

LGBTQ+ People in Medicine & Health 1700- present day



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Introduction

LGBT+ History month has always been an opportunity to reflect on the progress that has been made for LGBT+ equality, including the sacrifices, challenges and the icons that have led the way.

In 2021 we approached local historian and author Norena Shopland to put a piece of work together to look at the journey that has been made in the LGBT+ community in relation to medicine and health. As a result a timeline was created.

As you go through the timeline you will see words, phrases and descriptions that may not be used today, but as this is taken from historical writings and information for authenticity the words and phrases from that time have been used.

Attempting to trace individuals with diverse histories of sexual orientation and gender identity can be very difficult. Few terms are available for historians to use, and most in use today belong predominantly to the 20th century. It becomes necessary then to look at, not what or who people were, but what they were doing and the most frequent behaviour by those we would identify today as lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans is that they were cross-dressing.

The following examples cannot definitively be defined - even if a woman lived as a man for many years it may not mean she identified as a man, simply that she did not wish to live as a woman for whatever reasons. However, due to the gossamer thin line between genders they can be included in trans history.

This document focuses on the time period 1700-present day, but there are of course examples outside this timeline that you may want to explore.

Core elements of this document have been adapted from a fantastic document produced in 2011 by NHS North West called LGB&T History, Challenges and Successes. They gave us permission to include their work in this document which focused on the 20th century.

I hope that you, like I, will find this timeline interesting, inspiring and insightful.

The more we learn about our history, the more we can grow, empathise and support the LGBT+ community today.



Ceri Harris
**Equality, Diversity
& Inclusion
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Norena Shopland
**Historian &
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Homosexuality?

What homosexuality?

Before the 19th century sexual relationships and love between people of the same sex certainly existed, but an homosexual identity as we know it did not.

Sexual relationships between men were common in Ancient Greece, with an older man taking on the role of the educator to a younger man. There was no homosexual identity as such and men were expected to take part in heterosexual marriage.

The writings of Sappho (c.620-560BC) a poet from the Greek island of Lesbos, survive only in fragments and much of what we know about her is based on rumour and speculation, but it was her powerful poetry about her love for otherwomen that inspired the term 'lesbian'.



Native American men who wore women's clothing, did women's work, and became wives to men were seen as a mediator between the world of women and the world of men, and they always held a respected position in the tribe known as 'Two Spirits', they often had ceremonial roles and sometimes were attributed special power, such as curing the sick. Some tribes had a female equivalent but this was less common.

In Britain, from medieval times onwards, homosexuality was thought to be linked to disease. For example a pamphlet published in 1787 warns of 'emasculated foreign singers', whose 'degeneracy and effeminacy' are 'contagious like the pestilence'

contagious like the pestilence

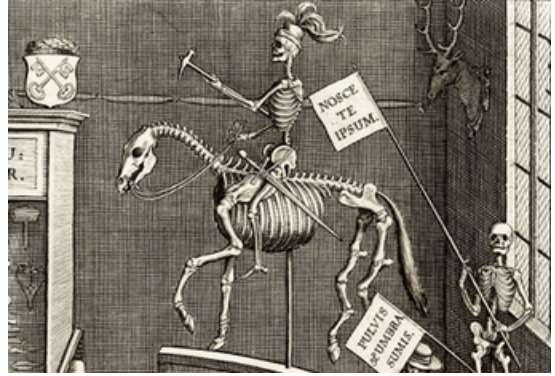
*emasculated
foreign singers*



1700's Hidden Identities

1710

Dutch soldier, Aal de Dragonder, is stabbed to death during an altercation. Discovered to be a biological woman the body was donated to Rotterdam Medical School and the skeleton and stuffed skin put on display holding a sword and sitting on the stuffed carcass of a horse. As only criminals were denied burial, this has been seen as some sort of 'posthumous punishment.'



Various people wrote of seeing the display until the medical school was closed in 1828 and it is not known what happened to the remains. There are no known pictures of Aal, the one above is from Leiden's theatrum anatomicum and believed to show a similar pose to that of Aal.

1788-9

1788-9 Johanna Stain, an Englishwoman with a 'stout masculine figure' had served in the army for ten years. They fought in eighteen battles and was wounded several times. On one occasion, the biological sex had been discovered by a doctor but they gave him \$150 (equivalent to \$3000 today) to keep quiet.





1800's -Categorise it!


Doctors, writers and lawyers begin to explore what homosexuality might be and what causes it, seeing it as either a disease or a crime. However, this discussion allows an idea of the homosexual as a figure to emerge, albeit one that is very much focused on sexual activity between men.

Today, transexuality is recognised as distinct from homosexuality. However in the 19th century, the two concepts are blurred. Sexology, the study of human sexuality, seeks to study, and consequently classify, types of sexual behaviours, especially alleged more 'devious' and 'abnormal' practices. so begins the medicalisation, and consequently pathologisation, of trans and gay identities.

Homosexuality is regarded as one of the many diseases that can be caused by masturbation (itself an obsession for many social moralists of the period).

The medical profession begins to categorise non-procreative sex into different 'perversions' and 'deviations'. Homosexuality gradually emerges as a separate category, and so too the homosexual as an individual.

European medicine largely sees homosexuality as degeneration in individual development (post Darwinian ideas offering a scientific explanation of sexual evolution play a significant part).



Homosexuality could be the result of the parents' defective genes, resulting from, for example, hysteria, alcoholism, epilepsy or debauchery. Such theories conclude that these 'born criminals' should not be locked up in prison but treated in asylums.

By contrast, the British medical profession places more emphasis on madness than moral depravity or wickedness, possibly because madness is something that could happen to anyone, and is the only explanation that doesn't undermine social norms.

Castration and hypnosis are used as 'cures' for homosexuality across Europe and America.

1807-1814

1807-1814 One way to avoid detection from doctors was to become one yourself. One unnamed 'sinister-looking doctor' with a ferocious temper who served throughout the Peninsular War (and who also fought several duels) was, on death, found to be a biological woman. Virginia Chesquieres passing as a soldier in the same war, was injured but knew discovery would come through medical intervention and so refused to be treated. Nevertheless, they were discovered.

Marie Marguerite Metey applied to change her sex and was examined by the doctors. Mr. Metey subsequently became a 'thriving farmer in the Commune of Bu, northern France, with a very pretty wife.'

1814

In Dreux, France, Rose Victoire Vivien had been registered as female at birth and was very feminine until the age of 26. When her uncle died and left her a small property, she tried to establish herself but no man would show any interest in her. Becoming despondent, she went to a doctor who, 'to her inexpressible surprise, assured her that, instead of being an old maid, she was neither more nor less than a young bachelor.'



She applied to have her birth certificate altered and the court had her examined by three doctors, who all confirmed she was 'to all intents and purposes a gentleman ... Monsieur Ross Victoire Vivien has set off in search of a wife.'

1829



Mary Cannon, aged 55, was admitted into Guy's Hospital suffering from fever from which she died. All in the hospital were struck with the 'coarse and masculine expression of her countenance; this and her somewhat square and muscular figure were all the observations relating to her sex that were made during life, but the post mortem inspection disclosed clearly that it was a case of hermaphroditism.



'It appears that in the former part of her life this hybrid had assumed the dress and habits of a man at one time working in a brick-yard, at another period acting as a groom, then as a milk man, and afterwards she kept a green-grocer's shop. Her (habits and manners were rude and bold, sometimes indicating a degree of derangement. More than once she engaged with success in pugilistic encounters; and, it is said, manifested still less equivocally male propensities.



For the last seven or eight years she has appeared as a female, calling herself Mary Cannon and, it is odd enough, that she first sustained her new sex at a public-house called "The World turned upside down," where she engaged herself as maid of all work." She was not, however, fully received by her female fellow-servants as one of them suspicion hung about her, and care was always taken to provide for her a separate bed.'

1837



In an article entitled 'More Funny Than Pleasant' an unnamed woman demanded the right to marry a young woman, alleging that an error of sex had existed, and requiring to be publicly recognised as a man. 'The medical men, who have been consulted in this matter, have ascertained that the person in question is, in every sense of the word, androgynous.'





1846

Harriet Palmer and Caroline Sarah Abbey offered themselves as apprentices on board a man-of-war. They had worked at the Blue Bell Inn, Hull, one as cook and the other as barmaid, and had 'contracted a strong attachment for each other.' They were discovered by the doctor.

Medical Lexicon (1846) by Robley Dunglison:

Tri'bas, gen. Tri'badis, (F.) Tribade ... A female whose clitoris is so large as to cause her to be regarded as a hermaphrodite. One who acts as a male with another female or practices tribadism.



1851

'At Llanfynydd, Sarah, the wife of Evan Jones, shoemaker, gave birth to a child which is a perfect hermaphrodite, and the registrar is consequently puzzled how to register it. The medical faculty have as yet failed to solve the problem submitted to them in this case. Had not this fact been communicated to us from a source which we have every right to rely upon, we should have been inclined to doubt its authenticity, but there is no reason to doubt the correctness of our information.'



1855

Dictionary of Medical Terminology and Dental Surgery: CLITORIS'MUS. An enlargement of the clitoris; also Sapphism.



1857

Auguste Ambroise Tardieu, a French forensic doctor, published his book Etude médico-légale sur les attentats aux moeurs (Forensic Study of Assaults Against Decency). Tardieu, who wrote extensively on various kinds of sexual abuse, outlined six basic criteria which he claimed could be used to identify homosexual men by the nature of the anus and buttocks.



Tardieu's book ran into numerous editions, his method of examination was adopted in many countries, including Britain and other doctors built on his work with examples of their own. Perhaps the most well documented case is that of Thomas Ernest Boulton and Frederick William Park or 'Fanny and Stella' as they were popularly known. The Boulton and Park case was a sensation in 1871 when the men, who often cross-dressed, appeared in court on a charge of 'conspiring and inciting persons to commit an unnatural offence', namely homosexuality.



Boulton and Park were submitted to extensive and intimate examinations to ascertain if they had anal sex but in the end the prosecution could not convince the jury and they were released.

By the late nineteenth century, the theory of Tardieu and others was completely discredited: there is simply no

consistent evidence that can prove anal sex has taken place and 'open' anuses can have a variety of causes.

However, the legacy of this flawed examination is a long one and Tardieu's theories are still being used in a variety of countries today to 'prove' homosexuality, despite the UN Committee Against Torture saying that such examinations 'have no medical justification' and campaigners insisting that they violate international law.

In the archives of the Somerset Heritage Centre is an 1857 medical case involving a young lad of eleven years old. The doctor stated his belief that 'If boys are reared in a more effeminate way nowadays than the girls were 50 years ago, where is the surprise if they get girls' diseases and come home from the school hysterical.'

1857

In the 1860's, English psychiatrist Henry Maudsley (1835-1918) claims masturbation leads to insanity. After 1858 clitoridectomy is popularised for girls as a cure for masturbation by London surgeon Dr Isaac Baker Brown (1811- 1873).

1869



The word homosexual is coined. Havelock Ellis explains it was: devised (by a little-known Hungarian doctor, Benkert, who used the pseudonym Kertbeny) in the same year (1869), but at first attracted no attention.

It has, philologically, the awkward disadvantage of being a bastard term compounded of Greek and Latin elements, but its significance— sexual attraction to the same sex— is fairly clear and definite, while it is free from any question-begging association of either favorable or unfavorable character. (Edward Carpenter has proposed to remedy its bastardly linguistic character by transforming it into "homogenic;" this, however, might mean not only "toward the same sex," but "of the same kind," and in German already possesses actually that meaning.) The term "homosexual" has the further advantage that on account of its classical origin it is easily translatable into many languages. It is now the most widespread general term.

Karl-Maria Kertbeny was himself homosexual.

1870

Karl Friedrich Otto Westphal, a German psychiatrist, publishes a paper on 'contrary sexual feeling', detailing the case of a young woman. Westphal believed her sexual attraction to women was congenital and not a vice. The philosopher Michel Foucault credits Westphal for the birth of the modern homosexual as an individual and not a vice.

1872

A NOTORIOUS FEMALE DOCTOR.

WASHINGTON, January 10, 1872.

From an account of the "Women's National Suffrage Association," reported to the Press, I cut the following description of a noted female doctress who dresses in a garb as near to a man's as the cramped laws of the land will admit.

"Ten minutes after the opening . . . a curly, crinkly feminine, in very large walking boots, came to the front, being followed, after a brief pause, by the rest of the sisters. This lady was new, even to the reporters, and one of them, handing up a pencilled inquiry to Mrs. Dr. Walker, was informed that she was 'Mrs. Ricker, a beautiful, charming, and good widow, fair, forty, and rich.'" This bit of interesting news started on its travels.

"The doctor, who has the usual manly proclivity for hugging the girls, threw her arms around a pretty and modest-looking girl standing by, and enthusiastically shouted, "You are a dear, sweet little creature." The frightened young woman drew hastily back, and faltered out that she was not in the habit of being hugged by men. This turned the laugh on the doctor; but she gained her lost ground by quickly replying to the inquiry of the secretary as to what place he should put her down from as a delegate, to put her down "from all the world;" but he objected, anxious for the completeness of his roster.

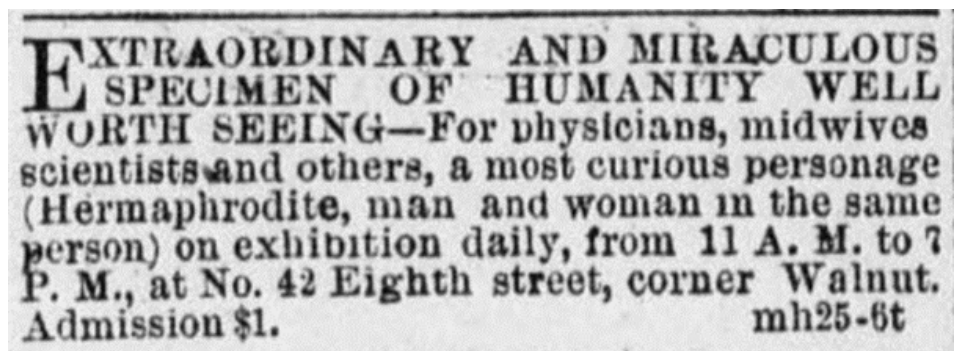
1873

Johanna Johnson is arrested in Australia for being in men's clothes and explained they suited her better because when she wore women's clothes, she was called a man and 'bad names.' She had fought in the army disguised as a man but her face became disfigured by an injury. She told the court doctor that she could earn more money as a man and wanted to save to return to her native Germany.

1876

Alice Holmes from Massachusetts, who had hard and calloused hands showing 'how she has toiled from many years at sea', managed to get through the recruitment process because two male friends paid \$25 each (about £600 today) to the doctor.

Diverse people were often exhibited and many showmen justified this by claiming to be in the interests of medicine and science, as can be seen from this 1876 advertisement



EXTRAORDINARY AND MIRACULOUS SPECIMEN OF HUMANITY WELL WORTH SEEING—For physicians, midwives scientists and others, a most curious personage (Hermaphrodite, man and woman in the same person) on exhibition daily, from 11 A. M. to 7 P. M., at No. 42 Eighth street, corner Walnut. Admission \$1. mh25-6t

A 'genuine hermaphrodite' was put on exhibition at the Miami Medical College in Cincinnati in 1876. When describing diverse individuals' journalists were often at a loss what terms to use so often avoided them by using 'it.' Hahman, a Bavarian by birth, was fifty-five years and 'when it was born it was baptised as a girl, and bore the name of Catharine Hahman. The sexual organs were malformed to a certain extent, but the female genital organs predominated. The child grew up and passed as a woman, and became a wife. The organs named were healthy, performing all the operations of nature common to the female at a mature age. The male organs suddenly began developing and the female attributes became secondary. She then became he and married a woman, who is with him in the city.



The case became known to the medical profession in Europe, and attracted general attention there. The leading physicians of Vienna and Berlin examined the peculiarities of the case and declared it the most pronounced case of human hermaphrodite ever known to the medical profession. The man now has a beard, but the breasts are still fully developed, like those of a woman. This man claims to have been the father of a child, although he has never had any children by his present wife.

1883



Professor Virchow, a celebrated medical authority, in his Archives, vol. 43, page 332, which may be seen at the Public or Hospital Libraries, gives a detailed and scientific description of the case. The subject is a very interesting one to professional men, but its nature forbids any more minute details in the Enquirer.'



James Murray, in West Canada, tried to sell some horses for suspiciously low prices and the policeman who arrested him thought he 'presented a rather robust appearance about the chest.' James replied that the doctor had ordered it as a remedy for a severe cold – but he turned out to be Mary Bell from Toronto. This is a rare historical example of chest binding.

1886



In the age of the Victorian 'freak' show bearded ladies were a staple. Women who grow beards naturally do so for a variety of reasons but predominantly due to an excess of male hormones. Often journalists were at a loss how to describe these people and often did so in negative terms.



One bearded lady who worked for Barnum was arrested for being drunk and the policeman 'caused a medical examination of the monstrosity to be made; and when the case was heard, the doctor was put in the box, and, in reply to the magistrate, said, "This woman is a man."



Josephine Clofullia, 'The Bearded Lady of Geneva'.

The prisoner denied the imputation; but, on further inquiry, said he (or she) really did not know to which sex he (or she) belonged. Three months in gaol were at once accorded for the solution of these anthropological doubts.'



Richard Freiherr von Krafft-Ebing, an Austro-German psychiatrist, and one of the first 'sexologists' working on the sexual nature of humans, publishes his major work, *Psychopathia Sexualis*. It is one of the first books that studied homosexuality and bisexuality.



1889

A young recruit is arrested in London and charged with trying to enlist in the army. When the Sergeant had looked at him, 'he' blushed so a doctor was called and it was discovered the recruit was actually New Zealander, Harriet Muir. So many people were cross-dressing that it was necessary to have court doctor's check an individual's biological sex. The magistrate asked the Sergeant if there was a question about sex in the 'long string of questions which you put to would-be recruits?' to which the rather bewildered Sergeant admitted, 'no.'

1890

Mary Louisa Gordon qualifies as a doctor from the London School of Medicine for Women and later worked as a clinical assistant at the East London Hospital for Children and at the Evelina London Children's Hospital. She published a number of papers including the effects of sexually transmitted diseases (STDs), prostitution, and alcohol dependence on women. She worked in a number of prisons and wrote the book, Penal Discipline (1922) in which she helping an inmate who was frequently arrested for stealing men's clothes.

The inmate told her that "she felt it impossible to live as a woman, but could live as a man, and enjoyed men's work". Gordon provided her with men's clothing and a train fare to South Wales where she obtained work as a coal miner. In 1936, Gordon wrote the historical novel Chase of the Wild Goose, based on the Ladies of Llangollen; and she and her supposed partner Violet Labouchere erected a marble relief of the Ladies at St. Collen's Church in Llangollen where they were buried – the relief modelled not on the Ladies but on themselves.



1894

Laure Bernard, a 24-year-old woman from Treschatel, France who was well-known as the founder and director of a school to treat stammering suddenly changed her sex and married one of her friends. It seems that at her birth, the question of sex was a difficult one to settle and 'the weaker sex was chosen.' Through their school they accumulated a small fortune and used this to study medicine, sometimes wearing male attire. 'Nothing in her outward appearance betrayed that she was of the masculine sex. The face had perhaps a certain hardness, and the voice was slightly manly in its tone, but on the whole, she wore her skirts "as to the manner born.'"

1895

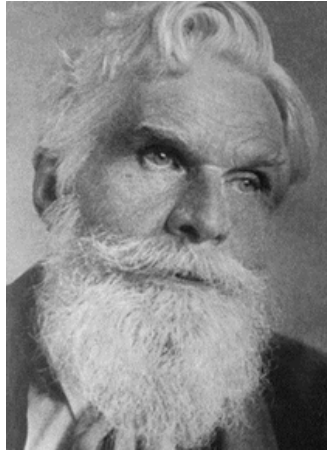
Individuals often cross-dressed to travel and did so for a number of reasons. It was not until the 1890s when countries began to police those coming through immigration checks that more people were discovered. Such as a passenger called Nystrom arriving in New York from Southampton and was found to be a biological woman when she refused a vaccination by the port doctor.

1896

One of the followers of Mat Saleh, the Borneo freebooter and rebel, who was condemned to death, was found to be a hermaphrodite. The Governor of British North Borneo commuted the sentence to imprisonment for life - in the interests of medical science. Magnus Hirschfeld, a German physician and leading sexologist publishes the pamphlet, Sappho and Socrates, on homosexual love, under the pseudonym Th. Ramien.

1897

An individual who arrived in New York was discovered to be a biological woman, but they begged the doctor not to expose them saying, 'I'll kill myself before I will wear women's clothes. It is my life's desire to be a man. That the Almighty made me a woman is no fault of mine.'



Havelock Ellis

Havelock Ellis' book, *Sexual Inversion*, co-written with the writer and poet John Addington Symonds, was the first English language medical book on homosexuality. Both argued that male homosexuals should not be seen as effeminate, yet were willing to portray lesbians as mannish women.

To obtain a copy it was first necessary to get a statement from a doctor or lawyer as to the good character of the person before they could buy it.

Magnus Hirschfeld founds Wissenschaftlich-humanitäres Komitee, WhK (the Scientific-Humanitarian Committee) in Berlin to campaign for social recognition of gay, bisexual and transgender men and women, and against their legal persecution. It is the first LGBT+ rights organisation in history but is destroyed by the Nazis in 1933.





1900's Theorise it!

Although homosexual acts are still illegal, enlightened discussion begins to move away from criminalisation towards ways to understand and deal with homosexuality.

News items of 'cross-dressed men and women' occur regularly in the British press in the early part of the 20th century.

1903

The renowned psychoanalyst Sigmund Freud (1856-1939) argued that everyone is born bisexual, but this theory had been around earlier: Otto Weininger in *Geschlecht und Charakter (Sex and Character)* published in 1903 tried to explain the similarities between male and female. He stated that all organisms are born bisexual and in reality, there is no such thing as male and female because individuals contain elements of both and we oscillate between them, according to internal and external influences.

In his essay 'Theory of Sexuality' he states that homosexuality is not a congenital madness or disease, but the result of arrested development at a young age. Homosexuals had 'failed' at heterosexuality, but it is extremely unlikely that they could be cured. Freud argues that homosexuals should not be punished and homosexuality should be legal.

1906

Iwan Bloch, a German dermatologist and psychiatrist, publishes *Das Sexualleben unserer Zeit in seinen Beziehungen zur modernen Kultur (The Sexual Life of our Time in its Relations to Modern Civilization)* an encyclopaedia of the sexual sciences. Bloch's studies were instrumental in the development of the theories of sexuality as his approach was more anthropological than pathological.

Dina Alma de Paradedada (1871-1906) was a Brazilian socialite who committed suicide in front of a doctor, who after examining the body revealed she was physically male. Subsequent media interest in the story made her one of the first documented and known by name transgender women either of South American origin or living in Central-Eastern Europe.



Dr Louisa Martindale sets up a private practice in Brighton and becomes the first woman GP. With a group of other Brighton feminists she develops the New Sussex Hospital for Women, where she is senior surgeon and physician. She later becomes a specialist in the early treatment of cervical cancer and is awarded the CBE in 1931.

Louisa lived with her partner Ismay FitzGerald for three decades, and writes of her love for her in her autobiography A Woman Surgeon, published in 1951.

Otto Weininger (1880-1903) in *Geschlecht und Charakter* (Sex and Character) wrote:

there are no inverts who are completely sexually inverted. In all of them there is from the beginning an inclination to both sexes; they are, in fact, bisexual. It may be later on they may actively encourage a slight leaning toward one sex or the other, and so become practically unisexual either in the normal or inverted sense, or surrounding influence may bring about this result for them.

American philosopher and psychologist, William James (1842-1910) writes in the *Principles of Psychology*: 'There is no inborn heterosexuality and no inborn homosexuality. There is only bisexuality.'

1907

1910

Magnus Hirschfeld is credited with coining the term transvestite in 1910, but its French roots go back much further to the Latin transvestire (trans - across, vestire, clothes) - which led to the French words travestir and travesti to denote a disguise, predominantly of men dressing as women.

1911



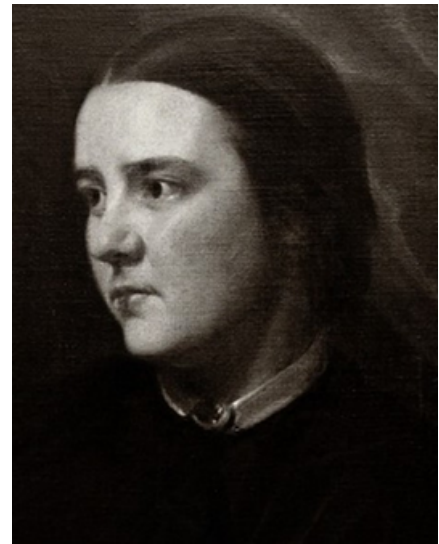
Albert Roe

Wealthy Eric Trevanion dies in Brighton and his partner, Swansea man Albert Roe is suspected in his death. At the inquest Dr William H. Willcox, the Senior Scientific Analyst to the Home Office, gives evidence to 'prove' Eric's 'perversity'.

However, it is not until the 1920s that Willcox's bias against homosexuality became apparent. He had played a part in the banning of Radclyffe Hall's *The Well of Loneliness* in 1928, the first English language novel by a woman about two female lovers. When prosecutors looked for medical advice to support their ban, they called on Willcox. Lesbianism was, according to him, 'well known to have a debasing effect on those practising it, which is mental, moral and physical in character.' Adding, 'It leads to gross mental illness, nervous instability, and in some cases to suicide in addicts to this vice. It is a vice which, if widespread, becomes a danger to the well-being of a nation.' Publication of the book, Willcox claimed, would risk its being read 'by a large number of innocent persons, who might out of pure curiosity be led to discuss openly and possibly practise the form of vice described'. Willcox also played a damming role in the trial of Eric Mareo in New Zealand who was accused of killing his lesbian wife, Thelma. For more on both these stories see *The Veronal Mystery* (Wordcatcher Publishing) by Norena Shopland.

1912

Sophia Jex-Blake (1840-1912) dies. In 1869 Sophia Jex-Blake applied to study medicine at Edinburgh University but was denied a place. The university's reasoning was that they could not cater for just one lady. So, she advertised in The Scotsman and other newspapers, for women to join her and eventually seven applied that same year.



'The Edinburgh Seven' as they became known gained distinctions in their entrance exams but due to growing resentment of the women all the scholarships were awarded to men, even those with lower marks. Battling through three years of resentment the Edinburgh Seven passed their courses but were not allowed to graduate and it was not until 1876 that women could finally study at universities.

Jex-Blake become one of the first woman doctors in the United Kingdom. In 1886 she helped open the Edinburgh School of Medicine for Women and it was there she met her life partner Dr Margaret Todd, (she coined the word isotope in 1913) one of the first students to enrol in the institute. Together they wrote several crucial texts arguing in favour of women's suffrage and women's importance to the medical field. After Jex-Blake's death, Todd wrote The Life of Dr Sophia Jex-Blake (1918) describing the fight of women in the 19th century to enter the medical profession.

Dr Bernard Henry Spilsbury (1877-1947), pathologist, uses the flawed Tardieu system of identifying homosexual men to label Eric Trevanion a 'sexual pervert'. Misinformation and suppression of homosexual evidence at the inquest leaves the possibility that Trevanion was murdered.





1913

Ernst Burchard a German physician, sexologist, and homosexual publishes *Zur Psychologie der Selbstbeziehung* (On the psychology of self-accusation) and *Der sexuelle Infantilismus* (Sexual infantilism). In 1914 he published *Lexikon des gesamten Sexuallebens* (Lexicon of the entire sexual life); and also wrote lyric poems for gay periodicals. He was one of the co-founders of the Scientific-Humanitarian Committee and fought for the repeal of Paragraph 175 (also known as Section 175) a German law from 1871 that criminalised homosexual behaviour between men. it was this law that the Nazis used to persecute homosexual men.

1914

Magnus Hirschfeld publishes *Die Homosexualität des Mannes und des Weibes* (The Homosexuality of Men and Women), a survey of homosexuality around the globe.

The British Society for the Study of Sex Psychology is set up by a group of theorists and activists, with Edward Carpenter as president. Carpenter is a proponent of the theory of homosexual as a third sex, and himself lives openly with his lover, George Merrill. The Society discusses the topic of homosexual oppression along with other issues including women's rights, contraception, divorce law reform and the use of sex hormones.

1916

Urania a privately published feminist gender studies journal is established. It challenges gender stereotypes and advances the abolishment of gender; each issue is headed with the statement: "There are no 'men' or 'women' in Urania." Urania was edited by Eva Gore-Booth (187-1926) and her partner Esther Roper (1868-1938), trans Irene Clyde (1869-1954), Dorothy Cornish (1870-1945), and Jessey Wade (1859-1952).

1916

Alan L Hart (October 4, 1890 – July 4, 1962) is one of the first female-born but male-identified people to undergo hysterectomy and gonadectomy in the US.



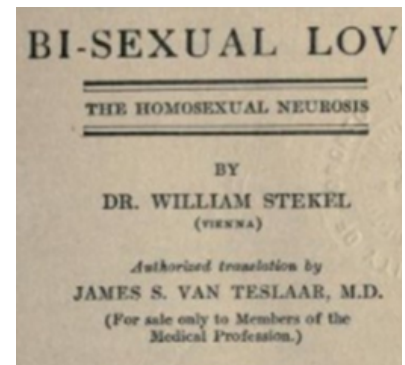
Hart is an American physician, radiologist, tuberculosis researcher, writer and novelist, who pioneers the use of X-ray photography in tuberculosis detection, and helps implement TB screening programmes that save thousands of lives.

1921

A law to criminalise female homosexuality is discussed in Parliament but rejected it due to the fear a law would draw attention and encourage women to explore homosexuality; and that it would open the floodgates for blackmail as the Criminal Law Amendment Act 1885 did causing it to be nicknamed 'The Blackmailer's Charter'.

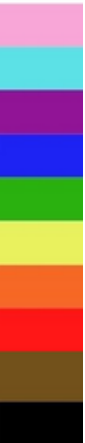
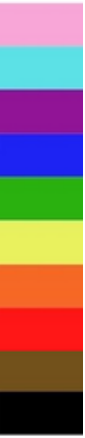
1922

Austrian physician and psychologist, Wilhelm Stekel (1868-1940) writes *Bi-Sexual Love: the Homosexual Neurosis*



1927

Welshman Ernest Jones reads a paper at the 10th International Congress of Psycho-Analysis detailing his treatment of five homosexual women. As the head of the International Psychoanalytic Association, he later refuses to admit homosexual men as psychiatrists, despite the disapproval of Sigmund Freud. Anna Freud, Sigmund's daughter, also a psychoanalyst, backs Jones despite having a 'close companionship' with Dorothy Burlingham.



1928

Radclyffe Hall's (1880-1943) novel, *The Well of Loneliness*, is published and later banned for 'obscenity' because it centers on the life of a 'sexual invert', Stephen Gordon, who wishes to have been born male.

Dr William H. Willcox (1870-1941), the Senior Scientific Analyst to the Home Office, gave vital evidence towards the ban. 'Lesbianism,' was, according to Willcox, 'well known to have a debasing effect on those practising it, which is mental, moral and physical in character.' Adding, 'It leads to gross mental illness, nervous instability, and in some cases to suicide in addicts to this vice. It is a vice which, if widespread, becomes a danger to the well-being of a nation.'

1930's - Pathologise it!

For the most part, homosexuality is still seen as an illness, and even those involved in campaigning tend to be apologists, pleading for fair treatment for sufferers of this 'abnormality'.

During this period, the first 'sex change' stories begin to enter the British press. Medical advances in the field of endocrinology and surgery enable some of the first gender confirmation surgeries to be performed in the UK.

1930

Lili Elbe (1882-1931), a Danish painter, goes to Germany for gender reassignment surgery, which is only in an experimental state at this time. Five operations are carried out over a period of two years. The first surgery, removal of the testicles (orchidectomy), is carried out by Dr Kurt Warnekros in the Dresden Municipal Women's Clinic.



The second operation is to remove the penis, and transplant ovaries from a 26-year old donor. These are soon removed in a third, then fourth, operation, due to rejection and other serious complications. The fifth operation is to transplant a uterus and is intended to allow Elbe, now nearing the age of 50, to bear children. She dies from complications from the surgery in 1931.

The Encyclopaedia of Sexual Knowledge by Norman Haire is published, addressing transvestitism and gender reassignment.



1932

Colonel Sir Victor Barker DSO (1895-1960) marries Elfida Haward in Brighton. Barkers's birth sex (female) is later revealed and the marriage is consequently annulled. Barker goes on to appear in 'freak show' displays in New Brighton, Southend- on-Sea and Blackpool.



1933

Homosexuals are sent to concentration camps. Nazis burn the library of Magnus Hirschfeld's (1868-1935) Institute for Sexual Research, and destroy the Institute.

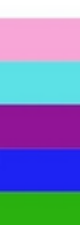


1935

Aversion therapy is first used to eliminate homosexuality and later is used on trans people.



Sigmund Freud publishes his famous letter to the mother of a homosexual son outlined his beliefs: "Homosexuality is assuredly no advantage, but it is nothing to be ashamed of, no vice, no degradation, it cannot be classified as an illness; we consider it to be a variation of the sexual function produced by a certain arrest of sexual development. Many highly respectable individuals of ancient and modern times have been homosexuals, several of the greatest men among them (Plato, Michelangelo, Leonardo da Vinci, etc.) It is a great injustice to persecute homosexuality as a crime and cruelty too."



Jane Addams (1860-1935) an important leader in the history of social work and the first American woman to be awarded the Nobel Peace Prize, in 1931, dies.

She had a relationship with Ellen Gates Starr (1859- 1940) an American social reformer.

Martha Carey Thomas (1857-1935) dies. She is the first woman president of Bryn Mawr College, USA a position she acquires through the influence of her partner Mary Garrett (1854-1915).

Thomas also creates the world-famous medical college at John Hopkins on the condition that women are admitted to study. Her relationships with both Garrett and English professor Mamie Gwin provide the inspiration for lesbian author Gertrude Stein's bisexual story Fernhurst (1904).



1940's The War Years

Homosexuals are persecuted by the Nazis during the Holocaust. 53% of homosexual prisoners die in concentration camps, a higher proportion than for political prisoners. Medical experiments on homosexuals, in an attempt to 'cure them' are common, including injecting them with large amounts of male hormones to see if they begin to show interest in the opposite sex.

1941

Transsexuality was first used in reference to homosexuality and bisexuality.

1942


In 1942 over twenty men, between 18 and 50 years of age, were arrested at Abergavenny for charges relating to homosexual activity (mainly gross indecency with other men and buggery). Sent to trial at the Monmouthshire Assizes, some men were acquitted, whereas others were sentenced to between 12 months to 10 years imprisonment.

1945

Sir Harold Gillies and his colleague Ralph Millard carry out female-to-male confirmation surgery on Michael Dillon. Sir Harold Gillies developed his pioneering pedicle flap surgery with injured soldiers from World War Two. Initially developed as reconstructive surgery. phalloplasty is now offered as a genital surgery option for trans men.



Dillon undergoes at least 13 surgeries between 1946 and 1949 but the exact nature of the surgery is concealed. Michael Dillon (1915-1962) was born to aristocrat Robert Dillon of Lismullen, County Meath.



In 1939 he seeks treatment from Dr George Foss who had had been experimenting with testosterone to treat excessive menstrual bleeding but who understood its potential masculinity effects. Dillon graduates from Trinity College Dublin and sets up as a physician.

In 1946 he publishes *Self A Study in Endocrinology and Ethics*, which makes a case for 'masculine inverts' to be treated medically - 'Where the mind cannot be made to fit the body, the body should be made to fit, approximately at any rate, to the mind'.

In 1958, Dillon's history is brought to public attention as a result of a discrepancy between the reporting of his aristocratic background. He consequently flees to India and becomes ordained as a monk.

The Sex Education Society is formed, holding public lectures aimed at enlightening public opinion on sexual health matters and supporting relevant legislation. Part of its programme calls for 'the establishment of a rational attitude towards sexual abnormal persons' and the reform of sexual offences legislation. Norman Haire is president and under his influence the *Journal of Sex Education* is first published in 1948, including research articles and advice to readers promoting enlightened views on sexuality.

1948

The National Health Service is established.



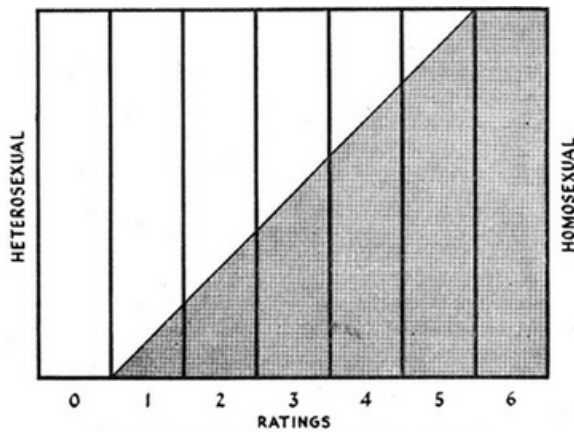


Figure 161. Heterosexual-homosexual rating scale

Based on both psychologic reactions and overt experience, individuals rate as follows:

0. Exclusively heterosexual with no homosexual
1. Predominantly heterosexual, only incidentally homosexual
2. Predominantly heterosexual, but more than incidentally homosexual
3. Equally heterosexual and homosexual
4. Predominantly homosexual, but more than incidentally heterosexual
5. Predominantly homosexual, but incidentally heterosexual
6. Exclusively homosexual

American biologist Alfred Kinsey (1894-1956) publishes Sexual Behaviour in the Human Male and Sexual Behaviour in the Human Female, showing that homosexual practices are much more widespread than previously thought.

Kinsey's findings have a major impact on public opinion, as people debate the validity of his claims.

He, and others, develop the controversial Kinsey Scale - ranging from 0, meaning exclusively heterosexual, to 6, meaning exclusively homosexual in both male and female. Later x is added to denote asexuality, a lack of sexual attraction.





1950's Cure it!

American and British psychiatry are dominated by the idea that homosexuals can be changed through psychoanalysis. Freudian theory is still very influential, leading to the belief that homosexuality is a state of arrested development and the outlining of homosexual and lesbian 'types'. Homosexuality continues to be pathologised as psychiatrists are determined to find a cure for it. The first serious moves towards legalisation of homosexuality are made with the work of the Wolfenden Committee.

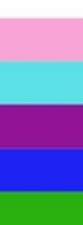
Medical 'cures' for homosexuality (often offered to men convicted of sexual offences instead of a jail sentence) include electric shock treatment, hallucinogenic drugs, aversion therapy and brainwashing techniques.

1950
Transexuality enters public discourse during this time, largely as a result of ongoing conversations about sexuality.

Heyday of London's Gateways club (1931-1985) one of the few places in the UK where lesbians could meet openly and is featured in the lesbian film *The Killing of Sister George*.

During the 1950s women would often adopt a butch/femme role to conform to a notion of binary genders.

During this time people of colour could often find it difficult to find venues but Gateways welcomed them.



1952

Roberta Cowell (1918-2011) is the first known UK trans person to undergo gender confirmation surgery. The operation is performed by Sir Harold Gillies, a plastic surgeon. Cowell learns of the procedure through Michael Dillon (who had earlier performed an orchidectomy on her).



Cowell trained as a fighter pilot and a motor racing driver before becoming a prisoner of war .

The last lobotomy to 'cure' homosexuality is carried out.

1954



After being convicted of sexual offences with a young man, Alan Turing, code breaker and founder of modern computer science, chooses to undergo hormone treatment instead of going to prison. He is regularly injected with oestrogen in an attempt to neutralise his libido.

Two years later, his body is found by his cleaner.

He had died of cyanide poisoning and the coroner gave the verdict of suicide. In 2009, the Prime Minister, Gordon Brown, issues an apology on behalf of the government.

Bisexual psychiatrist James Strachey (1887-1967) and his wife Alix (1892-1973) begin publishing the Complete Psychological Works of Sigmund Freud.



1955

First meeting of the Wolfenden Committee to discuss the potential decriminalisation of homosexuality, taking its name from the committee leader John Wolfenden (1906-1985). Ophthalmic surgeon Patrick Trevor-Roper (1916-2004) is one of only three out gay men who give evidence to the Wolfenden Committee that homosexuality is not a physical or mental illness.



1957

American psychologist Evelyn Hooker (1907-1996) proves that gay men can be just as psychologically well adjusted as straight men; before this, studies of gay men had involved those who were already seeking psychiatric treatment or were in prison.

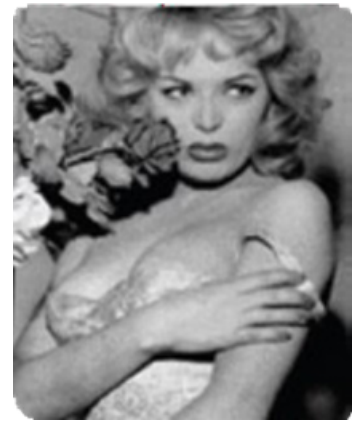


The word "Transsexual" is coined by U.S. physician Harry Benjamin (1885-1986)



1958

Coccinelle (1931-2006), an entertainer from Paris, undergoes Gender Reassignment Surgery with Dr Georges Burou (1910-1987) in Casablanca, Morocco. Burou also treats April Ashley and Jan Morris.



1959

Alan Horsfall, Labour councillor for Nelson, Lancashire, tables a motion to his local Labour party to back the decriminalisation of homosexuality. The motion is rejected, but Horsfall and fellow activist Anthony Grey are later to form the North West Homosexual Law Reform Committee.



1960's Legalise it!

A decade of campaigning for an end to the criminalisation of homosexuality eventually sees legislation passed. However, it is limited and public opinion is still largely homophobic.

1960's From Jane Traies book *The Lives of Older Lesbians* 'I decided that I wanted to become a teacher ... but I had to go and have a medical. Not just an ordinary medical, but a full medical...the doctor said, 'You take all your clothes off.' When I was in College, I said, 'Wasn't that medical awful that we had before we came here?' So they said, 'What medical?' And then I realised that I'd actually been subjected to something to try to find out - I don't know what - whether they thought I was a hermaphrodite or something like that, or what.'

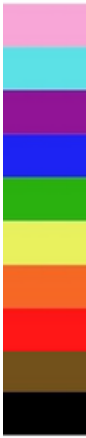
British model April Ashley undergoes gender reassignment surgery with Dr Burou in Casablanca. At just 18 years old, Ashley receives psychiatric treatment and later moves abroad for surgery denied in Britain. At this time, surgery is very much dependent on social class and social connections (this explains the ability of Cowell to access surgery a few years earlier).



1964 During the 1950s, genital surgery does take place but is unusual. Most surgeons refuse to perform these operations, leaving 'treatment' instead in the field of psychiatry. However, access to surgical procedures becomes more readily accessible in the 1960's. There is a growing body of research on transsexuality, from the fields of sexology, psychology and psychiatry.



Much of the literature (eg Benjamin and Money, 1969) emphasises dysfunctional socialisation as the cause of the transsexual 'condition'. However, gender starts to be recognised independently from biological sex, leading towards the gradual acceptance of surgery as a 'cure' for the dis-junction between felt gender and biological sex. Benjamin argues that if surgery is refused, the transsexual person reverts to self-harm and suicide.



Money declares that medical opinion should dictate public policy and, in turn, legislation. Benjamin and Money coin the term 'gender dysphoria'.

1964



North West Homosexual Law Reform Committee founded, abandoning the medical model of homosexuality as a sickness and calling for decriminalisation of homosexuality. Its first meeting is held in Manchester.

The national Homosexual Law Reform Committee had been established in 1958, and the North West branch is the only one to remain active after decriminalisation legislation is passed. It becomes the National Campaign for Homosexual Equality in 1969.



American trans man Reed Erickson (1917-1992) sets up the Erickson Educational Foundation (EEF) to support the work of the LGB&T movement in the 1960s and 1970s. Erickson worked as an engineer before inheriting the family business in 1962, which he eventually sold for an estimated \$40 million. His legal change of gender and surgeries set a precedent in the state of Louisiana.



Founding of the Beaumont Society, a London-based social/support group for people who crossdress, are transvestite or who are transsexual. The first meeting takes place in a Southampton hotel, at a time when there is little knowledge about trans issues and a general non-acceptance from the general public and police.

Sexual Offences Act legalises private consensual homosexual sex over the age of 21.

1965

A UK opinion poll finds that 93% of people still see homosexuality as a form of illness requiring medical treatment.

London psychiatrist, Clifford Allen, claims that female homosexuality "is a sexual neurosis and is just as treatable as any other neurosis" and that he had "cured" a number of female patients through psychotherapy.

1968

In the aftermath of the Compton's Cafeteria riot, a network of transgender social, psychological, and medical support services was established, which culminated in 1968 with the creation of the National Transsexual Counseling Unit [NTCU], the first such peer-run support and advocacy organization in the world.

1969

The Stonewall Riots - trans and gender non-conforming people are among those who resist arrest during a bar raid at the Stonewall Inn, New York. This event marks the start of the LGBT movement.



Bisexual Brenda Howard (1946-2005) played a major role in organising the first gay pride march in 1969.



1970's Liberation!

The decade of gay liberation, seeing the formation of the London Gay Liberation Front in 1970 and the first Gay Pride in London (1972).

The development of gender identity clinics attempts to break away from the mainstream medical practice to create a more sensitive system of care for trans people. There is also a growing body of literature on trans issues, written mainly from a radical feminist or anthropological perspective, which, in its attempts to criticise rigid classification of gender behaviours, only serves to further scapegoat trans people.

1970

On June 27, 1970, the first gay and lesbian pride parade in the world was held in Chicago.

American Dr. Alice Hamilton (1869-1970), who founded occupational medicine, dies. Now accepted as someone today identified as lesbian, she battled the resistance to women in medicine and helped pioneer the study of harmful industrial toxins.



1971

Dr. Frank Kameny (1925-2011) becomes the first openly gay candidate for the United States Congress.

American psychotherapist Betty Berzon (1928-2006) was among the first psychotherapists to assist gay clients. After coming out as gay in 1968, she began providing therapy to gays and lesbians. In 1971, during a UCLA conference The Homosexual in America, Berzon became the first psychotherapist in the country to come out as gay.



1972

New Zealand psychologist John Money (1921-2006) publishes a case study *Man & Woman, Boy & Girl: Gender Identity from Conception to Maturity*, claiming that early socialisation can overrule biological programming. The case study concerns David Reimer (1965- 2004), a Canadian who was born male but reassigned female after his penis was severed beyond repair during circumcision.

Milton Diamond later reports that, despite Money's assertions, Reimer never identified as female.

In 1997, after assuming a male gender identity, Reimer undergoes chest reconstruction and phalloplasty. He later commits suicide after going public with his story to discourage similar medical practices.



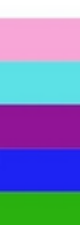
1973

London Icebreakers formed, offering a 24-hour helpline staffed exclusively by lesbian, gay, and bisexual people and offering support.

The American Psychiatric Association removes some definitions of homosexuality from the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders. It was not until 1986 that all definitions were removed; and in 1992 the World Health Organisation removed homosexuality from its list of mental disorders.



Campaign for Homosexual Equality hold the first UK gay rights conference in Morecambe, Lancashire.



1974

Homosexuality is removed from the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Illness, published by the American Psychiatric Association but was replaced with the diagnosis of "sexual orientation disturbance".

After political pressure from the National Gay Task Force, the American Psychiatric Association changes the diagnosis of homosexuality from a disease to a 'condition'.

The first national Transvestite/Transsexual Conference held in Leeds.



Jan Morris (1926-2020) journalist and travel writer, publishes *Conundrum*, a personal account of her transition.

Morris travelled to Morocco to undergo sex reassignment surgery, performed by surgeon Georges Burou because doctors in Britain refused to allow the procedure unless Morris and Elizabeth Tuckniss divorced, something Morris was not prepared to do.

1975

Maureen Colquhoun (1928-2021) becomes the UK's first out lesbian MP after coming out in 1975. She is the UK's first openly gay MP.

1978

American artist, gay rights activist, Gilbert Baker (1951-2017) raised the first Rainbow Flag at San Francisco Pride on June 25, 1978. It since become an international symbol of pride.

| | | |
|-----------|--|-----------|
| Hot pink |  | Sex |
| Red |  | Life |
| Orange |  | Healing |
| Yellow |  | Sunlight |
| Green |  | Nature |
| Turquoise |  | Magic/Art |
| Indigo |  | Serenity |
| Violet |  | Spirit |

Original eight-colour version

1979



British documentary A Change of Sex is aired on the BBC, enabling viewers to follow the social and medical transition of Julia Grant. The programme also provides an important historical snapshot of the Gender Identity Clinic, Charing Cross Hospital, London.

The term Gay Bowel Syndrome is coined to describe a range of peri-anal and rectal diseases seen among gay male patients; it did not refer to a specific complaint, nor to complaints specific to gay men, but in the pre-AIDS era is the first medical term to relate to gay men. It is now obsolete and considered derogatory

UK's oldest LGBT+ bookshop, Gays the Word opens in London.



1980's Fear and Panic!

AIDS comes to dominate, not just the decade, but LGB issues both in the mainstream and for LGB people themselves.

1981 First cases of what will come to be known as AIDS recorded. Several gay men present in Californian hospitals with a range of unusual conditions including pneumocystis carinii pneumonia (PCP) and Kaposi's sarcoma (a rare skin cancer), and all show weakened immune systems. At first it is referred to as Gay-Related Immune Deficiency (GRID) and even 'gay cancer'. The discovery that other groups are also susceptible, including haemophiliacs, recipients of blood transfusions and intravenous drug users, prompts the coining of a new name, Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS).

1982 Terrance Higgins, from Swansea, is the first British gay man to be diagnosed with and die of AIDS. An article in Capital Gay, referring to it as an American disease, is published five months after his death and the story is ignored by the mainstream media. The Terrance Higgins Trust is set up later this year by his partner, Martyn Butler. It is still a leading sexual health and HIV charity in the UK.



1983 The National Blood Service (then the Blood Transfusion Service) bans men who have sex with men from donating blood. Even if they practised safe sex and tested negative for HIV.

HIV virus is isolated by researchers at the Pasteur Institute in Paris.

1985

Conservative Minister for Health Ken Clarke enacts powers to keep people with AIDS in hospital against their will. Medical experts caution that this might deter some people from coming forward for treatment. The only known case of these powers being used in Manchester, when a gay man with AIDS asks to go home for the weekend. Manchester City Council holds an emergency meeting and grants an order to have him detained in hospital for 3 weeks. Major protests from the gay community follow and a court case, the order is lifted and he is allowed to leave hospital 10 days later.

Testing for the HIV virus is introduced. Health Authorities are asked to provide counselling services for people who test positive, as well as their family and friends. Blood transfusions centres begin to routinely test all blood donations.

The South Wales Aids Newsletter, 1985, can be read at Glamorgan Archives

1986

Global scientific community recognises HIV as the virus that causes AIDS.

SIGMA (Socio-sexual Investigations of Gay Men and AIDS) research group funded by the Department of Health to conduct a study of HIV in non-clinical settings, offering HIV testing to people in their own homes. This continued until 1995, when the group becomes Sigma Research, specialising in the behavioural and policy aspects of HIV and sexual health, also undertaking research and development work on LGBT health and well-being.

Government launches the first AIDS awareness campaign. A series of hard hitting television adverts and leaflets bearing the slogan, 'Don't Die of Ignorance' which are delivered to every household in the UK.



In April 1986, the Gwent Lesbian and Gay Group (GLAGG) was established. They organised monthly discos in and around Newport, as well as supporting sub-groups such as a writing group and the Gwent Aids Support Group. Copies can be read at Gwent Archive.

1987

Virginia Bottomley (1948 -), Conservative MP for South West Surrey (later to become Minister of Health in 1989) advocates ECT (electroconvulsive therapy) to 'cure' homosexuality.

The Aids (Control) Act of 1987 required District Health Authorities to make public reports to the Secretary of State for Wales on the action they have taken over the previous years on matters relating to AIDS and HIV infection.

1988

Section 28 of the Local Government Act enacted stating that any local authority 'shall not intentionally promote homosexuality or



publish material with the intention of promoting homosexuality' or 'promote the teaching in any maintained school of the acceptability of homosexuality as a pretended family relationship'. No prosecution is ever brought under this amendment, but its existence causes many gay groups to close or self-censor their activities.

HeartBeat (1988-1989), an American medical drama, was the first prime time television series in the US to feature a recurring lesbian couple and a lesbian as a main character, Marilyn McGrath who has a long-term relationship with Patty.



The Journal of Gay & Lesbian Mental Health, a peer-reviewed medical journal is launched.

1989

Stonewall founded by a group of people involved in protest against Section 28 of the Local Government Act, as a professional campaigning and lobbying group for gay equality.



Celebrated jazz musician Billy Tipton dies in Washington after refusing to seek medical attention for a perforated ulcer. He is only discovered to be biologically a women after his death by the corner. Tipton who played in big bands in the 40's and 50's lived his life as a man, marrying several times and raising children.



Neil Wooding was appointed the first Equal Opportunities Officer in Wales (former member of GLAGG).



1990's The Gay Community Fights Back!

Spurred into action by the shock of the AIDS crisis and the slow response of many governments and healthcare systems around the world, the gay community organises and begins to provide support and services.

1990

Founding of the Gender Trust, the first registered charity to help trans adults in the UK.



THE GENDER TRUST


Registered Charity No. 1088150

First National Survey on Sexual Attitudes and Lifestyles carried out, the largest representative sample survey of sexual lifestyles ever undertaken in Britain. It is refused funding by the Conservative government and funded instead by the charity the Wellcome Foundation.

1992

Founding of Press for Change, a key lobbying and legal support organisation for trans people in the UK. PFC works to ensure 'respect and equality for all trans people in the UK' through case law, legislation and social change. Later in 1996, PFC was deemed to be 'one of the most successful lobby groups seen in the last 25 years' by Lord Alex Carlile, Baron Carlile of Berriew.

Patrons include Lord Beaumont, Alex Carlile QC, Edwina Currie, Professor Louis Gooren, Dr Lynne Jones MP, Lady Helena Kennedy QC, Ken Livingstone MP and Archbishop Desmond Tutu.



Gay Men Fighting AIDS (GMFA) founded by a group of gay men in London who feel there is not enough targeted HIV prevention work. Since 2002 it's remit includes all health issues which disproportionately affect gay men.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) International Classification of Diseases finally removes the term homosexuality from the its list of mental disorders.

However, it adds the diagnosis of 'ego-dystonic sexual orientation', in which a persons 'gender identity or sexual preference ...is not in doubt, but the individual wishes it were different because of associated psychological and behavioural disorders, and may seek treatment in order to change it.'

The WHO notes that sexual orientation itself is not a disorder, but acknowledges that treatment of ego-dystonic sexual orientation may include attempts to change a persona sexual orientation as well as helping them to be more comfortable with it.

1993

Government removes homosexuality from its list of psychiatric disorders in England and Wales (Scottish government removes it in 2000).

Department of Health sets up PRISM, its staff LGBT network, one of the first of its kind.

The survey goes national in 1997 with funding from the partners of CHAPS on behalf of the Department of Health, and since 2001 has been available online and promoted on gay community and commercial websites.

1994

Diva Europe's leading magazine for lesbians and bisexual women is launched and includes articles about women's health.



1995

Gay and Lesbian Association of Doctors and Dentists founded, providing support, information and social opportunities to gay and lesbians in the medical professions.

The case of X, Y and Z V's The United Kingdom is brought before the European Court of Human Rights. Here, trans man, Stephen Whittle seeks recognition as the legal father of his child, born to his partner by artificial insemination by an anonymous donor. The request is refused.



The Gay and Lesbian Medical Association launched the Journal of the Gay and Lesbian Medical Association, the world's first peer-reviewed, multi-disciplinary journal dedicated to LGBT health.



Publication - Goldstein N. Lesbians and the medical profession: HIV/AIDS and the pursuit of visibility. Women's Studies: An Interdisciplinary Journal. 1995

1996

A breakthrough is made in the area of AIDS treatment; Highly Active Antiretroviral Therapy (HAART) is found to significantly delay the onset of AIDS in people living with HIV. The NHS makes the treatment available in the UK

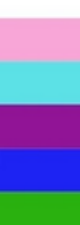


1997

The case of P vs S and Cornwall County Council. The breakthrough judgement of the European Court of Justice gives trans people protection against employment discrimination across the whole of the European Union.



The lesbian health book: Caring for ourselves. Seattle: Seal Press is published.



1998

The first bisexual pride flag was unveiled on 5 December 1998.



The High Court rules in favour of three trans women who were refused gender reassignment treatment by the North West Lancashire Health Authority, representing the first challenge to the policy of not funding medical treatment for trans people. The Health Authority loses an appeal against the ruling in July 1999, making it unlawful for a Health Authority to impose anything amounting to a blanket ban on funding medical treatment for the purposes of gender reassignment.

1999

The UK Sex Discrimination Act is amended to include protections on the basis of Gender Reassignment, by means of the Sex Discrimination (Gender Reassignment) Regulations.

Publication - Terry J. An American obsession: Science, medicine, and homosexuality in modern society Chicago: University of Chicago Press; 1999

Dominic Davies set up the Pink Therapy clinic in London the UK's largest independent therapy organisation working with gender and sexual diversity.



The Transgender Day of Remembrance was founded in 1999 by Gwendolyn Ann Smith (1967-) and the first Celebrate Bisexuality Day was organised by Michael Page, Gigi Raven Wilbur, and Wendy Curry.



The first Cardiff Mardi Gras took place in Bute Park, Cardiff, on 4th September 1999 as a response to an increase in hate crime in South Wales. Over 5,000 people attended this inaugural event.





2000's Legislation and Protection!

The decade of ground-breaking legislation ensuring many equal rights for LGB people. It's characterised by significant gains for the trans community, with the founding of several notable trans equality and human rights organisations, and groundbreaking legalisation.

2000

Age of consent for homosexual sex equalised with heterosexual sex, set at 16 in Wales, England and Scotland and 17 for Northern Ireland.

Article in Nursing Times - Lesbians' experiences of healthcare. Nursing Times Research. 2000

2002

UK documentary Make Me A Man (2002) follows the lives of a handful of trans men at different stages of their gender transition. The case of former nurse Christine Goodwin V's The United Kingdom is heard, in which a trans women successfully argues that her convention rights have been breached by the UK governments failure to provide legal recognition for a trans persons reassigned gender.

2003

Stonewall Cymru founded.





2003

The screening of the UK documentary featuring Sarah Muirhead-Allwood (MBBS, BSc, FRCS), now a consultant orthopaedic surgeon who was involved with a hip replacement operation for the Queen Mother, and who specialises in the pioneering new technique of short stay keyhole hip surgery. In 1996, Muirhead - Allwood receives the support of the British Medical Association (BMA) and the two NHS hospitals where she worked when she transitioned.

Employment Equality (Sexual Orientation) Regulations outlaw discrimination in employment and vocational training including direct and indirect discrimination, harassment and victimisation. Many organisations begin monitoring the sexual orientation of staff and service users to ensure they are providing equality of access and opportunity.

Section 28 of the Local Government Act 1988, outlawing the 'promotion' of homosexuality by local authorities, is abolished.

The Adoption and Children Act removes the condition that only married couples can adopt, therefore allowing same sex couples (and all single people, regardless of sexual orientation) to adopt.

2004

The United Kingdom Gender Recognition Act becomes law on the 1st July, offering Trans people full recognition of their legal change of gender. Press for Change is responsible for ensuring the success of the Goodwin & I cases, and later the Gender Recognition Bill.

Christine Burns, Stephen Whittle and Claire McNab negotiate key conversations with government officials. Angela Clayton was later involved with the implementation phase when the bill is passed into law.

Stephen Whittle is awarded an OBE and Christine Burns a MBE for their outstanding work on behalf of trans people.



Paper in the Journal of the National Medical Association. 2004. - Perceptions about medical culture and healthcare among Black men who have sex with men.

LGBT+ History Month founded in 2004 and first celebrated in February 2005.

Aneurin Bevan University Health Board established the first LGB Advisory group in NHS Wales. Chaired by Caroline Bovey



The Handbook of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Public Health: A Practitioners Guide to Service. New York: Routledge

First Annual LGBT Health Summit held in London for individuals, organisations and activists to discuss the thinking and practice on LGBT health issues in the UK.

Christine Burns chairs the first Department of Health working group on Trans issues, which is part of the Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Advisory Group (SOGIAG). Burns is later appointed to the successor LGBT Advisory Group.

Nursing Standard Magazine celebrates LGBT History Month with a special 'Pride in Nursing' issue.

Celia Bone, a consultant gynaecologist and medical director at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, publicly announces her transition from male to female, supported by the hospital Trust and Chief Executive.

Letters are sent to her patients and a helpline set up to provide information and answer any questions.

2007

Department of Health publishes a series of briefings for health professionals on the health inequalities faced by LGBT people. These address issues such as mental health, as well as sexual health, and the needs of LGBT people from different backgrounds, such as young, old, disabled, and Black and minority ethnic communities.

The Royal College of Nursing launch their national LGBT network, providing a virtual group for members offering support and advice.



The Equality Act (Sexual Orientation) Regulations outlaw discrimination in the provision of goods, facilities, services, education and public functions on the grounds of sexual orientation.

Improving access to health care among African-American, Asian and Pacific Islander, and Latino lesbian, gay, and bisexual populations In: Meyer IH, Northridge ME, editors. The health of sexual minorities: Public health perspectives on lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender populations. New York: Springer; 2007



2008



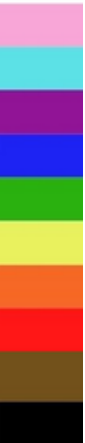
The Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act introduced to allow lesbians and their partners equal access to legal presumptions of parentage in cases of IVF or assisted/self-insemination.

Stonewall publishes Prescription for Change, a national report looking into the neglected healthcare needs of lesbian and bisexual women.

2009



As part of LGBT History Month the British Medical Association publishes a collection of members' experiences as a celebration of LGB&T doctors' contributions to the NHS.



2010's - Cementing Equality!

The Equality Act brings together 40 years of equality legislation, but many of the key provisions are yet to come into force. Rates of mental ill health and sexually transmitted infections are still high among LGB people, and homophobic attacks still frequent.

2010

The International Day for the Depathologisation of Trans Identities (Oct 23rd) is created by the Intergroup on LGBT Rights, after urging the European Commission to depathologise Gender Identity Disorder.


In the United States, Gender Identity Disorder currently appears in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders. The World Health Organisation was reviewing the 10th edition of its International Classification of Diseases (ICD10). Gender Identity Disorder / Transsexualism to potentially be reclassified in ICD11

Plans to make sex education compulsory for children over 15, including information on homosexuality, is scrapped in the pre-election 'wash up'.

Gay men's magazine 'Attitude' publishes its ground breaking issue which addresses the high rates of mental health problems and substance dependency among gay men.



Five NHS bodies appear in the Stonewall Workplace Index of top LGB friendly employers.



The Gay Men's Survey becomes part of EMIS (European MSM Internet Sex Survey) a pan European survey involving organisations in 33 countries. 184,470 men took part, making it the largest survey of this population ever undertaken anywhere in the world.

2010

The Equality Act comes into force, making sexual orientation and gender reassignment protected characteristics. Employers are no longer allowed to ask a job applicants to complete a health questionnaire before and offer of employment. A Single Equality Duty that will require the public sector to actively promote equality for all protected characteristics is planned to come into force in April 2011.

Claire Rayner, ally of the gay rights movement dies. She had attended meetings of the Campaign for Homosexual Equality and was vice president of the Gay and Lesbian Humanist Association. As a nurse, journalist and agony aunt, Rayner recognised the importance of safe sex messages in confronting HIV/AIDS and was one of the first to talk openly about sex and sexual health.



It is estimated that there are over 22,000 people in the UK who are HIV positive but do not know it. A coalition of HIV and healthcare experts launched the 'Halve It' campaign to reduce the number number by 50% over the next five years.



Measures in the proposed Freedom Bill will make it possible for those with historical convictions for consensual gay sex to apply for their record to be deleted from the police national computer so that they no longer have to be declared and they won't show up on criminal record checks.

2011

The ban on men who have sex with men (MSM) from donating blood is lifted (except in Northern Ireland). However, only if they have not been sexually active in the last 12 months.



The U.S. Institute of Medicine (IOM) publishes its landmark report on health disparities among LGBT people and its recommendations to address these disparities.

2012

Homophobic bullying in schools is introduced into Ofsted's inspection framework in the UK.



Stonewall publishes the largest survey of gay and bisexual men's health needs in the world.

Welsh actor Victor Spinetti receives treatment from the Velindre Cancer Centre in Whitchurch for prostate cancer but dies of the condition.

2013

Marriage (Same-Sex Couples) Act is passed in England and Wales.



The first UK trans Pride is held in Brighton.

2014

Queen Elizabeth II praises the information and support helpline, London Lesbian and Gay Switchboard, for their 40-year history, saying: "Best wishes and congratulations to all concerned on this most special anniversary." It is the first time the Crown has ever publicly supported the LGBT community.



Bisexual health awareness month is launched.

**Cardiff Mardi Gras is renamed
Pride Cymru**



2015

Gov.UK publishes Improving health equality for gay, bisexual and other MSM – why now and how?

Riley Carter Millington joins Eastenders as Kyle Slater, the first trans man to play a trans character in a UK soap.

2016

Prince William appears on the cover of gay magazine Attitude the first member of the Royal Family to be photographed for the cover of a gay publication. William talks about the mental effects caused by bullying.

Glitter Cymru was set up in June 2016 as a monthly meet-up group for people who identify under the following two acronyms: BAME meaning Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic and LGBT+ meaning Lesbian, Gay, Bi and Trans.



2017

The 1-year ban on MSM for donating blood is changed to 3 months (except in Northern Ireland where the ban is still in place).

Welsh Gender Service is first announced by the Health Minister, Vaughan Gething AM.

The Bisexuality Report is published by the Open University with a chapter on bisexuality and health.



2018

The UK Government publishes its four-year LGBT Action Plan 2018: Improving the lives of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender people in response to the National LGBT survey. It states, 'While many respondents to the survey said they had a positive experience accessing healthcare, there is clearly more to do.'



2019

The World Health Organisation declassifies trans as a mental illness.

The UK Government appoints the first National Advisor for LGBT Health in the NHS

Helen Spandler and Sarah Carr publish their article Hidden from history? A brief modern history of the psychiatric "treatment" of lesbian and bisexual women in England in The Lancet highlighting the lack of research on psychiatric treatment of these women.

The International Longevity Centre UK publishes Raising the equality flag: Health inequalities among older LGBT people in the UK

Wales' first gender identity clinic run by Cardiff and Vale University Health Board begins.



The first ever Wales Deaf Pride, in partnership with Pride Cymru.



20th Anniversary of Pride Cymru - NHS Wales key part of the Pride Parade.



2020's - The Pandemic Year's!

2020

Cardiff became the first Fast Track City in Wales - a scheme aimed at ending HIV transmissions by 2030.



By signing the Paris Declaration on Fast Track Cities, Cardiff has committed itself with more than 300 cities and municipalities to work towards sustaining the UNAIDS 90/90/90 targets.

The targets hope to have 90% with the virus formally diagnosed, 90% of people having treatment for HIV and 90% of people having undetectable and un-transmittable viral loads. The Fast Track Cities initiative is a global partnership between cities around the world, the International Association of Providers of Aids Care (IAPAC), the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), and the City of Paris.



NHS Wales hold a Love is Love poetry competition for LGBTQ History month. The winning poem is Beautiful, written by Many Pike in Betsi Cadwaladr Health Board.

The Covid 19 pandemic causes a world wide impact as countries are locked down and people are told not to travel. For many LGBTQ+ people this means isolation and fear. Especially for those in abusive and non supportive households.



TransAid Cymru began life as a local mutual aid group in Cardiff, called South Wales Trans Nonbinary Mutual Aid (or SWTN Mutual Aid). They set up in June 2020 after the Conservative Government scrapped the promised GRA reform.

NHS organisations come together to hold a Wales wide NHS Staff Virtual Pride, with panel discussions, awareness sessions as well as holding a LGBTQ+ film night with short films supplied by Iris Film Festival.



a LGBTQ+ film night with short films supplied by Iris Film Festival.

2021



The first gay couple in Wales to give blood, Carl and Martin said they were "absolutely thrilled to be booked in to donate under these changes..."

"It is only fair in today's society that everyone's behaviours should be treated the same and not by the gender of their partner."

Welsh Government launch its consultation on Advancing LGBTQ+ equality. Aiming to making Wales the most LGBTQ+ friendly country in Europe.




It's a Sin, a mini series by Russell T Davies is shown on Channel 4. The five-part series is set from 1981 to 1991 in London.



It depicts the lives of a group of gay men and their friends who lived during the HIV/AIDS crisis in the United Kingdom. The show received critical acclaim for its emotional scenes, writing and depiction of AIDS; the cast performances were also met with widely positive reviews. All episodes were released to the broadcaster's online streaming service All 4. After a few weeks, it was viewed in its entirety more than 6.5 million times; making it the most binge-watched show to stream on the platform. The first episode also became Channel 4's biggest drama launch. The show also created an upsurge in HIV testing.





We hope you've enjoyed reading these highlights of LGBT+ people in Medicine and Health, 1900 - 2021.

Of course, this is just a selection and if you have any suggestions for additions please do let us know and hopefully we can add to the time-line in the future.

Information about authors

Norena Shopland is an author/historian specialising in the history of sexual orientation and gender identity. Her book *Forbidden Lives: LGBT stories from Wales* (Seren Books, 2017) is the first completely historical work on Welsh LGBTQ+ history. *Queering Glamorgan* and *A Practical Guide to Searching LGBTQIA Historical Records* (Routledge, 2020) have become very popular as toolkits to aid people in doing research. In 2021 Shopland was commissioned by the Welsh Government to deliver LGBTQ+ training to local libraries, museums, and archives in Wales. Her latest book is *A History of Women in Men's Clothes: from cross-dressing to empowerment* (Pen and Sword Books, 2021).

Ceri Harris BEM is the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Specialist at Aneurin Bevan University Health Board. With over 20 years of experience working in EDI in the Public Sector. Published an award winning series of inclusive children's books 'Caring for my family with Cancer' with specialist nurse Michele Pengelly, as well as publishing the *Velindre Cookbook - Food Memories*,.

Former Chair of the LGBT Excellence Centre and a member of the South Wales LGBT forum. Currently she is the Chair of the All Wales NHS Equality Leadership Group.





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