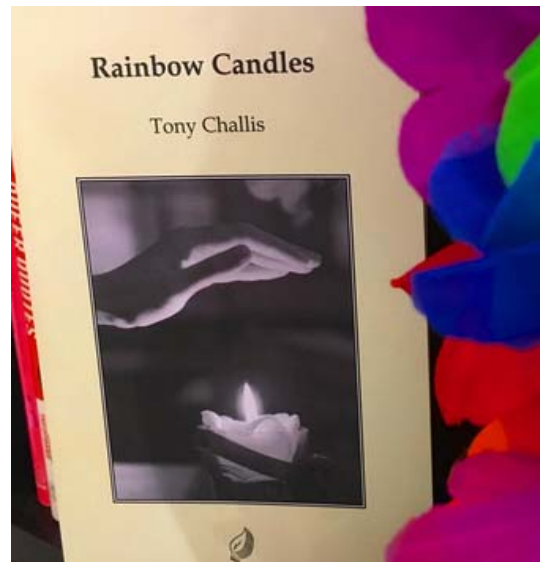




Tony Challis was a teacher and poet who has died at the age of 80 in July 2026. As a gay teacher in the 1970s, a time of intense professional and social vulnerability for gay men due to rising social conservatism, Tony co-founded the Wales and West Gay Teachers Group to support educators facing discrimination.

He was a founding member of LGBT+ Humanists and for some time served as a Humanist celebrant. After moving to Nottingham in 1988, he also became a volunteer for Nottingham Lesbian and Gay Switchboard.

Tony founded Pink Ink. Pink Ink was a local gay creative writing group. The group provided a safe and nurturing creative space for the local LGBTQ+ community, holding regular meetings in historical alternative venues like the Mushroom Bookshop on and The Lord Roberts pub's cellar on Broad Street.

Tony helped pioneer LGBTQ+ literary events in the city, helping to make them what they are today: part of the mainstream calendar. His book of poems "Rainbow Candles" was recently published.