

Bury Adult Learning Service

LGBT+ History Month 2020

About LGBT+ History Month.....Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT+) History Month takes place every year in February in the UK. It celebrates the lives and achievements of the LGBT community to gain greater awareness and understanding of the differences and commonalities shared amongst families, friends, colleagues and neighbours.

The theme this year is Poetry, Prose and Plays and to *educate out prejudice* and make LGBT+ people visible in all their rich diversity.

Happy LGBT History Month from Bury Adult Learning Service!



Pride Autumn Celebration had everyone walking on sunshine!

The Bury Pride Autumn Benefit event raised **£1406.00** for the LGBT Youth Group POG, the cost of running the 2020 Bury Pride Event and for the LGBT Employee Forum.

This glamorous celebration of diversity took place on Saturday 2 November 2019 at the Longfield Suite in Prestwich. Pop star Katrina Leskanich, of Katrina and the Waves, was the star performer.

The event was hosted by diva Miss Vivienne Lyndsey and the evening included a red carpet drinks reception, three course dinner with wine and music from the Tower FM DJ set. It was a night of great food, great entertainment with the added mix of raising money for some great causes. The event also helped to raise the profile of Bury Pride and we look forward to the main event on Saturday 25 April and the Rainbow Train on Sunday 26 April.



Bury celebrates their place on Stonewall's top 100 Employers list 2020

Despite increasing competition, Bury Council has held onto a top 100 ranking for each of the entries since 2009. While this year's ranking has gone down a few places from 46th place to 70th, the overall score only actually dropped just 4 points.

Bury is proud to be the **5th** best Council in the UK and the only Council from the North West region to feature on the list.

Additionally, Bury Council is delighted to have attained a place on **Stonewall's Top Trans Employers List** for the first time – one of only 20 employers in the country! And the LGBT Employees Group has been awarded **North West Network Group of the Year**. These results are a testimony to our values, that we embrace all people for the differences, skills, abilities and experiences they bring into the workforce and the wider community.

Bury Art Museum celebrates LGBT+ History Month

To celebrate LGBT+ History Month, Bury Art Gallery is featuring related works from their collection such as the Polari Bible which is on display in the gallery now.

The Polari Bible is a version of the King James Bible, where key words were translated into Polari, a secret gay language.



The following artists represent the LGBT+ History Month theme of Poetry, Prose and Plays....



Oscar Wilde was born in Dublin on 16 October 1854. He was educated at Trinity College, Dublin. After he graduated, he moved to London to pursue a literary career.

Oscar contributed to publications such as the 'Pall Mall Gazette', wrote fairy stories and published a novel 'The Picture of Dorian Gray' (1891). His greatest talent was for writing plays, and he produced a string of extremely popular comedies including 'Lady Windermere's Fan' (1892), 'An Ideal Husband (1895)' and 'The Importance of Being Earnest' (1895).

Drama and tragedy marred Oscar's private life. He married Constance Lloyd in 1884 and they had two sons, but in 1891 he began an affair with Lord Alfred Douglas, nicknamed 'Bosie'. He was arrested and tried for gross indecency which ruined his reputation. He spent the rest of his life in Europe and died in Paris on 30 November 1900.

In 2017, he was among an estimated 50,000 men who were pardoned for homosexual acts that were no longer considered offences under the Policing and Crime Act 2017. The Act is known informally as the Alan Turing law.



Dawn Langley Pepita Simmons was an English author and biographer. Born as Gordon Langley Hall, Dawn lived her first decades as a male.

As a young adult, she became close to British actress Dame Margaret Rutherford, whom she considered an adoptive mother and who was the subject of a biography Dawn wrote in later years. After sex reassignment surgery in 1968, she wed in the first legal interracial marriage in South Carolina.

Dawn began a writing career, including a series of biographies which covered personalities such as Princess Margaret (1958), Jacqueline Kennedy (1964), Lady Bird Johnson (1967), and Mary Todd Lincoln (1970) among many more.



Jacqueline Margaret Kay CBE, born 9 November 1961, is a Scottish poet and novelist. Since 2016 she has been the national poet laureate of Scotland, The Scots Makar. She is the chancellor of the University of Salford.

Jacqueline studied English at the University of Stirling. Her first book of poetry was published in 1991 and won the Saltire Society Scottish First Book Award. Her other awards include the 1994 Somerset Maugham Award for *Other Lovers*, and the Guardian Fiction Prize for *Trumpet*, inspired by the life of American jazz musician Billy Tipton, born Dorothy Tipton, who lived as a man for the last fifty years of his life.

Kay writes extensively for stage, screen and for children. Her drama *The Lamplighter* is an exploration of the Atlantic slave trade. It was broadcast on BBC Radio 3 in March 2007 and published in poem form in 2008.

In 2010 she published *Red Dust Road*, an account of her search for her biological parents, who had met each other when her father was a student at Aberdeen University and her mother was a nurse. The book has been adapted for the stage and received its world premiere in August 2019 at the Edinburgh International Festival.



Alok Vaid-Menon, born July 1, 1991, is an American performance artist, poet, and LGBTQ rights activist based in New York. Alok Vaid-Menon identifies as gender non-conforming and transfeminine and uses *singular they* pronouns.

Alok is from an Indian American family and grew up in College Station, Texas. They went to Stanford University.

Their work attempts to normalise discussions of shame, trauma and violence against trans and gender non-conforming people of colour. They have been featured on HBO, MTV, The Guardian, National Geographic, The New York Times, and The New Yorker and have presented their work at 400 venues in more than 40 countries.



Edward Morgan Forster (1879-1970) is best known for his novels examining hypocrisy and class difference and the attitudes towards gender and homosexuality in early Twentieth Century British society. Although never declared in his lifetime he was himself homosexual.

Edward had five novels published in his lifetime, including, *A Room with a View* (1908), *Howards End* (1910) and *A Passage to India* (1924). *A Passage to India* brought him his greatest success. He was nominated for the Nobel Prize in Literature in 16 different years.



Lorraine Vivian Hansberry was a playwright and writer. She was the first African-American female author to have a play performed on Broadway.

Her best known work, the play *A Raisin in the Sun*, highlights the lives of Black Americans living under racial segregation in Chicago. At the age of 29, she won the New York Drama Critics' Circle Award — making her the first African American dramatist, the fifth woman, and the youngest playwright to do so.

After she moved to New York City, Lorraine worked at the Pan-Africanist newspaper *Freedom*. Much of her work during this time concerned the African struggle for liberation and its impact. Her writings also discussed her lesbianism and the oppression of homosexuality. She died of pancreatic cancer at the age of 34. Lorraine inspired the song by Nina Simone entitled "To Be Young, Gifted and Black".

Bury Council runs the following Employee Groups and all employees are invited to attend:

LGBT+ Employee group

Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic group

Disability Group

For more information contact equality@bury.gov.uk or call Louise Goldfinch on 253 5448



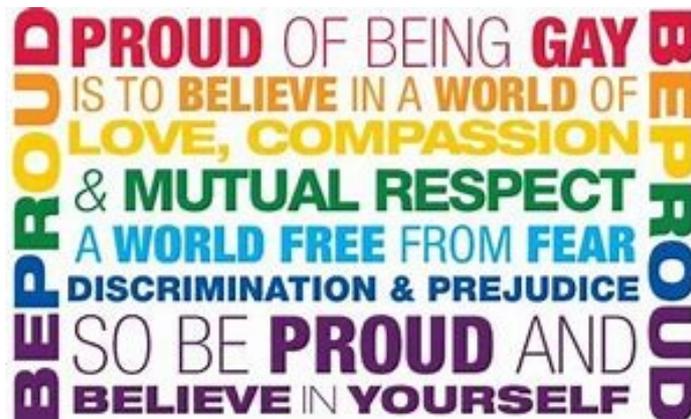
Last word from Nikki Naylor, Vice Chair—Bury LGBT Forum and Curriculum Quality Leader at Bury Adult Learning Service

Bury has been announced as Greater Manchester's inaugural Town of Culture. This will increase the creativity of the town by getting local people to participate in cultural events.

As LGBT+ History month celebrates the theme 'Poetry, Prose and Plays', Bury Pride starts Saturday 25th April with a parade going through Bury Centre. Back at the Elizabethan Suite, there will be a plethora of music, performances, food and drink, a short film with a discussion panel, including an acoustic stage and Liberty X.

Sunday will include a rainbow steam train on the East Lancashire Railway running from Bury to Rawtenstall and finishing with Evensong at Bury Parish Church. This event is an opportunity for people from a diverse range of backgrounds to say 'United we Stand'. A high number of attendees last year were straight/heterosexual suggesting Bury Pride is regarded as a wider community event. It is an opportunity to celebrate the town and bring people together in positivity and solidarity.

The diversity of attendees is something to compare with other Prides in Greater Manchester. Bury is a forward-thinking open-minded town that celebrates and supports diversity in its communities and values LGBT+ people - it's an important statement for the Council to make to its residents when hate crime has risen over 50% since 2016.



Bury Adult Learning Service continues to educate and challenge homophobia, biphobia and transphobia