operate a **zero-tolerance policy** on homophobia, biphobia, transphobia, racism, ableism, sexism and all other forms of discrimination. Please tell us if anyone makes you feel uncomfortable or unwelcome at our events.



Event organisers are **fully COVID-19 vaccinated**. We **encourage you to test** before the event, and welcome the wearing of masks..

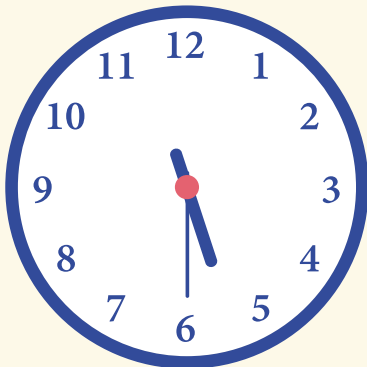
On The Day



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

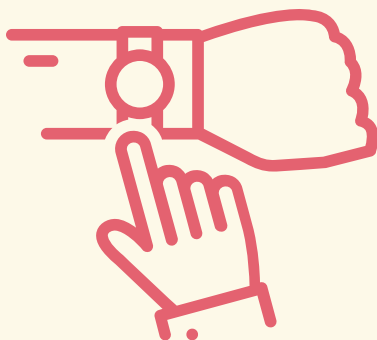
We open to audiences about half an hour before the readings start.

Readings **usually last around 2 hours** with an interval halfway through, and time to stay after and enjoy the vibe, if you want.



We ask that you **arrive before the doors open to the public**.

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, 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 about 2-5 people sharing.

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.

On the sign-up form, we ask **your consent** to use these photos on our social media, website, and flyers.

If you don't want to be photographed, please let us know on the night. 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. This helps make our event **more accessible for blind and visually** impaired people.

Beth usually says something like:
"I'm a 5-foot-tall smiley white person with a brown ponytail, in a purple shirt and pink dungarees. My diary is a blue book with a teardrop drawn on the front".

Please **don't** make the description **a joke for sighted people, which excludes blind people.**

For example, don't say something like:
"I'm 6 foot tall (audience laughs). Haha no, not really, I'm very short."



Consider if you need to give **content warnings.**

Warnings give people a chance to prepare, or leave, if there's anything they don't want to hear.

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

You may also mention other things people might want to avoid - like **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 **promote something** 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



Look after yourself first!

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

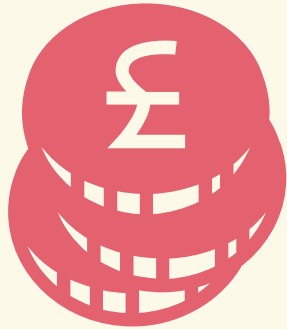
If you have second thoughts about sharing something, we'll support your decision to look after yourself and so will the audience. **There's no pressure to 'entertain'.**

If you're uncomfortable sharing your content notes or description, and just want to share your youthful writing and nothing else, then let Beth know.

Our priority is to support you to have fun.

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 **Queer Diary CIC.**

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

Here is an invoice template, if it's useful to help you invoice us.



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 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.

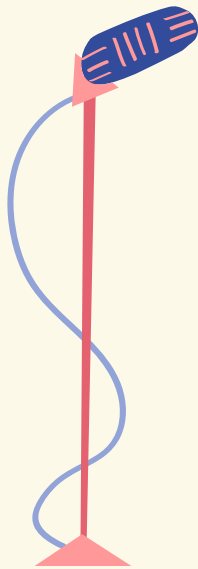


Look over anything you're thinking of sharing.

If you send **typed text or a photo**, we can read it to help work out how long your sharing will take, decide what to share, and offer advice on 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!**