



Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Trans

Staff Network Newsletter

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International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia and Transphobia - 17 May

Created in 2004 to draw the attention to the violence and discrimination experienced by the LGBTQ+ community. Its aim is to "raise awareness of violence, discrimination, and repression of LGBT communities"

This year, the day was observed by a huge turnout of people (more than double previous years) at County Hall.

At the gathering, Becky Sampson, Chair of the network said:

"I'd like to welcome everyone – those from the LGBTQ+ community and allies from across the organisation. We are here to observe the International Day Against Homophobia Biphobia and Transphobia that is commemorated annually on the 17th of May 25.

"The date has been observed annually to shine a light on violence and discrimination experienced by LGBTQ+ communities across the globe. The theme is 'the power of communities' and in coming together today we have shown that we are stronger together.

"Thanks, everyone, for your support."



The Pride flag outside County Hall

Transgender Solidarity Event



With a turnout of over 500, the solidarity event in Nottingham supported the trans community in a peaceful coming together following the recent ruling on gender.

Although no policies have changed, if you need support there are resources available here:

[Notts LGBT+ Network](#) 7-9pm Monday-Friday, Local Charity

[Gendered Intelligence](#)

Monday 12-5pm; Tuesday 2-7pm; Wednesday 10-3pm; Thursday 12-5pm; Friday 10-3pm, Trans-specific charity

[Switchboard](#) - 10am - 10pm 365 days a week, national charity

All three offer support via telephone, email and instant message.

"I want to express my solidarity with all of you - with the whole trans community and especially trans women,"
Nadia Whittome's Statement on the gender ruling.



LGBTQ+ Adoption and Fostering week

In March, the council supported the national LGBTQ+ Adoption and Fostering week campaign led by New Family Social. This annual campaign aims to dispel myths around eligibility and to share stories of LGBTQ+ people who are foster carers or adoptive parents.

This year, the theme was Change Lives in '25. A media release shared the stories of two local LGBTQ+ couples, Lyn and Shelley who are foster carers with Nottinghamshire County Council, and Jake and Oli who adopted siblings through Adoption East Midlands: [Foster carers and adopters encourage more people to learn about "special" and "rewarding" experience](#). The campaign was promoted by the council via email newsletters, social media and internal communications channels to help spread the word.

Nottinghamshire County Council is part of Foster For East Midlands (the regional fostering recruitment hub for Nottingham, Nottinghamshire, Derby and Derbyshire councils), and Adoption East Midlands (the regional adoption agency covering Nottingham, Nottinghamshire, Derby and Derbyshire). Both are inclusive organisations. If you are LGBTQ+ and interested in fostering or adoption, you will be welcomed.

Find out more about fostering: fosterforeastmidlands.org.uk

Find out more about adoption: adoptioneastmidlands.org.uk

Annie Kenney



Photograph: Creative Commons

Annie Kenney born was born on 13/09/1879 and grew up in Yorkshire. She was the fourth daughter in a family of twelve children, eleven of whom survived infancy. Her parents, Horatio Kenney and Anne Wood encouraged reading, debating and socialism whilst she was a child. Annie was well known as an English working-class lady who fought for women's rights to vote in the United Kingdom. She became a leading figure in the Women's Social and Political Union (WSPU) and in 1905, she attracted the attention of the press and public because of her political views and public demonstrations. She co-founded WSPU and opened its first branch in London in 1906 with Minnie Baldock. She organised the 1911 census boycott in Bristol becoming the WSPU deputy in 1912. In 1913 she and Flora Drummond arranged WSPU representation to speak with leading politicians.

Annie had many close friendships with women in the Suffragette movement. Christabel Pankhurst and Annie Kenney were allegedly lovers. Annie was a close friend of the Blathwayt family who paid for presents, watches medical bills and dentistry for her and her sisters. Mary Blathwayt made notes in her diary of the women Annie slept with when she stayed at Eagle House. Blathwayt's romantic jealousy had been proposed as a reason for her to record this. She noted ten alleged short-lived lovers.

After women over the age of thirty won the vote in 1918, Annie married James Taylor and settled in Hertfordshire. After a stroke she died on 09/07/1953, aged seventy-three, in Lister hospital Hitchin. After her funeral her ashes were scattered by her family on Saddleworth Moor.

Trans+ History Month

The week beginning the 5th May this year marked Trans+ History Week, a national event recognising the long, rich history of transgender, non-binary, gender-diverse and intersex individuals in this country and around the world.

This week in particular was chosen to mark the anniversary of the Nazi attack on the Institute for Sexual Research (Institut für Sexualwissenschaft) on 6th May 1933. The institute had been founded in 1919 in Berlin by Dr Magnus Hirschfeld (himself both gay and Jewish), and provided a safe, welcoming space for LGBTQ+ people. Hirschfeld pioneered research into LGBTQ+ experiences, and was an vocal proponent of the idea that the diversity of sexualities and genders were not "aberrations" but part of the normal variations seen in nature. He and his colleagues recognised bisexuality and non-binary identities, groups who still struggle to be acknowledged to this day, as well as making the first steps in developing gender affirming care for transgender people.



Unfortunately, the majority of the research and collected knowledge held by the Institute was destroyed in the 1933 attack, one of the first of many book burnings carried out in the early days of the Nazi regime. In the aftermath, Hirschfeld and most of his colleagues fled the country but many died in the years leading up to the Second World War. The Nazis went on to exterminate or imprison thousands of LGBT+ people, alongside Jews, disabled people, Roma, people of colour and other persecuted groups.

Trans+ History Week is an important opportunity to remember and reflect on the events in the past, both to recognise the historical efforts of Trans+ people and allies as well as to inform the work we do today to improve the lives of all Trans+ people.

Today, the anniversary of the attack on the Institute for Sexual Science serves as a reminder of the importance of preserving trans history and the ongoing struggle for LGBTQ+ rights. It underscores the need to fight against discrimination and violence, and to ensure that trans voices and experiences are heard and valued.

(details for this article were sourced from this article: www.scientificamerican.com/article/the-forgotten-history-of-the-worlds-first-trans-clinic/)

Forthcoming dates for your diary

19th June, 2025, 7.00 to 8.30pm – [Thank You For Calling the Lesbian Line with Elizabeth Lovatt – Five Leaves Bookshop](#)

20th June 7.00pm – Broadway Cinema [Notts' Queer Solstice Ball | Broadway](#)

21st June – Nottinghamshire Trans Pride

28th June 2.30pm – Broadway Cinema [The History of Trans Representation on Screen | Broadway](#)

29 June 2025 – Notts Queer History Walk in the city centre, meeting at The Pride Shop on Maid Marion Way at 12.30pm for a 1pm start. Free/no need to book. Led by Lucy and Shell Buckle.

5th July – Mansfield Pride

12th July – Worksop Pride

14th July – International Non-Binary People's Day

26th July – Nottinghamshire Pride. Listergate in Nottingham at 10.30

13th Sept – East Coast Pride (Skegness)

Links to previous webinars and events you may have missed:

- **Trans History and Why it Matters to You** by James Davison
<https://www.youtube.com/embed/YRz8gtfnU3U?si=M78Auj8oZBol-P3I> (54 mins)
- **Ageing in the LGBTQIA+ Population** by Dr. Paul Taylor Pitt
<https://www.youtube.com/embed/CpbF5OLpc3I?si=c2dG6BtVNC209ZMA> (33 mins)
- **'Asexuality: a minority within a minority'** by Yasmin Benoit.
(Hosted by Nottinghamshire Healthcare) <https://youtu.be/WruRIOfHYK0> (49 mins)
- **'Behind the Lens'** by Adam Zmith. (Hosted by Nottingham University Hospitals)
<https://youtu.be/R8OVaOvmcJE> (54 mins)

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@nottscg.gov.uk. It is secure and is only accessed by committee members. All correspondence is treated in the strictest confidence.

Future Network Meetings

- **Thursday 12th June 2025**, 2:30pm-4:30pm on Teams.
- **Thursday 10th July 2025**, 2:30pm-4:30pm on Teams.
- **Thursday 14th August 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
- Secretary: Cate Englefield
- Publicity Officer: Sarah Morgan
- Treasurer: Colin Sawers

Please email us at

LGBTQ@nottscg.gov.uk

