**Text description of the 2023 Pride Action North Community Zine**

**Overview**

There are 36 A5 pages in this zine. The majority of them are designed as two-page spreads. This means two A5 pages together as one landscape A4 page.

**Front cover/page 1:**

This page features a castle made out of different pieces of coloured paper. Each turret is a different colour and these are colours associated with LGBTQIA+ flags. One turret is made from a part of an old Northumbrian map showing Hexham and Corbridge. The whole castle is superimposed onto a photo of a beach at sunrise which blurs into a photo of Hadrian’s Wall. The page also features the words ‘Pride Action North Community Zine’.

**Pages 2-3:**

This is a two-page spread with a lilac background. A cut-out extract of an old map featuring Chillingham runs across the two pages diagonally. The pages also feature the Pride Action North logo, a red and orange heart with the word ‘women’ and letters ‘xxx’ in its centre. Elsewhere on the page the words ‘BE PROUD’, ‘Be the person you are!’, ‘Be You!’ and ‘Be who you wanna be’ are written in pen against the colours of the non-binary flag (yellow, white, purple and black).

On the left page runs the following text: ‘This 2023 zine (a DIY magazine) was made by and for the community as a snapshot of where we are. It is comprised of creative pieces made by attendees of all ages at Pride Action North’s four Pride On The Road events in 2022. These were held at Alnwick Gardens, Blyth Phoenix Theatre, East Bedlington Community Centre and Hexham Community Centre. Please credit Pride Action North in any use of this zine.’

On the right page reads the following texts: ‘Text description of the zine is available at <https://www.prideactionnorth.org.uk/services/youth-support/>’ and also ‘Pride Action North is a leading Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex, Asexual Plus (LGBTQIA+) charity based in Ashington and delivers services that cover Northumberland and Tyne & Wear. Since 2017 we have been fundamental in elevating the voices of LGBTQIA+ people and cover a plethora of work including one-to-one support, youth and community work provision, schools work, mental health and wellbeing support, domestic and sexual violence and abuse support, training and development and delivering events.’

**Pages 4-5**

On a background of brown crumpled paper and on its lefthand side are colourful sketched hands and four photographs. One photo shows white hands with paint on them, another shows the art-making stall at the pride event in Hexham’s Community Centre, and another photo shows a white figure with blond hair singing on stage at East Bedlington’s Community Centre in front of a seated audience. The final photograph shows the zine-maker Rosa Walling-Wefelmeyer together with Pride Action North employee Becky Tuck at Alnwick Gardens. Both faces are smiling, laughing and looking happy.

A speech bubble is coming out of Rosa’s mouth. It features the following text: ‘“It has been a real joy to host the art-making table at Pride On The Road events, and a real honour to speak to and support so many people from across the region (and beyond) to contribute to this project. We asked ‘what does it mean to be LGBTQIA+ and in Northumberland’? I met fellow LGBTQIA+ people and their allies excited to dance in the rain, pick up freebies or lie back on bean bags. I met young people finding identity, safety and belonging through local groups and role models. I met people of all ages exhausted by but fighting hard against injustice and oppression, determined to mark the deaths of every trans person in 2022 and create a better world for us all in 2023. I met people fiercely proud of their often neglected region and opening up a Hadrian’s Wall to welcome more refugees and asylum-seekers. In true scrapbooking/zine-making fashion then, I have brought their pictures, words, doodles and plasticine pieces together with my own photo documentation of events. So look out for the hedgerows at Alnwick Gardens and a chipped but beloved mug at Hexham Community Centre. Look out also for cut-outs of rainbows, clowns and balloons that I found online. There is space here too for you to scribble and find yourself in this wild Northumbrian community.”  Rosa’

**Pages 6-7:**

The left half of this two-page spread is bright yellow and the right half is bright pink. On the yellow page there is a photo of a black coil of wire in a flowering shrub at Alnwick Gardens. A sparkler head has been superimposed onto it, as have the words ‘we are in your green spaces like a black coil of wire’ and a flower cut-out and a snail made out of multi-colour plasticine. On the right page is the same photo with a sparkler imposed onto it but the photo has been cut out differently and distorted into brown and pink tones. The words ‘we bring the spark’, a multi-coloured heart and a plasticine rose are also pasted on top of it.

**Pages 8-9:**

Against a white background there are cut out images of green hedgerows at Alnwick Gardens with black handlebars running through them. A cut-out handprint made from the colours of the Ukrainian flag (blue and yellow) is super-imposed onto the hedgerows. In the top right-hand corner of the right page are the words ‘we are in ~~your~~ our green spaces like a handle bar’. Above a black handlebar on the right page are the following words in yellow: ‘we offer a helping hand’.

**Pages 10-11:**

This two-page spread is in a raspberry red. A white line drawing of a hand holding a sparkler extends across the two pages. At the sparkler end the sparks are made with yellow and blue and a cut-out photo of the central flame of a sparkler. The page asks the following questions ‘what makes you spark?’ and ‘how do you help other people spark?’. There are yellow pencils on either page next to dotted lines for the reader to use to answer.

**Pages 12-13:**

On the left page the background is a pink piece of paper with paint of all sorts of colours on it and two googly eyes stuck on. It reads ‘we are’ in large black text. On the right page is a black background with tiny stars on it and the word ‘messy’ pasted onto it. Each letter is made by cutting out the letter from a painted page. In small letters at the bottom of the page reads ‘(but our night skies at Kielder are not)’.

**Pages 14-15:**

These two pages have a glittery purple swirling background. Superimposed onto this background is a chipped pale mug from Hexham Community Centre with the words ‘Glitter Runs Through My Veins’ on it. It looks like the mug is pouring gold glitter onto a white piece of paper that features the following text in assorted colours ‘Boys Are Hot! Girls Are Hot! Non-Binary + Genderfluid People Are Hot!... and now I’m covered in glitter.’ At the bottom section of both pages reads the following large text in gold lettering: ‘We get glitter everywhere’.

**Pages 16-17**:

The left page is a limey green colour and the right page is pink. On the left page reads the following words in large pink text ‘we put googly eyes on everything’. It also features three cut-out images. One is of a box of googly eyes. The other two are drawings of figures made with paint, googly eyes and cut-out glitter card. One drawing reads ‘Keep positive in and negative out’ at the bottom and the other reads ‘Be what you wanna be’. On the right page also reads the words ‘but still worry about the ducks at Alnwick Gardens eating them’. There are also two images of a colourful hearts and a swan painted onto fabric. The swan is asking ‘What thing in your life would be less scary if you put googly eyes on it?’ and a there is a white page and pencil space for the reader to fill in.

**Pages 18-19:**

On the left page is a distorted image of umbrellas and the words ‘we honour the gay goddesses of Northumberland by dancing in the rain’. On top of the umbrellas is a painting of a dancer with brown skin dressed in pink with the words ‘Be gay Be slay’ next to it. On the right page is a cut-out image of a saxophone which looks like it is playing an image with the words ‘i love queer people. i love being a queer person. i love people regardless of their gender identity + gender expression. i love being pansexual!’. The background is orange-pink and green and purple paint is sprayed around the edges.

**Pages 20-21:**

The background is a photograph of a paint-peeling pale wall of Hexham Community Centre. Over the top of this photograph is a cut-out of a rainbow with the words ‘how do you feel close to the world around you?’ and ‘what feels good for your body?’ outlining it. On top of the rainbow are figures made out of rainbow colours. On one figure the following words are written: ‘I love to row on the river Tyne + North Sea each Sunday :)’ and the other figure reads ‘I do yoga!’.

**Pages 22-23:**

On a pale yellow background are two green doors that form part of Hexham Community Centre. Superimposed onto them are three cut-out eyes with red eyelashes. One eye is made out of a drawing of eyes. The second features the words ‘A Celebration of our Differences’ and the third reads ‘for everyone to be themselves, be loved and accepted’. There is also a figure with white skin and red hair next to a cut out of an old map showing Wooler and Chatton. There is large text that connects across the two pages. It reads ‘we are different’ and ‘our “we” is made up of lots of different eyes’.

**Pages 24-25:**

A photo of white and yellow flowers growing in and amongst gravel and temporary fences. On either side of the image are dark green pillars featuring the words ‘SID CAN GROW ANYWHERE BUT SHOULD NOT HAVE TO’. On top of the photo is a painting of a sunflower with an arrow next to it that reads in blue ‘Sid the sunflower’. Three other flowers feature on this two-page spread. One reads ‘REDUCE STIGMA’, another reads ‘FREEDOM TO BE YOURSELF WITHOUT FEAR OF PERSECUTION. EQUALITY!’ and the final one reads ‘Freedom – A human Right that should be there – for ALL’.

**Pages 26-27:**

The background is grey. This two-page spread features an image of a clown with black skin, white face-paint and multi-coloured hair. Superimposed onto him is a face with sharp fangs drawn by an attendee. Both figures are interlinked and are voicing the following words through entangled speech bubbles: ‘we are angry about poor public transport in the region, racism, the invasion of the Ukraine’ and ‘LGBTQ+ Always watching yo chis het selves’.

**Pages 28-29:**

Two houses feature across the two pages. One house is made from a cut-out green roof and its body is an image of the words ‘Always Listening, Learning Yes?’ organised to stress the word ‘ALLY’. On the other larger house is a purple door and a window that is poster. This poster is made by the LGBT Hexham group and stresses the importance of an inclusive and welcoming Haydon Bridge. Another window is a rectangular cut-out of the words ‘Pride is a place my child can come and feel accepted and be equal with no judgements’. Another window is a ghost saying ‘BOOO-TIFUL PRIDE PARTY BABES’. Overall, the page read ‘WE NEED ALLIES & SAFE SPACES and maybe a ghost.’ The background is a raspberry brown pink and the bigger house is a dark metallic green.

**Pages 30-31:**

Against a pale blue background are four grey clouds with white outlines. They read ‘KEEP UR CHIN UP’, ‘IT GETS MORE FUN!’, ‘we’ve got you!’ and ‘it gets better, i promise’. In the middle are a bunch of balloons made up of pale metallic colours (purple, yellow, pink, turquoise and green). The words ‘we hope for the future’ are superimposed onto different balloons.

**Pages 32-33:**

This two-page spread features the same blue background with a red heart-shaped balloon. It also features the words ‘but we’ll have to keep fighting for it’. There is another red heart outline with the words ‘what gives you hope?’ inside it. Inside the balloon are grey lines where the reader can write an answer. Both balloons have white strings attached to them and a grey hand is holding one. There is also another grey cloud featuring the following words ‘Seeing people altogether, loving and being accepted, gives me hope about being happy and out. We all need hope don’t we?’ inside it. On the other page is a photograph of grass with an unfinished sunflower on top of it. Blue paint cuts across the grass in two places and in those spaces read ‘we are unfinished…’ and ‘we are…’.

**Pages 34-35:**

On the left page is yellow background paint. The following text appears in red and blue on top of it: ‘Thank you very much for reading the zine! On these last pages artist and facilitator Rosa Walling-Wefelmeyer and the team at Pride Action North would like to thank everyone who participated in this project and shared their amazing creations. Not all Pride attendees at the art-making stall gave their name or were ok with it being printed, but big thanks to Alex, Elvis, Becky, Freya, Sam, Rob, Michelle and Mark. Thanks also to the young people’s LGBTQIA+ group at Hexham Community Centre who shared posters and other creations during the Pride event held there. Thanks also to Rowan Tinlin and the team at Newcastle University who shared creative contributions made to their stalls at Pride On The Road. Recognition must also go to the following creatives whose photos are available in the public domain and creatively adapted here in the zine: Travis Rupert, David S, Arina Krasnikova, Anni Roenkae, Sachin Bharti, olia danilevich, Ben Mack, juv, Muffin Creatives and Polina Tankilevitch. Finally, Rosa would like to thank Pride Action North for the great opportunity and Becky Tuck especially for support, suggestions and encouragement throughout the project.’

The right page is red and red paint splashes over onto the red page. There is a drawing in the top right corner. It features a pencil sketch of a figure wearing the trans flag on their arm. It also features the following text ’PRIDE IS IMPORTANT. We need representation so that people are less likely to be mislead into thinking that we are abnormal. We are normal. We exist. It is important for young members of the LGBTQ+ community to connect and support eachother. YOU ARE NOT ALONE!’. Underneath this image is a line drawing of a smiling emoji-style yellow head in a blue t-shirt that reads ‘I’m the scary transgender person the media warned you about’.

**Page 36 /back cover:**

This page features a cut-out of an old map showing Amble and Druridge Bay. It overlaps with a photograph of waves out at sea. In the bottom right-hand corner of the page is the Pride Action North logo.