# OUTburst

**Schools OUT UK's Official Guide to** 

## LGBT HISTORY MONTH

MAGAZINE 2017

lgbthistorymonth.co.uk

1967-2017: 50 years of gaining ground



LEVI'S JACKET.

DMK COSMETICS

BOOKS

# PRIDE (IN THE NAME OF LOVE)



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## Welcome to **LGBT History** Month 2017

elcome to another issue of Schools OUT UK's Official Guide to **LGBT History Month!** Last year's magazine was a huge success and the response we've had has been wonderful. We hope that this year's magazine pleases you just as much.

We open with introductions from the Prime Minister and the CEO of Schools OUT UK, Tony Fenwick. These introductions show you where we've come from and why marking LGBT History Month is important. We then go on to explore the impact of the Sexual Offences Act 1967 but also look to the future, and at the battles still to be won.

LGBT History Month is a time for coming together and celebrating our shared heritage as a community. This year, our theme is Citizenship, PSHE and Law, allowing us to look at what makes us British but also what makes us unique. From real life activists to superheroes, we explore figures who inspire us and events that have shaped us. We also look at some of the great work conducted throughout the year by our community to educate out prejudice and engender a more inclusive, diverse culture.

Because we had too much to fit in here, you'll find additional content on our website (lgbthistorymonth.co.uk). Go check it out, get in touch with us, and share your own stories.

#### **Adam Lowe**

**Fditor** 



Image © Drew Wilby Photographics



his year marks an important milestone in the march for LGBT equality. In July, we will celebrate 50 years since the Sexual Offences Act 1967 was passed, decriminalising homosexual acts in England and Wales after centuries of persecution.

We have come a long way in 50 years. We have moved from a country where love between two people of the same sex was illegal, to one where we now have equal marriage. Along the way we have changed the law - from equalising the age of consent to providing protection from discrimination in employment and services. Modern Britain now has Pride marches in every major city, and our Armed Forces are seen as some of the most LGBT friendly in the world.

I am proud of the UK's record on LGBT equality and our strong legislative framework that protects people. But there is more to be done. There are unacceptable

levels of hate crime, and homophobic, biphobic and transphobic bullying still exists in our schools. More can also be done for the transgender community.

That is why I am committed to tackling hate crime, health inequalities and bullying. From investing over £2.8 million in projects to tackle homophobic, biphobic and transphobic bullying in schools to offering pardons for historic sexual offences, we will continue to tackle inequality and correct historic wrongs.

As part of this, LGBT History Month plays an important role, not only in celebrating the lives of LGBT people, but also reminding us of the tasks ahead. I wish it every success for 2017.

## And MORE...

We invited the leaders of the main political parties, as well as the leaders of the Scottish Parliament, Welsh Assembly and Northern Ireland Assembly to join the Prime Minister in speaking out about LGBT History Month. Naturally, due to space, we couldn't include them all here. You can find these under the 'introductions' section of our website at **lgbthistorymonth.co.uk**.

## Message from **Jeremy Corbyn MP**

As the recent blockbuster Pride shows, there is a long history of mutual support between the Labour movement and the LGBT Liberation movement. I could not be prouder to be the Leader of the Party that, fifty years ago this year, put the Sexual Offences Act of 1967 into law, decriminalising homosexuality between men in England and Wales.

LGBT History Month creates a hugely important space for the LGBT community to talk about their own history, whether it be in the UK or internationally. Alas, this is all too often a history which entails the persecution and subjugation of the LGBT community but it also brings to light shining examples of defiance in the face of adversity.

These are histories which are too often ignored, or even actively suppressed, by establishment narratives which too often fail to recognise not just diversity, but also fail to even acknowledge the importance of sexuality and gender as it has existed throughout human history, across classes, across civilisations and across the globe.

This is why I believe LGBT History Month to be so important – it shows how far we have come as a society but also how far we have to go. It not only teaches us the ways in which homophobia and transphobia rear their ugly heads, but also teaches us lessons of past successes in the cause of LGBT liberation. It teaches us the





## Message from Welsh First Minister

LGBT History Month is an important opportunity to celebrate the diversity in our society and the role lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people have played. The theme for this year's History Month is Citizenship, PSHE and Law, which is fitting since 2017 marks the 50th anniversary of the Sexual Offences Act 1967, which decriminalised homosexuality in the UK. The architect of this Private Members Bill was Welsh MP Leo Abse. We have come a long way since then in ensuring equality for everyone, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity. However there is much more the Welsh Government would like to do to tackle intolerance and bullying and to ensure equal rights and opportunities.

The Welsh Government has a strong record of supporting LGBT rights and works closely with LGBT organisations in Wales. We provide Equality and Inclusion grant funding for Stonewall Cymru which helps with their work in schools, workplaces, communities and with public services.

We have also funded the Trans\*Form Cymru project which works with young people who identify as trans and next year, our grant funding to Stonewall Cymru will specifically include funding for a post to lead on their trans work. As part of our Action Plan to advance equality for transgender people, the current NHS pathway for trans patients is being reviewed and revised.

Later this year, Wales will welcome Pride organisers from around the UK as Cardiff hosts the 2017 UK Pride Organisers Network conference. I hope this will be an opportunity to highlight the good work that is going on to ensure Wales continues to be a welcoming and inclusive country.

I look forward to celebrating LGBT History Month this year and I hope all our school pupils in Wales take time out to learn more about this important part of our history.

**Carwyn Jones** 

## Message from The Green Party

2016 was a difficult year. We watched the politics of hate draw divisions in our communities and the prospect of a tolerant society felt a little further from our reach.

But there were also reasons to find hope. We've seen Pride events grow and flourish and we will continue to fight for a world where everyone has the freedom to be who they are and love who they love.

The Green Party has always been at the forefront of fighting for LGBTIQA+ rights. In February 2016 we appointed the first openly trans spokesperson of a UK political party. We went on to pass policy demanding better laws for trans rights and for better HIV health care.

There are still challenges, but to all communities we say this: we will be by your side every step of the way.



**Jonathan Bartley**Co-Leader, Green Party

# 1967 and all that

his year is the 50th anniversary of Humphrey Berkeley's Sexual Offences Bill becoming law in England and Wales. Obviously this had major implications for society and it therefore fits most comfortably into the areas of Personal, Social, Health & Economic education and Citizenship in the school curriculum, especially now that PSHE is to be taken more seriously as a subject and as a means of promoting pupils' wellbeing. And as for Law - well, it's all about the law. Thus Schools OUT UK has chosen PSHE, Citizenship and Law as our theme for LGBT History Month 2017.

So let's be clear about the law. The Buggery Act of 1533 rendered the eponymous sexual act illegal and declared it a capital crime of which only men could be convicted. It was replaced by The Offences Against the People Act 1828. The death penalty was dropped in 1861 except in Scotland, where it remained in place until 1889. The Criminal Law Amendment Act of 1885 made any male homosexual act illegal.

After Alan Turing died, a
departmental committee set up by the
Conservative government under the
leadership of John Wolfenden authored
the Report of the Departmental
Committee on Homosexual Offences and
Prostitution (better known as the Wolfenden
Report) in 1957. It stated that male
homosexuality was a private matter and that
criminalising homosexual behaviour was an
impingement on civil liberty. It recommended that the age
of consent be 21.

Eight years after the publication of the *Wolfenden* Report, Lord Arran advanced a motion in favour of implementing the recommendations of the *Wolfenden* Report in the House of Lords. It was introduced into the Commons first by Tory MP Humphrey Berkeley, but defeated before the 1966 General Election. Later that year, the Labour backbencher Leo Abse sponsored a second Sexual Offences Bill with support from Lord Arran. Labour assumed remained neutral and allowed a free vote. The Sexual Offences Act of

1967 decriminalised male homosexuality between consenting adults above the age of 21. However, conspiracy to commit or assist homosexual acts remained an offence, as did acts between three or more parties, or acts committed anywhere but a private home, including hotels and bedsits.

You will hear much talk of 1967 being the year in which 'homosexuality became legal'. It is more correct to say male homosexuality was partially decriminalised. Homosexuality among women was not legally recognised, although it frequently led to children being removed from their mothers. Second, various

amendments to the original bill were made, resulting to inequality in the age of consent, and many sex acts remained illegal.

Cruising and importuning men for sex in public places and in particular public lavatories (better known as 'cottaging') was an offence and the use of the 'pretty police' who entrapped gay men in such situations led to an actual rise in prosecutions after the bill was introduced. And we could be sacked for being LGBT until 2003. There is an argument that 1967 left many gay men more vulnerable.

#### **WOMEN AND ETHNIC MINORITIES**

But while we commemorate the partial decriminalisation of male homosexuality in 1967, we must also remember there must have be thousands of women who entered into marriages of convenience or who were duped into sham marriages.

There must have been thousands of women who lived as friends but actually had a secret lesbian partnership. There were also mixed race partnerships between same sex couples and we need to know the struggles with which they had to cope. And then there is the legacy of Empire - many of the Commonwealth nations have held onto homophobic laws Britain imposed on the and have not taken steps towards decriminalisation. We need to listen to their people's stories, highlight their people's plight and campaign where appropriate on their behalf.

So for us, 1967 is about everyone.



## ALL PEOPLE MATTER

## Here at London South Bank University, we are committed to lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans (LGBT) equality.

Evidence of this is our position in the **top 100 employers** in the Stonewall 'Starting Out' Guide for 2016/17 and **ranking of 15th** for all participating employers within the higher education sector. In addition, we are members of *OUTstanding*, the professional network for senior LGBT executives and allies.

Embracing and integrating diversity and inclusion is fundamental to our current success. Our aspirations for the future and our position in the Stonewall Index reflects how our efforts to empower staff and support networks are helping to create more diversity at LSBU.

By empowering our staff and supporting our students, we will continue developing a welcoming, safe and diverse working environment.









## DRAMA QUEENS

As two plays are unveiled for OUTing the Past: The National Festival of LGBT History, we caught up with the playwrights to find out their motivations, inspirations and recollections. Abi Hynes is the writer of Burnley's Lesbian Liberator and Stephen M Hornby is the writer of The Burnley Buggers' Ball.







## How do you pick the stories you bring to life for the festival?

AH: For the two festivals I've been involved in so far, I've been lucky enough to have Stephen and the historical advisers guiding me towards some fascinating stories.

SMH: Well, mostly I'm guided to them as well, by the wonderful Jeff Evans (OUTing the Past's National Coordinator). The idea is to commission at least one piece of theatre each year based on new research into a forgotten LGBT history. And I need to make sure that over a 3-5 year cycle, we are as representative as possible. I also try to secure funding, and we've seen so grateful to the Arts Council there and to our patrons Russell T Davies and Sue Sanders, Professor Emeritus of the Harvey Milk Institute.

AH: The aim is to breathe new life into important LGBT stories that seem to have been forgotten by history.

**SMH:** Forgotten, or not recorded, or misinterpreted or even deliberately destroyed in some cases. I'm constantly amazed at the stories we're unearthing.

AH: Both last year's piece that I wrote, *Mister Stokes - The Man-Woman of Manchester*, and the piece I'm writing for this year, *Burnley's Lesbian Liberator*, are really important pieces of history that I'd heard nothing about before the project..

SMH: Who knew that Burnley, an ex-mill town in East Lancashire, was the centre of the struggle for gay and lesbian rights in the 1970s?! Were lucky to have two knowledgeable historical advisers on the project, Peter Scott-Presland who wrote Amiable Warriors and Paul Fairweather who wrote Hidden Histories, the Burnley LGBT Heritage Trail, which first unearthed our two stories.

AH: It puts Burnley on the map as a place of real importance in terms of LGBT history and the struggle for equal rights. And we've got the opportunity to re-stage these events in the same spots they really happened. That's irresistible!

What challenges do you face, as a writer, trying to bring historic events to the stage and remaining truthful to what happened while also telling a good story? AH: The less you know, the more you have to invent, and so as a writer you find yourself in

this weird inbetween space. Sometimes you're a historian, trying to make your best guess about what really happened, and sometimes you're a writer, and you're making things up, because there's a gap when no one knows what happened next.

SMH: These plays are new ground for LGBT History Month. The five plays we've done to date have all basically been either Victorian or Georgian. Now we're in the 1970s. That's a big difference. We're talking to people who remember the events and they're giving us some completely new accounts and those have directly changed what I've written.

AH: I don't think my role is to try and force the facts into a particular shape because that tells a good story. I have to take what's there and then find the humanity and the drama in it, and lead the audience through. It's a bit like joining the dots. You have to draw some of the lines yourself, but you use the facts like dots to show you roughly where you're going. In some ways, I think writing a play about history is more honest than some of the history books, because you're admitting to your audience from the offset that you're telling them a story.

SMH: Conventional document based history has not served LGBT history well, or any other minorities. There's that great quote: 'History is not just a way to remember. It's also a way to forget.' Black history has been erased, unrecorded, marginalised or simply seen as irrelevant in just the same way. LGBT history is about all of us and it illuminates attitudes to the whole of human sexuality. That's why everyone's so interested in it now.

AH: Most people know that what you're showing them is what might have happened. People tend to think that if it's in a text book, then that's got more authority, but it's still just one person's best guess based on the evidence available, and it's still subject to all sorts of bias. That's why these hidden histories we're uncovering became 'hidden' in the first place – because the people who wrote the history books weren't interested.

What effect do you think seeing our own stories brought to life has on LGBT people? Is the reaction different among young people and older people? SMH: I think the effect is profound. Look at the debates on social media about Westworld. A sci-fi series where the premise is that people

can pay to experience a robot inhabited Wild West. And there's an outcry that there are no LGBT storylines. We expect to be there now in the past. We've established that right. I think audiences of all ages feel that.

AH: I feel a lot of things when I come across new stories like this. It's somewhere between excitement and relief, because it's isolating, feeling like people like you aren't a part of history. It reminds me that we've always been here, that we're not the first, and we won't be the last, to struggle with some of the issues that affect our community in particular.

SMH: And look at the pressure on the Star Trek and Star Wars frachises to have LGBT characters. We're consciously, deliberately and systematically writing us in to the past, and bringing that past to life. And that gives everyone a kind of strength and momentum when looking into the future too.

AH: If you watch TV, you could be forgiven for thinking that gay people have only existed for the last fifty years, and even then, often only as harmful or irritating stereotypes. But we've got a past, too. We've been around, being difficult and wonderful and disruptive and complicated, for as long as there have been people. It gives us context, and helps us understand who we are.

## Why is LGBT History Month important to you?

AH: It's important because it gives us a moment to come together and reflect. It helps to raise the profile of work like ours, and to find it an audience who want and need it.

SMH: And that gives us some work! Festival theatre is the most popular part of LGBT History Month and gets the biggest audiences of anything anywhere in the UK.

AH: Of course, we could stage stories like these at another time, and show it to non-LGBT audiences, and that would be great too. But LGBT History Month gives us a platform and it puts our history in our own hands. For too long, other people have told the stories. Now it's our turn.

My role isn't to force the facts into a particular shape. I take what's there and find the human drama in it

Abi Hynes

New piece of theatre each year based on new research into forgotten LGBT histories

Stephen M Hornby



# LUBRIVENUES OPEN FOR EARS

## TIM FIRMAGER DISCOVERS A FEW OF THE LGBT-FRIENDLY VENUES THAT HAVE BEEN OPEN FOR OVER TWO DECADES.

With the ever-growing threat of gentrification of Soho in London and the areas around The Village in Manchester, LGBT safe spaces are becoming increasingly important and worthy of our patronage.

Though Manchester continues to grow, venues like Legends have been bulldozed, and new developments around Canal Street are likely to see more chain restaurants and bars which may crowd out local-owned LGBT businesses. Meanwhile, London's LGBT scene seems to be shrinking every day, with new licensing laws limiting venue owners and punters alike. New LGBT bars will always open across the capital, but many have not lasted long, either becoming 'straight' bars, strip clubs

or getting demolished entirely - and I'm not sure which fate is the worse.

Across the UK, there are at a number of LGBT venues that have been open for over two decades and, in some cases, even before the partial decriminalisation of homosexuality. Here we take a quick look at 15 of the very best. Next time you visit Brighton, Leeds, Leicester, London or Manchester, why not enjoy your favourite refreshment at one of the venues below by way of paying homage to the owners and managers who have kept these establishments alive for so many years.

#### THE ADMIRAL DUNCAN. LONDON

The Admiral Duncan opened in the 19th Century and has been frequented by queer patrons for decades. Sadly, in 1999 The Admiral Duncan was the target of neo-Nazi nail-bomber David Copeland. Three people died and dozens were injured. Now, fully restored, the pub thrives, and stands testament to the resilience of our community.

54 Old Compton St, Soho, London W1D 4UB admiral-duncan.co.uk

#### THE BULLDOG, BRIGHTON

The Bulldog has been Brighton's premier LGBT bar since 1979, being established over 35 years ago. With two floors of entertainment, cabaret, karaoke and top DJs.bulldogbrighton.com

#### CENTRAL STATION, LONDON

A LGBT bar since 1992, this friendly bar is known for free pool, cocktail nights and an abundance of local drag nights.

27 Wharfdale Road, Kings Cross, London, N1 9SD

centralstation.co.uk

#### COMPTONS, LONDON

The original LGBT bar of Old Compton Street, which was originally a built as a hotel in 1890. Since the 50s it was known for being 'not entirely straight, but came out the closet as 'Comptons of Soho' LGBT bar in 1986.

51/53 Old Compton Street, London, W1D 6HN

faucetinn.com/comptons

### THE DOVER CASTLE, LEICESTER

The Dover Castle is a stalwart LGBT bar with modern decor, a pool table, plus karaoke, bingo, cabaret and open mic evenings. It's the oldest LGBT venue in the city.

34 Dover St, Leicester LE1 6PT

ilovedover.co.uk

### THE TWO BREWERS, LONDON

The Two Brewers has been around since 1981 and promotes itself as London's premier LGBT cabaret and dance venue - in short, the LGBT destination for those south of the river.

the2brewers.com

#### CRUZ 101. MANCHESTER

The setting for Queer as Folk's fictitious super-club Babylon, Cruz 101 has weathered the storms of fickle feet and changing musical tastes. With exciting nights like Aftershock, Cha Cha Boudoir and The Big Scrum ensuring a diverse crowd, you're guaranteed to see anyone who's anyone on the dancefloor in the Village's biggest and oldest nightclub.

101 Princess St, Manchester M1 6DD

cruz101.com

### GAYS THE WORD, LONDON

Located in the Bloomsbury district of London, Gay's the Word is the only specifically queer bookstore in the UK. 2016 marks the 37th anniversary of the founding of the store, which first opened its doors on 17 January 1979. Gay's the Word stock an enormous range of books.

gaystheword.co.uk

### KING WILLIAM IV, LONDON

A stone's throw from London's most renowned cruising ground, Hampstead Heath, The King William became queer in the 30s, specifically to cater for men visiting the Heath. Now, with a traditional country pub feel it continues the 'anyone welcome' vibe.

77 Hampstead High Street, London, NW3 1RE kingwilliamhampstead.co.uk

#### NAPOLEONS, MANCHESTER

Formerly a restaurant, Napoleons was created in 1941. Current owners Anne and Melvin have owned it for over 30 years. Napoleons offer three floors - the top floor being a nightclub with DJs on Wednesday, Friday and Saturday, the main floor a video lounge open six nights a week. Napoleons is especially popular with Manchester's trans community.

napoleons.co.uk

### THE WHITE SWAN, LONDON

Originally opened in 1985, The White Swan is still East London's leading LGBT dance bar featuring drag queen and open mic nights.

556 Commercial Road, London, E14 7JD bjswhiteswan.com

## **CELEBRATING LGBT HISTORY MONTH**

The NASUWT supports the celebration and promotion of LGBT history in education and the wider society.

The NASUWT continues to challenge homophobia, biphobia, transphobia, discrimination and intolerance and believes that teachers and other school staff have a vital role to play in promoting LGBTI equality in schools and society and in challenging heterosexism within the curriculum.

The NASUWT holds an annual NASUWT Consultation Conference for

LGBTI teachers and also runs specialist professional seminars and training events for LGBTI members.

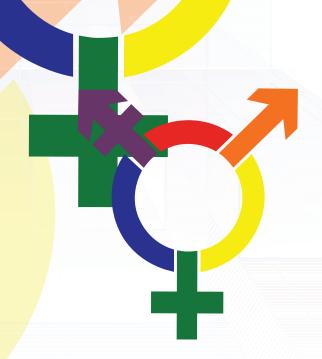
For further information about NASUWT work on LGBTI equality, contact:

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T: 03330 145550 E: advice@mail.nasuwt.org.uk W: www.nasuwt.org.uk





## **SPEAKING OUT:**

## A review of the 2017 LGBT History Month launch

by Adam Lowe

n 30 November 2016, I joined Schools OUT UK as a guest of Mr Speaker The Rt Hon John Bercow MP at the Houses of Parliament. We were there to launch LGBT History Month UK 2017's new theme and mark 50 years since the Sexual Offences Act 1967. I had been invited to read a poem in Polari with musical accompaniment from my good friend and ally Nikki Franklin - most likely the first time anyone has been invited to aunt nell the patterflash in the Houses of Commons.

The VIP guests at the evening's celebrations at Speaker's House, who presented alongside me, included Schools OUT UK patron Angela Eagle MP; Lord Michael Cashman CBE, co-founder of Stonewall; former PSHE Ofsted Chief Inspector Janet Palmer; Dr Wanda Wyporska, Executive Director, The Equality Trust; trans activist Christine Burns; Schools OUT UK Chair and Milk Institute Professor Emeritus Sue Sanders.

Though our surroundings were plush and the guestlist stellar, everyone had their moment to shine. London school children had been invited to present on everyday icons from the last 50 years of the LGBT equality movement. They had the enviable chance to meet campaigners Peter Tatchell, Phyll Opoku (founder of Black Pride), American campaigner Stuart Milk (who showed a video message from Barack Obama) and Christine Burns OBE (bringing our interactive schools resource *Voices and Visibility* to life), as well as Shadow Women and Equalities Minister Sarah Champion MP. If I'd had the chance to meet such esteemed figures as a child, I'd have probably started my own activism much younger - and known sooner the pride I saw in those young faces as they commemorated the legacies of LGBT people around the world.

As in previous years, we also announced the Faces of 2017 (see pages 26 and 27) to illuminate the activities of key figures in our history – including Allan Horsfall, a founding member of Campaign for Homosexual Equality, whose campaigned helped get the Sexual Offences Act passed. This year's pioneering faces also include TV journalist Jackie Forster, suffragette Emmeline Pankhurst and one of the women whose activism birthed the modern concept of 'pride' - US trans campaigner and Stonewall Riot veteran Sylvia Rivera. Together, these four faces are the subjects of school fact sheet resources designed to inspire students and for us as a community to claim our past – the first of History Month's basic remits.

Our second remit, of course, is to *celebrate our present*. Schools OUT UK has much to celebrate with an expanding portfolio – including 13 years of LGBT History Month; our unique website of inclusive, curriculum-friendly lesson plans at The Classroom; and OUTing the Past: The National Festival of LGBT History which goes into its third year with a whopping 16 hubs! But these achievements are also those of the wider LGBT community, and are nothing compared to the hard work of the many activists and campaigners around the world who fight for our rights and raise visibility every day.

LGBT History Month's third and final remit is to *create our future*. What use is an inspiring past if it doesn't motivate us to fashion a better future for everyone? As Dr Martin Luther King said, 'The arc of the moral universe is long but it bends towards justice.' The Sexual Offences Act of 1967 and its partial decriminalisation of homosexuality was just one milestone on the way to creating that future. This year we celebrate it in the hope it will carry us on to new achievements - and LGBT History Month is just the beginning.

The NUT has a proud history of representing LGBT+ teachers and supporting all teachers to promote LGBT+ equality in their school.

Supporting LGBT+ pupils and staff involves ensuring that the attitudes which generate homophobia, biphobia and transphobia are eliminated across all areas of school life.

At least ten per cent of all pupils will identify as lesbian, gay or bisexual when they are teenagers or in their adult lives. The NUT believes that wherever they are educated all young people need to learn, see and hear positive messages about LGBT+ people and be exposed to a wide range of LGBT+ role models.

Silence and invisibility about this issue in schools is the wrong approach.



Joining Hotline 0845 300 1669 or 0207 380 6369



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THE =

## NATIONAL FESTIVAL

## **LGBT HISTORY**

Region	Hub	Dates
South-East	OUTing the Past: London (Hub 1) Royal Museums Greenwich	7 <sup>th</sup> February 2017
	OUTing the Past: London (Hub 2) National Archive	11 <sup>th</sup> February 2017
	OUTing the Past: London (Hub 3) Imperial War Museum	18 <sup>th</sup> February 2017
	OUTing the Past: London (Hub 4) Victoria & Albert Museum	10 <sup>th</sup> February 2017
	OUTing the Past: London (Hub 5) <b>British Museum</b>	19 <sup>th</sup> February 2017
South-West	OUTing the Past: Bournemouth	18 <sup>th</sup> February 2017
	OUTing the Past: Exeter	12 <sup>th</sup> February 2017
	OUTing the Past: Conventry	4 <sup>th</sup> February 2017
	OUTing the Past: Sresbury	17-19 February 2017
North-West	OUTing the Past: Liverpool	25 <sup>th</sup> February 2017
	OUTing the Past: Manchester	26 <sup>th</sup> February 2017
	OUTing the Past: Preston/Lancashire	25 <sup>th</sup> February 2017
	OUTing the Past: York	11 <sup>th</sup> February 2017

## **SEXING THE PAST:**

'What is and how to do LGBT history' conference

We are proude to be part of Outing the Past: 'The National Festival of Lebian, Gay, Bisexual and Tans history.

2017 marks 50 years since the Sexual Offences Act of 1967 and this is the theme of the upcoming conference, which will take place on Friday 3 - Sunday 5 March 2017 at Bluecoat, Liverpool.

www.lgbthistorymonth.org.uk/national-festival



by Femi Otitoju

As a diversity and inclusion consultant I have a very simple job: to make the world better for LGBT people! And black and minority ethnic people, and disabled people, and younger and older people, and everyone else who faces bias and discrimination. I do this by providing training, coaching and consulting services.

LGBT History Month is one of the most important periods of the year for me. Every month I work with dozens of wildly different organisations from banks and building societies to charities, schools, colleges and universities. Most of them have a commitment to equality, diversity and inclusion and it gives me real joy to be able to signpost the discussions, arts events, publications and parties organised as part of LGBT History Month. I can say, 'There. Look at us. Look at all these amazing people belonging to these vast, vibrant communities.'

Part of the pleasure is derived from the fact that when it comes to helping organisations combat unconscious bias at both a strategic and individual level, the strength and positivity that radiates from LGBT History Month makes a huge difference. This unbridled celebration of who we are and the different ways we love, live and organise, is a brilliant antidote to much of the inequality we face as a result of all the biased messages still so prevalent in wider society.

As a black lesbian, I am always aware of the importance of acknowledging and revelling in our differences as well as the things that we have in common. LGBT History Month addresses the protected characteristics beyond sexual orientation and gender variance, working hard to reach and represent LGBT people of all

backgrounds. This intersectional approach contributes to the visibility of black and minority ethnic LGBT people and makes it easier for all of us to remember that - for most of us – the whole of the LGBT community doesn't just look like the group of friends that we invite to our parties or that we work with. It also provides a reference point for our cultural communities to help them see that LGBT people are found in every ethnic and religious group.

I work hard to be an ally to LGBT people who have a lived experience different from my own. I know what it feels like to enter a room and find myself surrounded by people with whom I seemingly have nothing in common apart from my sexual identity. The inclusive approach taken by LGBT History Month throws open the doors to worlds we might never have thought to explore and gives us a chance to listen to voices we might otherwise never hear. Working on the premise that the more we know about others the less likely we are to be biased against them, the LGBT History Month commitment to the inclusion of people who identify as disabled, gender diverse, parents, carers, old or young breaks down barriers and makes it easier to form alliances in spite of our differences.

At Challenge Consultancy, we raise awareness, get people excited about being welcoming to LGBT people, and foster creativity about ways of working positively with all the different facets of our communities. LGBT History Month plays a crucial role in making our communities stronger by bringing us together. In the words of Maya Angelou we 'try to be a rainbow in someone's cloud'.

Femi Otitoju is the founder and training director of Challenge Consultancy.







## PRIDE COMES BEFO THE FORGOTTEN HERO

et's start with the Second World War (1939-1945). Many Anglo-American commanders, except the silliest, ignored LGBT goings-on in the Armed Forces. American commanders who didn't ignore them sent the men (for they concentrated on the men) home to the USA with discharge papers that told prospective employers the reason why they'd been removed from the War, willingly or unwillingly. 'Blue Angels', they called themselves, the returning servicemen, after the colour of their discharge papers.

Many stayed where the returning ships landed them, joining the old peacetime LGBT communities of the great American port cities of New York and San Francisco. This was in preference to going home to their families, who were taught in those days to consider all gay people 'perverts'. From the numbers of 'perverts' who settled in the ports, and from the renewed persecution of them by post-War police, in succession to Military Police, rose the American Gay Liberation Front of the 1960s, declaring pride and self-worth - forerunner of today's worldwide LGBT campaigning.

## THE LAVENDER MENACE

Phew! I remember the Second World War. When I was four, living on Richmond Hill in Surrey, Hitler tried to kill me, sending a flying bomb from his slave-factories at Peenemunde. It went by our windows, and flew on, to kill someone further off.

Then came the Cold War (1947-1991) when communism, led worldwide by Russia, confronted capitalism, led worldwide by the USA. Politicians in Washington invented a 'Lavender Menace' - a fictitious conspiracy of LGBT people with American government jobs to betray 'the free world' to communism. Hundreds of LGBT people were sacked and their lives ruined with false charges and America asked Britain to help attack LGBT people.

The result was a 'gay witch-hunt' in Britain in the 1950s. The peacetime government of Sir Winston Churchill, the Second World War British Prime Minister who'd had an openly gay male Private Secretary for much of his early political life without minding a jot, allowed the gay mathematician Alan Turing, one of Britain's greatest war heroes, to be driven to suicide in the course of the witch-hunt. The government hoped for even more legal power against LGBT

people than it had already. It commissioned an enquiry, the Wolfenden Report of 1957, named for the former headmaster of Shrewsbury who chaired it. The report was supposed to advocate more jailings. Instead, Wolfenden told the government it should lay off LGBT people, and should reduce the powers the police and courts had to jail us merely for being what we are.

## CAMPAIGNING FOR DECRIMINALISATION

Phew again! I was 16. Some LGBT people were fantastically defiant, such as the openly lesbian columnist at the Daily Mirror, Nancy Spain from Newcastle (1917-1967), who played hockey for England; and her openly gay fellow-journalist Beverley Nichols (1898-1984, 'Cleverly Tickles' to friends). He'd served in the war in the Arctic Convoys and after that didn't give a damn about anyone's opinion. Most of us were timid in the 1950s. Every immigrant community knows what that's like. You aren't treated for what you are, but for your skin colour, your faith, your disabilities, your sexual orientation or your identity. In America, men who had sex with men were routinely called 'pinko Commie fags', 'pinko' meaning both 'Left-wing' and







## RE A BALL: DES OF THE 1967 ACT

BY ANDREW LUMSDEN

'girly' (not a term of praise). In France, despite no laws against us, we were 'pédés' (not a term of praise), in Spain 'maricóns', and in Britain 'queers'.

Nobody in any political party in Britain did anything about the recommendations of the Wolfenden Committee. So on 7 March 1958 a gay teacher, Tony Dyson, contacted endless eminent figures shocked by the treatment of individual LGBT people and got them to write to The Times calling on 'humane men of all parties' ('men' only mentioned in those days!) to see that 'legislation to give effect to the proposed reform' be passed 'at an early date'.

A famous archaeologist who was bi, Jacquetta Hawkes (1910-1996), loaned her flat for meetings of a resulting LGBT pressure group – the historic Homosexual Law Reform Society (HLRS), that had to be fronted by generous S (for straight) people. Two others who loaned their home for meetings were the gay pacifists and Quakers Len Smith and Reiss Howard (a Canadian). They risked provoking local police but Len had already been imprisoned in the WWII as a conscientious objector so was unfazed.

A Sheffield-bred gay man called Edgar

Wright (1927-2010), who'd been traumatised in his youth by the hostile atmosphere in which LGBT people had to grow up in England, had sworn at uni in the 1940s that he would 'do whatever I could to fight the iniquitous laws which had destroyed the genius of Oscar Wilde and brought untold misery to many thousands of otherwise blameless men.' In 1962, required by his mother to use a pseudonym and choosing Antony Grey, he took over day-to-day running of the HLRS's dingy offices in Shaftesbury Avenue, in a building since torn down, and began campaigning up and down the country for what was to be become the 1967 Sexual Offences Act.

Others campaigning included Yorkshire woman Esme Langley (1919-1991) who with Diana Chapman quietly launched a revolution in British publishing by creating Arena Three by and for lesbian and bi women in 1964. Another key figure was a Lancashire-born gay working-man, Alan Horsfall (1927-2012), who – also in 1964 – created the LGBT organisation that was to become the Campaign for Homosexual Equality, giving social space to LGBT people

in small communities and calling for an end to the then police powers over our bodies.

I met Antony Grey when I was a schoolboy with no more idea that I'd be gay than the nymph of the damselfly knows she'll have four wings. It was at a building near Downing Street where my father worked in the steel industry and Antony was a researcher. We next met at the Gay Liberation Front.

## **50TH ANNIVERSARY**

On 27 July this year we commemorate the 50th anniversary of the day the Queen consented to the first reduction in British legal hatred of LGBT people for 106 years. Prior to that, things had always got worse. The previous improvement, in 1861, merely altered the maximum sentence for sodomy from the death-sentence to life imprisonment.

By 1967, I was 25 and getting into all sorts of trouble, like being robbed by two straight boys from Manchester. At lunchtime on Thursday 15 October 1970, the Gay Liberation Front reached London, taking, amid gales of laughter, direct nonviolent action against homophobes and transphobes.











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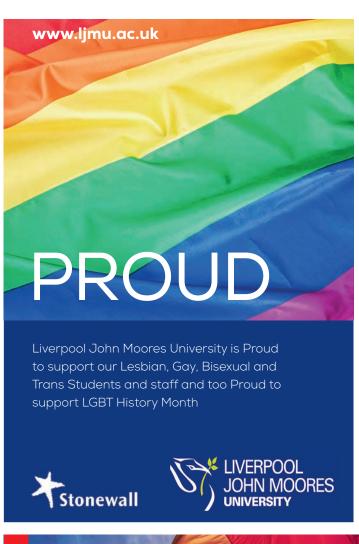


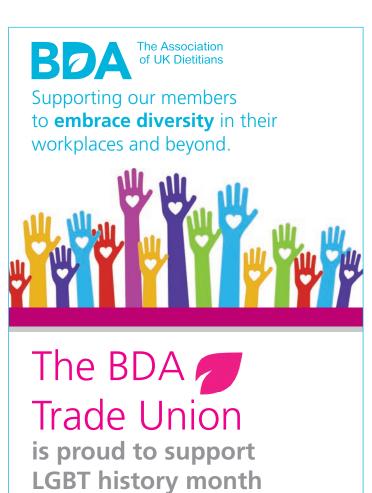












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By Elizabeth Wallis

My activist career started when I was just 17 and at school. I attended a Christian state school in Hertfordshire, where I co-founded the school's first 'gay-straight alliance' (GSA). This was both an amazing and challenging experience for me, as I led weekly sessions with students on different LGBT issues. Looking back, I'm sure it would have been a lot easier if I'd known about Schools OUT UK or if my teachers had been aware of The Classroom, where they would have found countless resources for me to use! I guess we live and learn. The group was nevertheless a huge success. Hearing feedback from students, staff members and even parents, I have seen what an impact the group had in promoting LGBT rights and supporting students. I wish I'd had something similar when I was growing up. There were no older students at my school that were 'out' to look up to. When I realised that I had become that figure for the students at my school, it inspired me to do more.

I started my internship with Schools OUT UK back in August 2016, having just completed my A-Levels. After a trip to meet chair Sue Sanders and CEO Tony Fenwick at Margate Pride, I was welcomed into the SOUK family. I have been representing SOUK at events and activities with LGBT History Month coordinators, such as museum curators, as well as working in partnership with Adam 'Beyoncé' Lowe on our online magazine, where some of my writing has been published! I have gained valuable administration, publishing, writing and people-management skills, all whilst working from home around my job. I have travelled around the country, too, which I hope to do more of in February during LGBT History Month. Most of all, I have been able to work closely with activist veterans like Sue and Tony.

I am working with people who have been through it all and who are still campaigning for our rights today. They have taught me from their own experiences that campaigning

isn't just about the amazing headliners like achieving marriage equality or abolishing Section 28. It can feel Herculean and can be lonely – which is exactly why they have surrounded themselves with like-minded people. It further highlights the importance of networking and signposting – something we at Schools OUT UK hope to achieve with LGBT History Month, which we founded over 10 years ago.

The largest project I've helped organise at the time of writing was the Launch Event for LGBT History Month 2017 at Speaker's House, Westminster. It's such a stunning venue – like National-Trust-eat-your-heart-out kind of stunning. With the addition of the largest Christmas tree ever, I felt like I was at Hogwarts. We had a first-class line up of keynote speakers including Schools OUT UK patron Angela Eagle MP; Lord Michael Cashman CBE, co-founder of Stonewall; former PSHE Ofsted Chief Inspector Janet Palmer; Dr Wanda Wyporska, Executive Director of The Equality Trust; Stuart Milk of The Milk Foundation; and activist Christine Burns. All spoke with such passion about trying to move on from the horrors of 2016 and uniting for LGBT rights, equality and diversity. They spoke about how now, more than ever, we need to remember the fights and successes of the past and learn from them in order to face the challenges ahead.

On the day of the launch, I was pleased to be going back to my earliest experiences of activism as I also helped organise the lunchtime workshop for local schools – including my old school from Hertfordshire! We had a panel of 'everyday heroes' comprising Sarah Champion MP, Phyll Opoku, Stuart Milk, Christine Burns, Sue Sanders and Peter Tatchell. They spoke to the students about their work and how they started their campaigning. Peter Tatchell started his activist career at school like me, aged 17. He advocated using the peaceful Black civil rights campaigning style, saying, 'Look at

history. Look at how other successful campaigns have done things in the past.' This is the kind of intersectional approach we need – where we don't work separately for the benefit of ourselves, but cooperatively for the benefit of everyone. It was fantastic to see young people inspired to do their own work as I had been when I set up my GSA. There was a sense of these icons handing over the campaigning baton to the next generation. The students also got the opportunity to present to their peers about someone from our 'Voices and Visibility' wallchart, depicting the timeline of LGBT rights in the UK. This is where we really saw the future Peter Tatchells and Phyll Opokus among them, as they had to research and put together the presentations themselves.

Schools OUT UK has already done so much for LGBT awareness and education, but there are some exciting opportunities ahead. At OUTing the Past, our nationwide festival of LGBT history, we hope to see other young people lifted up through celebration and recognition of their LGBT cultural legacy. If we want to continue to inspire the next generation of activists and advocates for equality, we need to continue to push for better LGBT inclusion within schools. SOUK hopes to achieve this by working with teachers, training them and giving them the tools to educate OUT prejudice in staffrooms as well as classrooms. The Classroom already offers free resources to teachers in all areas of the curriculum and key stages, but we would like to see more LGBT History Month events in schools as well, to celebrate our past. But there are opportunities for young people too - including engaging in our activities or volunteering, as I have done. This has been an invaluable learning experience, and one I encourage more young people to pursue. If you're interested in working with a charity or for LGBT rights, SOUK might just offer the support you need.

## **CURRICULUM POSTERS**

York LGBT History Month and Schools OUT UK are very proud to announce our curriculum posters – available FREE to download from bit.ly/2hKOR3E

The posters feature an inspirational LGBT person from each area of the curriculum. Suitable to be displayed individually in subject classrooms or together as an eye-catching "wall of fame", they show students that LGBT people have had a powerful influence upon the world. Together, they are a fantastic way to provide diverse role models for the young people in your school.

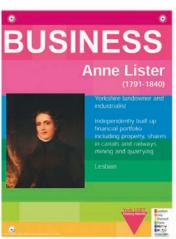
#### THE POSTERS INCLUDE:

- Art: acclaimed artist and disabled bisexual woman Frida Kahlo
- Business studies: industrialist, investor and lesbian Anne Lister
- Child development: award-winning family psychologist and lesbian Nanette Gartrell

- Citizenship: campaigner, Human Rights Award winner and transgender man Stephen Whittle
- Computing/ICT: Enigma codebreaker and gay man Alan Turing
- Dance: dancer, choreographer, costume designer and lesbian Maud Allan
- Design and technology/Resistant materials: furniture designer, architect and bisexual woman Eileen Gray
- Drama: Oscar-winning actor and bisexual man Alec Guinness
- Engineering: revolutionary microchip engineer and transgender woman Lynne Conway
- English: Scottish Makar (national poet) and lesbian Jackie Kay
- Food: cookery columnist, anti-poverty campaigner and non-binary transgender person
- French: groundbreaking feminist writer and bisexual woman Simone de Beauvoir
- Geography: explorer, aviator and gay man

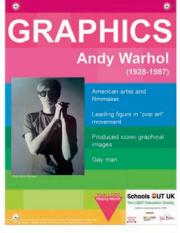
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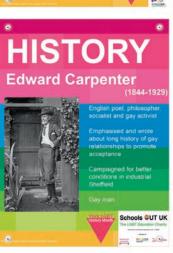
- German: comic book artist and gay man Ralf
- Graphics: pop art icon and gay man Andy Warhol
- History: historian, activist and gay man Edward Carpenter
- Maths: influential economist and bisexual man John Maynard Keynes
- Music: worldwide bestselling singer and bisexual woman Dusty Springfield
- PE: Olympic champion boxer and bisexual woman Nicola Adams
- Religious education/Religious studies: trailblazing Bishop and gay man Gene Robinson
- Science: pioneering military surgeon and transgender man James Barry
- Spanish: Academy Award winner and gay man Pedro Almodovar
- Textiles: world-famous fashion designer and gay man Yves Saint Laurent

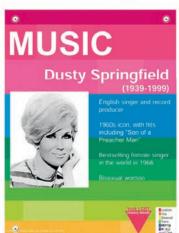


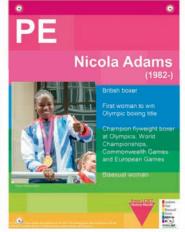


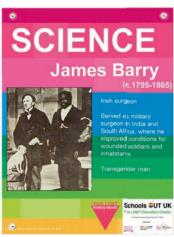


















# **Genoa:** A City Guide

Words: Adam Lowe Images: Michael Bryant

ut through the strata of Genoa, and you'll find layers of history, style and culture. These come together in a profoundly forward-thinking city where style and sophistication, modernity and tradition merge seemlessly for a unique and beautiful holiday destination. Here we look at this LGBT-friendly destination and offer some tips on where to go and what to do.

#### **ACCOMMODATION**

From traditional B&Bs to luxurious aparthotels, the city has it all. First we stayed in the quirky but charming B&B Vecchia Genova, set in a sumptuous townhouse. The location is ideal and the B&B oozes old-school style. Fabulously attentive (and gay) hosts Fabio and Paolo

will ensure all your needs are met.

In contrast to the B&B Vecchia Genova, we also stayed in Le Nuvole Antique Residence. Another traditional building, features like its former chapel add a dash of extravagance. Flashes of colour and contemporary designer brilliance meet a lavish Genoese past.

#### SIGHTS

Genoa is very accessible by foot – so long as you don't mind a bit of a climb. However the ascensores are public lifts that provide vertical transport with wonderful views if you don't fancy walking uphill. Visit Spianata Castelletto to enjoy panoramic views of the city and the port. See the buildings spilling down the hillside, towards the iconic Lanterna, the Renaissance lighthouse built in 1543.

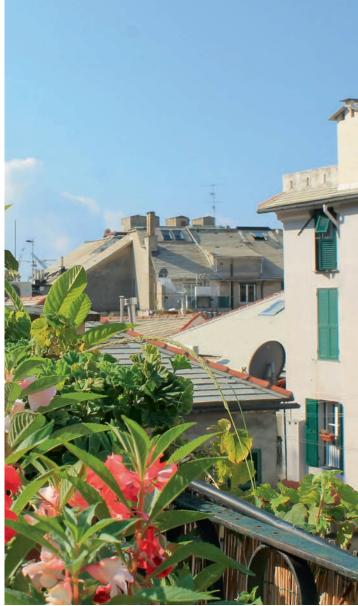
If you only have time to do one thing, head to the Musei di Strada Nuova. This compact museum network joins three of the city's stunning Renaissance palaces: Palazzo Bianco, Palazzo Rosso and Palazzo Tursi. By moving through this single combined museum system, you'll learn much about the art and culture of Genoa.

If you have time, get a bus or taxi to Genoa's own seaside village of Boccadasse. This ancient fishing village is as peaceful as the city is bustling, and provides ample opportunity to enjoy an aperitivo by the sea. If the seaside is your thing, you can also try Nervi, near to Le Nuvole Antique Residence.

To combine fantastic vistas with history, visit Castello D'Albertis. This neo-Gothic style castle is surrounded by its own handsome garden and is seat of the Museum of World Cultures. It has a unique political and cultural history, exploring some of the city's own colonial past, as well as celebrating other nations around the world.







For another stunning garden, head to the Villa del Principe, the 16th century residence of Admiral Andrea Doria. Dramatic indulgence is the order of the day, but in an Italian garden, that's exactly what

If you're in the mood for some retail therapy, tour the 32 historic shops identified by the Superintendent of Cultural Heritage. Some of these shops are over 200 years old, and include family-owned garden tool shops, traditional butchers with marble counters galore, and some of the best chocolatiers in Europe.

Down at the docks, find Acquario di Genova. It has the most extensive range of aquatic biodiversity in Europe, with dolphins, rays, sharks, seals and manitees.

Other things to check out include the Helmut Newton exhibition at Palazzo Ducale, Genova nel Medioevo at Museo di Sant'Agostino and any of a number of boat tours that cruise through the tranquil waters of one of Europe's largest ports.

#### **FOOD & DRINK**

Italian and Mediterranean cuisine naturally reign supreme in Genoa, although you can easily find international food too. Dishes tend to the simple but well prepared end of the spectrum, with fish or meat as staples. We ate some delicious octopus and squid here, beef that was to die for, and some stunning variations of focaccia.

Cavo Marescotti is a patisserie in the traditional style, with lavish marble counters, lots of polished surfaces and plenty of classic Italian delights. Capo santa Chiara is a gorgeous restaurant on the shore at Boccadasse. The terrace offers beautiful views of the sea.

I tre Merli is a clean and refined restaurant by the aquarium and

shipyard. Come here for fabulous dinners late into the night or a quick snack in the sunshine in the al fresco dining area in front. Le Rune Restaurant, near the historic Via Garibaldi, is intimate and trendy and serves some of the best food we found in Genoa.

Cambi Cafè is a 17th Century building with frescoes by Bernardo Strozzi. The restaurant is great for breakfast, or later in the day for pastries, coffee, wine and cocktails, but at night it also serves up some great fine dining.

Il Veliero Restaurant, in the arches near the Genoa Aquarium, is a comfortable establishment with a nautical theme and a family atmosphere. Among its classic dishes are the tasty whitebait salad, fish ravioli, and the catch of the day.

For more information, check visitgenoa.it.

#### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Our programme was organised by Comune di Genova in collaboration with Genoa Chamber of Commerce, via their UK representative Tim Thackray at Lotus PR. Philippa Barker and Harriett Ball at Lucre PR organised our pre-flight arrangements with Holiday Extras.

#### **HOLIDAY EXTRAS**

Before flying out from London Gatwick to Genoa Cristoforo Colombo on British Airways, we stayed at The Courtyard by Marriott and enjoyed access to the Aspire Lounge, North Terminal. These pre-holiday extras were organised by Holiday Extras, where you can also book insurance, car hire, transfers and airport parking. Holiday Extras has a price-match guarantee. holidayextras.co.uk



s you know, the subject themes for LGBT history month 2017 are PSHE, citizenship and law. PSHE education plays an invaluable role in preventing the continuing scourge of homophobic, biphobic and transphobic bullying in schools. It's my view that the PSHE classroom is the obvious place where, free from the pressures of targets and examination results that every other subject must consider, teachers and pupils can take time to explore the important personal and social issues that impact on them and on wider society.

The PSHE classroom should be a place where pupils can be properly educated about all types of diversity; where an inclusive and respectful school culture can be engendered; and where hateful behaviours like homophobia, biphobia and transphobia can be discussed, challenged, and ultimately prevented.

Too often, I come across schools that pride themselves on dealing effectively with prejudiced-based bullying and derogatory language around the school. However, I think they're missing the point. Once bullying, hateful language and hateful behaviours have already taken place, it is too late because the damage has already been done. The child who has experienced homophobia, biphobia or transphobia in school, whether they are LGBT, perceived to be LGBT, or part of an LGBT family, has already suffered the pain of prejudice and discrimination. Something they are unlikely to ever forget, whether the bullies are 'dealt with' or not.

And this is where I believe PSHE education has a unique, preventative role to play. During my 11 years as an HMI (Her Majesty's Inspector) in Ofsted, inspecting and surveying PSHE in schools across the country, I concluded that those schools with well-planned and well-supported PSHE programmes, were most successful in safeguarding pupils from the emotional, and let's face it, sometimes, physical pain of homophobic, biphobic and transphobic bullying.

Unfortunately, Ofsted's 2013 survey of PSHE also concluded that

approximately 40% of schools do not have a well-planned and well-supported PSHE programme. This may be because PSHE remains a non-statutory subject, and because of that, some school leaders are happy to ignore it and downplay its importance.

PSHE is still a non-statutory subject despite the 2015 Education Select Committee recommending, in no uncertain terms, that it be made statutory so that prejudiced-based bullying and many other safeguarding issues could be dealt with more effectively.

So, it remains the case that in too many schools, PSHE lessons are taught by non-specialists in non-curriculum time and therefore so-called 'sensitive and controversial' issues like LGBT equalities and LGBT inclusive sex and relationships education are, inevitably, left out. Even though it has been 14 years since Section 28 was repealed, and despite the 2010 Equality Act, too many schools still fail to teach anything about LGBT equalities.

That's why I am so pleased that Schools OUT UK has chosen PSHE education, citizenship and law as their theme this year, and I urge you all to join Schools OUT and others in supporting statutory PSHE as an important vehicle in the fight against homophobia, biphobia and transphobia and the fight for LGBT equality and visibility in our schools now and in the future.





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## Northumbria Healthcare named among country's top employers for lesbian, gay and bisexual staff.

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The Trust was placed in Stonewall's 2017 Workplace Equality Index which lists the top







100 employers in the country for the fourth year running and we remain one of highest ranking healthcare services taking part in the index.

Equality and diversity is embedded into everything we do, from policy and practice, staff training, communication, data collection and specific initiatives improving health of our LGBT staff.

Without doubt, our people are at the heart of our success and we are proud of the work of our trust's lesbian, gay bisexual and transgender staff network in raising awareness of LGBT issues and promoting workplace equality. This includes taking part in NHS Equality and Diversity Human Rights Week and Northern Pride Week, and supporting community groups in Northumberland access funding.





## === 4 Faces of 2017 ===

## **Curriculum themes and February Faces**

by Andrew Dobbin

he great thing about history is it's all about anniversaries: births, deaths, wars, treaties, inventions and discoveries. LGBT history is just as vast and varied.

To simply say to a teacher 'February is LGBT History Month – do something to celebrate it' would probably cause something to rupture internally, which is why Schools OUT UK came up with two initiatives to ease the task of every harassed event planner, lead teacher and museum curator.

Since 2011, every February has a theme linked to the National Curriculum. So far we have covered Sport (twice), STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics), Music, History and RE (in the form of Religion, Belief and Philosophy in 2016). To commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Sexual Offences Act 1967, which partially decriminalised male homosexuality in England and Wales, 2017's theme is PSHE, Citizenship and Law, which we hope will give the undervalued subject of PSHE a much needed boost in interest as it is here, along with topics such as abortion, drug-taking, voting and personal finance that homosexuality is given its often only explicit mention, usually linked to the topic of bullying. In choosing the theme we are ensuring that we cover the full diversity of the LGBT community in a positive constructive way that celebrates the restoring of our human rights.

This leads me on to our second initiative, and one which has proved a particularly popular one – The Faces of the Year. While bullying is an issue for all LGBT people of all ages, we are keen for the idea of LGBT History Month to be an empowering one. So, along with the curriculum theme, we seek to highlight the lives of lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans people who have lived inspirational lives. To give LGBT youth the heroes and role-models that previous generations were denied.

After so many decades of being lied about by omission from history, we are outing the past. The life of Alan Turing (one of the faces of 2013) cannot be appreciated without reference to the disgraceful treatment that led to his suicide. Indeed, it is that appalling persecution that makes him even more of a hero. LGBT History Month isn't about being po-faced but it is about saving lives. Giving LGBT youth their self-esteem and showing

straight people that we are not second class citizens and having a queer child is not something to fear. And with more and more people identifying as trans at younger ages, we have been almost unique in highlighting the lives of several remarkable people in history who lived trans and non-binary lives, including 18th century diplomat and swordsperson the Chevalier d'Eon de Beaumont, and composer Angela Morley (famous for the 'Hancock's Half Hour' theme).

For 2017, and tying in with the anniversary of SOA 1967, we are highlighting the lives of four people who strove to improve the lives of their fellow queers: Allan Horsfall, who while part of an early campaign group that eventually evolved into CHE, used his home address and phone number as a public contact point. A brave thing to do, especially in the dark days before 1967. 2017 would have been his 90th birthday year.

In her own words 'a roaring dyke', Jackie Forster became one of television's liveliest sparks, sharp and funny with a mercurial quickness. She pioneered live to camera reportage. US trans campaigner, veteran of

the Stonewall riots and 'half-sister to the LGBT community' Sylvia Rivera. Is our trans face. Sylvia was the first trans activist to call for a Gay Liberation movement inclusive of trans and queer people.

Suffragette Emmeline Pankhurst's friendship with fellow suffragette and composer Ethel Smythe (a face of 2014) has led to some revisionist interpretations of her life. Ethel composed the suffrage anthem 'The March of Women', which was first performed in 1911, and dedicated it to Pankhurst.

While not chosen to represent HM2017, next year also sees anniversaries of the deaths of two very different but equally notable gay men. Firstly, Mark Ashton, activist founder of Lesbians and Gays Support the Miners (LGSM) whose story was portrayed so beautifully in 2014's film Pride, who succumbed to an AIDS-related illness only a few days after being diagnosed, in 1987. And secondly, author Joe Orton whose outrageous plays really helped the Sixties swing, and who was brutally murdered by his lover Kenneth Halliwell in 1967. We are conscious, as an organisation that advocates for equality, of the need to be intersectional in the spirit of The Equality Act and 'fostering good relations' between all the protected characteristics, but know that we can't put everyone noteworthy in the spotlight every year. LGBTHM is a way of helping students find people they can feel real empathy with

who they may not encounter elsewhere in the curriculum – such as Barbara Burford, medical researcher and civil servant; or critic and animal rights campaigner Brigid Brophy. One lesbian, one bisexual, one black, one disabled by multiple sclerosis. Both fighters.

## LOOKING TO THE FUTURE WE HAVE THEMES FOR THE NEXT SIX YEARS –

2018: Geography - mapping our world (the 40th anniversary of the creation of the rainbow flag). Marking the official end of World War One, 2019: History II - peace, reconciliation and activism will mark the vital grassroots activism that has led to where LGBT people are today.
2020: English - poetry, prose and plays being the 50th anniversary of the death author EM Forster. Surprisingly this will be the first time we have chosen English. 2021: PSHE II - mind, body, spirit was chosen to highlight the still

disproportionally high numbers of LGBT teen suffering from poor

mental health. 2022: Art & Politics - the arc is long. This theme takes its name from the Martin Luther King quotation "The Arc of the Moral Universe Is Long But It Bends Toward Justice" and will see the 50th anniversary of the first UK Pride march; 2023: Art II - behind the lens. Art as a subject is huge, and we know we cannot hope to please everyone in our choices. But we thought it would be interesting to look at the queer contribution to cinema from those who were proud (if not out) in an art form which more than any other has influenced all our lives in the last century

True Pride is not just in the existential celebration of being LGBT. It is in the celebration of the contribution that we as a community have made, are making and will make to our society, and in the recognition and reclamation of those lives that have shaped our own. And that is what we are about.

Andrew Dobbin is Promotions Officer for Schools OUT UK
If you have a suggestion for an inspirational 'Face' to be included as part
of a future LGBT History Month please contact
promotions@schools-out.org.uk.

## **SYLVIA RAE RIVERA**

Sylvia Rae Rivera (July 2, 1951 – February 19, 2002) was an American gay liberation and transgender activist and drag queen. She was a founding member of both the Gay Liberation Front and the Gay Activists Alliance. She used terms loosely, referring to herself variously as a gay man, transgender woman, transvestite and 'half-sister' to the LGBT community. However, she always preferred to be called Sylvia, saying, 'I don't even like the label transgender. I'm tired of living with labels. I just want to be who I am. I am Sylvia Rivera. Ray Rivera left home at the age of 10 to become Sylvia. And that's who I am.'

With her close friend Marsha P. Johnson, Rivera co-founded the Street Transvestite Action Revolutionaries (STAR), a group dedicated to helping homeless young drag queens and trans women of colour.

Sylvia was born in New York and raised by her mother until she was three. Her mother then committed suicide and Sylvia was looked after by her Venezuelan grandmother. At just eleven, Sylvia began living on the streets, after her grandmother had showed a distaste for her decision to wear make-up. She was taken in by the local black and Latinx drag community, who named her Sylvia.

Her activism began during the African-American Civil Rights Movement (1955–68) and continued through the anti-war movement during the Vietnam war (mid-1960s) and second-wave feminist movements (mid-1960s). She stated that she was a patron of the Stonewall Inn and present during the Stonewall Riots in 1969.

She also actively advocated for the homeless and those with substance abuse issues.

In early July 1992, shortly after the 1992 New York City Pride March, Rivera's close friend Marsha P. Johnson was found dead floating in the Hudson River. Police promptly ruled Johnson's death a suicide Sylvia and other supporters of Marsha were outraged and insisted Marsha had not been suicidal. Three years later, Sylvia tried to commit suicide by walking into the same river.

Frustrated with the LGBT community's willingness to overlook or downplay trans issues in order to get pro-LGB bills passed, Sylvia said, 'I'm tired of sitting on the back of the bumper. It's not even the back of the bus anymore – it's the back of the bumper.'

In the final five years of her life, Sylvia became more politically active and gave speeches relating to Stonewall and how the LGBT community need to unite and fight for their history. She was defiant to the end, saying, 'Hell hath no fury like a drag queen scorned!'

In 2001, she resurrected STAR (changing the 'T' from transvestite to transgender) and fought for the New York Transgender Rights Bill. She also attacked the human rights campaign for standing in the way of trans rights. She was present at the opening of New York's Sylvia Rivera Law Project.

Sylvia died of liver cancer in 2002, knowing her place in history had been remembered.



## **EMMELINE PANKHURST**

by Dr Jana Funke

Emmeline Pankhurst (née Goulden; 1858-1928) was one of the most influential leaders of the British suffragette movement. Born in Moss Side, Manchester, Emmeline got involved in the fight for suffrage early in life. She married the barrister Richard Pankhurst at the age of 21. Richard was a

strong supporter of women's right to vote and in favour of his wife's political activities. The couple had five children, including Christabel, Sylvia and Adela Pankhurst, who would also take active part in the women's movement. In 1903, three years after the death of her husband. Pankhurst founded the Women's Social and Political Union (WSPU). The organisation was radical in calling for immediate political action and focusing exclusively on the votes for women campaign.

It was infamous due to its militant tactics, which included civil disobedience, hunger strikes and arson. From 1908 onwards, Pankhurst was arrested several times. She served a number of prison sentences, which she used to gain further publicity for the suffragette movement. In 1909, she famously forced a confrontation with a police officer, striking him in the face repeatedly to ensure that she would be arrested. In 1910, when Pankhurst was 52 years old, she

met lesbian composer Ethel Smyth, who was exactly the same age. Smyth was soon converted to the women's movement, and the two women entered into an intimate relationship. They served time together in Holloway Prison, where they were assigned adjoining cells and sometimes shared a cell overnight. Ethel composed the suffrage anthem "The March of Women", which was first performed in 1911, and dedicated it to Pankhurst. Smyth's and Pankhurst's relationship raises central questions about bisexual and feminist history: do we need direct evidence of sexual relations between women – of which there is none regarding Smyth and Pankhurst – to include a woman like

Pankhurst within bisexual history? How do we read the often incredibly close relationships between women, including older women like Pankhurst who formed intimate bonds with other women after the end of a heterosexual marriage? Why have historians and biographers often

shied away from acknowledging same-sex relationships between women within the early women's movement, despite some concrete evidence detailing relationships between bisexual and lesbian suffragettes?

In 1913, the increasing tensions between the WSPU and other feminist organisations led to internal divisions, and core members, including Adela and Sylvia Pankhurst, decided to leave the Union. Emmeline continued to work with Christabel, who had begun to lead the organisation at this point. With the outbreak of the First World War, Emmeline and Christabel began to support the British government and called for an end of militant suffragette action. In 1918, partial suffrage was won, when the Representation of the People Act granted votes to all men over the age of 21 and women over the age of 30. In the 1920s, during the final decade of her life, Pankhurst distanced herself further from her



earlier militant and radical anti-establishment politics: she continued to defend a nationalist and imperial vision for Britain, rejected Bolshevism, and, in 1926, joined the Conservative Party. Even during this time, however, she remained firmly committed to women's empowerment and continued to fight for equal rights between men and women. Pankhurst died in 1928, only a few weeks before full suffrage was won in Britain.

**Dr Jana Funke** is Advanced Research Fellow in Medical Humanities, Department of English at University of Exeter.

## **JACKIE FOSTER**

by Carole Woddis and Sue Sanders

Jackie Forster (1926 – 1998) If power is about making a difference then Jackie Forster was a powerful woman. Thanks to her many thousands of women have been able to lead more dignified, less isolated lives. "If she had served any cause other than lesbian rights, she'd have been festooned with honours; she would have been Dame Jackie Forster," said writer and academic Gill Hanscombe. However Jackie received little official recognition despite a personality and talent that in the 1950s made her the darling of BBC producers and the public. Under her maiden name, Jackie Mackenzie, she became one of television's liveliest sparks, sharp and funny with a mercurial quickness. She pioneered live to camera reportage. Her account of the wedding of Prince Rainier and Princess Grace in Monaco in 1956 won the Prix d'Italia.

She was a conventional "very proper woman", born in 1926 to Scottish parents. She was educated at Wycombe Abbey, and St Leonard's in Fife. Early theatrical experience saw her touring the country and in the late 1940s she joined the Arts Theatre Club in London. The event that changed the course of her life occurred in 1957 - her first lesbian affair, although it would be 12 years, a marriage and divorce later, before she came out, announcing at Speaker's Corner: "You are looking at a roaring dyke." It had taken that time "to get rid of the feeling there is really something rather nasty and nobody else should know about it". Suddenly she thought, "How dare they?" From her "conversion" to her death, she worked to make sure other women did not go through what she had. People were her passion. She could be hectoring; intimidating, even rude. The magazine Sappho, which she co-founded in 1972, was Jackie's lasting monument. There were also monthly meetings where, at a time when lesbians were invisible to the world and each other, they could "unfurl" without fear. She revelled in gay rights group Outrage's policy of direct action. But the desire to shock also stemmed from a sense of conviction, as with her campaign to help lesbians become mothers through artificial insemination by donor. Gill Hanscombe describes Forster "She has noble instincts...

to fight injustice of any kind, not just for lesbians."

London Weekend Television's 1974 access programme Speak for Yourself, the first

made by lesbians and gays themselves, was the start of a swathe of programmes in which Forster spoke her mind and helped others find theirs. In 1993 she was diagnosed with breast cancer. She recovered, to agitate on behalf of breast cancer awareness. After half a lifetime of political agitation, sitting on this committee, pioneering that magazine (she never gave up journalism), she created Daytime Dykes - a social gathering that visited historical buildings and museums. In the week before her death, she was working with talking papers for the blind. Jacqueline Moir Mackenzie, broadcaster, editor and gay rights activist: born London 6 November 1926; married 1958 Peter Forster (marriage dissolved 1962); died London 10 October 1998. Carole Woddis is a theatre writer and Guardian journalist. Sue Sanders is the Chair of Schools OUT UK and Professor Emeritus, Harvey Milk Institute.

## **ALLAN HORSFALL**

By Peter Tatchell

Allan Horsfall (1927-2012) was born on 20 October in Laneshawbridge, Lancashire, the son of publicans Tom and Elizabeth Horsfall (nee Ratcliffe). After an education at Nelson Grammar School, Horsfall served in the RAF. It was at a servicemen's association in 1947 that he met Harold Pollard, a teacher who later became Chair of CHE. They remained partners until Harold's death in 1996; residing for much of their lives in Bolton. Horsfall went on to work for the National Coal Board and later for the Salford Education Committee. From the late 1950s to the early 1960s, he was a Labour councillor and chair of NE Lancashire Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament.

But Horsfall is known for his pioneering work for homosexual law reform and as the grandfather of the modern gay rights movement, beginning when he joined the newly-formed Homosexual Law Reform Society, established with the aim of implementation of the 1957 Wolfenden Report. Alan was a leading figure in developing the first proposals for a centre for homosexual support services.

He was not persuaded that HLRS had the right composition or approach. It was elitist, London-centred, aloof and closeted. Horsfall saw the need for a grassroots campaign group in which gay people would take the lead and be out and proud. In 1964, he helped found North-West Homosexual Law Reform Committee (NWHLRC).

Horsfall lived in the mining village of Atherton, Greater Manchester, at the time. He used his home address and phone number as a public contact point. It was a brave thing to do, especially in those days. Many people thought him foolhardy for being so open. There was, however, little hostile reaction.

Horsfall saw the Wolfenden recommendations as brave but flawed; being critical of its limited decriminalisation, which applied in narrow circumstances – not in Scotland or Northern Ireland, and not in the armed forces or merchant navy. As well as a higher age of consent, the

abetting of some homosexual acts remained punishable by up to five years imprisonment. The battle was far from finished.

NWHLRC morphed the Campaign for Homosexual Equality, the leading public voice against homophobia the 1970s and 80s. Horsfall was CHE's first secretary and later its president. In 1971 he took part in a public meeting in Burnley championing the right to open what was then termed an 'Esquire Club'. This meeting was seen by him as a turning point in the development of openly gay civil rights campaigns. CHE played a role in the establishment in 1978 of ILGA, the global federation of LGBT organisations.

Horsfall was involved in the second wave of gay law reform after 1999 – ending the ban on gay people in the military, equalising the age of consent at 16, repealing Section 28, introducing civil partnerships, allowing gay couples to adopt children and giving LGBT people protection against discrimination – crowned by the Sexual Offences Act 2003, which finally repealed the 1533 'buggery' law and the 1885 'gross indecency' statute used to jail Oscar Wilde.

Although his life was spent working for law reform, Horsfall sympathised with more radical queer politics of activist groups like OutRage! in the 1990s. Indeed, he encouraged and supported each new generation of LGBT campaigners. A warm-hearted, generous and much loved humanitarian, he will be long remembered with admiration and affection by those who knew him.

LGBT law reform and CHE are Horsfall's two great legacies. The modern LGBT community walks in his shadow. He was still campaigning until a few months before he died of heart failure in the Royal Bolton Hospital on 28 August 2012.

Peter Tatchell is an LGBT rights and civil rights activist and director of the Peter Tatchell Foundation.



# TEXTILES

## **Yves Saint Laurent**

(1936-2008)

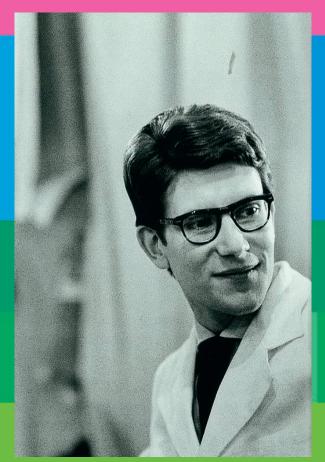


Photo: Victor Soto

French fashion designer

Became head designer of House of Dior at age 21

Pioneered prêt-à-porter (ready-to-wear) collections

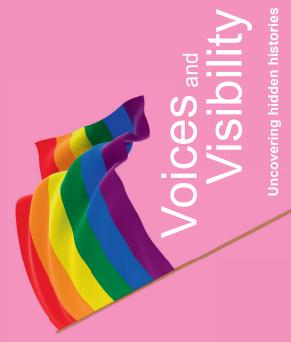
Gay man





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# Legal timeline

Death penalty for buggery abolished

**1861** England and Wales Scotland

Offence of 'gross indecency' created

1885 across the UK







by two men over the age of 21 'in private'

1967 England and Wales 1980 Scotland 1982 Northern Ireland 1992 Isle of Man

of homosexual acts

**Decriminalisation** 





**Dudgeon v the United Kingdom** 

1981

Jeffrey Dudgeon

and gay activist Belfast Shipping Clerk

Fravels abroad for gender eassignment surgery

of terms to describe themselves including: homosexual, lesbian, gay, People who do not identify as heterosexual (only) have used a number bisexual, queer, pansexual, asexual...

a number of terms to describe themselves including: trans, transgender, crossdresser, transvestite, androgynous, genderqueer... transman, transwoman, man, woman, transsexual People who do not identify with their assigned gender (only) have used

gender identity equality in for sexual orientation and post-school education



Socialist, poet, philosopher and **Edward Carpenter** anthropologist

1906 'Love's Coming of Age' **Publishes** 

Frederick Park and Ernest Boulton

Fanny and Stella

Law student, bank clerk,

theatrical performers

1871







Composer and member of the suffrage movement

**Ethel Smyth** 

**Criminal prosecution** 

1914 British Society for the

**Uranians** 

Study of Sex Psychology

Chemically castrated

'The March of Women'

Composed

1911



Reform rabbi, journalist and broadcaster **Lionel Blue** 

'affirm his homosexual orientation' First British rabbi publicly to



1983 Fights Bermondsey **By-election** 

Chris Smith



Politician

Bisexual Trans

History Month

CHOOLS OUT.

www.lgbthistorymonth.org.uk/wallchart/ More information and download

**Alan Turing** 

1969 Campaign for Homosexual Equality

1969 Scottish Minorities Group

1958 Homosexual Law Reform Society

1960s

**Peter Tatchell** 

1984



and songwriter -abi Siffre Poet, singer

Something Inside) So Strong

**Lisa Power** 

1989 Founder member



Regard

-ounder

Stonewall



Section 28 and 2A Prohibits 'promotion' of homosexuality

1988 England, Wales and Scotland

**Employment rights** 

1999 Trangender across UK

Repeal Section 28 and 2A 2000 Scotland 2003 England and Wales 2006 Isle of Man Duty to promote equality

2000 Northern Ireland

2001 England, Wales, Scotland (16yrs) Northern Ireland (17yrs) Equal age of consent

2003 Sexual orientation across UK

**Russell T Davies** 

666 I

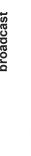
Gender recognition

2004 across the UK

Civil Partnerships

2005 across the UK

**Employment rights** 



2005 Sexual orientation across UK 2009 Transgender: Scotland 2012 Transgender: England, Wales,

Offence of hate crime

Northern Ireland

Marriage (same sex couples)

2014 England, Wales and Scotland

2010 England, Wales and Scotland

**Equality Act** 

Jimmy Somerville Pits and Perverts' benefit concert 1984

Kath Gillespie-Sells **1989** 

Press for Change Stephen Whittle Co-founder 1992

Poet, novelist and Jackie Kay

1998 academic

Publishes 'Trumpet'

**Barbara Burford** 

Writer and medical researcher

Department of Health Director of Equality 666

elevision producer and screen writer

Queer as folk broadcast **Tom Daley** 

Sportsman

2013 Announces relationship

First woman to win Olympic

boxing title



**Linda Bellos**Businesswoman and LGBT activist

First out gay and HIV positive MP

Leader of Lambeth Council

**Christine Burns** 

Parliamentary Forum **Frans activist** 1995

on Transsexualism Angela Eagle Politician 1997

First elected out lesbian MP Waheed Alli and politician

Media entrepreneur 1998

first out gay peer Youngest and











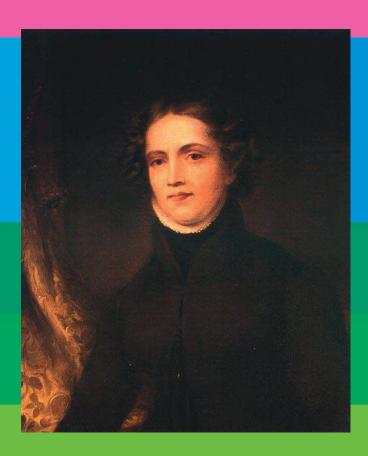
Nicola Adams Sportswoman

History Wallchart (print version 3) January 2016 © Copyright the Forum TUC, PCS,UCU, UNISON, Schools OUT UK with a man

# BUSINESS

## Anne Lister

(1791-1840)



Yorkshire landowner and industrialist

Independently built up financial portfolio including property, shares in canals and railways, mining and quarrying

Lesbian





PRESENTS

OUTing the Past





# FOOD

## **Jack Monroe**

(1988-)

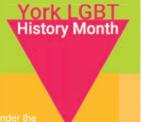


Photo: Fox Fisher

Food writer and poverty campaigner

Became famous for affordable recipes on award-winning blog

Non-binary transgender person



Schools OUT UK
The LGBT Education Charity
Charitable Incorporated Organisation No. 1156352

20 0200

OUTing the Past





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### TVS DEATH TULL: THE MURDER OF DIVERSITY

By Charlotte Maxwell & Adam Lowe

ver the past couple of years, TV has been increasingly obsessed with killing off characters. You'd be forgiven for thinking we'd all signed up to one big multi-narrative bloodbath. A cynical tool by producers, perhaps, character death has increasingly been used to maintain audience interest – the possible death of a beloved character used to manipulate viewers to keep watching. And it works, because the threat of character death does indeed boost audience numbers.

The fact of the matter, though, is that some deaths are even more callous than others - and some lives more disposable. Whilst we're all well aware that anyone can die, TV creatives seem to be displaying a trend of killing off their female characters - especially if they're also LGBT and non-white. Guest characters, usually women, are killed off with reckless abandon – just look at the dead women floating down canals in crime shows or murdered in dramas to spur heroic men into action. If you're an extra who has the audacity to also be a woman, ethnic minority and/or queer, you might as well resign yourself to a career of lying prone and bloody under the gaze of your better paid male colleagues. But it's not just extras who have to worry - because TV likes to kill off its lead women, too.

#### BUOYED BY STREAMING PROVIDERS

GLAAD reported at the end of last year that while representation of LGBT characters is currently at an all-time high, buoyed by streaming providers to 4.8%, the number of LGBT deaths (particularly those of LGBT women) continues to be a problem. Some high-profile character deaths have only served to drive this home.

At present, we're seeing a resurgence of three interlinked narrative tropes: Bury Your Gays, Women in Refrigerators and the Black Guy Always Dies. They seem to be breeding one mangled metatrope like an ugly genetically engineered supervillain. Along this beast will come, tearing women and minorities apart in a triumph of brutality over diversity, forcing us to watch and enjoy it, and thereby satiating some obnoxious need for the all-white male lead to remain the centre of the TV universe. It's the narrative equivalent of the toxic masculinity of Farrage and Trump, you might argue.

#### THE DEATH TOLL

A number of bi and lesbian female characters

have met their maker in a number of shows including *Empire*, *The Expanse*, *The Vampire Diaries*, *The Magicians*, *The Walking Dead* and *The 100*. Women were offed, too, in *Vikings*, *Arrow*, *Hap and Leonard* and *Last Tango in Halifax*.

A few of the most jarring murders really stuck in my craw in 2016. The Season 3 finale of *Sleepy Hollow* killed off African-American female lead Nicole Beharie as 'motivation' for the show's white, male lead. Though Beharie reportedly wanted to leave the show, we're a little baffled by the 200+ lifespan of her male co-lead in comparison.

Then, a mere week after Beharie's departure, The Blacklist went and killed off Liz Keen, played by Megan Boones. Pregnant Liz died in a car accident trying to make an escape from Mr Solomon. Her child survived the accident, because TV hasn't quite turned the killing of babies into an art yet, leaving male lead Tom a widower and single parent. How topical! How heroic!

And, of course, as most things come in threes, this was then followed up by Castle stating that if there were to be a new series, female lead Stana Katic would not be returning to the show.

More recently, we've seen the deaths of half the women in *Westworld*, plus the lobotomising of another (recalling the odious ending to Zack Synder's 'feminist' exploitation flick *Sucker Punch*). Both an aunt and a little girl were killed in *The Shannara Chronicles*. Meanwhile, Barry Allen has to fight probability to prevent the future death of girlfriend Iris West in *The Flash*, countering claims the show is too light by falling back on a familiar trope.

#### **KILLING YOUR DARLINGS**

The majority of dead women in TV die either due to a tragic accident or by gunshot, mimicking real life in America, where the majority of gun-related murders are of women by known men... However, some female leads have come to even more graphically violent ends – such as *Jane the Virgin's* Rose, who was strangled to death. This is, of course, not factoring in the ugly presence of sexual violence – which proliferates throughout TV at an unhealthy pace beyond even the murder of women and minorities.

Crime series (and crime films and novels), often open with the corpse of a murdered woman and occasionally linger over the violent ends of their female 'victims'. Most often, the killing off of a

female character is used as a lazy gutwrencher, designed to elicit sympathy for a male hero, or to spur him on his quest for justice. Westworld pastiched this in several places, where violence against Dolores was used and called out as a call to action for both William and Teddy – and yet, it couldn't help indulging the worn desire to revel in that same violence with its constant close-ups of suffering women and the repetitious killing of those women through their various 'loops'.

#### **BURY YOUR GAYS**

iDead Lesbian Syndrome' – a term used by TV critics for many years now – is unfortunately becoming ever more present on TV. We wept for Tara in *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* all those years ago, but she was the tip of a very nasty, very persistent iceberg. Likewise, the image of the dead trans prostitute is a new spin on the 'Disposable Sex Worker' trope that has littered the crime genre for decades.

Although we have fewer tragic gay and bisexual men wallowing in shame, and those who do get killed off usually don't die from HIV any more, it's still evident that queer characters meet their ends far sooner than their straight counterparts. TV Tropes has a whole section on the phenomenon, known as 'Bury Your Gays'.

#### **DIVERSITY IN WRITING**

There is a rather simple solution to inhibit this trend and that is to simply have more leading roles for women and marginalised groups – and giving them good plotlines. Too often, a token minority is brought in as just that – a token, who appears as a minor role and then disappears or gets murdered when they're no longer useful. This makes them easily disposable when their creator gets bored or if studio execs demand dramatic shake-ups to revive limp storylines.

If asking scriptwriters to give our women and minority actors good roles seems too difficult, that can only mean one thing – we need to shake up the TV writing scene. There are few POC, queer and female writers in senior positions in TV and this shows in the way that scripts are written and the number of two-dimensional characters that are created. Lived experience helps a writer inform and build their characters.

Conclusion: unless script writing gets a much needed refresh (and reflects modern society), we'll be watching the deaths of the likes of Tara over and over again.

# Top 10 Ways to Make The BIGDay Gay By Ofer Yatziv

etween 29 March 2014 and October 2015, 150,098 same-sex couples walked down the aisle. Meanwhile, elsewhere in the world, same-sex marriage is becoming legal at a steady rate. But while same-sex marriage in most countries typically entitles couples to the very same rights as heterosexual married couples, there's no denying that same-sex marriage differs significantly from your average straight marriage...

In part, this comes down to history.
Stereotypically speaking, for heterosexual couples marriage has always been on the table – something they've most likely at least envisioned in their future at some stage. For same-sex couples, the possibility has only very recently become real.

While marriage for heterosexual couples is a celebration of their individual love, for LGBT couples, it's also a celebration of their newfound rights – and a chance to be visible, open and proud of their identities. With this in mind, we thought it was high time we crafted a specific, helpful list of tips for same-sex couples preparing to tie the knot. . .

#### 1. TIMING IS EVERYTHING

As any stand-up comedian will tell you, timing is everything. Picking the perfect date is essential if you want to enjoy the attendance of all of your loved ones on your big day. Give three months' notice to allow guests to book time off work. Outside of May to August you'll get more from your budget.

#### 2. DON'T UNDERESTIMATE THE COST

Whatever you think your dream wedding is going to cost, it's going to cost more. Set a budget below what you can reasonably afford and work as hard as possible to keep to that.

Ensure, however, that you hold a reserve to prevent finding yourself in hot water.

#### 3. MAKE UP YOUR OWN RULES

One way to help minimise your budget (or indeed exceed it decadently!) is to do things your way. There's no 'right', 'wrong' or expected way to do same-sex marriage. Talk about what you really want, consider why you want to tie the knot, and then come up with ideas which allow you to really express yourselves.

#### 4. DON'T PLEASE OTHER PEOPLE

Don't actively displease your guests, but remember that this day is for you. If there are family members who are likely to make your day more stressful, don't invite them. This is a day for celebrating your love.

#### 5. BE CREATIVE WITH TRADITION

Who says an engagement has to happen with one person on bended knee? Who says stag or hen dos have to be separate or gender-specific? Who says "bridesmaids" have to be female and grooms need "best men"? This is your day and (refreshingly) there is no cheesy rulebook for queer weddings.

#### 6. FIND A VENUE WHICH REFLECTS YOU...

...and which you feel comfortable in. Unless you and/or your betrothed are religious, there is a wealth of unique, non-church venues out there to choose from.

#### 7. BE COMFORTABLE WITH YOUR SUPPLIERS

From your tailor or dressmaker, to your florist, caterer and events manager, there are dozens of people you'll be working with closely as you plan and eventually host your wedding. It's

important that you feel comfortable with every one of them.

#### 8. TAKE CENTRE STAGE

We've said it before and we'll say it again: this is your day. It's not always second nature for LGBT couples to express their love and affection publicly and make it the centre of attention, but your wedding is your opportunity to proudly and loudly celebrate your love.

#### 9. BE PATIENT WITH PARENTS

No two families are the same, but it's possible that your parents are going to have plenty of opinions about your big day. This is an occasion for celebration, not bickering, so understand and appreciate their desire for involvement (and their – maybe misguided – good intentions), acknowledge this, then take some time to explain your personal reasons behind any decision they quibble with.

#### 10. IT'S THE EXPERIENCE, NOT THE PERFORMANCE

Amidst all the planning and preparation, it can be only too easy get lost in the details.

Ultimately, it's important to remember that your wedding is all about creating a special day that you and your love will remember fondly for the rest of your lives.

Ofer Yatziv
currently works as a sales
and marketing manager at
BetterVenues.org.uk. With over 15
years of experience in the events
industry, he has worked across a
variety of roles as a producer of live
events and weddings, as well as
coordinating national and
international theatre tours



EVERYFEBRUARY

#### PRESENTED BY SCHOOLS OUT UK

Lesbian Gay Bisexual Trans

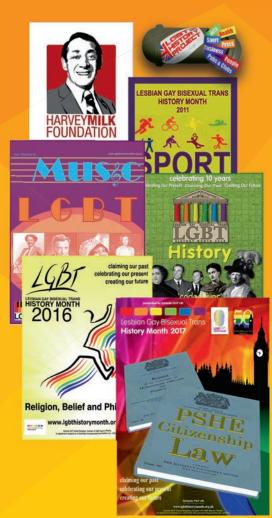
**HISTORY MONTH** 

LGBT HM is celebrated in February in the UK but our work continues throughout the year. The overall aim of LGBT History month is to promote equality and diversity for then benfit of the public.

LGBT HM celebrates the lives and achivments of LGBT people in all their diversity.

LGBT HM highlights the lives of LGBT heros and icons to give LGBT people of all ages role models to aspire to in their own, and build their self-esteem.

LGBT HM shows the contribution made to civilisation by LGBT people.



**CLAIMING OUR PAST** 

**CELEBRATING OUR PRESENT** 

**CREATING OUR FUTURE** 



Charitable Incorporated Organisation No. 1156352

Schools OUT UK - the charity that created LGBT History Month, The National Festival Of LGBT History and The Classroom - have been campaigning since 1974. Our over-arching aim is to make our schools safe and inclusive for everyone.

We want to educate OUT prejudice.

#### To do this we need:

- To provide both a formal and informal support network for all people who want to raise the issue of homophobia, biphobia, transphobia and heterosexism in education.
- To campaign on lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans issues as they affect education and those in education.
- To research, debate and stimulate curriculum development on LGBT issues.
- To work towards unison between teacher and lecturer unions and other professional stakeholders in education.

#### **DONATE!**

Donate by PayPal - go to the www.lgbthistorymonth.org.uk homepage, open the 'about' page from the list on the left, then click on the 'donate' button halfway down.

A new page opens that allows you to enter your donation. Then send! Or you can become a member for only £20 per year (individual) or £50 per year for a union branch. You can also buy our annual badge via the History Month website for only £3.

#### **GET INVOLVED!**

\* Check out our websites \* Like us on Facebook \* Follow us on Twitter \* Join our mailing list and receive our free bulletin - Get The Knowledge \* Organise an event in February - put it on our Calendar \* Become an individual member \* Ask your union branch or work association to affiliate \* Visit our online shop and buy a badge or keyring (we receive no core funding) - it has a different design each year and is designed by University of Bedfordshire design students.

**Email us:** info@schools-out.org.uk

Write to us: BM Schools OUT UK, London WC1N 3XX

CEO: Tony Fenwick (tonyfenwickceo@schools-out.org.uk) 07402 916 200 Chair: Sue Sanders (suesanders@schools-out.org.uk) 07960 493 544

## 10 LGBT BOOKS FOR YOUR BOOKSHELF

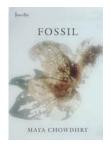
Because our stories often go untold, we have to tell our own stories. Likewise, in order to hear our stories, we usually have to seek them out because they're not as immediately available as the glut of stories featuring cis and heterosexual people. In order to make that search easier, we highlight nine of our favourite recent publications from across genres and across the LGBT spectrum



#### **Amiable Warriors**

Peter Scott-Presland (Paradise Press, 2015) Volume One, A Space to Breathe, traces the Campaign for Homosexual Equality from its 1964 origins.

#### RRP: £35.00



#### **Fossil**

Maya Chowdhury (Peepal Tree Press, 2016) The voices of nature speak about the environment and how humans are enslaving the planet for their own gain.

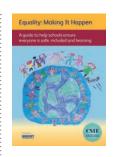
#### RRP: £6.99



#### Reader, I Married Him & Other Queer Goings-O

Dorothea Smartt (Peepal Tree Press, 2014) Exploring queer love from the Caribbean to Amsterdam, this collection is subversive, radical, and surprisingly panoramic.

#### RRP: £4.99



#### Equality: Making It Happen

(CSIE, 2016)
An award-winning and user-friendly guide to help schools promote equality.

#### RRP: £75.00



#### Paralian: Not Just Transgende

Liam Klenk (Matador, 2016)
Written with humour, this memoir of celebrates life through connections with bodies of water.

#### RRP: £11.99



#### Natalie and Romaine: The Lives and Loves of Natalie Barney and Romaine Brook

Diana Souhami (riverrun, 2013) Meeting in 1915, Natalie Barney and Romaine Brooks were rich Americans whose relationship lasted over 50 years.

#### RRP • £12 99



#### Over the Rainbow: Money, Class & Homophobia

Nicola Field (Dog Horn Publishing)
Confronts the contradictions in the
LGBT movement and contains a key
account from Lesbians and Gays
Support the Miners.

#### RRP- £19 90



#### Read Me Like A Book

Liz Kessler (Orion, 2015)
Read Me Like A Book is a
three-dimensional coming-ofage story which offers routes to
different destinies.

#### RRP: £10.99



#### **SPOKE:** New Queer Voices

ed. Adam Lowe (Dog Horn Publishing) SPOKE showcases a new generation of LGBT writers, including Jamal Gerald, Jane Bradley, David Tait, Jackie Hagan, Tara Ali Din, Andrew McMillan, Markie Burnhope, Keith Jarrett and Janette Ayachi.

#### RRP: £14.99



#### Prejudice and Pride: LGBT Activist Stories from Manchester and Beyond

'This book will make you look back with gratitude and astonishment for what has been achieved.' Sir Ian McKellen

#### RRP: £10.99



You can win copies of SPOKE: New Queer Voices and Over the Rainbow: Money, Class and Homophobia. Turn to page 52 for more information!

There are a number of LGBT-friendly and LGBT-owned bookshops still in operation in the UK. We recommend Gay's the Word, Woolfson & Tay and Bookmarks in London; Aspidistra Books and Chapter One in Manchester; News from Nowhere in Liverpool; Calton Books in Glasgow; Five Leaves Bookshop in Nottingham; and Radish Books in Leeds.



Burnley Central Library: 18 & 25 February - 12 noon and 2pm

Martin Harris Centre, Manchester: 24 February - 7.30pm

The Bluecoat, Liverpool: 4 March - 5.30pm

Director Matt Hassall

Details #burnleyplays @inkbrew











#### NEVER GOING UNDERGROUND: AN EXHIBITION OF LGBT ACTIVISM

Never Going Underground takes its name from the campaigning and protesting against Section 28, an infamous piece of legislation that forbade the 'promotion of homosexuality' and which saw the UK's largest ever gathering for LGBT rights in Manchester in 1988. The exhibition is the culmination of almost two years of intensive work. The season-long programme will include exhibitions, events, community projects and a schools programme.

Catherine O'Donnell from the People's History Museum says, 'Never Going Underground isn't just about a moment in history, it's about the activism, campaigning, people's stories, past and current issues facing the LGBT+ community. Manchester itself is a huge part of this story and, as the home of ideas worth fighting for, we are hugely

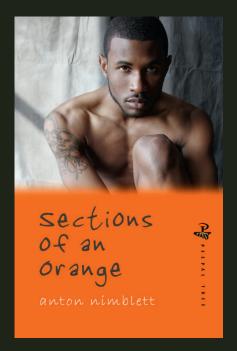
excited about the plans we have in place to mark the 50th anniversary of the 1967 Sexual Offences Act.'

Four partners are working with the People's History Museum on Never Going Underground: The Proud Trust, LGBT Foundation, Proud 2b Parents and Manchester Lesbian and Gay Chorus. The project is supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund.

The Proud Trust, in partnership with The People's History Museum, also presents the LGBT History Month 2017 Education and Resource Pack. A simple, easy-to-use three-lesson pack that allows you to explore 'Citizenship, PSHE and Law' in secondary schools and youth clubs. Download your free copy from the resources section of The Proud Trust website: theproudtrust.org.

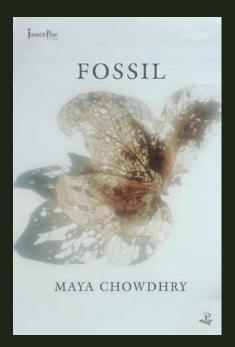
Never Going Underground: The Fight for LGBT+ Rights is on display at Left Bank, Spinningfields, Manchester. It runs from 25 February 2017 until Sunday 3 September 2017. Family-friendly and no booking required. In order to keep the exhibitions programme affordable to everyone, please consider making a donation. The suggested donation is just £5. For further information on the People's History Museum visit phm.org.uk.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ON THE PEOPLE'S HISTORY MUSEUM VISIT PHM.ORG.UK SUPPORTED BY THE HERITAGE LOTTERY FUND.

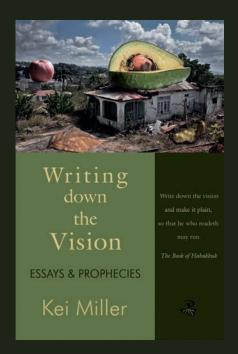


Fossil explores the impact of human activity on climate change though a post-colonial lens and from the perspective of all life on earth including plants, creatures, elements and inanimate objects.

Anton Nimblett's stories are about characters driven by desire - for dignity and justice for a dead son, for privacy from a neighbour who collects lives, for sexual fulfilment as a gay man, for an old man's last assertion of love for a dying wife, for a man on the edge trying to block out past pains.



#### LGBT in the Caribbean



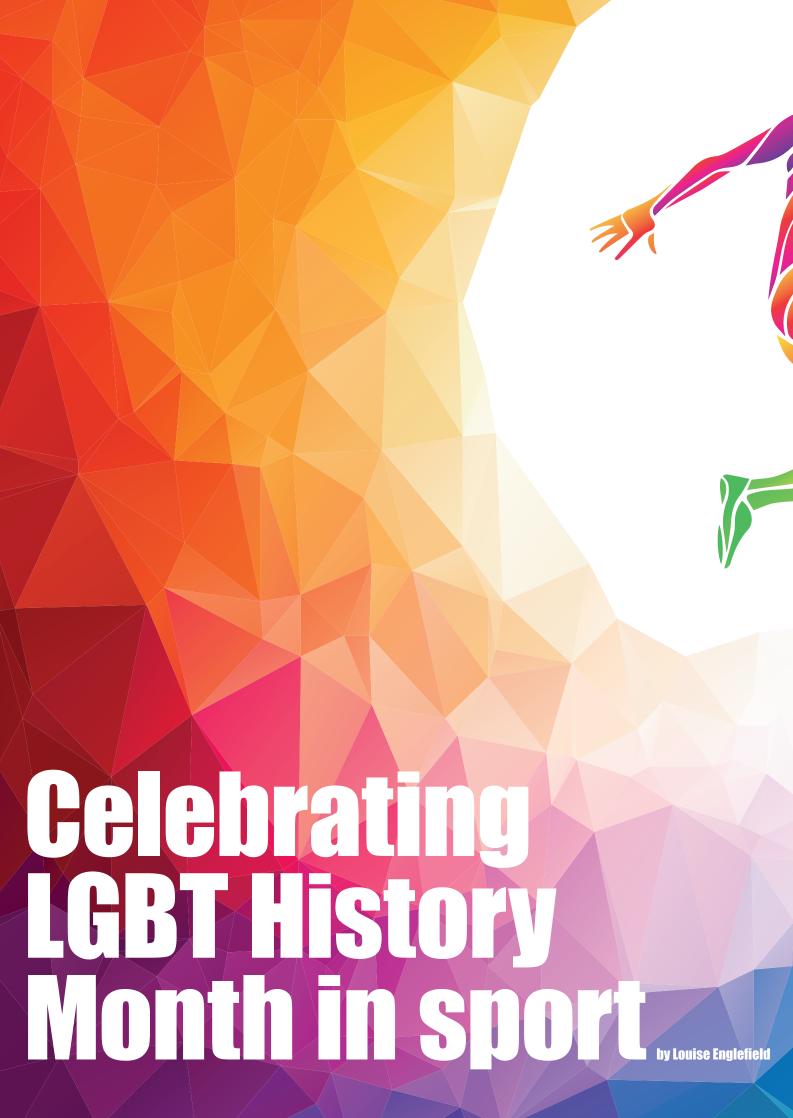
Colin Robinson's long-awaited debut collection, *You Have You Father Hard Head*, represents a nuanced but unswerving engagement with desire and intimacy as he explores what it means to be a Caribbean son negotiating the complexities of relationships between men.

When Kei Miller describes these as essays and prophecies, he shares with the reader a sensibility in which the sacred and the secular, belief and scepticism, and vision and analysis engage in profound and lively debate.





Peepal Tree is a wholly independent company, founded in 1985, and now publishing around 20 books a year. We have published over 300 titles, and are committed to keeping most of them in print. The list features new writers and established voices. In 2009 we launched the Caribbean Modern Classics Series, which restores to print essential books from the past with new introductions. We are grateful for financial support from Arts Council England. Arts Council funding allows us to sustain Inscribe, a writer development project that supports writers of African & Asian descent in England.







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With the Government Inquiry into homophobia in sport well underway, there has been plenty of news recently about barriers to participation facing LGBT people in sport. The more obvious ones, of course, being homophobic chants at football matches and the casual homophobia of school playground football games.

LGBT History Month provides us with a unique opportunity to bring LGBT achievements in sport to the fore, to tell the stories of those athletes who have not only achieved sporting excellence, but have also overcome adversity; invisibility, silence and sometimes hostility to reach the top.

For example, schools, sports facilities and clubs can create visual displays about LGBT participation in sport, and these can include profiles of LGBT sporting heroes. Just search 'LGBT Athletes' online and several Wikipedia pages will give you lists and profiles of performance athletes who have come out as lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender across many different sports.

Of course, celebrating LGBT participation in sport is not just about acknowledging those who have succeeded at the highest levels, it's about visibility at all stages on the sports pathway.

One consequence of the exclusion faced by LGBT people in sport historically has been the development of a vibrant global LGBT sports community.

This LGBT sports provision extends from grassroots sports clubs in many of the UK's cities, which you can see the Pride Sports Club Map: pridesports.org.uk/lgbt-sports-clubs-map/ to international governing bodies of LGBT sport, such as the governing body for tennis, GLTA (glta.net), for football, IGLFA

(iglfa.org) and for aquatics, IGLA (igla.org), as well as international multi sport federations, such as EGLSF (eglsf.info), GLISA (glisa.org) and the Federation of Gay Games (gaygames.org).

In 2017 the World Outgames is being held in Miami with 450 sporting events and a global human rights conference. Whilst the 2018 Gay Games in Paris anticipates 15,000 participants, making it comparable in scale to the Rio summer Olympic and Paralympic Games.

There are also the organisations working in the UK to increase access to sport by LGBT people. These include LEAP Sports in Scotland, LGBT Sport Cymru in Wales and Pride Sports in England. These organisations have resources available on their websites and may be able to provide expert speakers for LGBT History Month events from their networks. The British Athletes Commission also has an online service athletesdirect.org through which schools and other organisations can request speakers from the elite athlete community.

If football is your sport, the Football v Homophobia campaign holds its Month of Action in February.

Launched in 2010 as an international day against homophobia, biphobia and transphobia in football on February 19, the late Justin Fashanu's birthday, the campaign now encourages football to take action during the whole of February to coincide with LGBT History Month. More information can be found on the website footballvhomophobia.org.

Of course, sport is somewhere we can celebrate LGBT participation both off and on the pitch, so if you don't fancy creating displays, or holding an event, why not designate a game, match, tournament, gala or any kind of sporting event in February to LGBT History Month? It's a great way to showcase inclusion and you can share information with your supporters, spectators or followers in a programme or on social media.

If you would like support with any events/ activities during February, please get in touch with:

- LGBT Sport Cymru (Wales) lgbtsport.cymru
- LEAP Sports (Scotland) leapsports.org
- Pride Sports (England) pridesports.org.uk



### My Sexuality by Adele Fraser

Is not frozen, static. It is not ice; you cannot hack it down the middle in a neat divide; think of aspects, not of sides. It is no canal, no man-made trench, which you could dig and plot, define, direct. It is a natural body of water, running its course organic, in twists and turns, meandering but not confused; the scenic route holds gorgeous views. Its path may not be straight, but, still, it's true my unknown ocean, I drift, I flow, I rush to you.

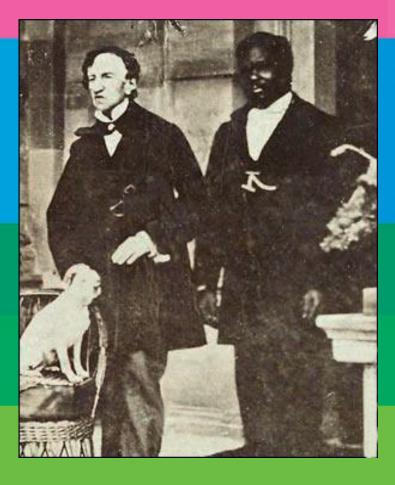
Adele Fraser's poems have appeared in Vada Magazine, Envoi, Orbis, The Interpreter's House, Poetry Salzburg and Ink, Sweat & Tears (among others). Her debut chapbook will be published later this year (Eyewear).



# SCIENCE

James Barry

(c.1795-1865)



Irish surgeon

Served as military surgeon in India and South Africa, where he improved conditions for wounded soldiers and inhabitants

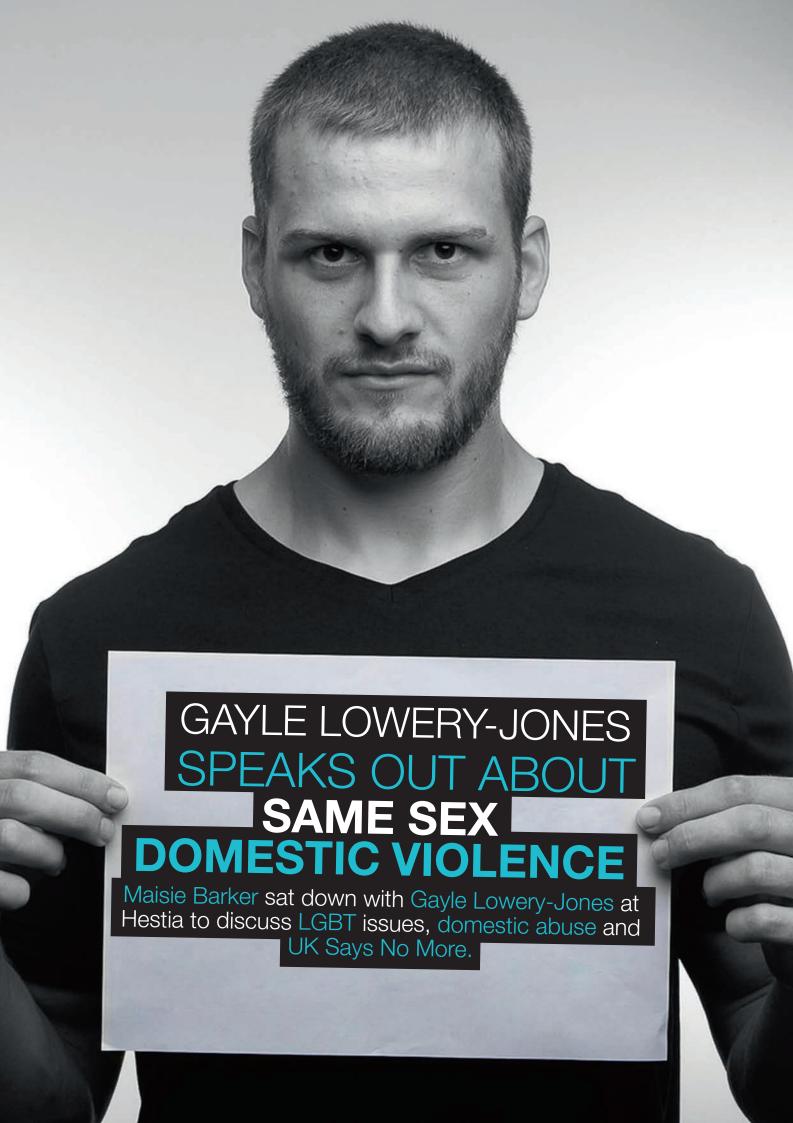
Transgender man





9 York LGBT History Month and Schools OUT UK 2016.

dassroom



#### MAISIE: SO CAN YOU EXPLAIN WHAT HESTIA DOES AND WHAT YOUR ROLE IN THE ORGANISATION IS?

Gayle: We are a charity supporting people in crisis to become more independent in their lives. My role is Deputy Director of Operations. We provide a range of services including domestic abuse refuges. Whereas other organisations might focus solely on homelessness or mental health, we recognise that often these issues manifest together – for example, a woman fleeing domestic violence will usually have mental health problems as a result of trauma. Our aim is to use a more cohesive approach.

We don't want people to become overly dependent on the provision of the refuge because it has to be a stepping stone to them achieving independence. There are some people who will always need a level of support throughout their lives – but for the majority of people our approach has to be one of lightest touch, shortest time. A lot of what we do is about positive risk taking, letting people try things with a safety net.

#### WHAT HAS YOUR PERSONAL RESPONSE BEEN TO THE UK SAYS NO MORE CAMPAIGN?

I've been involved in promoting and talking about UK SAYS NO MORE and the importance of supporting LGBTQ people who might be experiencing difficulties or who have complex needs. Domestic Abuse within same sex relationships is a significant issue. Reports show that around 25% - 33% of lesbian, gay and bisexual people experience violent or threatening relationships with partners or ex-partners. This is appropriately at the same level as opposite sex couples although it is likely that this figure is significantly under-reported due to fear of sexual orientation being 'outed' and a fear of the response from the police preventing disclosure.

The experiences of those who do report same sex DA is concerning with a range of myths prevailing within services such as the police. For example, that a woman cannot be raped or sexually abused by another woman, or that same sex domestic abuse is not a real issue because it is between two women or men and therefore 'more equal' or even 'mutual' if a victim retaliates. That men who experience DA are weak and not real men, that DA in same sex couples is easier to escape as they won't have children and are less likely to be in a legal partnership, and that all LGBT people are promiscuous and may deserve it.

These myths are unacceptable and all services offering support and safety to victims of same sex domestic violence, including our DA Refuges, need to be attuned to the reality of the situation – that domestic abuse is not solely about physical abuse by any means, that rape and sexual abuse are prevalent and the impact of coercive control between two people of the same sex is as damaging and traumatic as between people of the opposite sex.

LGBT people do have families and entwined finances, and the decision to flee DA is as difficult for those in same sex relationships as for those in heterosexual relationships. Many people in same sex couples have experienced homophobia or biphobia and have had to fight against prejudice, often from close family, in order to live authentic lives with their partners. Having to disclose DA in those circumstances may prevent someone doing so, with the consequence that they stay with their abusive partner for longer, experiencing more incidents of escalating DA.

Survivors of DA may also have genuine fears of their sexual orientation being 'outed' in the process of their engagement with support services. This adds a layer of trauma for survivors of DA meaning that they have to contend with the DA itself, as well as consequences that family, friends and their employers may find out that they are LGBT at the same time. The fear of experiencing rejection

at the stage when they need support the most can cause such conflict that it silences survivors from speaking out or fleeing DA.

Our campaign has intentionally been as inclusive as possible. We can't afford to exclude anybody from thinking that it could happen to them or their neighbour. While there remains the fact that domestic abuse is a gendered issue and that significantly more women are affected by it than men, having campaigns like this that are very inclusive is also important.

The profile of celebrity supporters like Eddie Izzard has been invaluable. It's vital that we reach young people who, especially with access to the internet and much more graphic sexual material, need to be able to understand what is acceptable and have the confidence to say no and talk about the issues.

#### SO HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE HESTIA AND THE UK SAYS NO MORE CAMPAIGN PROGRESS IN THE NEAR FUTURE AND LONG-TERM?

It's everybody's responsibility to raise awareness and look after each other. It's not okay to have a situation where everybody knows there is domestic abuse but no one talks about it. I think that starts with understanding what it is - it's not necessarily a man smacking his wife around the face. It can be subtle, including coercive control, which really damages people's self-esteem. It makes it really difficult for people to make what may seem like very sensible decisions about leaving, because of the cycle they're trapped in and of having to survive at all costs.

People may be physically abused and their brain is telling them that the only way to survive is to stay still. And I think that's very difficult for many people to get their heads around. You see it in the media now, in terms of sexual assault, with people saying that they don't understand why a victim didn't fight back. But it makes sense when you think about the neurological processes that are going on. You've worn this groove in your coping mechanism and you're going to fall back on what you know, on a way of behaving that keeps you alive. It doesn't necessarily keep you safe but it keeps you alive. And for a lot of women it's completely unconscious and it's just about survival or protecting their children.

That's why we use abuse as a term, that it's not just about the physical violence. And for some of our women they are never physically abused, but the coercive control they were under for so long is so traumatising that it takes a long time to recover from it.

There are a number of specialist services which offer specific information and support for people from the LGBT community experiencing domestic abuse. In addition local Independent Domestic Violence Advocates are run by a range of providers and available nationwide to offer support and guidance in high risk situations.

For further information or support please contact:
LGBT Domestic Abuse Partnership: lgbtdap.org.uk
Broken Rainbow: brokenrainbow.org.uk / 0800 999 5428
Lesbian and Gay Switchboard Helpline: 020 7837 7324 / llgs.org.uk

### UK SAYS NORE

TOGETHER WE CAN END DOMESTIC VIOLENCE & SEXUAL ASSAULT

**COMPETITION TIME** WIN A LEVI'S® JACKET

For a chance to win a gorgeous custom LGBT History Month jacket from Levi's®, tweet a picture of you holding our magazine to @LGBTHM with the hashtags #educateOUTprejudice and #levispride. We'll showcase some of the best! For an extra chance to win, you can also send the picture via Instagram. Users who tag us on both Instagram and Twitter will be entered into the hat twice.

**WIN A DMK SKIN TREATMENT** AT HOME GIFT SET

The gift set retails at £127.00 and includes the following DMK Skin products

- DMK Deep Pore Cleanser
- DMK Foamy Lift Masque
- DMK Exoderma Peel
- DMK Masque Brush & Mixing Bowl
- DMK Cosmetic Bag

For a chance to get your hands on this gift set, like us on Facebook and tag us in a photo that captures the essence of your LGBT History Month #lgbthmuk

#### WIN A COPY OF

**SPOKE: NEW QUEER VOICES** 

OVER THE RAINBOW: MONEY, CLASS AND HOMOPHOBIA

If you'd like to win one of 20 copies, drop us an email telling us how or why you celebrate LGBT History Month (up to 300 words). Include a picture and we'll feature the very best submissions in the next issue of our magazine.



**LGBTHistoryMonth** 



@LGBTHM



adam@adam-lowe.com **Terms and conditions:** All entries must be received by 23:59 on 30 April 2017. Results posted within 30 days of close. By submitting your stories and photos, you consent to allow Schools OUT UK to publish them in the magazine and confirm that you have the right to use any materials submitted. Visit lgbthistorymonth co.uk for more information and updates.



### CITIZENSHIP

### Stephen Whittle

(1955-)



Photo: Jayne Russell

British trans activist and writer

Co-founded trans rights organisation Press for Change

Awarded prestigious Human Rights Award by civil rights group Liberty

Transgender man





PRESENTS

OUTing the Past





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### A brief history of The London Gay Teenage

By Steven Power

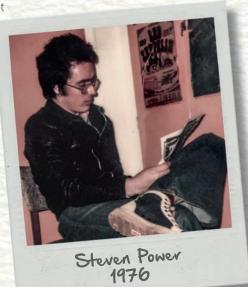
he London Gay Teenage Group (LGTG) formed in autumn 1976. The first LGBT group for young people in the world, it represented a significant turning point in our history and was run by and for under-21s ignored by the authorities.

In the 1970s, it was unusual for young people to come out. I was a working class lad from a Dagenham council estate whose needs were glossed over in sex education classes as a passing phase. Like many others, I was isolated and confused. Living with my parents, I worked as a trainee colour matcher. I'd been strong enough to come out to a former classmate who introduced me to my friend Simon Basler.

Simon and I plucked up the courage to call the London Gay Switchboard from a phonebox at Chadwell Heath High Road, Dagenham. We got the Switchboard's number from among the cards inside. I can remember the excitement and apprehension as I dialled. A man named Phillip Cox answered and offered some advice about London LGBT venues. But once he knew our ages, he gave us the opportunity to attend a meeting at LGTG's new premises in Holloway Road. Despite my nerves, LGTG gave me the confidence to be openly gay. I am proud to have been at the

start of a movement that led to many of the freedoms young LGBT people have today in the UK.

Philip Cox
co-formed the
LGTG with his
housemate Paul
at their council flat
in Bath Street.
Shortly after, Philip
moved LGTG to
Grapevine's
premises on
Holloway Road, a
sex education
drop-in centre for
young people. Philip



left LGTG soon after but he was a great activist and encouraged me to take a leading role.

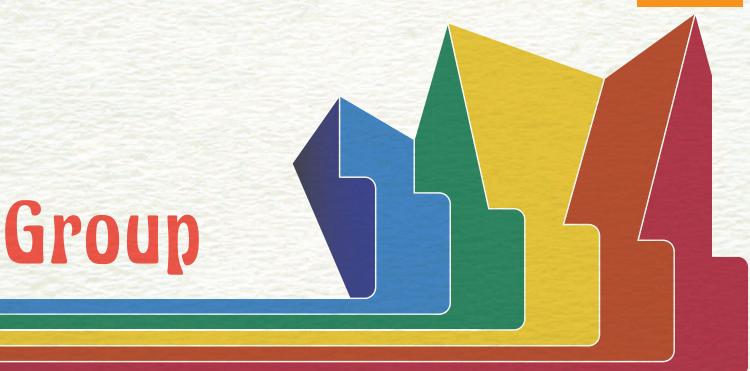
I was elected first young chairperson of LGTG and came out to my parents and friends - but I was forced to leave home by my father. I harnessed my creative energy and moved to Finsbury Park, sharing a house with my partner Danny Baker. We lived with Gary Barker, a couple called Keith and Thomas, and musician Jimmy Somerville.

As members of LGTG, we faced alienation from adult LGBT organisations, who feared they would be arrested for supporting us. Only a few brave voluntary organisations put their weight behind us - namely Icebreakers, Grapevine and London Friend. We operated a

drop-in facility on Sunday afternoons with music, coffee, discussions, a pen-pal service, and a telephone helpline. We offered a meetand-greet service, as well as trips, and produced a members' magazine and life-story publications - all on pocket-money contributions. We tackled prejudice against young LGBT people and were hounded by police - who followed members



and undertook surveillance of our premises. The group was eventually supported by a wider range of organisations. Famous politicians and musicians of the time paid visits, took part in benefits in our aid and talked to members. People such as Tom Robinson, Wayne County and Alan Freeman helped immensely. We set up our own music and video productions, supporting Jimmy Somerville and other musicians, and gave talks to other youth groups.



But I faced a right-wing backlash from the Festival of Light, overseen by the infamous Mary Whitehouse. I was up for 'conspiracy to corrupt public morals' (section 5(3) Criminal Law Act 1977). If prosecuted, I faced a maximum sentence of 10 years in prison. It was the time of the trial against Denis Lemon, editor of Gay News - accused of blasphemy by printing a poem suggesting Jesus might be gay. Mary Whitehouse brought about a successful prosecution. Lemon was fined £500 and sentenced to nine months' imprisonment, suspended for 18 months and subsequently quashed by the Court of Appeal.

I was next. But with significant support from a variety of donors, including some prominent MPs, we sought a Queen's Council ruling which established the right of young people to meet regardless of their sexuality. A number of people supported me, including Micky Burbidge of Icebreakers, politicians, and others involved in the LGBT community. Without them I would have ended up in prison.

LGTG became the first ever LGBT youth group to be recognised by the Inner London Education Authority. We were the only youth

group to be asked to appear and state our case at ILEA London Youth Committee. Thanks to a lot of campaigning we obtained fully registered status and were able to bid for resource support. It was a major victory and changed the way the group was funded, but LGTG continued to be led by its members and not the workers.

We didn't stop there. I went to the Houses of Parliament with Rose Robinson of Parents Enquiry to hold the first meeting with leading politicians, including Edward Heath, on the age of consent. It was a productive meeting and paved the way for the eventual equalisation of the age of consent. As LGTG expanded, we moved to Manor Gardens near Archway and developed a

young women. I later did an interview about my life with Professor Jeffrey Weeks OBE for BBC's Open University.

LGTG ran for many decades. It expanded, took on youth workers

whole host of new initiatives, including widening our support to

LGTG ran for many decades. It expanded, took on youth workers and helped establish the International Gay Youth Movement. LGTG undertook major schools projects and produced publications supporting the development of LGBT youth groups around the world. Many of the members who passed through LGTG went on to lead more stable and supported lives and became part of a wider and developing community.

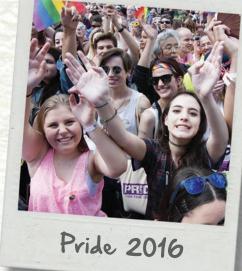
I really did burn out as a teenager. The pressure was immense - the possible court action from Whitehouse, the constant pressure from police observation, the task of supporting the thousands of young LGBT people who contacted the group, the publications, the trips, the helpline, the press enquiries. It was a massive undertaking and took its toll.

At 21, I decided to leave the spotlight. After LGTG, I ran The Essex Gay Youth Helpline from my flat in Barking, along with Simon Basler, Martin Collins, John Dunn and others. Martin was still at LGTG as well, so understood what they were doing. We then moved The

Essex Gay Youth Helpline to a resource centre in Dagenham and set up an LGBT youth group in East London, where many isolated young people still needed support.

I eventually led a very successful career as a youth worker supporting thousands of young people across London boroughs. I am proud to have helped build some of London's most iconic facilities, and helped unemployed youth when working for Capital Radio's Jobmate Project.

I am now retired with a tumour and gently undertake my passions. I have been a photographer all my life and have had works exhibited in a variety of London venues. I'm a co-founder of Gay Photographers Network (GPN), and recently exhibited at the London Guildhall Money and Power exhibition. I believe it is important that my experiences should be available for others to see. The hard work and dedication of LGTG and its supporters made a real change. I hope young people today can see that if I - a 17-year-old lad from a working class background - could help build something so vital, despite all the obstacles, they can make a difference too.



### GFST - Gaywise FESTival®

#### 10 years of diversity in LGBT art

London's eclectic Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer and Intersex (LGBTQI) cross-art festival showcases film screenings, art exhibition and performance works by LGBTQI artists, filmmakers and practitioners from diverse backgrounds, an annual event in November also includes debates and talks.

GFEST – Gaywise FESTival 2016 concluded with music and new dance performances at RADA Studios on 19 November. Organised by arts Charity Wise Thoughts, the festival successfully completed its ninth year and it has been recognised by many as one of the most diverse LGBTQI festivals in UK. The festival showcases diversity of art forms (films, music, dance, performances, visual arts events, along with creative writing, debates and more). The organisers are planning GFEST 2017 events, including the theme and programme, to mark the 10th anniversary of the festival.

GFEST 2017 dates: Monday 13 November to Saturday 25 November 2017. The full programme will be announced at gaywisefestival.org.uk after August 2017.



### LGBTE Arts Festival

by Moira Wadde

The LGBTE Arts Festival is dedicated to emerging artists from all over the world. It promotes artistic production inspired and/or devoted to all things LGBT.

"NoBody is Perfect" is the title and the main theme of the ninth festival, which will be held in May 2017 in Turin (Italy). The expression quotes the last line of the famous film *Some Like It Hot* by Billy Wilder, and is a pun on the double meaning of no one is perfect and no body is perfect.

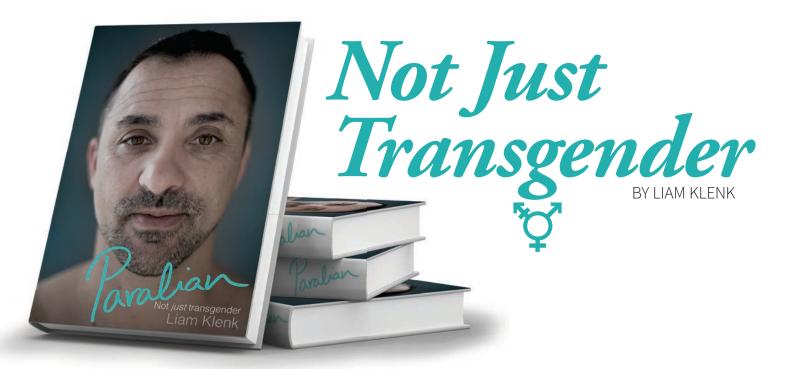
The festival wants to explore the theme of the body and its vital role in individual lives. It is a reflection on self-perception, identity, freedom and uniqueness; and also a reflection on the boundless power of love. The producers endeavour to lead an artistic investigation into different ways of living and experiencing the body, and different kinds of bodies, in all meanings of the word.

May 2017 / lgbtearts.com





Shahria Sharmin - Call me Heena



Liam Klenk, author of Paralian: Not Just Transgender, examines the public's view of trans people in the wake of the toilet debate in America.

'I was Liam, and something inside my soul knew with absolute certainty he was who I had been all my life. More than ever, I was confident to not let my life be controlled by clichés and abstract societal constructs. I had just escaped one prison and saw no reason to voluntarily admit myself to the next one. I knew I was a man – not by anyone else's standards but by my own.' (Excerpt from Paralian, Chapter 10)

For many, 'transgender' is an abstract concept – someone wanting to be another gender, a freak of nature, on the fringe, scary, maybe even someone to be hated and despised for their otherness.

It is not surprising that more than 1,000 trans individuals worldwide become victims of hate crimes each year. They are being bludgeoned, stabbed, stoned, shot, and beaten to death. Most of these crimes happen on the North and South American continent.

How much smarter were the indigenous tribes of North America. Most of these tribes accepted and honoured up to nine different genders. Every shade of what we nowadays classify 'LGBT' was present. These people were integrated into society, even revered as having special powers. Most of all they were allowed to simply be who they are.

In the 'civilized' world we lost touch with who we were as a species. Instead of celebrating diversity we saw merit in structuring and regulating society to the point of suffocation. And we went out there to 'educate the savages'... As a result, the world became more narrowminded instead of growing onward and outward.

The whole bathroom discussion we are witnessing lately in the US highlights the fact that a large percentage of the world population nowadays still sees our world with frightening small-mindedness. Many have no idea what transgender really means.

Politicians say, 'Why should we allow a grown man to use the woman's bathroom?'

Really? Do we want to look at someone, obviously a woman, albeit born in the wrong body and a bit blurred around the edges, and call her a 'grown man'? Who are we to determine who someone really is? How many of us have stopped and truly talked with someone transgender? I mean actually talked with them, not just watched talk shows sensationalizing the issue?

If you are trans, you were never your birth gender to begin with. I'm a trans man. I came into this world in the body of a girl, yet I was always a boy. Confusing, isn't it?

Believe me, it was and is at times just as confusing for me as it is for you. I'd love to have been born in the 'right' body.

Our physical appearance is just packaging and sometimes, for no apparent reason, the labels have been switched.

Through no fault of their own a small percentage of people (not as small as we think – nearly 15 million worldwide according to the latest UN figures) come into this world and find themselves stranded in a body not fitting their true gender. But gender is a matter of soul, not of body. You know who you are. Deep down, no matter your packaging, you always know. Gender is far more fluid than society allows and far less bound by physical aspects.

As someone very wise recently said to me, 'Who would put themselves through all the hardship, psychological ups and downs, as well as countless surgeries if what they're experiencing weren't real?' Good point.

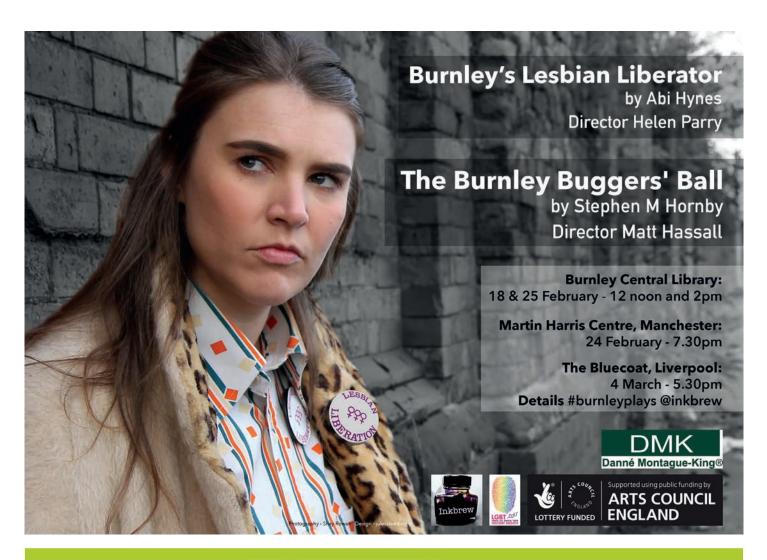
If, like me, you find yourself stranded in difficult circumstances, there is no choice but to move forward and make the most of the cards you've been given. I've made my peace with never having a complete male body. Then again, what is complete? I like who I am. Even though it was traumatising at the time, I'm happy to have lived through almost two decades in the 'wrong' body. These experiences are invaluable and have moulded me into a more compassionate (and in a sense more complete) individual.

In the end, all of us experience difficulties during the course of our lives. If you're trans, being trans is just one element in a life filled with a myriad of challenges. I'm not just transgender. I'm the sum of my experiences: an individual, a human being, a soul in search of being at one with myself just like everyone else out there.

To those still searching – trans or cis, or any stage in between – you know best who you are. Don't let yourself be defined by anyone else's standards but your own.

BE YOURSELF.

Liam Klenk's book, Paralian is available for pre order now on Amazon and will be on general sale at the end of the month.





#### Follow one of our carers, Hanora, on the fast track to fostering

My name is Hanora McCool, I am 62 years old and a mother of five children and ten grandchildren, the youngest being two weeks old and the eldest being 22.

I have been a Foster Carer for 29 years and have fostered 205 children. I have been approved to care for three children from 0 to 11 years.

It is the most rewarding job I have ever done, and even though it can be hard work and often challenging, I couldn't imagine doing any other job.

I have attended many training courses and have completed my Level 3 Diploma in Childcare. I have also received excellent support from my supervising social worker and my extended family. I would say that having a good support network is essential.

#### **Fostering information event: Thursday 23 February 2017** 6pm-8pm

**Hammersmith Town Hall** King Street W6 9JU

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For more events visit www.lbhf.gov.uk/fostering www.rbkc.gov.uk/fostering www.westminster.gov.uk/fostering









### ARE YOU SOCIALLY TRANSITIONED INTO YOUR GENDER ROLE?

here isn't a lot out there about agender people. The only openly agender person I know of is rapper Angel Haze. A lot of trans people aren't even familiar with 'agender'. It's a difficult place to be. How am I supposed to convince cis people that agender is a real thing if I can barely convince trans people?

It shouldn't be a surprise then that, after two years awaiting treatment, I was discharged from the gender identity clinic (GIC) for not being convincing enough. My discharge letter listed the reason for them rejecting my surgery as me not being able to: 'demonstrably consolidate a social transition including name change to the preferred gender role.'

It's not enough that I've been out as agender for years. It's not enough that I had tried to get my chest corrected for six years, even unsuccessfully fundraising – that my nickname is Lola means I'm apparently not serious about how I experience my body.

I was born with a brain malformation that's resulted in blindness in one eye and an inability to produce oestrogen and testosterone. I looked very androgynous growing up. That meant teasing and bullying. It meant people taking it upon themselves to discover my gender through harassment. I doubt much would change in my adult life.

Picking a gender-neutral name won't convince anyone to see me as agender. It wouldn't change the pronouns people use for me. I was honest with the GIC that I didn't plan to change my nickname. I was honest that I don't live in a society that sees me for who I am. To them that meant I was 'okay' with it – but I'm not okay with not being seen for who I am. I just accept I can't control that. I also know that as a disabled bisexual who grew up working class and who isn't thin, my gender is merely one aspect of me that will be derided or ignored. Even if I was seen as agender, it would not change the other aspects of me society doesn't like.

Still, I'm meant to 'demonstrably consolidate a social transition'. Legally, I can't refuse to give my gender on forms. I can't even use gender neutral titles half the time. What exactly am I supposed to demonstrate?

I showed up to my last GIC appointment wearing jeans and a t-shirt. They described me as 'presenting as female', noting my shoulder-length hair. I guess only women have long hair? I've heard many who call themselves feminists say they think trans people reinforce gender roles – that we believe all it means to be a woman is wearing a dress or that being a man is sitting with your legs obnoxiously wide. But the truth is that many trans people – even agender people – are forced to perform gender and meet archaic 'social' roles in order to get the medical help we need. I never felt having longer hair meant being a woman, but the GIC certainly did.

When I expressed how much my chest distressed me, a lot of friends told me to pretend I was transitioning into a man to get surgery. But I just couldn't – I'm autistic and very bad at lying. I've never wanted a 'male chest' – just a little bit off my G cup, a serious physical obstacle regardless of gender.

I suppose the cost of not playing the game is that you can't win the prize – but this shouldn't be a game. I don't want to be forced to play. Maybe if more people are aware of how much trans people have to bend to fit social roles just to get help, they won't assume we're the ones perpetuating the idea only women have long hair.

When Avery Jackson graced the cover of *National Geographic's* issue on trans kids, many noted how she and other trans women express happiness that they're able to wear dresses and make-up – apparently reaffirming that trans people think gender is just a costume. But transgender people appreciate that, after society sees them for who they are, they are finally free to do these little things without fear of abuse and mistreatment.

Trans people don't reinforce archaic gender roles, cis doctors do when they demand we perform the right gender to get treatment. Cis bullies do when they assault and harass people whose genders are not obvious or 'correct'. Gendered behaviours are only a problem when they're expected and enforced.

If a clear and binary gender wasn't expected, this world would be very different.



By Lola Phoenix



Mental health amongst minority communities is a political as well as an ethical issue. Evidence shows that marginalised groups such as black, Asian and minority ethnic (BAME) people, LGBT communities, disabled people and those with contact with the criminal justice system are at greater risk of developing mental health problems.

According to Paul Farmer and the Mental Health Taskforce which reported to the government in February 2016, BAME people are more likely to live in poorer and/or over-crowded conditions, increasing the risk of developing mental ill-health. To add further to the injustice of overrepresentation of BAME communities in mental health, men of African and Caribbean heritage are up to 6.6 times more likely to be admitted as inpatients or detained under the Mental Health Act.

People from BAME groups are also more likely than white British people to be detained compulsorily under mental health legislation or put in seclusion. Research in 2013 indicated that black people detained under mental health legislation are 29% more likely to be forcibly restrained than white patients. They are 50% more likely to be placed in seclusion and more likely to be diagnosed as psychotic.

According to the Care Quality Commission (CQC), BAME groups are disproportionately treated with Compulsory Treatment Orders (CTOs). In 2011/12, the proportion of people given CTOs that were from black or black British communities (15%) was about five times higher than the proportion of people from those communities in the general population.

Similarly, the mental health prospects for LGBT people are troubling. LGBT hate crime rose 147% after the Brexit vote in June 2016 and this is against a backdrop of LGB people being twice as likely as heterosexual people to have suicidal thoughts or to make suicide attempts (LGBT Foundation), and are two to three times more likely to suffer from depression.

The picture for trans people is starker still, with Stonewall reporting that nearly half (48%) of people under 26 admitted they had attempted suicide, and 30 per cent said they had done so in the past year. 59% of trans people said they had at least considered suicide in the past year.

At Touchstone in Leeds, we work to eradicate injustice and health inequalities within the mental health sector. Most of our work is with West Yorkshire's most excluded communities.

There are many reasons for the disparity in numbers of BAME and LGBT people in the mental health system. Institutional discrimination is one but so too is the hate faced by BAME and LGBT communities on a daily basis; poor outcomes in education (where bullying and harassment are major barriers to attainment for LGBT young people, for example); and also general health inequalities that are faced by all those living in poverty. The 2016 unemployment rate was 5% for white people compared to 9% for people from a BAME background (House of Commons Briefing: 6385, 29 November 2016).

Our response to the specific needs of BAME and LGBT people and communities needs to be person-centred and culturally appropriate:

- Recruit a **diverse** workforce that is representative of the communities you serve.
- Commission effective, up to date equality and diversity **training** for **all** staff and ensure this is regularly repeated.
- ASK people what services they would like and LISTEN to their responses.
- Work with **communities** to understand the impact of discrimination, bullying and harassment on their lives and their mental wellbeing.
- LEARN from your mistakes: No-one is perfect but that doesn't mean we can't aspire to be so.

Alison Lowe is CEO of Touchstone. touchstonesupport.org.uk





















In the late 1940s and 1950s, many of the pulp science fiction movies and superhero comics created in the USA were political propaganda.

They represented an ideal version of the American man fighting off threats of invasion and corruption at the same time many Americans felt they were besieged by other countries and ideologies. This continued into the 60s and 70s. And isn't it ironic that here in the 21st Century, the USA is peddling more superhero science fiction than ever before – at a time when there is a global financial crisis, a fear of the unknown and countries being 'flooded' with immigrants?

Well most of us aren't superheroes, and that's okay. We don't fit an idealised image of who or what we should be. But perhaps there's something we can learn from the aspirant figurehead of the superhero? They, too, were often outsiders. They, too, were often made to feel 'other'.

When I was a child, I didn't 'fit in' with the boys' rough-and-tumble in the playground. I didn't feel comfortable with the gender roles created for us – boys in blue play football, girls in pink play with dolls. I wanted to play with dolls. I was 'different'. Even at secondary school - a multicultural, mixed-faith comprehensive - I felt excluded. I identified as Asian, but to my Pakistani Muslim peers, I wasn't either Pakistani or Muslim enough. I was more 'Punjabi' because I wasn't from the Mirpur and I didn't speak the native language. To my Sikh and Hindu friends, whose families originated in the Punjab, I wasn't a true 'Punjabi' because I was neither Sikh nor Hindu. I was 'different'.

My identity seemed mixed up. Within my own family, I couldn't quite connect with my brothers, who mocked me whenever they had the chance. I was slow and dim-witted, a loner, and isolated in my own world. I was on the peripherals of the brotherly dynamics. I didn't fit in because I didn't talk sports or girls. I didn't fall into the category of heteronormativity. I laid the blame on my asexuality.

When I later explored my sexuality, visited several pubs and clubs, opened my eyes to the world of homosexuality, I still didn't fit in. I had no label emblazoned across my chest. I wasn't a 'type' - not an otter or bear or anything else. In that respect, superheroes have it easy - their costumes and symbols loudly declaring who they are and what they represent.

Like a secret identity, my religiosity was also hidden. I didn't pray five times a day, or set off on a pilgrimage to hajj. I didn't show my faith, so couldn't possibly be Muslim, even though I have read the Qu'ran and the Bible and carry my own moral compass, working with the most vulnerable in society and supporting others in my own way.

The colour of my skin highlights my heritage and origins, but when I speak, my voice is clear (as if you can't be one colour and sound like another). Yet I've been told even my voice is different – a hybrid of London and Birmingham, with a slight twang of theatrics thrown in. Not the commanding, macho voice of a superhero but my own voice - one that deserves to be heard.

I met my partner who doesn't tell me I'm different. He knows who I am and loves me for it. Our hearts, minds and spirits transcend the superficial. We are different yet similar. Familiar yet alien, like the everyday person Clark Kent who is really the extraterrestrial Superman. We are chalk and cheese, two worlds colliding. This is where we fit in – together. We acknowledge and recognise that acceptance of others is key to moving forward.

I recognise we all have issues, stresses and factors that shape us. We all have identities which are unique. Our DNA tells us we are individuals - alike but alien from each other. All our identities are multifaceted - like superheroes and their alter egos, we are more than one thing to all people. In today's world, there is so much division we can't just focus on the differences and ignore all the similarities. As in my relationship, it's the similarities which bond us together and the differences which attract. It is our multiplicity which makes us human - makes us stronger. Superman cares about the planet Earth and is motivated to protect it because of his human life as Clark Kent and the people in it he loves. He has the strength to do so because he is different - he is one of a kind.

We may not fit the ideals of Hollywood or pop culture, but we can take comfort that our unique contributions are valuable.





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Charitable Incorporated Organisation No. 1156352

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# MUSIC

### **Dusty Springfield**

(1939-1999)



English singer and record producer

1960s icon, with hits including "Son of a Preacher Man"

Bestselling female singer in the world in 1966

Bisexual woman





dassroom



# We're proud when our people are



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