

Bow tie movement to support trans community

A FORMER Guernsey Grammar School student is hoping to raise awareness about transgender issues, reach out to the community and offer support.

Bow tie designer Jack Jackson launched the 'Bow tie Fridays' initiative along with Savoy Howe of Toronto Newsgirls Boxing Gym. The movement aims to encourage people to show their support and solidarity for the trans and gender non-conforming community by wearing a bow tie.

The 41-year-old never felt comfortable having to wear a skirt to school in the UK and dropped out before moving to Guernsey at the age of 15.

'At the time, there were no words to describe a person that doesn't fit neatly into traditional gender roles.'

After finishing A-levels in Guernsey, Jackson, who now lives in Toronto, went on to travel the world to explore the concepts of gender and gender non-conformity before identifying as non-binary transgender.

Jackson explained that the term, which is used to describe the range of identities that fall outside the traditional binary gender model.

'I embrace both the masculine and the feminine and have turned a diagnosis of gender dysphoria into one of gender celebration.'

'Bow tie Fridays is just one way of saying "we care, we want to challenge transphobia, we are proud of you and we stand with you".'

'A bow tie is often a conversation starter and the hope is that people will take the opportunity to introduce transgender awareness to their casual conversations.'

'I do hope that Guernsey folk join in on this and join

by Nicola Gibbons

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the Bow tie Friday Facebook group to continue to learn and support the trans and gender non-conforming community.

'As a non-binary trans person, having a supportive, loving community here in Toronto, one that is inclusive in terms of health care, sport, culture, the arts and just in terms of seeing oneself reflected in society, immediately made it feel like home in a way that Guernsey simply couldn't.'

Through the initiative, Jackson and Howe aim to share information and to increase visibility and understanding of transgender lives.

They also hope to educate, have fun and build and nurture important bonds.

Although Bow tie Fridays is still in its infancy, Jackson said they had already had support from Canada, the USA, the UK and Guernsey.

'Last Friday, for example, I was heading out to the cinema on the subway and saw someone else wearing a bow tie - now I don't know if it was for Bow tie Friday, but it felt safe, it already feels like a movement.'

'I also felt a sense of pride that I might be quietly helping some transgender person who saw me - in that they knew I stood by their side in solidarity.'

Jackson set up the website www.alljackedup.ca last year after being overwhelmed by the diversity, inclusiveness and sporting and creative opportunities for the LGBTQIA community in Toronto.

The business sells a variety of hand-made bow ties which are unisex .



Former Grammar School student Jack Jackson is hoping to raise awareness about transgender issues through the 'Bow tie Fridays' initiative.

Denies assault

A WOMAN who denies assaulting a man at a property in Allez Street, St Peter Port, had her trial provisionally set for 21 April when she appeared in the Magistrate's Court.

Michelle Simon, 36, who had previously given her address as 2, Allez Street, St Peter Port, appeared from custody, having been remanded the week before.

She had admitted an earlier charge of behaving in a disorderly manner in Hauteville.

The court heard that the defendant was alleged to have committed the latest offence after drinking alcohol, which put her in breach of a bail condition which was imposed when she appeared in court for the first matter.

Simon was readmitted to bail on conditions that included abiding by a residence curfew, not drinking alcohol and not contacting the man she is accused of assaulting.

She must appear in court again for a pre-trial review on 1 April.

Ignored 'no waiting' sign

A DRIVER who admitted failing to comply with a traffic sign, namely 'no waiting', was fined £100 when he appeared in the Magistrate's Court.

Lee Le Blancq, of Flat 1, 14, Le Bordage, St Peter Port, admitted the offence, which he committed in Croutes Havilland, St Peter Port.

He had no relevant previous convictions.

States awarded

JUDGEMENT for £8,772.32, plus costs, was awarded to the States of Guernsey Income Tax Department against Richard Eon, of 3, St John's Villas, St John's Road, St Peter Port, by the Ordinary Division of the Royal Court.



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<p>♈ Aries Mar 21 - Apr 20</p> <p>Release your fears about not accomplishing enough. Go easy on yourself and be more forgiving of your faults. Give yourself permission to make mistakes and learn from them. Nobody expects you to be perfect. When you relax and start enjoying the journey, you'll yield more impressive results. Have you been struggling with a bad habit? It's time to break it. The thrill this activity once gave is waning. You'll be much better off living cleanly and simply. Ask for help if you need it.</p> <p>Call my starline for more: 0905 506 6422 (1)*</p>	<p>♉ Taurus Apr 21 - May 21</p> <p>You will be put in charge of a large group. The reason is simple: You are the most talented person in the organisation. Your ability to stick to a budget, combined with a practical approach to problem solving, wins confidence. Although you won't have to deal with much insubordination, you will encounter a little. Tackle such problems as soon as they arrive. When people realise you mean business, they'll stop trying to test your boundaries. Be firm but fair in all your dealings.</p> <p>Call my starline for more: 0905 506 6422 (2)*</p>	<p>♊ Gemini May 22 - June 22</p> <p>Adopting a higher profile will be rewarding. It's important to put your work and ideas on display, especially if you want to mount the ladder to success. If you're thinking of starting your own business, do it. You'll get a lot of satisfaction from working for yourself. Instead of having to kowtow to cautious people, you'll be able to develop innovative products and services. These offerings will set you apart from the crowd. Soon, you'll be seen as the most respected professional in the industry.</p> <p>Call my starline for more: 0905 506 6422 (3)*</p>	<p>♋ Cancer June 23 - July 23</p> <p>The chance to expand your horizons will arrive quite suddenly. Going to university, publishing a piece of written work and travelling abroad are among the possibilities. Don't be afraid to try something utterly alien. You'll find the experience liberating. Although you enjoy the comforts of home, they can be stifling. Trying something different will make you realise just how many options you really have. It's not necessary to carry out the same traditions as your family, especially if they make you unhappy or bored. Branch out.</p> <p>Call my starline for more: 0905 506 6422 (4)*</p>	<p>♌ Leo Jul 24 - Aug 23</p> <p>A passionate relationship brings changes. Taking better care of your body will be an increasing priority. Whether that means adopting a healthier diet, taking more exercise, getting more rest or managing stress is immaterial. It's important to identify the things that aren't serving you well and eliminate them. Exploring your sensual side is also important. There's more to life than making money and chasing fame. Connecting with a trusted partner on a physical level will be transformative.</p> <p>Call my starline for more: 0905 506 6422 (5)*</p>	<p>♍ Virgo Aug 24 - Sep 23</p> <p>Let your best friend, romantic partner or business colleague do something kind for you. Recently, you've been suffering in silence. You have been reluctant to discuss your problems, worrying about dampening the atmosphere. What you may not realise is your friend senses there is something wrong. They're poised to help you out of this mess. Instead of resisting their offer of assistance, accept it with a grateful and happy heart. You're about to turn a corner.</p> <p>Call my starline for more: 0905 506 6422 (6)*</p>
<p>♎ Libra Sep 24 - Oct 23</p> <p>Getting relief from a persistent health problem will feel miraculous. It will be wonderful to have the energy for your favourite people and relationships. Take this opportunity to create a new schedule. Set aside time for creative pursuits, like reading, listening to music and cooking. Are you unemployed? You will find a wonderful job that allows great flexibility. You'll welcome the chance to work for a company that is more interested in making its employees happy than making huge profits.</p> <p>Call my starline for more: 0905 506 6422 (7)*</p>	<p>♏ Scorpio Oct 24 - Nov 22</p> <p>Your life will take a romantic turn, which is thrilling. If you're looking for love, you will find it with an idealistic artist. Together, you will make beautiful music. You'll share a desire for an authentic lifestyle that is spiritually satisfying. If that means moving to a different area, so be it. An inspiring landscape and good neighbours will strengthen your relationship. You don't want to be cut off from the world. You want to be part of a thriving community.</p> <p>Call my starline for more: 0905 506 6422 (8)*</p>	<p>♐ Sagittarius Nov 23 - Dec 21</p> <p>Relocating is a distinct possibility. You could find a beautiful property by the water. Alternatively, you might be expanding your existing home or adding a new member to your household. Whatever changes occur on the domestic front will be positive. They'll give you a greater measure of financial and emotional security. If you have an elderly relative who needs more care, this would be a good time to find a better living arrangement. Do not settle for second best.</p> <p>Call my starline for more: 0905 506 6422 (9)*</p>	<p>♑ Capricorn Dec 22 - Jan 20</p> <p>Exciting information will reach your ears. Take advantage of a leadership opportunity. You have remarkable executive ability. Guiding a team to victory will be one of your greatest accomplishments. Don't be afraid to get tough with lazy members of the group who do not pull their weight. Reward those who are always trying to improve their performance and reach new heights. This approach will cause the most talented people to be retained, while the slackers will fall by the wayside.</p> <p>Call my starline for more: 0905 506 6422 (10)*</p>	<p>♒ Aquarius Jan 21 - Feb 19</p> <p>Personal finances will improve. You have an opportunity to become more independent through a well paid post or profitable business. Staying out of the spotlight will allow you to put a creative spin on your work. Soon, people will ask who is responsible for such an impressive performance. Launching your own business is a distinct possibility. If you prefer being an employee, negotiate an agreement that allows you to work from home, at least a few days a week.</p> <p>Call my starline for more: 0905 506 6422 (11)*</p>	<p>♓ Pisces Feb 20 - Mar 20</p> <p>Instead of pouring all your energy into a close relationship, you should put yourself first. Make more time for creative pursuits. Painting, making music, designing and crafting works of art will bring out the best in you. Such activities will also bolster your self esteem. It's important for you to assert your needs, even at the risk of being rejected. Giving in to another person's demands all the time is creating an unhealthy situation. You have a right to be heard, respected and served.</p> <p>Call my starline for more: 0905 506 6422 (12)*</p>