Shropshire LGBT History Month

Back in Time 3

February 2018
In association with

Welcome to Back in Time 3                   February 2018

Having had 2 fantastic Weekend Festivals in 2016 and 2017, this one is a bit different. Instead of one weekend packed full of LGBT Heritage, we thought a whole month would be better!

And - instead of doing most of the organising ourselves, for 2018 we have invited others to put their LGBT History events into one programme, illustrating the breadth of activity and offering a wide choice for us all to engage with. Events also take place in a variety of locations and we’re delighted to include Oswestry and Telford in this brochure.

We think that everyone has risen to the challenge and hope that you agree. This brochure includes presentations, workshops, performance, films and more. Each has its own booking method and they vary in price - if indeed there is any charge at all.

We hope that everyone will support these events whole-heartedly and enjoy this very special Shropshire LGBT History Month - and encourage your friends, neighbours and family to come along and join in.

For full details, late runners which missed this brochure and all links to booking tickets (where that is necessary) are on the website:

www.shrewsburyLGBThistory.org.uk

Have a fantastic February

The Salopian Rainbows

salopianrainbows@gmail.com

Shrewsbury LGBT History Festival was ‘adopted’ by SAND (Safe Ageing No Discrimination) in April 2016 and operates as a SAND Project with its own steering group [calling themselves The Salopian Rainbows], and bank account. All organisers work voluntarily.
Finding your way around the brochure

- Listings are in date order, from 1st February right through to the end of the month.
- We have colour-coded the choices
- Each entry includes details on date, activity, venue, start time, cost, if - and how - to book and who is organising the activity. We have also included contact details for enquiries where these have been provided.

More details at: www.shrewsburyLGBThistory.org.uk

Thursday 1st Feb - Wednesday 28th Feb
Shropshire’s LGBT History Boards

A unique collection of local LGBT History in a national context
At: The Hive, 5 Belmont, Shrewsbury SY1 1TE
Open Tuesdays - Fridays 9.30am - 5.30pm in Feb
Free Entry - just drop in
www.hiveonline.org.uk 01743 234970

Organised by Shrewsbury LGBT History

Thursday 1st Feb - Wednesday 28th Feb
Outing the Past

This interesting exhibition juxtaposes LGBT themed stories with illustrative memorabilia
At: Shrewsbury Museum & Art Gallery, Market St, Shrewsbury SY1 1LG. [1st Fl. Community Gallery]
Open Tuesdays - Saturdays 10am - 5pm
Museum entrance fee applies: £4.50

Organised by Shrewsbury LGBT History with the Museum & Art Gallery
Returning to Shrewsbury once more: Peter Scott Presland and Andrew Lumsden in their inimitable double act
At: University Centre Shrewsbury, Guildhall, Shrewsbury SY3 8HQ 
7.30pm
Free Entry - tickets from the website:
www.shrewsburylgbthistory.org.uk/events-1
Enquiries - 01743 249888

This entertaining approach to history introduces us to:

PETER SCOTT-PRESLAND, as Counsel for the Prosecution: Lord Alfred Douglas was the single most disastrous thing to happen to LGBT+ Equality in the last 200 years - more destructive than Henry Labouchere, more sanctimonious than Mary Whitehouse, more vindictive than Section 28.

ANDREW LUMSDEN, Counsel for the Defence: In the 1890s Lord Alfred Douglas was the recognisable pioneer of gay liberation. With his 'Two Loves' he was the first male poet since Christopher Marlowe to make an unforgettable protest against the hetero-normative. Douglas then suffered a catastrophic post-activist burn-out.

Members of the Jury, what is your verdict? Guilty or Not Guilty?

Lord Alfred Douglas (1870-1945) was the best-known boyfriend of Oscar Wilde. He was called 'Lord' because his father was a Marquis. He was Scottish, but lived almost wholly in England. In the summer of 1891, already experienced in gay sex, he was introduced to Oscar Wilde in London. Wilde was married with two sons and was also experienced in gay sex. They went to bed together only the once. Douglas's father publicly accused Wilde of being a 'sodomite', and the resulting court case led to Wilde's imprisonment in 1895. The following year, 1896, Douglas wrote the most famous English-language gay poem, Two Loves, in which he characterised homosexuality as 'The love that dare not speak its name.'
An opportunity for schools, professionals, teachers and members of the LGBT community to come together to learn from young people, explore and celebrate good practice in Shropshire and consider ways forward.

At: The Hive, 5 Belmont, Shrewsbury SY1 1TE
1:30pm - 5:30pm
Free Entry - To book contact: CPD@shropshire.gov.uk (Reference: 70911T)

Programme
1.30pm Welcome and Opening remarks by XYZ and Young People co-ordinating group; Director Children Service/ Public Health, West Mercia Crime Commissioner - TBC.

- Special Guests - Caroline Paige, author of ‘True Colours’ and Zac and family - TBC
- Personal Reflection: ‘Then and Now’
- Cutting the cake and launch of Shropshire transgender guidance for schools
- Song by Samira Hills – TBC

2.15pm Music recording- from the LGBT music workshops – cupcakes, fruit, drink

2.30pm Good and emerging practice - short presentations by schools/young people. Followed by XYZ thanks - certificate, comments and discussion

4.00pm Special thanks to Young People involved in the day

4.10pm Art and books on display - Shropshire Library service – Music from LGBT workshop

4.30pm Depart, evaluation and thanks by Young People

Organised & hosted by Shropshire XYZ group with Alice Cruttwell, Public Heath Curriculum Advisor
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LGBT History Month
February 2018
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midlandszone.co.uk
Monday 5th February
Pottery Workshop - an LGBT Special

A twist on one of the Hive’s popular workshops - and a chance to be creative
At: The Hive, 5 Belmont, Shrewsbury SY1 1TE
7pm - 9.30pm [the bar will be open]
£18 per person, incl materials & firing
Book at www.hiveonline.org.uk 01743 234970

You will make A5 pottery postcards depicting your own interpretation of LGBT themes, inspired by the LGBT Historical Walking Map of Shrewsbury. Your creation will be yours to take home and/or could form part of a larger visual arts collection in the town.

The Wakeman Trail offers a taste of what this workshop could produce.

Workshop led by Stephanie Kelly

An historical tour of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Trans Shrewsbury

You can join this circular walking tour anytime:
1. Two Fat Rascals café / art / River-side shopping centre (near to William) – decorated with rainbows. Hosted by Karen and Melia since 2014. Hosted locally / John Barlow, and continues to host a variety of other LGBT events
2. Memorial Hall 3 market was busy with farm stalls surrounding until the market moved to a site on the Market Street by 2002
3. St Mary's Hospital – hospital closed Great Hall used as memorial by the hospital. Metas cut outavered 2001
4. Liz's pasta bar – a sponsor of Shrewsbury LGBT Festival / AIM and a site for annual bar events – LGBT Festival Terry’s Tapas on Monday evenings in the 1990's
5. The 4th bar – gay friendly café. Former meeting place for CWM Out
6. Antonio's hairdressers – former café / current bar until then. In 2011
7. Polans – had a group for gay and bisexual inmates until its closure in 2000
8. Shrewsbury College – gay friendly café. Former meeting place for CWM Out
9. Penmaen Grocer – sponsor of AIM. Friendly establishment. Walking Tours run by the Coleg Cambria,动漫er, 5 Crossov. Warden's Quarters, Jemima Old and Pink Paper. Former collection point for national gay pride week in the 1980's, and in ammonia in section 26
10. GB Train work – former Latto's
11. St Nichols' Lgbt Bar (Now) – hosted various social events, called community. It was run mainly by women with a women's gym downstairs
13. Llanrhaeadr – former Gypsy and Irish pub.られる. Decorated the pub in
14. St Peter's – Formerly Shrewsbury, commemorated the old
15. Shiraz – a bar in the garden of the Wallop
16. The Lion – Great House of the Wallop
17. The Lgbt – A unique bar and restaurant. The green Outside St. Alkmund's church was very accessible for summer events. College has since been demolished and redeveloped as a single storey NC (inactive)

Map available from: LGBTshrewsbury@hotmail.com

Organised by The Hive
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Tuesday 6th February
An Extraordinary Female Affection

Dramatic representation of the life and love of the Ladies of Llangollen with Jane Hoy and Helen Sandler, with guest Norena Shopland
At: Shrewsbury Library, Castle Gates, Shrewsbury, Shropshire SY1 2AS
7.30pm - 9.30pm
£3 - pay on the door

Come and see an intriguing pair of women brought back to life through letters, diaries, songs – and sensational headlines.
Sarah Ponsonby and Eleanor Butler eloped together exactly 140 years ago and became known as the Ladies of Llangollen. These two upper-class Irish women settled at Plas Newydd in Llangollen, north Wales, in the late 18th century, where they lived for the rest of their lives.
The pair were the object of much speculation, which continues to this day. Was this an 18th-century romantic friendship, or a prototype lesbian marriage?
The Ladies of Llangollen are a legend. It is a legend that is recounted here – with zest and beaver hats.

7.30 Arrivals

7.45 Norena Shopland on her book 'Hidden Stories', about LGBTQ history in Wales

8.30pm Jane Hoy & Helen Sandler An Extraordinary Female Affection: the life and love of the Ladies of Llangollen

Followed by a Q&A

Amongst other credits, Norena Shopland devised the first project in Wales to look at placing sexual orientation and gender identity into Welsh history, culminating in the Welsh Pride, the first exhibition exclusively on Welsh LGBT people, allies and events, and managed Gender Fluidity, the first funded transgender project in Wales.

Jane and Helen’s previous incarnations of Frances Power Cobbe and Mary Charlotte Lloyd went down a treat at the 2017 LGBT History Festival ...

Organised by Shrewsbury Library
The Presentation is based on numerous love letters between two servicemen, one of whom, Gilbert, (who later became a Bombardier), was stationed at Park Hall Camp near Oswestry during WW2.

The letters, found in a trunk in Brighton, after Gilbert’s death in 2008, were purchased, on behalf of Oswestry Town Museum, over a period of time since 2013. Initially it seemed they were to Gilbert from a girlfriend, with the initial ‘G’. The letters date from 1938.

On transcribing the letters, it became clear that they were between two men: from Infantryman Gordon to Gilbert. The letters are very eloquent. They reveal the way in which their love was constrained by the moral and legal circumstances of the day. The resolution of this story raises further routes of enquiry in California, where Gordon went to live in the 1950s.

Both the discovery of these very rare letters, the enquiries to confirm authenticity and the journey toward publishing a book have been hugely enriching to the museum’s collection of materials relating to WW2.

Speaker: Mark Hignett – Oswestry Town Museum

Mark is originally from Pontesbury and has a general interest in heritage and history which led to the opening of Oswestry Town Museum in 2012. He discovered the letters from Gordon Bowsher to Gilbert Bradley in 2013, he is involved in many heritage related projects and in addition he and his wife are foster carers.
Sunday 11th February
Tom of Finland

At: The Old Market Hall Cinema, The Square, Shrewsbury SY1 1LH
7.30pm
£9 / £7.50
Book at www.oldmarkethall.co.uk
01743 281 281

Touko Laaksonen, a decorated officer, returns home after a harrowing and heroic experience serving his country in World War II, but life in Finland during peacetime proves equally distressing. He finds peace-time Helsinki rampant with persecution of the homosexual men around him, even being pressured to marry women and have children. Touko finds refuge in his liberating art, specializing in homoerotic drawings of muscular men, free of inhibitions. His work - made famous by his signature 'Tom of Finland' - became the emblem of a generation of men and fanned the flames of a gay revolution. Written by Helsinki-filmi

Organised by Shropshire Rainbow Film Festival

Proud to Support Shropshire LGBT History Month 2018

Pleased to support LGBT History Month

Liar Liar

Coffee Shop, 2 Albion Hill, Oswestry, SY11 1QA
07845 666620
Mon - Sat 08.30 - 16.00
At: Wellington Library, Wellington, Telford TF1 1LX, 7.30pm
Free Entry - just turn up
Enquiries: telfordlgbt@ virginmedia.com

Speaker, Peter Roscoe, grew up in Macclesfield in the 1950s and moved to London in his 20s. He moved to Shrewsbury in 1984 (and worked in Telford from 1988 until 2004).

He has a partner, Geoff and they have a grown up son, Liam.

Over several years he researched a story about the arrests of gay men in Shrewsbury in 1949 and first made a Presentation of what he had found, at the Shrewsbury hub of the National LGBT History Festival in February 2017. He is not a Historian and makes no claims of academic ability; he just enjoys uncovering this story.

Salop Assizes: 1949; is the outcome of:

a) ongoing research, starting from local newspaper reports made in June 1949, about Shropshire men charged with gross indecency. (On June 23rd, 1949, four men from Shrewsbury and two men from Donnington were sentenced to prison terms, at Salop Assizes).

b) contemporary interviews/conversations with people living in Shropshire who knew that generation.

c) research into the extent to which gay men were prosecuted across the UK for gross indecency in the post WW2 period until recent times.

Organised by Telford LGBT Group
Monday 19th February
I Am Not Your Negro

At: The Hive, 5 Belmont, Shrewsbury SY1 1TE
7.30pm
£3/£5 - tickets from the website:
www.shrewsburylgbthistory.org.uk/events-1
Enquiries - 01743 249888

Told entirely in the words of James Baldwin (novelist, playwright, essayist, civil rights activist and gay man) through both personal appearances and the text of his final unfinished book project, I AM NOT YOUR NEGRO touches on the lives and assassinations of Malcolm X, Martin Luther King Jr., and Medgar Evers to bring powerful clarity to how the image and reality of Blacks in America today is fabricated and enforced.


Organised by Shrewsbury LGBT History with Shropshire Rainbow Film Festival
In these days of Diva, dating sites and meet-ups, it’s easy to forget that as recently as fifty years ago, simply finding each other was a real challenge for lesbians. The arrival of the very first lesbian newsletter, Arena Three, in 1964 was a quiet revolution. This talk draws on the oral testimonies of older lesbians whose lives were changed by this new contact with other women like themselves.

Speaker: Jane Traies – Jane has been recording the experiences of the oldest generations of lesbians in the UK for several years now. Some of these stories feature in her book ‘The Lives of Older Lesbians: Sexuality, Identity and the Life Course’ (Palgrave Macmillan, 2016). She continues to collect the memories and opinions of women born before 1950 who identify as lesbian or bisexual, and her next project is to publish a collection of lesbian life-stories. Jane and some of her interviewees recently appeared in the short film Now You See Me (Esme Waldron, 2016).

Janes Traies is a ‘Named Supporter’ of SAND, alongside Sandi Toksvig, Peter Tatchell, Carol-Ann Duffy, Bisi Alimi, Stu Maddux, Dr Kathy Almack, Tom Robinson, Fred D’Aguiar Sue Sanders and Clare Summerskill

Organised by Shrewsbury LGBT History
Saturday 24th February
Diamond Ring Presentation Tea Dance

... for Gilbert & Gordon: Then All The World Could See How In Love We Are.
A Heritage Open Days, Unsung Stories commission by Olivia Winteringham (KILN)
At: Memorial Hall Oswestry, Smithfield St, Oswestry SY11 2EG
2pm - 6pm
£3- tickets on the door
Enquiries: 01691 680241

To commemorate Oswestry Town Museum's remarkable collections of love letters written by a gay soldier to his male lover in WW2 we have been growing a diamond from the ashes of burned love letters. As part of Heritage Open Days in September 2017 members of the public were invited to compose and commit their own love letters to a repurposed George VI postbox where a memorial fire burned their dedications to ash. Now the ash is being transformed into a commemorative diamond which will be presented to Oswestry Town Museum set in a gold ring where it will be displayed in the museum's collection ‘for all the world to see’.

Were you one of the 800 people who committed their love letter to the very fabric of this unique diamond? Would you like to celebrate the moment the ring is presented to the museum? Whether you participated in the September events or not, everyone is invited to the celebratory Diamond Ring Presentation Tea Dance for Gilbert & Gordon: Then All The World Could See How In Love We Are, Saturday 24th Feb 2018, 2pm to 6pm. Get your dancing shoes on, your hair up in victory rolls and join us for an afternoon of Tea, Swing dancing and celebrating Love in all is glorious forms. Jane and Fran from Dyfi Dance will be leading jive and other dances from the period. No partners needed. All welcome. Dress to impress in your best 1930s & 1940s glamour.

For further information about Gilbert & Gordon’s love letters and about this project visit Oswestry Town Museum and www.KILNensemble.org

Organised by Heritage Open Days and KILN
New project in 2018
Connecting with older and old LGBT people
in Oswestry
in Telford & Wrekin
in Ludlow
interested?
lgbtsand@gmail.com
07966 294323
www.lgbtsand.wordpress.com

Hate crime is everyone's problem:
Don't look away, don't ignore it, don't stay silent!

We all have a responsibility to stand up to hate crime. If you are a victim of hate crime or you know of someone who has been a victim of hate crime or if you witness a hate crime, you should report it.

Being you is not a crime: Hate crime is

You can report a hate crime in confidence in any of the following ways:
• In an emergency call 999
• For non-emergencies call 101
• Report online at www.report-it.org.uk

LGBTshrewsbury.co.uk
The site for all the Lesbian, Gay, Bi and Trans stuff happening in the Shrewsbury area. Several groups meet regularly, and additional events get added from time to time. The site's ten pages also contain links to help and support, and a bit about Shrewsbury and its history.

Proud to be a part of LGBT History Month in Shropshire