



Annual Chair's Report for Macclesfield Town Council Grant application

Sue Armitt – Chair Macclesfield Pride 15/01/2026

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- MaccPride Main event 2025**- had a footfall of 15,467- a 6% increase from 2024. The crowd stayed in the town centre, even with a shower of rain (again). We were able to use the Grant from Macclesfield Town Council to pay for the increase charges this year in producing such a large and significant event for Macclesfield ie MaccPride. In appreciation of their support since we began in 2018, we ensure their logo is on all promotional events we hold throughout the year.
- We had excellent feedback from MaccPride 2025, and public enjoyed the added stalls. Over 200 people participated in the slightly longer parade, which we named a March this year with a reminder of the Pride events arose from protests.
- MaccPride Hub was a huge success and almost 1000 visitors found a safe space to discuss their issues. Our Art Exhibition allowed Queer artists to display their work in local café and one the founders of MaccPride, Liv worked hard to ensure this went ahead.
- We had a poetry night, in conjunction with local poet Mark. Thought provoking and emotional night entitled Pride & Pandemonium. Collaborations also with local pub who provided a quiz, Nodding Dog comedy had a comedy night, and Leek Building Society held a cake bake.
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- Liase and collaborate with community**
- Volunteer Award – Some of us attended the Cheshire LGBTQIA+ Volunteer awards in December 2025. Rachel Wisson was our winner for last year, and we chose Pack Horse Bowling Club as the proud recipients of local business award.
- Rainbow Brews, Macclesfield continues to meet the third Saturday of the month, and Stella provides a safe space to meet, recently moved to The Fountain. Poynton Civic council reached out to us, and following consultation, we coordinated a Rainbow Brews in Poynton every first Saturday in the month. Pippa, Jo and I have held two successful sessions at The Kingfisher, which is well attended and clearly needed.
- TRANSCEND is undergoing some changes, and currently three members of the trans community are working together to consider sports and other focused groups to meet on a monthly basis. Collaboration with Transpositive worker will assist with this and Facebook support group is maintained.
- Another of the founders of Macclesfield Pride, Sophie and her partner Jynx were invited to participate and share information about MaccPride at Macclesfield college. Following this success, they are finalising a presentation to tour all secondary schools within the locality, which is vital to the needs of LGBTQIA+ students.
- We have visited East Cheshire Hospice and participated in Equality and Diversity meeting to share information and signpost to others. Wilmslow had their first Pride, and stated how Macclesfield Pride have been 'inspirational'.

MaccPride have liaised with local health authorities and agencies, and participate in the Macclesfield Police Cohesion Group meetings.

One of our Trustees and a former committee member have set up Queer Collective, and MaccPride are pleased to continue to promote their activities eg Queer Market, Reading Club and Yas Bean's Stride for Pride.

□ **Plans for 2026**

MaccPride Main Event in the town centre is in preparation for Saturday 4th July, and we are planning to host Picnic in the Park Sunday 3rd May (Victoria Park).

We have a fund-raising night Sat. 29th February – a 'Flip Flop Bingo' with a fun, fab, take on the traditional game - never seen before. We are supporting small businesses in the town by purchasing vouchers from them as prizes for the bingo.

We will continue to meet the aims and objectives agreed within our constitution, and the AGM in September 2026 will confirm the Committee and Trustee positions for the following year. Liaison with others will continue as detailed above.

Sponsorship/Grants

We were hugely grateful to Macclesfield Town Council for their generous grant 2025, which allows us to continue to organise events mentioned above. We also rely on, and are kindly sponsored for other specific events, and this helps us to ensure everyone can access the support we provide by having free entry to the main events.

□ **Final note from Chair**

It has been a huge pleasure to act as Chair since the last AGM – especially with a team of such dedicated, reliable and supportive Committee and Trustees. The kindness and team work approach has been essential during some difficult challenges this year- following concerns after the Supreme Court ruling April 2025.

The Committee have been able to address the concerns from LGBTQIA+ community wherever possible, whilst also maintaining effective relationships with members of groups and agencies locally.

The whole Committee and Trustees are all unpaid volunteers working with a passion and drive for Macclesfield Pride Charity, striving to increase visibility and reduce negativity in our small town.

I do believe that this report, indicates how we are promoting equality within our town, sometimes in the face of adversity. We recognise there is still so much to do, as sadly stigma and prejudice is increasing especially in respect of our Trans community.

However, the drive and determination from Macclesfield Pride Committee and Trustees will continue all year round to address this, and we hope that this continues with continued support and a community grant from Macclesfield Town Council.

Sue Armitt

Chair Macclesfield Pride 15.01.2026