



Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Trans

Staff Network Newsletter

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Love is Love Film Festival

As part of LGBT History Month, the Love Is Love film festival, dedicated to promoting LGBTQIA+ members of the media industry whilst raising money for Notts LGBT+ Network charity, took place at Billy Bootlegger's bar in Nottingham.

The event was well attended by members of the network and Proud Allies and showed ten short films of between 10 and 20 minutes long. Some of these films were set in Nottingham and others were international and all dealt with LGBTQ+ issues both through comedy and drama. The inclusive atmosphere of the hired venue added to the enjoyment of the evening by the large and diverse crowd. Altogether a very enjoyable night out.



All of us Strangers

A group of network members popped along to the Broadway Cinema to see "All of us strangers" at the start of LGBT+ History Month. Described as a British romantic fantasy film it turned out darker than any of us might have thought. The film tells the story of Adam (played by Andrew Scott) a screenwriter living in London and the relationship that develops between him and his new neighbour Harry. Intwined in this is the story of the childhood of Adam and the relationship with his parents. Adam finds himself drawn back to his childhood home and finds his parents living just as they were when they died 30 years earlier. The film is based on a 1987 novel *Strangers* by Taichi Yamada, this is reflected in the film with music and setting in part of the 1980s. In short love, death, ghosts and an interesting ending!

The official film site is here: [All of Us Strangers | Official Website | 26 January 2024](#)

If you are interested in the book: [Strangers by Taichi Yamada | Books & Drama | Faber](#)

Review by Colin Sawers from NCC's LGBTQ+ Network

Throughout February, the LGBTQ+ network highlighted a member from each of the L, G, B, T and Q communities to raise awareness of the contribution the LGBTQ community make in our society.

The first article described briefly the contribution that two WLW (Women Loving Women) made to this in the 19th and early 20th centuries and is inspired by the research of historian and author Norena Shopland in the NHS North West Publication, *LGB&T History, Challenges and Successes*, published in 2011.

In 1869 **Sophia Jex-Blake (1840–1912)** applied to study medicine at Edinburgh University. She was refused a place on the grounds that the university "could not cater for just one woman" so she advertised in various newspapers for other women to apply to study at the university with her. The "Edinburgh Seven" as they became known gained distinctions in their entrance exams that year, though all of the scholarships were awarded to men, including those with lower marks. The Seven passed their courses but were not allowed to graduate. It was not until 1876 that

women were formally allowed to study at universities.

Jex-Blake was one of the first women doctors in the UK and contributed to the opening of the Edinburgh School of Medicine for Women in 1886. Together with her life partner, Dr Margaret Todd (1859–1918) who coined the term isotope in 1913, she wrote several texts arguing for women's suffrage and women's importance in the medical field.



LGBT+ Good Reads discussion

On 7 February, Ann Penn and Ellie Cooper from Inspire hosted a webinar where they discussing their favourite LGBTQ+ books available throughout Nottinghamshire libraries. Attendees also shared their favourite LGBT literature. This continued after the event into a discussion of forming a possible LGBTQ+ book club, see future newsletters for updates.

In 1906 **Dr Louisa Martindale (1872-1966)** became the first woman GP. She set up a private practice in Brighton and with a group of other women went on to develop the New Sussex Hospital for Women. She became a senior surgeon and physician there and was later a specialist in the early treatment of cervical cancer. In 1931 she was awarded a CBE for her work.

Researched by Emma Hunter from NCC's LGBTQ+ Network

Jessica Benham



Photo by: Governor Tom Wolf, 21 October 2021

There has been research that has shown a strong crossover between being autistic and identifying as LGBT+. According to a 2021 study from Cambridge University, autistic people were eight times as more likely to identify with at least one LGBT+ identity than non-autistic people. This study was undertaken at the Autism Research Centre in Cambridge by Dr Elizabeth Wier.

While being LGBT+ has become less pathologized and research into neurodivergence has progressed in recent decades, so has the advocacy for diagnosis and accommodations in the public sector and local government. **Jessica Benham** is a bisexual autistic politician who co-founded the Pittsburgh Centre for Autistic Advocacy in 2014. The organisation is headed by a team that identify as LGBT+.

As part of Jessica's work as a politician, she has advocated for further support to help autistic people in both the public school system and employment, including access to education plans and the involvement of disabled people's rights to independence and decision making with their care.

In the UK, The Equality Act was passed in 2010 which has helped with more equal access to resources for both LGBT+ and neurodivergent people in education and employment settings. We have linked some current resources below for further information and support with this intersection:

[Disabled and Neurodivergent LGBTQ+ Support | Stonewall](#)

Article by Rachel Davies from NCC's LGBTQ+ Network

Menopause

The menopause has hit the headlines a lot in recent years as awareness of the issues surrounding this time of life slowly creep out of the closet and become more widely talked about. However, most of the conversation still revolves around a very heteronormative view of the cis woman. A seminar in February seminar by Dr Nat Thorne looked at how the LGBTQIA+ community also experience the menopause and questions what needs to be done to include queer people within the menopause discussion.

On **21st February** on Teams, three more webinar speakers focused on different aspects of **Bi Visibility in History**:

Mark Cusack - 'What does it mean to be Bi?' Mark is a bisexual educator and LGBT+ coach and mentor. Al Edwards (they/them) – 'Bi visibility, challenges, and issues'. Al is the co-organiser of Nottingham BiTopia, was the lead organiser of BiCon 2023, which was held at Nottingham Trent University, and is a Vice Chair of the Civil Service LGBT+ Network. Robert Grayston - 'Bi figures in history'. Rob Grayston, until recently worked in emergency planning and resilience for local government, but he has just moved to the British Transport Police. He is bisexual, lives in Nottingham, and is a history enthusiast.

Oliver Sacks 1933-2015

Born in London, Oliver Sacks was a physician, best-selling & critically acclaimed author, and a professor of neurology at the NYU School of Medicine. He moved to the US in 1961 to study neurology and following an internship at Mount Zion Hospital, San Francisco, and a residency at UCLA, moved to New York in 1965. Sacks went on to work as a consultant in neurology and held various academic posts at New York and Columbia universities.

Referred to as "the poet laureate of contemporary medicine" by the New York Times, his writings included best-selling books which detailed case studies of people, including himself, with neurological conditions. Books included *The Man Who Mistook His Wife For A Hat* and *Awakenings*, which later inspired a play and the Oscar nominated film of the same name with Robert De Niro and Robin Williams.

Sacks kept his personal life private, until his autobiography, *On the Move*, in 2015. It detailed

his experiences of being gay and meeting his partner in 2008. They were together until Sack's death in 2015.

Article by Megan Staley from NCC's LGBTQ+ Network

Adrian Smith's History Month Video

As part of raising awareness of LGBT History Month, the chief exec posted this video on the intranet:

[A message from Adrian Smith for LGBTQ+ History Month | Nottinghamshire County Council Intranet \(nottsc.gov.uk\)](#)



Dr. Alan L. Hart, 1890 – 1962, Pioneer in Medicine and Transgender History



Dr. Alan L. Hart pictured in 1943 from the dust jacket of Dr. Finlay Sees It Through by Dr. Alan L. Hart.

Dr. Alan L. Hart (also known as Robert Allen Bamford Jr.) was an American physician, radiologist, writer, and novelist. However, his pioneering work was as a tuberculosis researcher when he discovered that x-rays could be used to detect tuberculosis and this method of tuberculosis detection is still used as a gold standard today. In fact this has led researchers to believe that he has saved countless lives worldwide.

Assigned female at birth, Alan Hart was born in 1890 in Kansas. Hart spent his teenage years in Albany where he was obliged to present as a female to attend school where he was treated as a girl. However, as it was common at the time for writers to use pseudonyms, including names of a different gender, Hart was allowed to write under his chosen name 'Robert Allen Bamford Jr.'. Hart's work was published in local newspapers and in school and college publications and he only used his legal name under pressure from peers or seniors.

Hart's surgery was completed in 1918 and he became the first documented person who had

gender affirmation surgery (male transition) in the United States, though sex reassignment surgeries had been carried out earlier in Germany.

Hart did not self-identify as 'transgender' because the term did not come into use until the 1960s. However, Hart felt that he fitted into a long history of trans and non-binary people and following his male transition, Hart legally changed his name, had his hair cut and acquired a male wardrobe and later wrote that "She [Lucile] made her exit as a female and started as a male with a new hold on life and ambitions worthy of her high degree of intellectuality".

Despite discrimination and the persistent threat of being outed, Hart began to establish himself in the medical field but found it difficult to find hospital work. However, Hart didn't back down from his transition and he continued to build his medical career, acquired a master's degree in radiology, and began working in Idaho and Washington, specifically treating and preventing tuberculosis.

Despite gender-based discrimination, it is clear from scholarly and historic journals that Dr. Alan L. Hart changed the medical field through his ground-breaking research in tuberculosis, tuberculosis detection and prevention and public health outreach before his death in 1962 of heart failure.

References:

velindre.nhs.wales/about-us/equality-and-diversity/equality-reports/lgbt-people-in-medicine-1700-1914/

[Alan L. Hart - Wikipedia](#)

[Alan L. Hart: Pioneer in Medicine and Transgender History - Connecticut History | a CTHumanities Project](#)

Alice Oseman

The talent behind the beloved "Heartstopper" series and the introspective novel "Loveless," has captured hearts with her storytelling. But beyond her undeniable creative prowess, she's become a powerful voice for asexuality and aromanticism (aro-ace) awareness.

For those unfamiliar, asexuality refers to experiencing little to no sexual attraction, while aromanticism describes experiencing little to no romantic attraction. Both spectrums encompass diverse experiences, and individuals can identify on both (aro-ace) or just one. While definitive labels are complex, some historical figures like Isaac Newton, Nikola Tesla, and Florence Nightingale have recorded characteristics that we might nowadays describe with the labels asexual or aromantic. Openly identifying as aro-ace herself, Oseman infuses her stories with authentic aromantic or asexual characters, like Georgia in "Loveless" and Tori in "Heartstopper." These characters navigate societal expectations surrounding love and sex, resonating deeply with readers who rarely see themselves reflected in literature. By shedding light on underrepresented identities like asexuality and aromanticism, Oseman's work encourages acceptance and understanding. With her talent and dedication, she paves the way for a more inclusive future where aro-ace individuals can finally see themselves reflected in the stories they consume.

More information from articles above:

- [Disabled and Neurodivergent LGBTQ+ Support | Stonewall](#)



Forthcoming events to look out for:

Five Leaves Bookshop:

Monday 4th March – start of LGBTQ+ Adoption and Fostering Week

Monday 11th March - Jason Okundaye talks about revolutionary acts - love & brotherhood in Black gay Britain

[Jason Okundaye on Revolutionary Acts, love & brotherhood in Black gay Britain – Five Leaves Bookshop](#)

Wednesday 13th March - National Bystander Awareness Day

Sunday 17th March - Jane Cholmeley talks about the lesbian-owned London feminist bookshop Silver Moon over afternoon tea.

Fully Booked. Email to add to waiting list
[Afternoon tea with Silver Moon, and Jane Cholmeley FULLY BOOKED, SEE BELOW FOR WAITING LIST – Five Leaves Bookshop](#)

Sunday 31st March - Trans Day of Visibility

April 6th - Asexual Visibility Day

Thursday 18th April - Gregory Woods reading from *The Exchange Glances*, translations of gay male poets (fully booked, waiting list only)
[Come Here To This Gate/They Exchange Glances – a joint poetry launch with Rory Waterman and Gregory Woods FULLY BOOKED, SEE BELOW – Five Leaves Bookshop](#)

Monday 22nd April – start of Lesbian Visibility Week with **26** being Lesbian Visibility Day

Monday 6th May - we launch Hongwei Bao's book of Chinese-background gay poetry - *The Passion of the Rabbit God*

[The Passion of the Rabbit with Hongwei Bao 包宏偉 together with Rachel Goodman and Elvire Roberts – Five Leaves Bookshop](#)

Wednesday 8th May - Long Live Queer Nightlife - a survey of current LGBTQ+ clubbing - with Amin Ghaziani

[Long Live Queer Nightlife, with Amin Ghaziani – Five Leaves Bookshop](#)

Friday 17th May - International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia and Transphobia
[IDAHOBIT](#)

Thursday 23rd May - Trans Figured: On Being a Transgender Person in a Cisgender World, with Sophie-Grace Chappell
[Trans Figured: On Being a Transgender Person in a Cisgender World, with Sophie-Grace Chappell – Five Leaves Bookshop](#)

Sunday 26th May - **Derby Rainbow Walk** - a sponsored walk to raise funds for Derby Pride CIO and Derbyshire LGBT+. As well as raising much-needed funds for both charities, our annual walk is a fun afternoon out and a lovely walk. [Rainbow Walk 2024 Tickets | 26 May @ Derbyshire LGBT+, Derby | £10 | OutSavvy](#)

Thursday 13th June - Worksop Pride. Old Market Place, Bridge Street, Worksop. [Worksop Pride 2024 - Life Publications \(life-publications.com\)](#)

Saturday June 15th - [Nottingham Trans Pride.](#)

Thursday 20th June - Unsuitable: a history of lesbian fashion, an illustrated talk by Eleonor Medhurst.
[Unsuitable: a history of lesbian fashion, an illustrated talk by Eleanor Medhurst – Five Leaves Bookshop](#)

Sunday 14th July – Non-binary Day

Saturday 27th July - Notts Pride - One of the East Midlands' leading LGBTQ+ charities and hosts of the region's largest free Pride event. We remember our history, we make our voices heard and we celebrate Nottinghamshire's fabulous diversity. [NottsPride |](#)

Previous Webinar recordings still available:

- **'Asexuality: a minority within a minority'** by Yasmin Benoit.
(Hosted by Nottinghamshire Healthcare) <https://youtu.be/WruRIOfHYK0> (49 minutes long)
- **'Behind the Lens'** by Adam Zmith.
(Hosted by Nottingham University Hospitals) <https://youtu.be/R8OVaOvmcjE> (54 minutes & 30 seconds long)

New Members Welcome

New members are encouraged and will always be welcomed by the network. There is no obligation to “out” yourself or to contribute.

The network's e-mail account is LGBT@nottsc.gov.uk. It is secure and is only accessed by committee members. All correspondence is treated in the strictest confidence.

Future Network Meetings

- **Thursday 14th March 2024**, 2:30pm-4:30pm on Teams.
- **Thursday 11th April 2024**, 2:30pm-4:30pm on Teams.

Network members are entitled to this time as paid work time.

Contact Us

Committee members:

- Co-Chair: Becky Sampson
- Co-Chair: Cate Englefield
- Publicity Officer: Sarah Morgan
- Treasurer: Colin Sawyer
- Secretary: Tiffany Harrod-Townsend

Please email us at

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