



LGBTQ History

By Freya
Horsman and
the ID group

A Celebration for



Introduction

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Non cishet* people have existed throughout history, and in some cases (such as bisexuality in ancient Greece) been considered the norm. Whilst Aylesbury High has made considerable steps towards a more inclusive curriculum, here I cover a selection of people whose stories are not included, but illustrate the wide variety available.

Please be aware that it is not generally possible to definitively tell a historical figure's gender or sexuality, as their society's concepts of these may have been significantly different from our own.

The Public Universal Friend



“The Friend” was born Jemima Wilkinson in 1752 to a Quaker family, but as a teen worshipped with the new light baptists, which led to her eventual disownment due to this. In her 20’s, she contracted typhus and once her fever had broken, they reported being visited by angels, telling them Jemima had died, leaving a new, genderless spirit, named the public universal friend. They refused to answer to Jemima Wilkinson, or be referenced using gendered language. In 1776, they gave their first sermon. They believed in free will and pacifism, and gender equality. They dressed in male clergy wear, with long hair, men’s hats, and colorful women’s scarves. They were put on trial for blasphemy in 1800, but they befriended the judge, who ruled that American courts could not rule blasphemy cases. They died in 1819.

Alain Locke



Alain Locke was a philosopher and author during the Harlem renaissance (a revival of African culture, literature, and art) with a strong emphasis on rejecting white standards for black emancipation. He wrote “The New Negro”, for which the movement was named at the time and pioneered race as something primarily social and cultural. He mentored many other gay members of the Harlem renaissance.

Sylvia Rivera

Born in 1951, Sylvia Rivera was forced into child prostitution at 11.

She was rescued by Marsha P Johnson, who would work with her often throughout their lives. They were both key to the Stonewall movement, and Rivera was also involved in the black liberation movement. She founded STAR (street transvestite action revolutionaries), joined by Johnson.

She died at 50 in 2002.



Dr. Magnus Hirschfeld



Hirschfeld was born in 1868 to an Ashkenazi Jewish family in Germany. His main known work is his theory of the universality of homosexuality across the world after studying gay subcultures in cities across the world. His interest stemmed from his own sexuality, and his observation of the high rates of suicide in his gay patients. He coined the word transvestite when studying how gender intersects with sexuality. He died in 1935, and his headstone reads “per scientiam ad justinium” (through science to justice).

Queen Christina of Sweden

Born in 1626 (when there was some confusion over her biological sex), Christina was educated as a prince on her father's orders, and became Queen at age six. She started becoming more involved in politics as a teen, and her rule not only carefully prevented civil war, but also had an emphasis on the arts, sciences, and literature. She abdicated* to her nephew (who may have been her suitor) after ten years. She was known to discuss the beauty of her "favourite", Ebba, and her letters to her show a highly intimate relationship.



Section 28

Section 28 of the local government act was put in place in 1988 by Margaret Thatcher. It was brought in to “prevent the promotion of homosexuality”. It prevented schools from discussing homosexuality, including acknowledging LGBTQ history. LGBTQ students could not be supported, teachers were silenced. The act facilitated huge quantities of queerphobic bullying and created a culture of shame. Section 28 had an almost insurmountable effect on a generation of queer people. Said one man “I didn’t know what it meant to be gay. I just knew it was wrong.” It seems unbelievable now that this was the case.

Section 28 was repealed in England in 2003* We now believe it is very important to discuss and support the LGBTQ community. It is an essential part of being an inclusive school.

Further links you may like to explore

[The BBC's celebration of LGBT+ History Month](#)

[Guardian article on Moments from LGBT+ History](#)

<https://lgbtplushistorymonth.co.uk/>

[Stonewall](#)



If you are interested in joining the AHS
Inclusion and Diversity group, please join the
ID google classroom: **vbn5vj3**

Next ID meeting:

Thursday 4 March 4 pm