

West Yorkshire Queer Stories

Update
Summer 2017



Yorkshire MESMAC has received support from Heritage Lottery Fund to develop this LGBTQ+ social history project in partnership with Leeds Museums and Galleries and West Yorkshire Archive Service.

We are working on the final Heritage Lottery Fund application for the next phase of West Yorkshire Queer Stories. A successful outcome will mean that next year we will offer opportunities to: contribute your stories and objects; volunteer as a Community Curator and/or Advisor; enjoy and learn more about the heritage we will be collecting, celebrating and preserving at events and online.

Get involved: join our mailing list to get more updates like this (Contact Jude Woods with your email address, or mail address if you don't use the internet. We don't give email or mail addresses to any third parties.)



Please fill in our survey:

<https://jude25.typeform.com/to/ERfTkb>

(contact Jude if you want a paper copy)

And help us to take the project forward by making a donation:

<https://mydonate.bt.com/events/westyorksqueerstories/444938>



Contact: Jude Woods j.woods@mesmac.co.uk

Mobile: 07736151 895 Landline: 0113 244 4209



LGBTQ+ heritage is held in personal memories and stories, ordinary objects like badges and T shirts, artistic and cultural materials like art, fashion, literature, photographs, films and performance: all of these are connected to specific locations in West Yorkshire. This social history is relevant to a range of audiences; LGBTQ+ people, their families and friends and many others who are interested in counter culture and the struggle for equality.

What will the project do?

The project will focus on **collecting** Oral History Testimonies and material culture, then **creating** interactive materials and activities inspired by the stories and objects, this will include digistories, films, artworks, resource packs and workshops. These materials will be **curated** providing multiple opportunities for the public to engage with the project through a website, at events and in workshops.

Volunteering will be at the heart of the project; so that LGBTQ+ people can learn the skills to collect, research and curate this heritage. Exploring untold stories, integrating the voices of marginalised communities and the narratives of LGBTQ+ people who face multiple discrimination will also be an important aspect of the project.



' LGBTQ+ individuals, groups and communities have contributed massively to the history of West Yorkshire, everything from our literature to worker's rights. Too often these contributions have been hidden, overlooked or lost, Queer Stories will allow us to research, collect and celebrate our stories, struggles and victories, I am excited that Yorkshire MESMAC are a partner in developing this exciting and valuable community asset.' (Tom Doyle, CEO of Yorkshire MESMAC)



This update gives you more information about the West Yorkshire Queer Stories project and other LGBTQ+ heritage related bits and pieces. They will continue to be a regular way we will communicate with both new and established audiences as well as to encourage participation in other the heritage activities, so (from next spring) let us know any information you want to pass on to others with an interest in LGBTQ+ heritage.



West Yorkshire Queer Stories has been in the press recently featuring in an article 'Pride and Prejudice' about LGBTQ+ heritage in museums by Deborah Mulhearn, it appears in the June issue of the Museums Association Journal Issue 117/06, you can access it online if you are a member: www.museumsassociation.org/museums-journal/features/01062017-pride-and-prejudice and also 'Just the First Act' by Deborah Mulhearn in the 31 July edition of The Big Issue North (No. 1194).

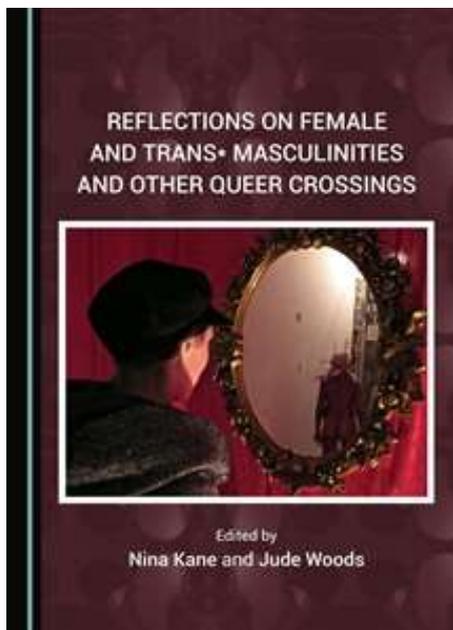
Online we have a blog on the Queer Beyond London website: <http://queerbeyondlondon.com/leeds/302-0-glad-to-be-gay/> its all about the story of the 302.0 badge by Paul Furness and you can see the badge at the display 'Leeds Music Sound Bites' at Leeds City Museum (12/8/17—1/4/18) and other Queer Stories materials in the display 'Protest' at Abbey House Museum (Sept 2017—Feb 2018): <http://www.leeds.gov.uk/museumsandgalleries/Pages/default.aspx>

Read more about Pauls' story and the links to the Rock Against Racism movement in: 'Walls Come Tumbling Down, The Music and Politics of Rock Against Racism, 2 Tone and Red Wedge' by Daniel Rachel.



Sage participants Roy and John discuss LGBTQ+ social history in this feature in the Yorkshire Evening Post **A queer story of life and love: Leeds couple's hopes and fears for the 'grey and gay' generation:**

<http://www.yorkshireeveningpost.co.uk/news/a-queer-story-of-life-and-love-leeds-couple-s-hopes-and-fears-for-the-grey-and-gay-generation-1-8437235>



Some of you may remember the PoMoGaze project and the Queer Eye group at Leeds Art Gallery in 2014/15.

Reflections on Female and Trans* Masculinities is the anthology containing some of the papers from the AGender conference held as part of the exhibition of the artwork of Marlow Moss and Claude Cahun 2014 and is available here:

<http://www.cambridgescholars.com/reflections-on-female-and-trans-masculinities-and-other-queer-crossings>

The **Heritage Lottery Fund website** has lots of useful information about working on social history projects, we recently participating in a live chat on LGBTQ+ heritage www.hlf.org.uk/community/general-discussions-forum/highlights-our-lgbt-heritage-live-chat and in Reading on 14th Sept there is a free event offering advice about LGBTQ+ heritage and networking: www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/funding-for-lgbt-history-projects-advice-and-networking-evening-tickets-36186231994

Coming up...

West Yorkshire Queer Stories will be participating in a Queer Arts event at **Cartwright Hall** Bradford on Oct 9th and a panel at the National Engage conference in Hull on 29th Nov: <https://www.engage.org/engageconf17.aspx> , the **International Queer Localities Conference** in London on 30th Nov and 1st Dec <http://queerbeyondlondon.com/queer-localities-conference/> and **Talking Back! The London Metropolitan Archives 15th LGBTQ History and Archives Conference** on 2nd Dec <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/talking-back-tickets-32082728304?aff=es2>



Oct 13th Heart Community Centre, Leeds:

To celebrate International Day of Older People Sage will be offering a discussion about supporting LGBT people who are living with dementia, including the Purple List play, followed by a meal and age friendly intergenerational disco featuring music of the 60s - 90s.



Wakefield Rainbow Trail Aug 12 - Dec 31

To celebrate Wakefield Pride and to mark the 50th anniversary of the partial decriminalisation of homosexuality the Rainbow Trail reveals some of Wakefield's hidden LGBT+ histories.



A number of objects feature in the main galleries at Wakefield Museum, visitors will be offered a trail guide, designed by artist Liz Kay, and invited to spot rainbows highlighting objects include Pride paraphernalia, a prison door, a drag outfit and the Vesta Tilley plaque.

Leeds Carnival celebrates 50 years and are collecting and celebrating this fantastic local social history with events including a play, an exhibition and more:

<http://www.leedscarnival.co.uk/>

Joe Williams **50th Carnival Special Black History Tour** 11 am Parkinson Steps 26th Aug:

<http://heritagecornerleeds.wixsite.com/>



Throughout 2017 The Peoples Museum in Manchester is hosting **Never Going Underground** a series of exhibitions, events and learning programmes exploring the past, present and future of LGBT+ activism. #NGU2017 Check listings on the website for details:

<http://www.phm.org.uk/about-us/never-going-underground-the-fight-for-lgbt-rights/>



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How does it feel to be left out?

Travis Alabanza shows their response to the Queer British Art exhibition in this performance:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W3vm70QjicQw>

These issues of inclusion are going to be central in the West Yorkshire Queer Stories Project.

<http://travisalabanza.co.uk/>



Rainbow Pilgrims is a landmark project that discovers the hidden history of LGBTQI migrants in the UK past and present. The project intends to cover the period from the first Jewish Kindertransports to Britain (1938-1940) to today.

<https://www.rainbowpilgrims.com/>

rainbowpilgrims@liberaljudaism.org

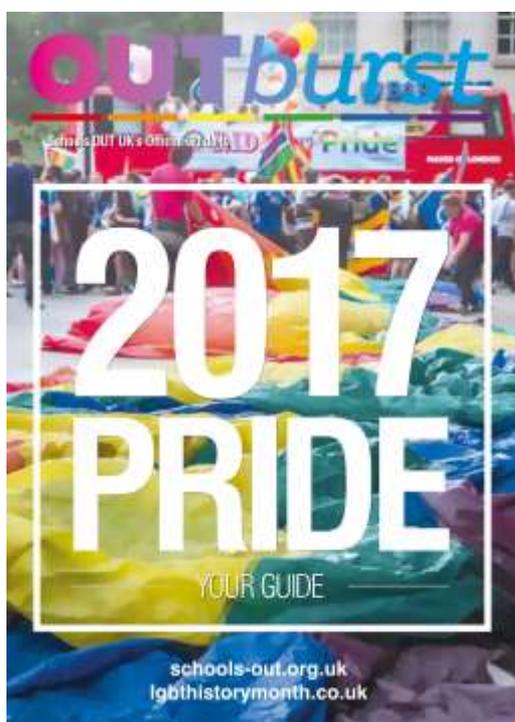
(020) 7580-1663



Are you LGBTQI+?
Born outside the UK?
Consider yourself to be a migrant?
Or are you a refugee/asylum seeker?
From the Gypsy/Roma/Traveler community?

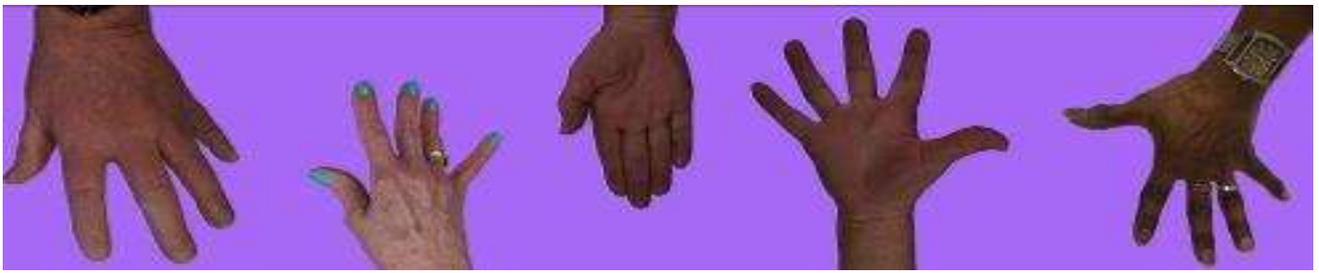
YES?

We would love to hear your story...



There is lots of interesting social history information in OUTburst. Free download:

<http://lgbthistorymonth.co.uk/>



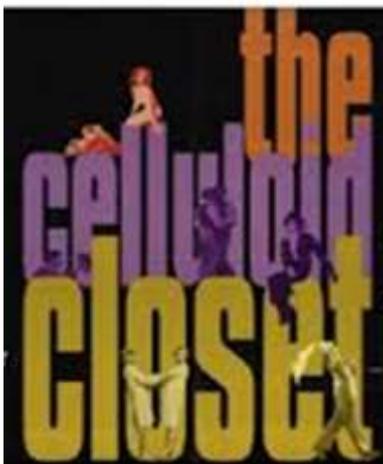
‘Journey Towards Pride’

Three films to mark the anniversary of the partial decriminalisation of male homosexuality, presented by Sage and West Yorkshire Queer Stories:

www.leeds.gov.uk/JourneyTowardsPride

Tues 8/8/17, 6 - 8pm Room 700, Central Library

The Naked Civil Servant (Cert 15) The taboo-breaking adaptation of Quentin Crisp's subversive memoir, starring a BAFTA-winning John Hurt. Tickets £5. Book at: www.ticketsource.co.uk/leedslibraryevents
Bar (cash only) / curated display / short discussion



Tues 15/8/17, 6 - 8pm Room 700, Central Library

The Celluloid Closet (Cert 15) A movie-masterclass in gay representation across a century of cinema, narrated by Lily Tomlin.

Tickets £5. Book at: www.ticketsource.co.uk/leedslibraryevents
Bar (cash only) / curated display / short discussion

Saturday 2/9/17, 4 - 6pm - Age UK Leeds, Arch Café, Victim (Cert 15) This classic thriller that helped bring homosexuality out of the shadows stars Dirk Bogarde in his most daring role, as a lawyer in 60's London, where blackmailers are targeting gay men with threat of exposure Tickets £5 Introduction / led discussion



Supported by Film Hub North, led by Showroom Workstation. Proud to be part of the BFI Film Audience Network.

West Yorkshire Queer Stories



Heritage Open Day
8th Sept 2 - 3
Leeds City Museum

Criminal Times

Leeds Civic Trust and West Yorkshire Queer Stories present this talk for Heritage Open Day 2017.

It's 60 years since the Wolfenden Report, and 50 since the partial decriminalisation of male homosexuality.

How have things changed for LGBTQ+ people?

It is often assumed that these issues have not impacted women, but has criminalisation also affected lesbian and bisexual women?

In what ways have transgender people also been criminalised?

Jude Woods will explore these questions in an illustrated presentation and discussion.

Everyone welcome, no booking necessary, just turn up, its free.