

WHAT IS LGBTQ+ HISTORY MONTH?

LGBTQ+ History Month is celebrated internationally to make sure queer history is shared, taught, and celebrated.

LGBTQ+ History Month helps to encourage people to share the stories of the LGBTQ+ community.

Many historic figures you are taught about were LGBTQ+, and LGBTQ+ History Month encourages us to learn about them and the LGBTQ+ rights movement.



Stonewall Riots  
June 1969

The Stonewall Riots began after police raided the Stonewall Inn, a gay bar in New York. This led to 6 days of protests against the police, and sparked the LGBTQ+ rights movement in the US.

Section 28

In 1988, the Conservative government under Margaret Thatcher passed a law that stopped councils and schools promoting homosexuality and teaching acceptance of homosexuality, leading to a lot of homophobia and discrimination.

KEY FIGURES IN LGBTQ+ HISTORY

LAWRENCE MICHAEL DILLON

Michael Dillon was the first transgender man to undergo gender-affirming surgery, as well as being a doctor, philosopher, and poet. He also performed the first gender-affirming surgery on a transwoman in the UK, Roberta Cowell. After she rejected his marriage proposal, he became a Buddhist monk.

ALAN TURING

Alan Turing has been described as the "founder of computer science, mathematician, philosopher, codebreaker, strange visionary and a gay man before his time". He broke the code for the Nazi Enigma machine, allowing British intelligence to decode German messages during World War II and defeat Hitler. He was arrested for being gay, and was pardoned 60 years after his death.

BARBARA GITTINGS

Barbara Gittings was a lesbian and led the successful movement to change the view of homosexuality as a mental pathology. As a result of her activism, in 1973 the American Psychiatric Association revoked its labelling of homosexuality as a disorder.

BAYARD RUSTIN

Bayard Rustin was an American civil rights activist who was an adviser to Martin Luther King Jr. and the main organizer of the March on Washington in 1963, during which Martin Luther King Jr gave his famous "I have a dream" speech. Rustin was arrested for being gay, but after he died, he was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom and his arrest was pardoned.

LOCAL EVENTS

LONDON WITH A LOCAL

A free LGBTQ+ History in London, lasting 2 hours. Scan the QR code to see dates and booking info!

BEYONDE BINARY

A CELEBRATION OF TRANS JOY

An exhibition along Lewes Road, Brighton, celebrating trans people and trans joy.

OUT & PROUD

An exhibition in Chichester that celebrates LGBTQ+ history, with a special focus on the personal experiences of individuals within the Chichester community.

GLOW

GLOW is Brighton's Non-Audition, Natural Voice Community Choir for LGBTQIA+ people and Allies

BRIGHTON & HOVE MUSEUMS

LGBTQ+ History Club at Brighton Museum 2025 - An afternoon of talks on all things to do with localish queer heritage.

HOW IS IT DIFFERENT FROM PRIDE IN JUNE?

LGBTQ+ History Month focuses on the achievements of the LGBTQ+ community, honouring the past and teaching LGBTQ+ history.

LGBTQ+ Pride Month originated with the 1969 Stonewall riots and focuses on the continued fight for LGBTQ+ rights.

WHEN IS IT CELEBRATED?

LGBTQ+ History Month first took place in the UK in 2004, after being founded in the US in 1994.

LGBTQ+ History Month is in February in the UK, to celebrate the abolition of Section 28 in 2003.

Other places (US, Canada, Armenia, Romania, Netherlands, Southeast Asia, and Australia) celebrate it in October to coincide with National Coming Out Day (11th October), and to commemorate the 1979 and 1989 marches in Washington.

WHAT POSITIVE EXPERIENCES DO YOU HAVE OF BEING LGBTQ+?

Grab a post-it note and stick your positive experiences here!

TAKE WHAT YOU NEED

However your day is going, feel free to take whatever you need to hear :)

Who I am deserves to be celebrated	My identity, my rules
I am proud of myself	It's never too late to find myself
I can be whoever I want to be	I deserve to feel comfortable in my own skin
I am loved	I am worthy of love
I am deserving of joy	I do not need to fit into a box
I define myself	I am who I say I am

DORA RICHTER

Dora Richter was the first known transgender woman to undergo gender-affirming surgery. After being arrested in Berlin for wearing dresses, she became employed at the Institut für Sexualwissenschaft - the first modern research institute for queer and transgender health under the care of Dr. Magnus Hirschfeld. Her surgeries helped the study of the effects of lack of testosterone. She was later killed by the Nazis.

MARSHA P JOHNSON

Marsha P Johnson was a Black trans woman, drag queen, activist, and a key figure in the 1969 Stonewall Riots. She was a co-founder of Street Transvestite Action Revolutionaries (STAR), a group committed to helping homeless transgender youth in New York City, and she is regarded as one of the prominent figures in US LGBTQ+ history.

SUPPORT FOR OVER 18S

mind OUT

Mind Out is a mental health service run by and for LGBTQ+ adults. They offer peer support groups, counselling, and online support.

the clare project

The Clare Project is a charity run by trans, non-binary, gender-variant and gender-questioning adults in Brighton & Hove, West and East Sussex.

TRANS SPORT

Trans can Sport is a community created to help trans adults get into exercise with sports such as climbing, weight living, wheelchair basketball, archery, and tennis.

SUPPORT FOR YOUNG TRANS PEOPLE

allsorts youth project

Allsorts supports children & young people across Sussex under the age of 26 who are LGBTQ+ or exploring their gender identity and/or sexual orientation. They offer 1:1 support as well as youth groups.

Gendered Intelligence

Gendered Intelligence is a national trans-led charity who provide services for trans, non-binary and gender questioning people, and their families. They offer online youth groups, 1:1 support, and an annual summer camp.

Mindline Trans +

Helpline on 0300 330 5468, available on Friday evenings between 8pm-11pm. Mindline Trans+ is a confidential emotional, mental health support helpline and signposting service for people who identify as Trans, Gender, Gender Fluid, and Non-binary.

SUPPORT FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

switchboard

connecting you to LGBTQ+ support

1, 9, 30 pm  
Helpline  
01273 204050  
Monday to Thursday

Intercom Trust

LGBT helpline on 0800 612 3010 open 9:00 - 4:00pm Monday to Friday. Intercom Trust also do youth groups in Cornwall, and in-person (Truro, Exeter or Plymouth) or online counselling for LGBTQ+ people

LGBT FOUNDATION

LGBT helpline on 0345 3 30 30 30 from 9am until 9pm on a week day and between 10am and 6pm on Saturday and Sunday, or email: helpline@lgbt.foundation

galop

Galop supports LGBTQ+ people who are victims of domestic abuse, sexual violence, hate crime, so-called conversion therapies and other forms of abuse.