

# BiCon 2015

NOTTINGHAM 13-16 AUGUST

Highlight of the Bisexual Year

Handbook and  
programme guide

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Large print and accessible word document handbooks available on request from the desk

# Welcome to BiCon

Hello and welcome to BiCon 2015!

Even if you're not the organisers, BiCon is to some extent what you make it. And as organisers we hope we have made a space where everyone involved can make a great BiCon. Our aim was to create an open and friendly space where bisexuality is the norm, a space where we don't have to defend or explain our sexuality or any other aspect of ourselves unless we want to, and a place with a high standard of inclusivity and conduct. We hope we've succeeded, but we need to hand it over to all of you now to finish the job.

Fortunately like every BiCon we have a LOT of volunteers. As this is written we have over 350 bookings and over half of them have offered to help in some way. BiCon really is made of people, and if you want to help it's still not too late to offer. Ask at the BiCon desk if there's something you can do and who knows you might be helping run a BiCon in a few years time. And enjoying it!

Rowan, the BiCon 2015 team and Latimer T Buck

## Credits

The BiCon 2015 Team are: Ian, Jude, Ludy, Libby, Luce, Natalya, Pierrette, Rowan, Sharon Frederick and Suraya.

All the team have friends and partners they'd like to thank for putting up with us and for supplying tea and coffee and telling us to get off the computer and eat and sleep.

We would also like to thank Corinne and the lovely Nottingham conference team who helped us deal with everything, David for running the DMP, Lauren for many of the photos on our web site, Lisa for helping look for venues and keeping BiCon supplies in a secret barn location, all our stall holders and advertisers for supporting us, bisexual.org for sponsoring the lovely purple bags, our DJs and performers for what I know will be some great evenings and above all, all the session facilitators and desk staff and gophers and listeners for giving up chunks of their BiCon for free to make it happen - without you it wouldn't be possible.

# About BiCon

BiCon is a weekend-long gathering for bi people, their friends, partners and others with a supportive interest in bisexuality. Held in a different UK location and run by a different volunteer team each year, BiCon attracts between two and three hundred people and is the single biggest event in the UK bisexual calendar. We don't all use the labels "bi" or "bisexual" or even agree on what it means to be bi, but bisexuality is the common theme.

2015 will be the 33rd BiCon and this year we are expecting around 400 participants, around a third of whom are at BiCon for the first time, so if you're new, you're not alone!

We have over 70 sessions for you to choose from, The BiCon Ball on Saturday night, a craft space with materials to make lovely things with and the bar and music every night. BiCon is different for everyone, and different every year, but we hope you all find something for you, and come back next year!

## Latimer T Buck

Latimer is a small cuddly reindeer who first came to BiCon in 2002 and has been passed from team to team and been our mascot ever since. He is also the BiCon 'buck' which means that at the end of BiCon we will literally 'pass the buck' to the next team. We are a little bit sorry for the bad pun, but not really.

## AND the room names...

Every year has a theme for the names of the rooms we hold our sessions in. This year just to show you *can* have your cake and eat it we have chosen kinds of cakes: Angel, Battenberg, Carrot, Dundee, Eccles, Fairy, Ginger, Honey, Iced Gem and Jaffa.

There are also a few sessions outside: please meet at reception.

# Communications

This handbook is correct at time of printing. But things change. Sessions will change slot, new ones will be scheduled as people offer to run them, and some may be cancelled. Here's how to keep up to date or to ask questions...

## Info and registration desks

The BiCon desk is the place to go to find out the latest news, and everything else. The desk will be in the foyer during the day, and at Lenton and Wortley in the evenings. If you have volunteered to help out, please come to the desk at the start of your shift. Volunteering for a shift on the desk is a great way to meet people, too. There is also a noticeboard for announcements in the foyer, if you want to add something you can ask at the desk.

## Plenaries

Some announcements will be made in the plenary sessions. These take place in Angel as shown in your programme. If you want us to say something in the plenary, ask beforehand or put it in the post box. We'll use our discretion on what is said in plenaries, so they are short and relevant to the whole of BiCon.

## Organisers' post box

There is a box at the BiCon Desk that we check at least once a day. It can be used for anything you want to communicate to the organisers. For example:

- a suggestion
- a problem you want us to be aware of
- something you want to tell us anonymously
- reports for the Conduct Team
- something you'd like brought to everyone's attention at a plenary
- how much you're enjoying yourself!

Leave your name and a way of contacting you (email, phone number) if you want us to get back to you, or not if not. If you particularly do want or don't want your message to be mentioned or read out at the plenary, please say so; otherwise we'll use our own judgment on that.

## Phone

You can contact the desk on 07492 621557. When the desk is closed, the team member on duty will have the phone until the end of the evening ents. After this the phone will be turned off because we need to sleep, so contact University of Nottingham Security team on 0115 9513013 in any emergency.

# Code of conduct

By signing for your BiCon pass you agree to abide by this code of conduct.

## Why do we need a Code of Conduct?

People come to BiCon with different experiences and ideas of how to behave and how they expect others to behave. This Code of Conduct outlines what everyone, including organising team, workshop facilitators and volunteers, can expect from others and what is expected from all of us during BiCon.

The organisers will try to deal fairly and respectfully with any issue brought to us. We may also make reasonable requests that are not specifically included here.

People are responsible for themselves, their actions, and their own health.

You do not have to stay in any session you feel uncomfortable in. You can leave at any time.

## Passes

People attending BiCon should wear their pass to all events; if you don't, you may not be allowed into BiCon spaces until you get it.

Passes are numbered and non transferable. If you give your pass to another person you are defrauding BiCon. A fee may be payable to replace lost passes.

## Harrassment: No Means No. Ask every time.

No one at BiCon should be put under any pressure to join in with things they do not want to do.

This includes:

- any sexual behaviour
- hugs or touching
- taking part in a activity
- disclosing information
- discussing topics which are sensitive or personal
- or even having a chat.

It is fine to ask someone once if they would like to do something. For example, "Would you like a hug?" If they refuse, continuing to ask is pestering them and will be viewed as harassment. If someone asks you to leave them alone, do so. You can ask the conduct team to tell someone to leave you alone.

In public, “no”, “stop”, “don’t do that” or similar words and phrases will be taken at face value by the BiCon organisers and volunteers, regardless of context.

## **Public behaviour**

BiCon should be a place where people feel free to express their sexuality, but it is not a sex or fetish party. We ask that overtly sexual behaviour be kept out of the public areas. Please keep public behaviour within what is normally publicly acceptable.

BiCon attenders should remain fully clothed in all public areas, all nipples, genitalia and bums must be securely covered by clothing. Some sessions are counted as private areas and will be clearly marked as such.

Consent includes any audience. Remember that may include not just attendees, but venue staff and the general public, who may challenge you if they are uncomfortable.

Everyone at BiCon deserves to feel safe and no one deserves to be shouted or sworn at or made to feel threatened.

We don’t allow animals on-site, except for pre-registered assistance animals.

Please abide by the smoking zones which will be clearly marked and explained in the handbook. It is illegal to smoke anywhere indoors including on-site accommodation, including out of windows.

## **Discrimination, respecting difference**

BiCon should be a safe space for all attenders, regardless of ethnicity, class, gender, disability, religion and belief, age or lifestyle. Bigoted behaviour of any kind will not be tolerated.

Don’t make negative comments or assumptions, or stereotype people on the basis of their skin colour, physical features, race, accent or religious belief. Negative comments about any aspect of a person’s culture or race, or fetishisation of cultural markers and physical features should be avoided. An example of this could be, “that’s such an exotic name” or “your dreadlocks are amazing, can I touch them?”

People who attend BiCon may define their gender in a range of different ways which we understand aren’t always easy to spot. If you are unsure of the pronoun someone uses we encourage you to ask them or avoid gendered language by using “they” instead of “he” or “she”. If you ask someone or are corrected about pronouns, please try to use them correctly. We accept people’s self-identified gender for all purposes at BiCon including single-gender spaces.

People are welcome to attend BiCon regardless of how they define their sexuality.

Please remember that everyone is at a different stage of awareness about various issues and don't assume people are being malicious.

## **Safer spaces**

Some spaces within BiCon are restricted to certain groups of people, e.g people aged 18 or over or those with a particular identity. These should be clearly marked in the session guide and handbook.

BiCon supports safer spaces and recognises their value. Please do not breach safer spaces you are not eligible to be in, but if you are eligible, don't be afraid that you aren't 'enough' of whatever group to go. If you are unsure of your eligibility you can ask to speak to someone wearing a purple sash for advice.

## **Confidentiality**

Please respect people's privacy, and be aware that not everyone at BiCon may be 'out' about their sexuality or other aspects of their lifestyle such as BDSM or non-monogamy. Ask permission before identifying anyone publicly. 'Public' includes write-ups on personal websites or on social networking sites such as Facebook.

Do not take any photographs or recordings of people without their express permission. It is your responsibility to make sure everyone in shot is happy to be photographed.

If you give permission for your photo to be taken, assume it may end up online linked to you by name as people may not remember your preferences after BiCon.

If you believe someone has taken your photograph without your permission you may ask them to delete the image or ask the desk or a volunteer to do so for you.

Members of the press should identify themselves to the desk and at any sessions they attend.

## **Getting help to deal with other people and incidents**

If you want support in challenging anyone's behaviour or anything they've said, please come and talk to the desk or an organiser in a purple sash who can assist you or speak to the person for you.

The organisers very much want to know about things that make people at BiCon less likely to attend another bi event. If anything happens that makes



you uncomfortable or unwelcome – even if you do not want us to do anything about it, or feel it is your fault – please let us know.

## **Breaches of the Code of Conduct**

If any of this happens to you at BiCon 2015 or you have witnessed inappropriate behaviour, we want to know so we can improve your experience.

You can tell us

- in person: there will be someone in a sash/at a desk
- through the organisers post box: write something and post it in
- by text or phone 07492 621557
- by email 2015@bicon.org.uk

## **Things we can do to help**

If something has happened that makes you uncomfortable we can talk to anyone else involved. We are happy to do so, even if you haven't communicated this to them, since that is not always easy to do. We will listen to what you think would help. You don't have to know what would help.

## **Examples of things we can do**

- communicate to others that there is a problem.
- ask for an apology
- ask them to leave you alone
- require them to not be where you are
- exclude them from the rest of BiCon
- pass their detail to future BiCons

These will be implemented at the discretion of the BiCon team.

Breaches of this Code of Conduct or reasonable requests will, in most cases, be met with a warning from a member of the organising team. The organisers' decision is final.

If warnings are ignored, or in the event of serious misconduct, we reserve the right to ask anyone to leave all or part of BiCon. If you are asked to leave you will not receive any refund. We reserve the right to pass on details of complaints to future BiCon organisers.

# Meeting people

## You are not alone!

Approximately a third of BiCon attenders each year are there for the first time, so even though you might feel alone when you arrive, it won't be long before you meet people. We've all been there, and we try to make sure that there are plenty of icebreaker-type opportunities to help ease things along.

## Meet & Mingle zones

Look out for 'Meet & Mingle' signs. The idea is that in those areas, you can go and join a table where you don't know the other people (yet) and join in. Obviously you could do that anywhere, but this way you know in advance that you're not interrupting a private conversation as people sitting there will be specifically welcoming other people.

## Meet & Mingle rules:

- anyone is welcome to sit down and join in the conversation
- once you're in the Meet & Mingle zone, look out for passers-by or people who've recently come into the room, and invite them to join you.

Maybe you want to create your own Meet & Mingle zone – perhaps one with a theme, such as crafting or games. Ask at BiCon Reception if you want to create your own Meet & Mingle sign with a particular theme.

## Want to help?

BiCon is run by volunteers, and we are still looking for general helpers for the event – staffing the reception desk or being a 'gopher' (someone who can take messages, carry things, put up signs etc). Ask at BiCon reception if you'd like to help; we're glad for a hand from anyone willing to lend one. Volunteering is a great way to meet people, especially for people who are attending BiCon for the first time.

# Being on site

## Food and drink

This year BiCon is catered for the first time in 22 years. Check your ticket type below to see which meals are included for you.

**Advance One-day Pass for Friday or Saturday:** That day's buffet lunch

**Advance weekend ticket with no accommodation:** Lunch on Friday and Saturday

**Full event, two nights accommodation:** Lunch and dinner on Friday and Saturday, breakfast on Saturday and Sunday

**Full event, three nights accommodation:** Lunch and dinner on Friday and Saturday, breakfast on Friday, Saturday and Sunday

**For meals which are not included,** The Coates Café will be open next to the daytime space and the desk has takeaway details for evening meals. People staying on site also have access to mini kitchenettes with a microwave, and a mini fridge and kettle in each room. For other local options see page 38.

## Car parking

There is ample parking on campus. To get free parking you need a permit which you can collect after arrival from the University reception. We ask most attenders to park in the main car park and in the car park opposite Lenton and Wortley, to ensure that parking nearer to buildings is free for people with access difficulties.

## Internet access

Wi-Fi is available in the public areas on campus and within halls of residence. Simply select UoN guest from the list of available wireless networks and connect. No password or additional configuration is necessary.

## Keys for your room

If you are staying on site you will need to sign for your key. BiCon will be charged for any lost keys and we will pass this charge on to attenders.

Keys must be returned and rooms vacated by midday on Sunday. Bring your key back to Lenton and Wortley Reception and sign it in to make sure you don't get charged.

## Laundry

A coin-operated laundry is available in the basement of Block 6 at Lenton and Wortley.

## Noise in accommodation

Please be considerate of the people you are sharing accommodation with. Please try to be quiet in the accommodation blocks after 10pm; close doors quietly; don't talk outside bedroom doors and avoid noise in kitchenettes.

If your neighbours ask you to keep the noise down, please do so. BiCon will ask people to be quieter if we have to, but we would much prefer not to have to.

Please also be aware that noise from outside may disturb people staying on site and keep any groups on the lawn after the bar away from bedroom windows.

## Smoking

In England it is illegal to smoke indoors or within a certain distance of buildings and entrances. To ensure that people who need to avoid smoke for access reasons and smokers can co-exist, the venue enforces no-smoking and smoking zones.

The dedicated smoking areas will be clearly signposted. Please don't smoke anywhere else on site, because venue security will tell you off and move you on.

## Entertainments and social spaces

There's a choice of activities in the evening at BiCon. There's a bar area, music and performers in the Dining Room and a quieter place to sit and chat, and the venue has lovely outdoor space if the weather is good.

Each night the bar will be open from 7pm and there is a quieter alcohol-free social space in the Conservatory, where there is space for board games from 8pm and some gamers may also be using the library space upstairs.

## Thursday night: Pub quiz and settling in

It's a chance to say hello, meet up with new and old friends, unpack and settle in. After an icebreaker, join us for the BiCon Pub Quiz: general knowledge, queer history and useless facts. There might even be prizes!

Between rounds, our resident BiCon DJ, **DJ Avalon** will play 80s classics, pop and indie. The bar is open until midnight, and there'll also be quiet space.

## Friday night: Comedy and music

**Ashlee** - In her first performance, Ashlee talked about her experiences as a sex worker and ranted about how politicians and the law tend to approach prostitution. Being able to see the funny side of life, it naturally included a few jokes. She enjoyed the laughs so much she began to focus primarily on that and, tentatively, to call it "comedy".

**Jackie** - Award-winning comedian Jackie Hagan has recently finished nationally touring her poetic-comedy-cabaret-theatre show *Some People Have Too Many Legs* – an infectiously optimistic story of losing her leg. She'll be sharing some new-ish material.

Between sets **DJ Mat** will play everything from Frank Ocean to Frank Sinatra. From the latest chart hits to good ol' time songs you'd forgotten, most will be catered for, even if you don't realise it 'til you hear it.

There will be quieter spaces too, and the bar is open until midnight.

## Saturday night: The BiCon Ball

The BiCon Ball takes place in the Dining Room from 9pm until 1am, and this year the theme is The Magic Forest. Dressing up is not compulsory, but if you want to and don't have a costume finished yet there will be a dressing up box to raid for some extra help.

The Magic Forest will also feature a Mysterious Magician doing actual magic and really quite a lot of cake.

**DJs Lucy and Katy** are Frabjous. We play magical, musical and danceable covers you didn't know you needed and songs you'd forgotten you loved.

Again, quieter space will be open all evening.

## Craft space

There is a craft room open throughout the daytime session times and you're welcome to come along and make stuff at any time. We have yarn and knitting needles, pens and paints and lots of little shiny things for you to play with and stick together, including some ideas and materials so you can help make decorations for the Ball.

# About the DMP

The Decision-Making Plenary (DMP) is the session where BiCon makes decisions about things like who's going to run BiCon in future years, any bi projects that BiCon might help to fund and whether any changes need to be made to the BiCon guidelines.

The DMP is important because BiCon makes its decisions as a whole community and everyone present at BiCon should be able to contribute to those. Because it's so important, it's never scheduled against other sessions, which allows everyone at BiCon to attend. This year it's on Saturday afternoon. If you want to raise an issue at the DMP you should if at all possible bring it to the pre-DMP session on Friday. This allows the issues to be discussed in a smaller, more manageable group, where suggestions can be made and the ideas may be refined. It also allows the issues to be publicised on the notice board so that BiCon attenders know what's coming up. Please do read the notices if you're intending to come to the DMP – things run more smoothly if everyone knows in advance what's going to be discussed.

If you can't make the pre-DMP session for any reason, and can't find someone to go in your place, please leave a note in the team post-box before 5pm on Friday so that we can at least publicise the issue. Some small issues may be raised at the DMP without prior warning (it's not that formal) but not changes to the Guidelines as those really do require more notice.

## The BiCon Guidelines

The BiCon guidelines, written and agreed at the 1998 BiCon, are guidelines describing what BiCon is and how it should be run. They're intended to make things easier for teams running BiCon rather than being restrictive and to make sure that any BiCon covers the bare minimum of requirements for content and accessibility. Occasionally they get added to and amended at the DMP. This requires the approval of two consecutive BiCons.

The full text of the BiCon guidelines is available on-line at [www.BiCon.org.uk/guidelines.html](http://www.BiCon.org.uk/guidelines.html) and a copy will be available at the reception desk and at the pre-DMP session. Bear in mind that they're not intended so that you can walk around BiCon ticking them off and awarding marks to the current BiCon team; you'll make yourself very unpopular if you do that!

Please do come to the DMP though. It's important that decisions made on behalf of BiCon are made by as many people at BiCon as possible.

Notes by David Matthewman, who will chair the DMP.

# About sessions

This year BiCon has scheduled sessions from 9:30am to 6:30pm on Friday and Saturday, and 9:30am to 12:15pm on Sunday. There are also some sessions and socials during lunch which you can take food into.

Each session slot is 1 hour 15 minutes long, with 15-minute breaks or meal breaks between them. Sessions in the lunch break finish 15 minutes before the next session, to allow for moving between and setting up sessions. Most sessions are in one of the seven rooms; outdoor sessions will meet at reception.

You may attend as many or few sessions as you like. You can also experiment - you can leave any session quietly if you find it is not for you. Some sessions will be closed to additional participants once the facilitator feels there are enough people, or shortly after the start so the session can remain uninterrupted. Please don't interrupt or try to gain entry to a closed session.

Some sessions have restrictions such as 18+ or women only. Any session with a restriction is marked with an [R] in the schedule with specifics in the session description. BiCon accepts people's own definitions of their identity, so e.g. anyone who identifies as a woman is welcome at a 'women only' session.

To help everyone enjoy sessions, please turn up on time, listen when others are speaking, don't talk over other people and allow the facilitator to guide who speaks next - they should be ensuring everyone has a fair turn.

Facilitators are asked to finish on time so that the next facilitator has time to set up and attendees can get to the next session without having to rush. Please support facilitators by leaving rooms promptly at the end. Some sessions may cover topics that may be offensive or raise very personal issues for some people. If you become uncomfortable or are not enjoying a session you are free to leave any session quietly at any time.

Please keep the details of what is discussed in sessions confidential: do not name names unless you have permission to do so, if you discuss the content with people who were not there. If you are not sure if it is okay to name someone, avoid doing so and say 'someone said' rather than 'the woman with green hair said'.

No photography or other recording or filming is permitted unless it is specifically stated in the session description and verbally at the start of the session. Please turn off or silence your phones before the start of the session.

# Sessions A-Z

## **Ace Space - A Safe Discussion Space for Asexuals - Saoirse**

A safe space for asexual beings, and anyone who is questioning if they may be asexual, to get together, meet others, and discuss asexuality. *Whole group discussion*

[R] age 18+; Asexual, or people who think they may be asexual, only

## **After bi.org - Ian Watters**

We used to have one central website for bi stuff. Many years ago, people started moving to have their own domain names, and we now have at least a couple of dozen.

Somewhere to talk about what could happen in terms of enabling people to find what they want... and what they need but don't know it yet.

If you have a 'bisexual' website, it'd be good to have you come along. If you've looked for something 'bisexual' and not found it easily, it would be good to have you come along too. *Whole group discussion*

## **An Introduction to Polyamory - David F and Hessie**

An introduction to polyamory for everyone just starting out on the road to ethical non-monogamy. If you're new to polyamory this is for you. We will cover common problems you might encounter, ways to start, what style might make you happiest, strange new words and how not to mess up.

[R] Age 16+

## **Basic Self Defence - Sanji**

An interactive session covering some of the basics of self defence, including: awareness and safety tips, physical demonstrations and opportunities to try out some moves based on common attacks, discussion around self defence and scenarios. Please participate as much as you feel comfortable or able to do so but no spectators please.

Note, this is a session covering some basics only and if you already do a martial art for example, you will find this session limited. *Whole group and pair work, discussion and practical activity*

Please bring water and wear comfortable clothing. Limited to 20 participants

## **BDSM for Beginners - David F and Amaranta**

An introduction to BDSM for anyone with little or no experience. Covering language and activates, consent and safety, some hints and tips, along with hopefully answering any questions you have.

[R] Age 16+; This is for beginners only.



### **Being a Better Ally - Alex and Olli**

A frank discussion space for "allies" to come together, discuss the best way to be an "ally" and the behaviours to avoid. Not a restricted 'safe space' and members of oppressed groups are welcome to help steer and feed back.

*Whole group discussion*

[R] Age 18+

### **Bellydancing for Beginners - Sanji**

Bellydancing for Beginners aims to be a relaxed, fun and very interactive session open to all. Simply join in as much as you feel comfortable or able to do so (but no spectators please). It will cover the very basics of bellydance and give you some moves you can take away and practise at home!

Please bring water and something to tie around your hips such as a scarf. I will provide a few scarves to borrow during the session. *Whole group work, discussion and practical activity*

Limited to 20 participants

### **Bi Carers Meetup - Emily Wright**

A carer is anyone who cares for a friend or family member who cannot cope without their support due to illness, disability, a mental health problem or an addiction. People care for partners, friends, family, children, parents and neighbours. Caring may involve practical, physical or emotional support and some carers also receive care themselves.

This session is open to any BiCon attendee who provides or receives care. This includes carers of all kinds (full-time, live-in carers, part-time carers or those caring from a distance) and people with all kinds of care-needs. It aims to provide a space to talk, listen and support each other. *Whole group discussion*

### **Bi Parenting - Rebecca**

Society has many expectations of parents. These expectations can often include the expectation to be straight, monogamous, cisgendered, in a nuclear family... this is a discussion and get-together for anyone who currently parents, has parented, or is planning to parent, who in some way doesn't fit into those categories. People in parent-like roles (involved aunts/uncles god/ungodparents etc.) are also welcome to attend. Support, networking, problem-solving, and generally hanging out. *Whole group and small group discussion*

### **Bi Sci Fi - LGBT sexuality in Science Fiction - Sally**

A workshop that looks at LGBT sexuality in Science Fiction such as *Torchwood* and *Mad Max Road to Fury* and gives people the opportunity to look at what the future of Sci Fi could be in terms of the portrayal of Sci Fi characters. There will be an opportunity to act out or invent new scenes for people's favourite Sci Fi.

### **Bi-Bearology - Puma**

Exploring Bear Culture in a non binary context. The appreciations of bears mostly from a cis women's standpoint. Looking at visibility issues and how desires of women that don't mirror the norm are not commodified.

[R] Age 18+; People that appreciate Bears, Bears, Friends and Allies.

### **BiCon Bat Walk - Jess Barker**

Discover the bats of BiCon! This evening session will introduce attendees to the fascinating nocturnal world of UK bats. The route for the walk is decided on last minute based on weather, but is likely to be based around the lake in Highlands Park where numerous bats of different species should be active. We will find bats with a bat detector, have a go at identifying species, and Jess will be happy to try and answer any batty questions you have! Accessibility will be considered when planning the walk, and the route will stick to even paths, but the campus is somewhat hilly. Please bring a torch if possible, as there's no lighting on paths round the lake. If you would like to attend but have accessibility concerns please feel free to discuss with Jess (who can be pointed out by the organisers) in advance.

### **BiCon Continuity Ltd General Meeting - Karen**

Meeting for members of BCL to elect directors/trustees and make other decisions. BCL was incorporated in 2011 to look after BiCon's money and became a charity in 2014.

### **Bis of Colour - Asha**

A safe space session for all those who identify as being Black, politically Black or from a minority ethnic group. We all know what is like to be 'othered' by our sexuality and this space is for those who are 'othered' by virtue of their ethnicity.

Discussion may cover distressing situations such as racist, biphobic and transphobic incidents.

[R] People who are Black, minority ethnic, dual heritage or mixed race only.

### **BiCon Photo Shoot – Lauren and Suraya**

We'd love to have a stock of photos to use in publicity for future BiCons: if you'd like to be in them, please come along.

## **Bisexual Experience of Mental Health / Emotional Distress Support - Grant Denkinson**

What should counsellors etc. know about bisexuals before working with us? Bisexuals in emotional distress sometimes have bad support experiences. I'm collecting bisexuals' experiences of professional emotional distress support: counsellors, psychotherapists, psychology and psychiatry services, mental health teams, doctors etc. I'll anonymise responses and produce some guidance for our support professionals. I'll also provide a way to comment anonymously for people who don't wish to speak about this sort of thing with me or in a workshop session. This session might involve people sharing distress and isn't for therapy: please take care of yourself and access support networks as needed. *Whole group discussion perhaps splitting to smaller groups; optional ways of participating without speaking by writing anonymous comments.*

## **BiUK Annual General Meeting (AGM) - Meg John Barker**

This is a meeting to find out what BiUK has been up to and to help us to plan for the coming year.

BiUK is the UK national organisation for bisexual research and activism, which means that we focus on doing research and providing evidence-based training, resources, policy and practice guidance, etc. We produced The Bisexuality Report, and we also organise the BiReCon research conference every other year.

Come along to the meeting if you've been involved in research or projects yourself that you'd like to tell people about (it doesn't have to be 'academic'), or if you'd like to have an input into our priorities going forward. *Panel and whole group discussion*

## **BiUK Trustees Meeting - Meg John Barker**

This is a closed meeting for the BiUK trustees to discuss their business. It will be followed by an open AGM which anybody interested in the work of BiUK is welcome to attend.

[R] BiUK trustees and associates only

## **Board Games: More Than Monopoly - Alex**

A chance to play some amazing board games you've probably never played before. Full rules for each game will be explained. Individuals and groups welcome.

[R] Age 9+

### **Campaigning Against Biphobia - Ayaz Manji and Catherine Somerville**

A chance to get an update on Stonewall's consultation with bi people and share your thoughts about future campaigns to tackle biphobia. *Presentation, whole group and small group discussions*

### **Celebration of Achievement of Bi Visibility by Trade Unions - Sarah Shahid and Asha Wolfe-Robinson**

A historical look at how Bi visibility has been incorporated in to the LGBT movement in trade unions. We will be looking at how long this has taken and its involvement in the wider campaigning for equal rights. *Presentation followed by group discussions*

### **Complicated? Bi People and UK Services - Sam Rankin**

A presentation of and discussion about the final results of "Complicated?" a survey of bi people and UK services. The survey was launched at BiCon 2013 and a consultation copy of the report was presented at BiReCon 2014.

### **CoverBis - Jen**

A "drop in" session to take photos for use in promotional materials for bi projects and potential cover photos for BCN magazine. And indeed for use on dating profiles or whatever other purpose you want a piccie of yourself for! [R] Age 18+

### **Decision-Making Plenary - David Matthewman**

BiCon's decision-making session, where decisions are taken about how BiCon should be run. (See DMP notes on page 14.) *Chaired whole group discussion*

### **Dementia Friends Information Session - Alexander Rawlins**

Learn a bit about dementia and how you can have a positive impact on people living with dementia. This is a one hour information session developed by the Alzhiemers Society. *Presentation, some group discussion*  
[R] Age 18+; limited to 20 participants

### **Drawing Workshop: Disrupting Pattern - Bruce Sharp**

The workshop will begin with discussion of the significance of patterns and why people may want to disrupt them. Drawing on examples from my own practice we will then use simple everyday wallpaper patterns to explore ways of mark making and disruption of marks. This will result in the creation of a large scroll made by all participants. The session will finish with a chance to discuss what we have made and its meaning in relation to everyday experience of bisexuality.

A drawing workshop for all abilities. An emphasis on re-defining our personal understanding of the seeing process. Limited to 20 participants

### **Fat Femme Clothes Swap - Sophie**

This clothes swap is open to women and trans feminine people that self identify as fat/curvy/plus sized. Please bring any unwanted or pre loved clothes to swap. Clothes remaining after the swap will be donated to a women's shelter.

[R] Age 18+; women and trans feminine individuals only

### **Fat Positivity - Emily Wright and Louise**

Fat people come in all shapes and sizes, genders, races, ages but some of us get treated as 'good fatties' and the rest of us get shamed as 'bad fatties'. This workshop is a space for talking about the cultural rules about what is an 'acceptable' fat person (borrowing Gayle Rubin's idea of a Charmed Circle).

We believe these rules are harmful for all fat people and we will be looking at inclusive ways of pushing back against fatphobia and learning to love and accept fat bodies, including our own. *Whole group discussions, some writing and some moving around (but can be adapted for people with mobility issues).*

[R] Self-identifying fat people and people who have been hurt by fatphobia. Limited to 25 participants

### **Feminism 101 for "Men" - Nathanael**

We will briefly cover privilege and where feminism arises in everyday life, which may not be immediately obvious to someone who is not disadvantaged by the patriarchy daily. Although it says men, this is for anyone who might find it helpful to have a space to learn the basics of being a better Feminist Ally and get those early simple mistakes out of the way safely. There will likely be sessions related to being a better feminist (/ally) throughout this weekend and this session is intended as an important first step so as not to derail those sessions ☺ *Whole group and small group discussions*

Not really suitable for anyone "on the frontline" of feminism as sexist mistakes will be made, discussed and learnt from.

### **Feminism in the 21st Century - Kay Inckle**

bell hooks stated that 'feminism is for everybody!' This session will explore what feminism means to us today, what it has to offer, and how we relate to it in the twenty-first century. The session is designed to be a relaxed and fun approach to exploring feminist politics and everyone is welcome. There will be some small group exercises and discussions as well as engagement with the whole group. Participants are asked to come along with an open mind, an open heart and their revolutionary tendencies close at hand!

### **Fitting and Misfitting - *Emily Wright***

Ever looked around BiCon and felt unfashionable or not quite at home? Ever felt like you're "not a proper bisexual", or "not bi enough"? Ever questioned where you fit in the community (including for instance if you are not bi, or as someone wondering whether they might be bi)? Or, on the other hand, ever thought how much you like it here - even if you're not bi? These and other interesting questions will be explored in this workshop session, which is open to all. *Whole group and small group discussions; some writing*

### **Flirting With Women For Women - *Katy***

Bi women have specific challenges when it comes to dating other women. If you have trouble telling when you're being flirted with, or trouble expressing interest, or if you have tips to share, come along and let's discuss it. There will be opportunities to flirt in a controlled environment, and ideas to try out during the weekend. *Some whole group discussion, some smaller group discussion, some activities*

[R] Age 16+; Women only

### **History of Bi's of Colour - *Jacq Applebee***

Find out what Bi's of Colour have been up to since its creation at BiCon 2010. I'll be reporting on the group's progress, the survey, the ongoing history project and our future plans. This session is open to EVERYONE, regardless of ethnicity.

Open to teenagers and adults. There will be brief mentions of racial and sexualised violence

### **How to Start Your Own Bi Group - *Hannah Bisley***

Want to try running your own group but not sure where to start? This workshop will take you through (almost!) everything you need to know. The session will consist of Hannah talking with optional group work interspersed throughout.

## **How We Can Reduce Racism at BiCon and LGBT+ spaces - Natalya D**

Bi and other majority-white LGBT/queer spaces are often unsafe, unwelcoming and unfriendly to black and minority ethnic (BME) people even though this is rarely anyone's intention. We will identify and discuss some issues which are part of the problem and possible ways each of us can help which don't leave all the work to BME people. Anyone is welcome. This session will be closed at ~30 people.

This session will cover racism with specific examples and first-person experiences discussed. It is designed to be a space where people can ask questions even if they aren't perfectly worded. I will discuss safety at the start of the session.

[R] Age 13+

## **Intro for Facilitators – Sharon Frederick**

If you're facilitating a session at BiCon, come along and get some tips on how to make the most of the opportunity.

## **Introduction to Diversity - Sam Rankin**

Many bi people are also excluded and discriminated against because of a lack of understanding and prejudice against various aspects of our identities, so to make bi spaces more inclusive we need to be more skilled in dealing with equality issues. We will explore top tips for equality and include time for anonymous questions.

## **Language(s) of Bisexuality - David Goodarcher**

In this session (last offered at BiCon 2010) we'll be having a look at both the positive and negative ways bisexuality is talked about in English and as many other languages the participants know, with the aim of empowering our bi positive language use. Ideally we'd also publish the results online and set up a virtual bi- and polylinguists' group where we could support each other and our local/national bi groups in translating texts into/writing materials in other languages. You don't need to speak another language to attend, but you will certainly learn a few new words in the session! *Whole group discussion*

## **Live Action Speed Dating - Katy**

Want to meet new people but find speed dating too nerve-racking? Let's make it a game – with Live Action Speed Dating you can speed date as a fictional person. Chat in character but don't give your name, and at the end we'll all guess who was being who. Optional costume accessories provided – we'll even pick a character for you if you like, and give you some questions to ask. *A series of one on one conversations followed by whole group discussion*

[R] Age 16+

### **Love Bisexuals, Hate Hate Crime - *Surya M***

Have you ever been insulted because of your sexual or gender identity? Have you ever been attacked because someone who is prejudiced doesn't like lesbians, gays, trans people and bisexual people? Or maybe someone you know has been affected by hate crime? This session is for people who would like to know about a large campaign to tackle hate crime against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) people, funded by the Equalities and Human Rights Commission. The session will look at what hate crime is, and what can be done to tackle it. We will brief ourselves up about what services are available. You will also have the chance to pass on your knowledge and experiences to Surya, who will feed it back to campaign coordinators to help inform the campaign. *Presentation, small group work and whole group discussion*

### **Messing About in Boats! - *Kate G***

What better way to spend some time than simply messing around in boats! Come and live out your inner 'Ratty and Mole' and join me for a general mess about. No previous experience required at all - this will be a more general muck around.

There will be a walk to the lake, and a cost to hire the boats. You will need to bring appropriate clothing which you do not mind getting soaked (there is a possibility, although not an intention). A variety of craft should be available, and this will include rowing boat, kayak and larger open canoe. Participants should be able to swim 25m unaided. Any access needs please contact me in advance to discuss what we can do.

Limited by number of hire boats

### **Monogamy - *Chase***

Monogamous at BiCon? In the mainstream world monogamy is the norm, yet in bi and queer spaces it can often feel like everyone else is nonmonogamous and you're the only monogamous one. We will cover the real and perceived challenges of monogamy in relation to bisexuality and bi/queer space. *Whole group discussion*

[R] This session is a safer space for monogamous people (of all sexualities) so is only open to people who identify as monogamous or who are currently practicing monogamy (including those in mono-poly pairings).



### **Naked Lunch - Rach**

BiCon's clothes-optional picnic; a social get-together, with nudity!

Please bring your lunch, and something to use as a picnic blanket (a towel is recommended). Informal, friendly, calm with lots of chill-out space. You don't have to be naked; dress or undress however you are comfortable (there will be some full nudity).

For avoidance of doubt, children are welcome at the naked lunch.

### **Navigating Polyamory as a Parent - Alexis**

If you are already a parent or thinking of becoming a parent and want to have a polyamorous lifestyle this session will give you some insight into the issues you will face and the choices you may want to consider making in trying to balance the needs of the people you love. Polyamory (ethical non-monogamy) can be liberating for someone who is bisexual, but like all privileges it comes with responsibility, which we will explore. *A talk with small group breakout discussions*

[R] Age 18+; No photos, recordings, and no press (no news or media representatives acting in their capacity as reporters).

Limited to 30 participants

### **Neuro Diverse Safe Chill Space - Lea**

A short escape from the chaos of programmes for those adults who are either diagnosed with or self identify as Neuro Diverse (AD/HD, Dyslexia, Dyscalculia, Dyspraxia, Living on the Spectrum, Tourettes etc). Come be yourself, share experiences, relax, do some crafty stuff if it helps de-stress or just get to know other people. *informal/unstructured*

[R] Age 18+; adults who are diagnosed with or self identify as Neuro Diverse only. Limited to 25 participants

### **Neurodiversity - Nat Titman**

Do you think different? Is your profile a little spiky? Do you take flirt blindness to dizzying new levels? BiCon got you in a flap?

This workshop discusses the experiences of the developmentally neuro-divergent; those with specific learning/processing differences such as AD(H)D, autistic spectrum conditions, executive dysfunction, dyscalculia, dyspraxia, NLD, sensory processing disorder etc. It also explores the concept of neurodiversity; that it can be a positive and valid experience to be neurologically different.

Come along and help us relate this to the bi community! All welcome.

## **Nonbinary Gender Identity and Expression - *Nat Titman***

Nonbinary people experience or express their genders outside of the discrete binary options of woman and man, be they agender, androgynous, bigender, fluid, genderqueer, genderless or something else entirely.

This session gives a brief overview of nonbinary gender, what gender outside of the binary looks like and the practical aspects of living as nonbinary. Followed by a moderated discussion on nonbinary gender and its intersections with the wider bi community. All welcome.

## **People Who Lift Meet Up - *Kate G***

A meet up and trip to the campus gym to go and lift weights together - informal technique sharing and encouragement. I'm into powerlifting so the big 3 squat, deadlift and bench will be my focus - but all are welcome to chum along and lift together. A great chance to access exercise.

Anyone with any injuries needs to seek specific help and be responsible for their own safety - this is a peer lifting session not coach led. You will need to bring money for gym entry and appropriate clothing/footwear for wearing in the gym. There will be a group walk to the gym; this is around 15 or 20 minutes. You can also meet us there.

## **Poly 201 - Polyamory after the First Year - *Dave Dawes and Katie Strong***

This is a session where people explore the issues around polyamory who have had some experience in this. There have been Poly 101 sessions in the past aimed at people who are completely new to polyamory, whereas this session will be a facilitated discussion for people with some experience of poly, for example what are the challenges of poly relationships in the long term and how do we work with these?

## **Pre-Decision-Making-Plenary Preparation Session - *David Matthewman***

Preparation for BiCon's decision-making meeting. Anyone wishing to raise an issue (guideline change, request for funding etc.) should come to this meeting or send a proxy, so that we can add it to the agenda published in advance. (See DMP notes on page 14.) *Chaired whole group discussion*

## **Purple Prose: A British Bisexual Guide - *Katy***

We're putting together a book about bisexuality in the UK, to be published in 2016. Come and hear how it's getting on, give us your thoughts, and/or contribute some oral history to the project. *Whole group discussion*

## **Queer Herstory: Marsha P. Johnson and Sylvia Rivera - *Lola Phoenix***

Queer history is often whitewashed to the point where few LGBT people know the names Sylvia Rivera and Marsha P. Johnson. This session will cover these two amazing TWOC and how they started the Stonewall Riots and fought for queer rights and liberation all of their lives.

The videos do contain some swearing.

## **Resourcing a BiCon (Building a BiCon Part 2) - *David Matthewman***

This session will discuss the different elements that go into building a BiCon, and discuss how many resources are needed for each of them, and how best to provide those. This is a follow-up to last year's Building a BiCon session, but you don't need to have been to that one to contribute to this one. *Whole group discussion, also breaking out into smaller groups*

## **Rope Jam (Including Introduction to Rope Bondage) - *Dave Dawes and Katie Strong***

This is a session where rope enthusiasts can gather to have a rope jam with their peers. Dave and Katie will also include a short introductory tutorial for people who are new to rope bondage, and will be on hand to offer advice.

Please bring your own rope if possible although we will have some limited spare rope as well. Don't worry if you don't have a partner though, just be willing to pair up. People will be tying other people and being tied up – it is a very practical session

[R] Age 18+; Limited to 30 participants

## **Safer Sex – and How to Negotiate it with Partners - *Dave Dawes***

This is a workshop that covers what safer sex is and isn't and provides information on:

- The difference between safe sex and safer sex
- Sexually Transmitted Diseases
- Barrier methods of protection

It will also be an opportunity for people to share their experiences of negotiating safer sex and will provide practical tools for how to negotiate this better in future. I have successfully run this workshop at previous OpenCons and BiCon. I am a Registered Nurse and the author of the first guide to sexual health and sexually transmitted diseases on the iPad.

There will very frank discussions of sexual acts

## **Setting and Maintaining Boundaries - Calum**

Boundaries are an important part of how we interact with others – but what are they, as differentiated from etiquette and social contracts? How do we trip over our understanding of our own boundaries and others, and how can we establish, communicate, and maintain our boundaries to improve our interactions with others.

We'll practice some interactions around boundaries, using hypothetical examples around being offered a cup of tea.

## **Sex and Disability – Kaye and Charlie**

A facilitated discussion session to talk about how disability affects our sex lives and vice versa.

[R] 18+: be aware of frank discussion of sex

## **Shaping the next year of Biscuit Magazine - Libby**

Biscuit is a new(-ish) online magazine for bi\* women (whatever your definition of 'woman' happens to be) staffed by volunteers. [thisisbiscuit.co.uk](http://thisisbiscuit.co.uk)

The aim of this session is to find out what kind of content you'd like to see on Biscuit, and to add to our pool of staff and writers. Bring one or more of: your opinions on the content we put out, your suggestions of how we can improve and your enthusiasm to get involved. *Whole group discussion; if there are no objections, the session will be recorded for use by the session leader only*

## **Sign Language Social - Natalya D and Rach**

BiCons have always had a surprising number of people who know some sign language. This session will be an informal social for people with sign language skills to chat in sign, meet other signers and learn from one another. We'll try to have voices switched off in the room, so socialisers should be willing to try and sign and use non-spoken communication as much as possible (scrub up that fingerspelling!). We expect most people to use British Sign Language, but other sign languages are welcome, too. This social is open to all levels and abilities of signing, so whether you only have a little bit, or a lot, come along! If you have resources that you'd like to share, such as books and apps, bring them along, too.

## **Solo Poly - Sam**

Solo poly is ethical non-monogamy without primary-style nesting (e.g. the sharing of finances). We will discuss solo poly, autonomy, relationship anarchy, couple privilege and the relationship escalator. For people who identify as solo poly or are interested in learning about it. *Presentation and group discussion*

[R] Age 18+

### **Steven Universe Sing Along - Alex**

Join other Crystal Gems as we sing along to the songs from Steven Universe.

### **Storytelling Workshop - DMWCarol**

Storytelling is one of the oldest art forms, and it's as enjoyable today as it ever has been. In this workshop you will create, perform, adapt and retell short fairytales.

Older children welcome.

### **Survivors of Abuse - Anon - The facilitator of this session is a male survivor of sexual abuse.**

BiCon can be an emotional and triggering time for people who have survived abuse. This confidential session is a chance to find out what safety-nets are on offer at BiCon, and a chance for people to make connections with others who may need a friendly face during the event. It is not intended to be a therapy space itself.

### **Tea Tasting - Lindsey**

Bring a mug and come along and try a variety of kinds of tea. There will be assorted black tea, green tea and herbal tea, likely including Assam, Blue Lady, Violet Black tea, Lapsang Souchong, Orange Blossom Oolong, Jasmine Green Tea, Redcurrant Green tea, White pomegranate, Lemongrass and Marigold, Hibiscus. Or bring your favourite tea with you. To anyone who can bring a teapot to borrow for the session, it would be greatly appreciated.

### **The Art of Looking Sideways - Ingrid Birchell Hughes**

Using word cut-ups, blackout poetry, and collage as 'found art', this is a fabulous introduction to expressive art. It's not about preconceived ideas but about reacting to what you find in the moment and then helping others see the world through your eyes. No drawing required (unless you want to of course).

[R] Not suitable for children under 12; limited to 16 participants.

### **The Asexual Spectrum - Nat Titman**

Asexual people do not experience sexual attraction. Grey-asexuals experience forms of sexual attraction or sex drive that fall in the 'grey area' between sexual and asexual.

This session gives a brief overview of asexuality, what asexual relationships look like and the wider spectrum of grey-asexual experiences, including romantic orientation, demisexuality, aromantics, grey-sexuals, biromantics and bisexuals. Followed by a moderated discussion on nonsexual intimacy and the intersections of the asexual spectrum with the bi and poly communities. All welcome.

## **The Only Bi in the Village? – Being Bisexual Outside of Urban Centres - Tonia Lu**

Bisexuality (and other non mono-sexuality) are often portrayed in the media as something to be associated with contemporary urban living and sometimes a 'trend', but what is it like to be bisexual and living in a small town, village or even more remote areas in the UK? This session creates an opportunity for those who live or lived outside of urban centres to share, explore and discuss their enjoyable experiences as well as the particular challenges they may face. It also welcomes those who are lives in urban centres to join in and share their perspective.

## **Transgender, Transitioned, Non-binary & Agender Space – Fi and Louise**

A relaxed space for transgender, transitioned, non-binary and agender people to talk about whatever we want! Confidentiality will be emphasised, including keeping private who attends the session. On entering, all attendees will be reminded who the space is open to; please respect that. Equally, if you do belong to one of those groups, please do not be concerned about not fitting into this space; there will be people there with a wide range of experiences of these identities.

*Whole group discussion.* Discussion of transphobia, transmisogyny, transition and related topics is very likely. Attendees will be asked to warn for other common triggers. If you need any specific warnings or have other concerns, please speak to a facilitator.

[R] Only those who are trans, transitioned, non-binary or agender. People may belong to one or more than one of these groups.

## **Using Personal Stories to Teach about Bisexuality - John R. Sylla**

People with different learning styles all relate to and retain stories more than to lectures or recitations of facts. This workshop covers ideas for crafting and sharing stories from our personal experiences to embolden us and others to share about bisexuality, and hopefully improve society's understanding, acceptance and support/celebration. *Presentation plus talking in pairs*

## **We're Not Getting Any Younger - Nickie**

A session to think about how things are for us as we age, what do we want as ageing bisexuals, what services would we wish to see and how can we help LGBT (and other) organisations to remember that we exist?

Nickie would be delighted to see anyone at this session, but especially delighted to hear from anyone who's approaching or remembers being 50.

## **What Can 'We' The Bisexual Community Do For Bisexuals Across The UK? What Can BiCon Continuity Do For You? – *Hessie and trustees of BiCon Continuity Ltd***

Organisations exist on an ongoing basis that do things for bisexuals, ie: BiCon Continuity, BiUK, Govt Equalities Office, Civil Service Rainbow Alliance. There are also bi groups and BiFests.

We'd like to talk about some of the things we can do as a community for bisexuals in the UK and also what we want doing, including what we might want to have done if we had particular amounts of money available.

As Trustees, we'd also like to spend some time discussing what people would like us to be doing and perhaps explaining some of what we can and can't do.

## **What Did Jesus Really Say About Sexuality (and other things)? - *Symon Hill***

Think that Jesus preached family values? Or that he never mentioned sex? Think again. This session will draw on recent research as well as giving you an opportunity to explore your own reactions to some of Jesus' teachings about sex, sexuality and relationships. It is partly based on research for my new book.

All open-minded people are welcome, whatever your views on Jesus or religion. This session is not an attempt to convert anyone to Christianity. The session is aimed particularly at people with little knowledge of Jesus or the Bible but experts are welcome too!

Please note that there is likely to be some discussion of sexual abuse. Participants are very welcome to leave at any point, either temporarily or for the rest of the session. This session will not be identical to the one of sex in the Bible at BiCon 2014 (although there may be some overlap).

Limited to 25 participants

# Biographies A-Z

**Alex** - Alex is a poly, geeky carer with a love of board games.

**Alexander Rawlins** - I work in mental health services for older people and am passionate in raising awareness so as to increase people's quality of life

**Alexis** - Alexis is a 40-something father with two young children and a professional engineer. He's been poly for five years and bi for much longer. He is a keen roller-blader, likes butterflies and moths, and tea and cake, but not necessarily in the same order or for the same reasons.

**Amaranta** - Amaranta is a queer, non-monogamous switch who has been running around on the kink and BDSM scene for enough years that she is apparently now in the category of 'people who know stuff.' She is one half of the founders-and-directors team for KinkFest UK, and is enthusiastic about education, consent and safety. She has lots of fun with her partner and sweeties, but her Twue Dom is her Masters Degree. You'll spot her by the purple hair and kitty ears.

**Asha** - Asha has generally been juggling bi activism within her trade union along with day to day workplace politics. She fell into being an activist and is still not sure how. Mostly found these days on twitter and tumblr (came for the pretteh and stayed for the politics). She's also sure she was promised a time turner or TARDIS at some point. This will be her sixth BiCon.

**Ayaz Manji** - Ayaz is Policy Officer for Stonewall and spends a lot of his time coming up with ways to make its work relevant to groups that face discrimination within LGBT communities. He has an unhealthy preoccupation with The West Wing and a love of Mexican food which knows increasingly few bounds.

**Bruce Sharp** - I am a freelance artist and theatre technician. I have an MA in Drawing. I have exhibited and performed in many venues at home and abroad, working in several media including installation, video, drawing and dance. I also compose sound scores for dance work.

**Calum** - I've been attending BiCon since 2004, and was one of the team leads for BiCon 2006. Was chair of BiScotland for several years, and ran the Edinburgh discussion group. Ran the "Saying No, Hearing No" session with Cat last year which also used cups of tea as a medium for discussion. Relationship experiences, good and less-good, have led me to highly value good communication and clearly communicated boundaries – and I've done my best to learn good ways of talking about these things. Also interesting in shamanism, massage, and hanging out with cool people.



**Catherine Somerville** - Catherine is Campaigns, Policy and Research manager at Stonewall Scotland. She lives in Edinburgh with her boyfriend, enjoys running scary distances, and pouring over spreadsheets. This is her second BiCon and she is very excited to be here!

**Chase** - I'm a Canadian who's been living in the UK for the last 22 years, and known it as home for almost as long. I'm passionate about a lot of things (most of them fall squarely under the geek category!) but especially about my dog, a little black furball named Link. This is my second BiCon and I'm really looking forward to being able to volunteer and help out more this time, so I'm very pleased I can help run a session.

**Dave Dawes and Katie Strong** - Dave and Katie are experienced workshop facilitators, active members of the poly community and have been working with rope for several years.

Dave is a registered nurse, a former trustee of Brook Advisory Centres and the author of the first guide to sexual health and sexually transmitted diseases on the iPad

**David F** - I have been coming to BiCon for \*cough\* years now. During that time I have learned a thing or two in the sessions and generally had a fabulous time. I have been poly for nearly two decades and live in a large chaotic house called Serenity. At previous BiCons I have run sessions on topics as diverse as dancing, relationship styles, BDSM electrical play and massage.

**David Goodarcher** - I've been a Brit in Berlin since 1994 (and Germany since 1987) but usually make it back to the UK three times a year. Whenever I can attend UK BiCon it is always the highlight of my summer break. I'm part of the Bi Berlin activist group and I run the monthly Bi Brunch and helped organise last year's Bi Camp (a kind of unconference). I'm really interested in queer cinema and TV, getting the "B" word on the agenda in my union and learning/using foreign languages – I tweet (@goodarcher) and can be found on Facebook (David Goodarcher).

**David Matthewman** - This will be David's 15th BiCon and 5th time chairing the DMP. He's been on the team for BiFests, Pride walking groups and a couple of BiCons. It's probably about time he thought about retiring.

**DMWCarol** - Poly, Pagan and probably chocolate flavoured. Carol has been performing as a storyteller for more years than she's willing to admit. She also writes, crafts and cooks.

**Emily Wright** - Emily Wright is a round, redheaded Scot currently based in Manchester where she helps run Manchester BiPhoria. She got drawn into activism accidentally and is quite surprised to find herself running a workshop. She likes knitting and flirting, occasionally at the same time!

**Fi** - Fi is a feminist queer from Cambridge. They arrived at their first BiCon last year knowing only one person and left having made the beginnings of a group of friends. They have facilitated feminist groups and mental health education for some years. They enjoy board games and angry owls.

**Grant Denkinson** - Grant Denkinson is at his 21st BiCon in a row. He's also organised a couple of BDSM bisexuals weekends and been involved with other stuff around sex, sexuality and poly relationships. He's from Nottingham, lives in Leicester and works in a university library making research open access and as a counsellor / psychotherapist. He's trying to complain less about being too busy and choose a more sustainable fabulous life. He'd also like to visit space.

**Hannah Bisley** - Hannah set up Nottingham BiTopia in Dec 2013 and has run the group's monthly pub social ever since. She also gets the group involved in events such as Nottinghamshire Pride.

**Hessie** - Hessie has attended BiCons since 1997, was an organiser in 2007 (Glamorgan) and 2010 (International BiCon, East London), and at the latter finally persuaded attendees that a legal structure was needed to look after BiCon's money (~~stop me running off to the Bahamas with £60,000~~). Have registered BiCon Continuity Ltd as a charity - I am a Director and Trustee - and we are working on using funds for the "benefit of the bisexual community".

Hessie has been in various polyamorous relationships for over 20 years, and lives in south London with DavidF and children in a house that isn't quite as much a building site as it used to be. She is very fond of tropical fish.

**Ian Watters** - Ian was amused some years ago to see that he's been going to BiCons longer than some attendees have been alive. As his memory for names and faces is that of a goldfish, every one has been a new experience.

He did the techy stuff for the 2015.bicon.org.uk website and wants the full set of past BiCon websites at bicon.org.uk too. Most already are...

**Ingrid Birchell Hughes** - After art college Ingrid went and got a 'proper' job as a print-finisher and paste-up artist. A move into the charity sector as an art director and copywriter eventually lead to her becoming creative director for Oxfam GB. Ingrid has finally achieved her ambition to become an impoverished artist and specialises in printmaking (which feels like a rather pleasing full circle).

**Jacq Applebee** - I'm the co-founder of Bi's of Colour. I'm a poet, an ex smut writer, and an activist. I'm into peanut butter, dark chocolate and being by the seaside. Beside the sea.

**Jen** - Editor of Bi Community News magazine for the last 15 years or so and Convenor of BiPhoria, the UK's oldest extant bi group.

**Jess Barker** - Jess has been attending BiCons for over a decade and last year ran the first BiCon bat walk as an experiment. Despite rain it was very successful, and she's looking forward to repeating the walk with a very batty campus to explore. Jess works at Bat Conservation Trust and volunteers for London Bat Group.

**John R. Sylla** - John is a California lawyer and entrepreneur who has worked in venture capital and teaches graduate school part time. He is also president and a director of the American Institute of Bisexuality. He has several degrees.

**Karen** - Karen has been at most BiCons since 2005. In everyday life she's career-focused, in a professional role. She's obviously middle class and fat and gets read as straight in non-bi spaces. In reality, she's an agnostic atheist, bi, prefers polyamory and has been in a relationship for some years though remains mostly single. She's one of the trustees of BiCon Continuity Ltd and likes using her skills where they're appreciated to help out people and communities she cares about. She also likes coffee, reading all sorts of things and occasionally dabbles in craft. She'd love to have her own children soon.

**Kate G** - Level 2 qualified BC coach who has spent the last few years coaching on a voluntary basis at Forth Canoe Club in Edinburgh.

**Katy** - Katy is a writer, parent and compulsive events organiser. She will accept gluten free cake as a bribe.

**Lauren** - Lauren has been coming to BiCon in boy or girl mode since 1999 and is quite lazy. She typically runs a session every decade or so.

**Lea** - 32 year old, living with multiple neuro diverse conditions, mental ill health survivor who happens to also be a visually challenged lone parent of one. Previous Neuro Diverse charity trustee. committee member and conference speaker and mental ill health awareness raiser.

**Libby** - Libby is Contributing Editor for Biscuit. She likes lipstick, gin and complete strangers pitching her articles in the pub.

**Lola Phoenix** - Lola Phoenix (they) is an agender queer author living in London working in the charity sector. Lola takes great interest in learning more about queer history.

**Louise** - Louise is an organiser of the Bi and Beyond Edinburgh group and a feminist activist.

**Louise** - Louise is a Feminist, Queer and Trans\* activist who is currently based in Cambridge. She has facilitated workshops at BiCon since 2010 and also facilitated a workshop at Oxford BiFest.

**Meg John Barker** - Meg John Barker is a writer, academic, counsellor and activist specialising in sex and relationships. Meg John is a senior lecturer in psychology at the Open University, a UKCP accredited therapist, and chair of BiUK (the UK national organisation for bisexual research and activism). Website: [www.biuk.org](http://www.biuk.org). Twitter: @megjohnbarker.

**Nat Titman** - Nat is a sci-fi fan, transgender and neurodiversity blogger and IT professional based in Nottingham who enjoys singing and drawing. Nat runs the website [PracticalAndrogyny.com](http://PracticalAndrogyny.com), is involved with the Nonbinary Inclusion Project and wrote the FAQ for [asexuality.org](http://asexuality.org) in 2002. They were diagnosed with Asperger's, dyspraxia and sensory difficulties in adulthood.

**Natalya D** - Natalya currently lives in Birmingham and is one of the directors of the Bi Company. Natalya's current focus is on making BiCon a better and safer space for everyone.

**Nathanael** - Nathanael is a queer gendered, feminist, nanotechnology researcher and roller derby skater/ref. They love to get things going and inspire people to greatness but are most happy playing computer games in silence; quite the conflict of interests. They have been attending BiCon for 6 years and keep coming back for the great people and almost utopian atmosphere.

**Nickie** - Nickie has been coming to BiCon since 1999. Now over 60 she volunteers with Opening Doors London to ensure bisexual members are acknowledged and that the needs of ageing bisexuals are taken into account when planning for LGBT seniors.

**Olli** - An academic by training and a feminist, marxian activist by heart, I have been in and out of all sorts of environments (from book reading, to youth camps and autonomous soup kitchens). Mostly, however, I try to avoid being "one of those guys" and simply a decent human being. Whether or not that actually works, is probably up to you to decide. Still, I find it fascinating to negotiate my own positions of privilege and non-privilege and would enjoy hearing what your own take on matters like that are.

**Rach** - Rach is a rainbow-haired action hero, and your host for the Naked Lunch and sign language social.

**Rebecca** - Rebecca is bisexual, not-entirely-monogamous, and the parent of a 9 year-old and a 6 year-old.

**Sally** - I am a writer and artist and Sci fi freak, with over ten years of experience of performance. I particularly enjoy sci fi that looks at dystopian genres. I am completely obsessed with Torchwood.

**Sam** - Queer solo poly feminist crafter. I am currently learning how to become a woodwind instrument repairer. This is my first time at BiCon.

**Sam Rankin** - Sam Rankin is the Intersectional Equalities Co-ordinator for the Equality Network. She was also the co-ordinator for Bi Con 2013. For further information or an electronic copy of the report e-mail [sam@equality-network.org](mailto:sam@equality-network.org)

**Sanji** - Sanji has been coming to BiCons for over 12 years, and has facilitated and delivered workshops at previous BiCons. Her background is in teaching and learning and she started bellydancing and karate when she was 16 years old. She's friendly (but a little shy at times), so do say hello to her.

**Saoirse** - Biromantic, asexual, nonbinary, space cat, with 5 BiCons under their belt.

**Sarah Shahid and Asha Wolfe-Robinson** - Sarah and Asha are bisexual activists from UNISON, the public service trade union. UNISON has a national network of bisexual members who meet within our LGBT group. Sarah and Asha are members of UNISON's national LGBT committee. Sarah is one of 2 people elected to represent bisexual members. Asha represents UNISON Eastern region.

**Sharon Frederick Langridge** – SF is a queer Quaker and has been coming to BiCon since 2008. They're resisting the temptation to chair things, for once, in favour of the human Sudoku puzzle of BiCon timetabling.

**Sophie** - I'm a queer, fat femme that loves to talk about sex, kink, and the politics of organising.

**Surya M** - Surya is a bisexual person who represents Bi UK on the LGBT hate crime project. She has a long history of bisexual activism and community involvement, and also works as an academic in the areas of gender, sexuality, equality, and politics. Her book 'Bisexuality: Identities, politics and theories (Palgrave) came out in June 2015.

**Symon Hill** - Symon is a Christian, a bisexual, an activist, an author and a tutor for the Workers' Educational Association. He has just finished writing his third book, *The Upside Down-Bible: What Jesus said about money, power, sex and violence*. It will be published in November by Darton, Longman & Todd. Symon walked from Birmingham to London in 2011 as a pilgrimage of repentance for his former homophobia. He wishes the Church was more like BiCon.

**Tonia Lu** - Tonia Lu is the project coordinator for CELEBRATE: LGBT History in Cumbria – the first project to discover and unveil the living history of LGBT people across Cumbria. With a background of researching and working in rural arts & culture and community development, Tonia is passionate about rural equality.

# Local Info

## Food

Most BiCon ticket types include some food (see p.13), and there's a café in our daytime venue. There are also cafés at the Djanogly Art Gallery by the South Entrance (open 11-5 Thurs-Sat, 12-4 Sun), and at the Lakeside Arts Centre (9-5 Thurs-Sat, 10-5 Sun). [www.lakesidearts.org.uk/visit-us/cafes.html](http://www.lakesidearts.org.uk/visit-us/cafes.html).

The nearest supermarket is: The Co-operative, 123 Middleton Blvd, NG8 1FW, 0115 928 2129

The Portland Building also has a small shop.

## Medical

**Queens Medical Centre** has a full **24/7 A&E** service plus an onsite pharmacy that is open until midnight. It is part of the university and is on all campus maps.

### Trust Pharmacy

0115 970 9472, B Floor, QMC Campus, Derby Road, Nottingham NG7 2UH  
Thurs/Fri 09:00 - 23:59      Sat/Sun 10:00 - 23:59

### Walk-in Centres

#### **Nottingham City Walk-In Centre (easier by bus)**

79A Upper Parliament Street, Nottingham NG1 6LD. Open 08:00 - 20:00 daily.

#### **Nottingham NHS Walk-In Centre (easier by car)**

Seaton House, City Link, Nottingham NG2 4LA. Open 07:00 - 21:00 daily.

### Opticians

P. D. Rees Ltd

357c Derby Road, Lenton, Nottingham NG7 2DZ 0115 978 1823

Thurs 13:30 - 17:30; Fri 09:15 - 17:30; Sat 09:15 - 13:15

Outside those hours, you will need to go into the city centre:

Boots, 171-177 Castle Boulevard, Nottingham NG7 1GY - 0115 950 6665

Thurs/Fri 08:30 - 19:00; Sat 09:00 - 18:00; Sun 10:30 - 16:30

## Travel

### Venue address

Daytime: Engineering and Science Learning Centre (ESLC)

Evening: Lenton and Wortley Halls

The University of Nottingham  
University Park  
Nottingham  
NG7 2RD

### Buses

Buses to the university campus are the 'Orange' line (34, 35, 35A, 35B, 36, 36A, 36B, N34, N36).

[www.nctx.co.uk/timetables-tickets-maps/buses-lines/line/orange](http://www.nctx.co.uk/timetables-tickets-maps/buses-lines/line/orange)

Nottingham buses have a flat fare system: £1 for children or students (with ID) and £2 for adults. Day tickets are £3.50 each or £4.50 for a 'group rider' covering two adults and up to three children. **They do not give change.**

### Taxis

Minicab  
Nottingham Cars 0115 9700700  
<http://nottinghamcars.com/>

Black cabs and larger wheelchair accessible cabs

Royal Cabs 01159 608 608  
<http://www.royal-cabs.com/>

Nottingham Cabs 01159 700999  
<http://cabsnottingham.com/>

# Places of worship

BiCon believes in respecting freedom to believe and practice any religious faith and none. This list is for information only and has not been verified by the team.

## **Buddhism**

[www.nottinghambuddhistcentre.org](http://www.nottinghambuddhistcentre.org) and [www.akshobya.com](http://www.akshobya.com)

## **Christianity**

There is a very wide variety of churches towards both Beeston to the south west and Nottingham to the north east. There's a map of them at:

[www.nottingham.ac.uk/chaplaincy/christianity/worshipprayer.aspx](http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/chaplaincy/christianity/worshipprayer.aspx)

There is also a prayer space in the chapel in Portland Building on the campus.

## **Hinduism**

The Hindu Temple & Community Centre of Nottingham, 215 Carlton Rd, Nottingham NG3 2FX. 0115 911 3384

## **Islam**

On the campus, Portland Building has two prayer rooms:

D139, Male Muslim Prayer Room

E136, Female Muslim Prayer Room

Nottingham has several mosques, which can be found at

[www.mosques.muslimsinbritain.org/show-browse.php?town=Nottingham](http://www.mosques.muslimsinbritain.org/show-browse.php?town=Nottingham)

## **Judaism**

Nottingham Hebrew Congregation (Orthodox), Shakespeare Street, Nottingham, NG1 4FQ - 0115 947 6663

Nottingham Liberal Synagogue (NLS), The Synagogue, Lloyd Street, Sherwood, Nottingham, NG5 4BP

0115 962 4761 / [www.nottinghamliberalsynagogue.com](http://www.nottinghamliberalsynagogue.com)

## **Quakers**

Nottingham Meeting House, 25 Clarendon Street, Nottingham NG1 5JD

[www.nottinghamquakers.org.uk](http://www.nottinghamquakers.org.uk)

## **Sikhism**

Temple, 26 Nottingham Road, Sherwood Rise, Nottingham NG7 7AE

0115 978 0304



# Getting help

## The BiCon team and desk

If there's anything you need over the weekend, please talk to us at the desk or phone 07492 621557. We have lots of information, and can liaise with the venue staff about any problems.

## Desk hours for BiCon

Thurs: 3pm-9pm (at Lenton and Wortley)

Fri and Sat 8.30am-6pm (ESLC)

Fri and Sat 6:30pm-9pm (Lenton and Wortley)

Sunday 9am-12pm (ESLC)

## Identifying volunteers

People wearing purple sashes are 'on duty'. Anyone wearing a purple sash is a good person to ask if you need help.

The venue has First Aiders available during the weekend. Please contact venue security on 0115 9513013.

## Listening service

Being at BiCon may stir up big feelings of one kind or another and it can be good to talk about this, so we offer a non judgmental, non directional, confidential listening service. To contact them, ask at reception or call or text the desk on 07492 621557. Listeners are all experienced, and are BiCon attenders, volunteering their time during their BiCon.

Please note that this is a limited service and we can only provide up to one hour per person over the weekend. This service will run 9am-9pm during BiCon: outside of these times, please call the Samaritans (see below).

# **External sources of help**

## **In event of emergency**

Call 999 if there is an emergency needing ambulance, police or fire services. If possible also phone venue security on 0115 9513013 to let them know.

111 Non emergency health service advice number. Also use this for advice on emergency dental care as they will have the most accurate information.

Also see Local Info.

## **Samaritans**

The Samaritans: 08457 909090

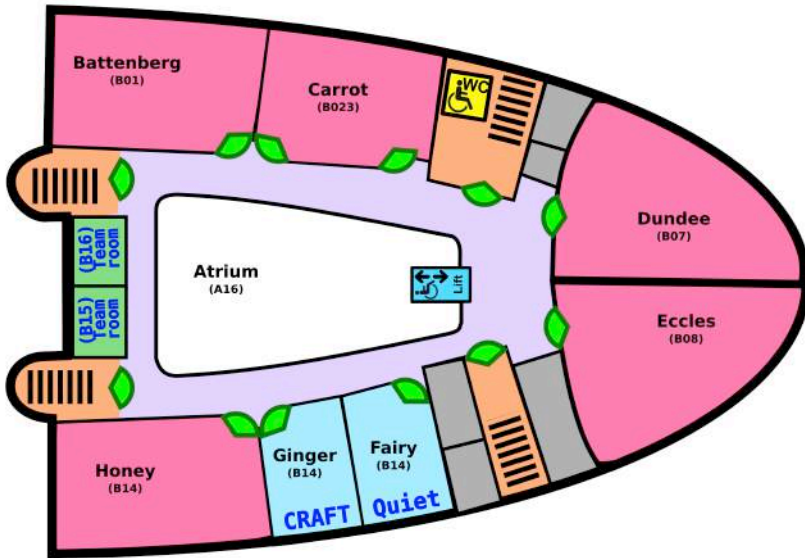
## **Drug advice**

Release (confidential drug advice): 020 7324 2989 ask@release.org.uk

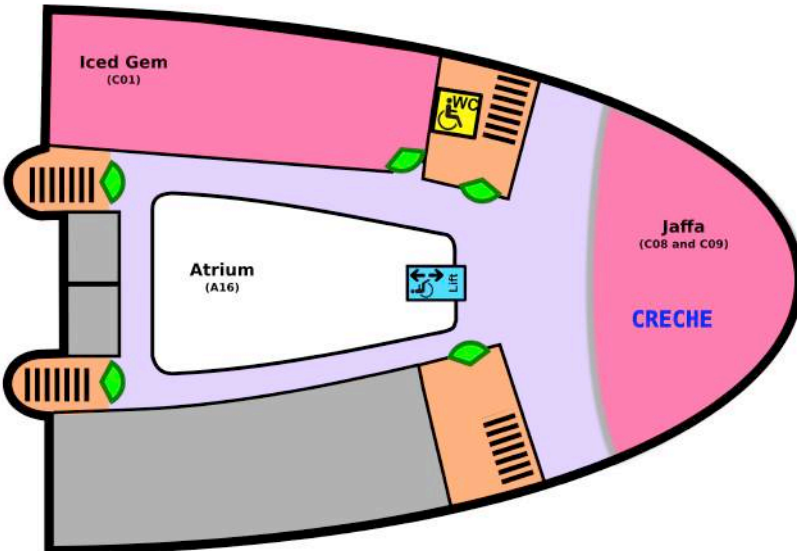
## **Rape Crisis**

Rape Crisis: 0808 802 9999

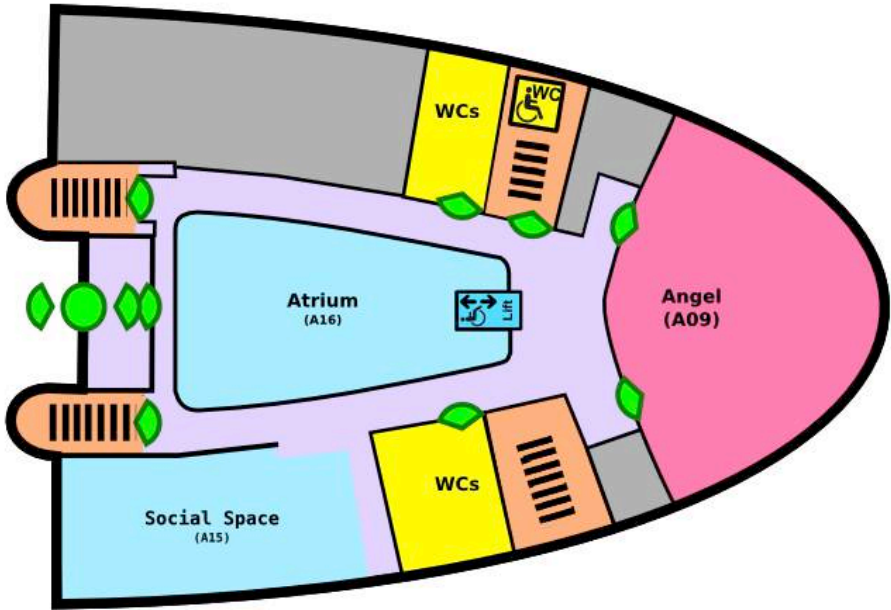
# ESLC first floor



# ESLC second floor



# ESLC ground floor



**We recruit a truly diverse workforce**

Everyone has an equal opportunity to find their pot of gold

The Respect Network wishes you a great BiCon!

The **co-operative**