

THE FIRST
NATIONAL FESTIVAL
of
LGBT HISTORY

ST VALENTINE'S WEEKEND 14TH & 15TH FEBRUARY 2015

THE FIRST NATIONAL FESTIVAL OF LGBT HISTORY IS NOW JUST AROUND THE CORNER!

Our schedule is nearly completed, venues booked, and volunteers primed to present three centuries of history for adults and children of all ages.

Trailblazing campaigners speaking at the event include Christine Burns MBE (Press For Change), Peter Tatchell (Gay Liberation Front), Mike Jackson (featured in last year's smash hit "Pride"), Stuart Milk (chair of the Harvey Milk foundation) and veteran ex-politician Linda Bellos OBE.

Other events include the launch of The Campaign for Homosexual Equality's biography at the inaugural Allan Horsfall Lecture, lessons for all ages delivered by Schools OUT UK, a theatre performance by Pagelight Productions, and a film festival, with many more surprises to be announced.

*All main festival events are **FREE!** More popular events will be ticketed: full schedule and information on our website.*



SUPPORTERS





THE FIRST NATIONAL FESTIVAL of **LGBT HISTORY**

SATURDAY — MANCHESTER CENTRAL LIBRARY

Saturday explores three centuries of gender and sexual identity, from when George III was on the throne to the present day. Campaigners and academics behind groups such as the Campaign for Homosexual Equality, the Lesbian Information Service, and Press for Change discuss their life work, legacy, successes, and regrets.

UNDER THE RAINBOW

A celebration of the remarkable work of LGBTQ campaigners living today. Highlights include the launch of The Campaign for Homosexual Equality's history, written by Peter Scott-Presland, while Ross Burgess talks about CHE's impact and legacy. Christine Burns MBE, key activist in Press For Change, whose work contributed to the Gender Recognition Act 2004, will talk about overcoming the challenges to document trans* history.

We also talk to the people behind frontline services such as Nottinghamshire Lesbian and Gay Switchboard (presented by David Edgley) and Lesbian Information Service (presented by Jan Bridget). Laila El-Metoui reflects on 20 years experience managing LGBT projects in higher education, Geoff Hardy presents his experiences fighting for equality in Shropshire since 1971, and Julie Parker discusses the impact of 30 years of the Drill Hall. How do the people involved in these campaigns and services feel about their legacy today?

Other remarkable individuals discussing their extraordinary lives include Peter Tatchell, founder of the Gay Liberation Front; and Alex Herrmann, who will talk about his life as a gay man in Socialist East Germany. Razia Aziz's life journey stretches from Lagos to London to Brighton to Lewes, and will reflect on her Indian Muslim heritage and the mixed blessings of 21st century diversity in the UK.

Obviously as a Manchester festival we have to talk about music! Abigail Ward, founder of the Manchester District Music Archive discusses her Queer Noise collection of tickets and posters, including infamous clubnights from Flesh (at the famous Hacienda) to Club Brenda.

CODED LIVES

Helena Whitbread discusses Anne Lister's (1791–1840) coded diaries, which detail her scandalous liaisons with women. Between 1806 and 1840 she wrote prolifically, with a total output of 26 volumes containing 4 million words. As well as writing about her sex life and seduction techniques, she wrote about the weather, social and national events, and her own business interests as a wealthy landowner.

Oscar Wilde's lover, Lord Alfred 'Bosie' Douglas was married to Olive Custance, a remarkable person in her own right. Dr Sarah Parker will discuss her new research about Olive's relationships with both men and women, and her life as a successful poet.

DELVING INTO THE ARCHIVE

Paul Martin OBE, Chief Executive of the Lesbian and Gay Foundation, will present exhibits from the LGF's archive. Sylvia Kölling, Saturday Hub coordinator and archive volunteer, will talk about the remarkable personal correspondence of the father of the modern gay rights movement, Allan Horsfall. Both archives are stored at Central Library.

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SUNDAY — PEOPLE'S HISTORY MUSEUM

Organised protest and social movements have been instrumental in building a more equal world. Sunday focusses on the impact of power, institutions, and the law, in changing rights for LGBT people.

Highlights include an investigation of the global export of Britain's anti-gay Buggery Act from the 19th century. We ask why lesbian voices have been marginalised in the protest movement, highlighting the remarkable work of women at Greenham Common Peace Camp. Finally, we chronicle campaigns against workplace discrimination beginning in the 1960s.



UNITING FOR WORKPLACE EQUALITY

Mike Jackson, co-founder of Lesbians and Gays Support the Miners highlights the story behind this year's critically acclaimed film "Pride". Cath Booth discusses the work of Lesbians and Gays Support the Printworkers, who assisted workers sacked by Rupert Murdoch during the Wapping dispute. TUC LGBT & Disability Officer Peter Purton will explore the history of how homophobia, biphobia and transphobia have been addressed in the workplace.

EXPORTING HOMOPHOBIA

In the 1800s, the British Empire stretched across two thirds of the world, and Britain exported laws banning same-sex relations to its colonies. Human rights campaigner Peter Tatchell and Prossy Kakooza, a refugee who has rebuilt her life in the UK after experiencing abuse and torture in Uganda, discuss Britain's colonial legacy.

PROTEST AND LESBIANISM

From Votes For Women to the Greenham Common peace camps, lesbian women have been at the forefront of movements for social change. Sheila Standard and Dr Sonja Tiernan discuss the key roles played by lesbians in protest movements, including the Barmaids' Defence League and Urania, a pioneering covert journal on gender and sexuality.

Sunday also includes All The Nice Girls, a theatrical performance about male impersonators in WWI, and Isaac Hitchen's House (A Lancashire Tale), the story of an 1800s 'molly' house. Other speakers include Cllr Paul Murphy and former politician and activist Linda Bellos: check our website for a continually updated schedule!



A VERY VICTORIAN SCANDAL

"One of the foulest and most disgraceful orgies that ever disgraced any town..."

MANCHESTER EVENING NEWS, SEPTEMBER 1880

A Very Victorian Scandal (#AVVS) is a groundbreaking immersive theatre project, being performed over the festival weekend. The project will recreate scenes from the biggest police raid on an 'LGBT' event in British history. Manchester's famous Victorian detective, Jerome Caminada, led the raid on an all-male fancy dress ball in Hulme, and arrested forty-seven men. The subsequent press coverage caused an international sensation. This was the UK's Stonewall moment, and it happened in 1880.

AVVS is produced by Stephen M Hornby and Ric Brady (Pagelight Productions), LGBT History Month 2015's Writers In Residence. Follow **#AVVS** and **@DCI_Caminada** himself on Twitter for live updates!



THE RAID

FRIDAY 13TH, VIA FOSSA

A living recreation of the fancy dress ball. Mingle with the fancy dress ball attendees, learn a little about their lives, and watch them sing and dance to Music Hall tunes. A Victorian police raid will then rudely interrupt the evening's raucous events.

CAMINADA AND THE PRESS

SAT 14TH, CENTRAL LIBRARY

A fresh take on the motives behind the police raid, in an intimate performance at Manchester Central Library. Secrets and politics combine to make some men, and ruin others. Caminada courts the press, but can he keep control of the story?

THE TRIAL

SUNDAY 15TH, PHM

Experience what it was like to be amongst the 47 prisoners, as we recreate the infamous trial using immersive theatre. You will watch your fate, and the fate of the other prisoners, be decided by the Chief Justice. Will all of the prisoners maintain their promise to remain silent, or will the fear of prison force someone to speak out?



THE FIRST NATIONAL FESTIVAL of LGBT HISTORY

SCHOOLS & FAMILIES

On Saturday and Sunday, Schools OUT UK will host the Schools & Families festival strand. We will offer children, educators, parents and governors the chance to experience educational, fun, and inclusive activities for children of all ages.

At Schools OUT UK, we are proud of our 40 year legacy making schools safer and more equal for lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans* people, in all their diversity. We are run entirely by volunteers, and established LGBT History Month, The Classroom, and The First National Festival of LGBT History to further our aims as national educators.



READINGS AND LESSONS

Readings will be presented by Adam Lowe, a local poet and founder of Young Enigma, Catherine Hall, author of *Repercussions*, and Sue Sanders, co-chair of Schools OUT UK. They will be reading titles for children and young adults such as “My Invented Life”, “Pugdog”, “Space Girl Pukes” and “Who Are You, Stripy Horse?”. A range of diversity lessons will be presented by experienced classroom teachers.

All the books read will be available to borrow from the library!

Some of the learning materials used will be on the-classroom.org.uk

HARVEY MILK

Stuart Milk, nephew of Harvey Milk, will read from “The Harvey Milk Story”, a book about his uncle’s work and legacy, and the work of the Harvey Milk Foundation worldwide. Harvey Milk was an American politician who campaigned for gay rights in San Francisco’s famous Castro district. He was tragically assassinated in 1978 alongside his colleague George Moscone. Stuart co-founded the Harvey Milk Foundation, and is now an ambassador for LGBT rights around the world.

COMBATING DISCRIMINATION AND THE LAW

Schools OUT UK believe that to eliminate the prejudice and negative stereotypes around minority groups and women, we need to educate out prejudice.

All public organisations (including schools) have a duty under the Equality Act 2010 to not only prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity, but to actively educate people about all the protected characteristics, including gender, sexuality and marital status as well as ethnicity, race and disability.

These lessons will demonstrate how this can be done, and prove that such work can be fun, educational, and successful in eliminating discrimination.



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PROJECTING DIVERSITY

The festival will feature screenings of films from all over the world, including this year's smash hit "Pride". More information on the full schedule and special guest speakers coming soon!

FESTIVAL LAUNCH: 1ST ALLAN HORSFALL LECTURE

The lecture will be presented by Prof. Charles Upchurch, associate professor in British History at Florida State University, who is flying over exclusively for the Festival. Prof Upchurch's lecture concerns the effort by parliamentarians and others to reform the laws against erotic sexual behaviours between men in Britain starting in the 1820s. This remarkable presentation, and the ground-breaking research on which it is based, suggest that attempts to decriminalise inter-male sex in Britain began more than 100 years before current estimates!

PROF. UPCHURCH SAID:

"I'm honoured to present my current research as the first Allan Horsfall Lecture, as a part of the First National Festival of LGBT History. Because this work touches on issues of both identity and activism, I think it is especially appropriate for the themes of the National Festival. The talk will outline some of the individuals involved, and the dramatic events that led to their downfall. It will also draw attention to the ways in which these events were recast, misremembered, denied, and forgotten in the years that followed."

FRINGE EVENTS

"Museum Maketh Man" is presented by Stephen Welsh, Curator of Living Cultures at Manchester Museum.

He explores how gender and sexuality is constructed or omitted in Victorian encyclopaedic museums' collections of natural science and human culture.

Manchester Museum, Mon 9th Feb 2pm & Tue 10th Feb 10am.

The Working Class Movement library presents "Lesbians and Gays Support the Miners and their lasting links of comradeship with mining communities".

Mike Jackson (LGSM) and David (Dai) Donovan (South Wales NUM) will talk about the activities of the London LGSM and the Neath, Dulais and Swansea Valleys Miners' Support Group during the strike, the lasting links that were formed and the lessons for today's struggles.

Working Class Movement Library, Sat 13 Feb 2pm.

Emily Crompton, architect at URBED presents "We were born in the 80s: the History of the Joyce Layland LGBT Centre".

The walking tour will follow the story of how Manchester became one of the first places to have an entirely publicly funded, purpose built centre for the gay community.

Meet Manchester Town Hall, Tue 10th Feb 1:45pm & Sat 13th Feb 1:45pm.

Other fringe events to be announced!

Follow our Twitter or keep checking the schedule page for updates!

THE FIRST NATIONAL FESTIVAL of **LGBT HISTORY**

ACADEMIC CONFERENCE

The LGF hosts “The 2nd What is & How to DO LGBT History?” conference, which seeks to place attitudes, experiences and identities in their historical context.

Despite the increasing popular demand for ‘LGBT History’ in Britain, the history of attitudes towards sex and gender diversity in the UK remains an underdeveloped field, especially in comparison with the advances that have been made in the United States. An important part of the 10th anniversary celebrations of LGBT History month is to lead and develop the growing discourse into past attitudes towards sex and gender diversity within the academy and among the general public.

*The conference requires a paid ticket on a sliding scale:
check the conference page for more information.*

lgbthistoryfestival.org/conference.html

TOPICS

- Archival research and the uncovering of source materials
- The influence of other disciplines on historical study
- Experiences of conducting research within the academy
- Reclaiming forgotten histories
- Writing the history of under/unexplored regions
- The relationship between historical study and political activism
- Considering the impact of our work as historians
- The problem of naming in a historical context
- Ethical issues in historical research

ACADEMIC PATRONS

HARRY COCKS

Associate Professor, Faculty of Arts
Nottingham

MATT COOK

Senior Lecturer in History & Gender Studies
Birkbeck, London University

MARTIN HALL

Vice-Chancellor of Salford University & Archaeologist

SHELIA ROWBOTHAM

Professor, School of Social Sciences
Manchester University

CHARLES UPCHURCH

Associate Professor of History
Florida State University

JEFFREY WEEKS

Research Professor, Arts and Human Sciences
South Bank University

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THE FIRST NATIONAL FESTIVAL OF LGBT HISTORY IS THE OFFICIAL CELEBRATION OF LGBT HISTORY MONTH'S 10TH ANNIVERSARY. LGBT HISTORY MONTH IS A PART OF SCHOOLS OUT UK, WHICH HAS WORKED TOWARDS EQUALITY, SAFETY AND VISIBILITY FOR LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL AND TRANS* PEOPLE IN EDUCATION SINCE 1974.

WE ARE PROUD TO WORK WITH MANCHESTER CITY COUNCIL, THE LGF, MANCHESTER METROPOLITAN UNIVERSITY, AND SCHOLARS FROM SOME OF THE COUNTRY'S MOST RESPECTED INSTITUTIONS IN DELIVERING THIS UNPRECEDENTED, WORLD-FIRST FESTIVAL.

Please note all dates and times are subject to change. Check the website for the latest schedule to avoid disappointment, and follow us on Twitter for all program updates and announcements.

For more information on anything in this press release, contact:

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For general inquiries, contact:

info@lgbthistoryfestival.org

CENTRAL LIBRARY

St. Peters Square, Manchester M2 5PD

PEOPLE'S HISTORY MUSEUM

Left Bank, Spinningfields, Manchester M3 3ER



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