

**Press Release**

**Release Date: 13 November 2019**

**Museum Late Night: Diversity**  
**Friday 15 November, 19.00 – 22.00**

Join us at the Pitt Rivers Museum this Friday for the national launch of LGBT+ History Month 2020 and enjoy a pride-filled evening in the Museum with tours, poetry, talks, stalls, activities and much more!

The LGBT+ History Month launch event will take place with a series of talks from speakers including Maisie Barker (Schools Out), Dean Atta (poet and author of *The Black Flamingo*), Sue Sanders (Founder and Chair of LGBT+ History Month), Louise Wallwein (award-winning poet, playwright and performer), Mike Parker (journalist and author of *On the Red Hill*), Zayna Ratty (Chair of Oxford Pride) and Caroline Paige (author of *Out in the Forces*).

Lit up with rainbow lights and filled with music, the Pitt Rivers Museum will be hosting stalls from a wide range of organisations, such as Pink Times, OX & Fyne Times, Schools Out, CHE and Blackwell's LGBT+ Bookstall. Visitors can sign up for activism tours, take part in filmmaking or add their story to the cape making activity on the Museum Balcony. Poetry, music and drag activities will include Junk Whale, a fuzzy big-hearted Indie rock group; Aphra Taylor, a solo artist mixing the intimacy and melody of folk with the "slacker scuzz of grunge" and Drag Syndrome, the world's first Drag troop featuring highly addictive drag queens and kings with Down's Syndrome. Programming at Pitt Rivers for this event has been organised by LGBT+ History Month, Beyond the Binary, My Normal and Oxford Queer Studies Network.

Steve Boyce, Chair of Trustees at LGBT+ History Month, said: "Each year we find prestigious venues such as the Pitt Rivers Museum want to host the launch event, and each year more and more members of the general public want to be involved and included. Society is changing for the better; let's keep up the fight for liberation, for all!"

Next door in the Museum of Natural History, there will be activities and stalls to celebrate the wealth of diversity in the natural world, themed to accompany the current *First Animals* exhibition. There will also be a pay bar, so that you can sip drinks whilst surveying the dinosaurs!

Luxmuralis will be projecting a dazzling new Diversity themed light and sound show on the front of the Museums, using images from the Pitt Rivers and Museum of Natural



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History image collections – a stunningly atmospheric start to your magical night at the museums!

This event is part of the Oxford City Council Christmas Light Festival 2019.

There will also be a storytelling session for younger visitors earlier in the day. Steve Boyce from LGBT+ History Month and an ex-primary headteacher, will be reading from *Stonewall: A Building, An Uprising, A Revolution* by Rob Sanders. This tells the story of the night of 28 June 1969, a turning point in LGBT+ civil rights and introduces the listeners to a plethora of civil rights, equality and diversity issues. Starting at 15.30, this session will take place on the Museum Balcony.

### Notes to Editors

- The University of Oxford's **Pitt Rivers Museum** (PRM) is one of the finest archaeological and ethnographic teaching museums in the world. Founded in 1884, when General Pitt Rivers, an influential figure in the development of archaeology and evolutionary anthropology, donated his collection of more than 27,000 objects to the University of Oxford, it now stewards over 550,000 objects. These collections of historical, social and ritual significance are of an extraordinary range and depth, including great works of art, invention and design from around the world. The Museum carries out world-leading conservation and research and welcomes half a million visitors each year. It is currently focused on developing more socially engaged practice with the emphasis on inclusivity. The Pitt Rivers Museum is much loved for its characteristic multi-layered and dense displays. Today, the Museum is a dynamic, forward-looking institution with many connections to stakeholders throughout the world.
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- **LGBT History Month** is an annual month-long celebration of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender history, and the history of the gay rights and related civil rights movements. LGBT History Month provides role models, builds community, and represents a civil rights statement about the contributions of the LGBT community.
- **Oxford's Christmas Light Festival** is organised by Oxford City Council and is a 3-day festival of arts, culture and Christmas fun. This annual celebration draws in local communities and visitors to Oxford's city centre and is a highlight of Oxford's cultural calendar. It includes light and sound installations, a festive market, music, dance and lots of free activities in venues all across the city.
- **Beyond the Binary** is an HLF-funded project taking place at the Pitt Rivers Museum, working with local, national and international partners to explore the global diversity of sexual and gender identities. The project is working to shape Pitt Rivers Museum as a welcoming space, so that no individual or group feels excluded because of their sexuality or gender, and so that all visitors, however they might identify themselves, can understand humanity better.
- **Luxmuralis** is a collaborative team of artists from different backgrounds and artistic disciplines, creating works across multiple media and presentation formats. Their primary aim is to take art onto the streets and provide access to visual artwork in public as well as unexpected places.