

PINKBRICK



**Lesbian, Gay,
Bisexual & Trans
Histories of the
University of Liverpool**



UNIVERSITY OF
LIVERPOOL

Pink Brick: Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Trans histories of the University of Liverpool

Timeline

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University of Liverpool**

Time Line

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Introduction

Over the past 40 years the political and societal attitudes towards lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans people has changed beyond recognition. Today almost all discriminatory laws and policies have been repealed and equal protection extended into all areas of life. This has been achieved by the dedicated campaigning of LGBT individuals and straight allies who have tirelessly worked to achieve equality for all.

This project sets out to chart these changes from the perspective of one institution. PINK BRICK peers into the official records and memories of the University of Liverpool, the Liverpool Guild of Students and the staff and students who were there.

This document contains a time line of LGBT related developments from 1960 to 2013. The content is based on the official records of the University and the Guild of Students including newspapers, handbooks, meeting records and personal accounts. Where relevant, information on the development of LGBT rights within the National Union of Students is mentioned, or the development of new laws or campaign groups such as Stonewall.

It is not an exhaustive record and there are gaps in the time line, in particular in the 1980's, but we hope that it gives you an idea of the issues and challenges that LGBT people faced during these times.

The booklet is complemented by the online Exhibition which replication the exhibition that ran from the 21st February to the 19th May 2012 in the Victoria Gallery and Museum.

Acronyms

A.I.D.S	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
C.H.E	Campaign for Homosexual Equality
G.L.F	Gay Liberation Front
H.I.V	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
L.G.B.T	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans
LGoS	Liverpool Guild of Students
N.U.S	National Union of Students

Key



Legal development

1960's

In 1957 the Wolfenden Report was published, recommending “homosexual behaviour between consenting adults in private should no longer be a criminal offence”. Much debate happened following the reports publication but it was not until 1967 when the law was finally changed. With criminalisation in effect for the majority of the 1960's there was little known LGBT activities at the University of Liverpool. What little is known is outlined below...

1961

November 23rd An article was printed in the Guild Gazette titled “*Cornus in Queer Street – Homosexual Opinion*”. Cornus the author interviewed three different gay men in the city's local bars about their opinions on the debate about the legalisation of homosexuality. The opening of the article stated:

“Should homosexuality be made lawful? Do we heed the plaintive calls of O- W- and other cultured sodomites or do we maintain our steadfast disgust and intolerance against such practices? These were the type of questions put to a number of ‘victims’ in the Liverpool district”

The article interviewed three separate men (all names were anonymised) , the first Tony:

“whilst still a young boy of six or seven he was pampered by his mother and dressed in rather effeminate clothes. Unfortunately his father had died before he was born, and he was never offered the masculine examples usually associated with a father ... The process continued with age ... and the scene was set for the pattern of his adult life”.

The second man, was William, a ladies hairdresser:

“he admits he hates his crown of thorns. There are countless drawbacks and penalties attached to it. ‘But I cannot help it, some allowances must be made for unavoidable shortcomings’ ... As contrasted with Tony, Williams’s development was rather late. He went out with girls ... up to 16. But from thereon his interest in them slackened and he came under the influence of an older man and gradually drifted into homosexuality”.

The third man, Alphonso, who had “*been to prison for his offense and was generally known to the police*” it was reported:

“offers no apologise for his tendencies, cannot understand why there should be ill feeling and amusement and, worst of all, pity levelled at him and considers his position to be perfectly normal”.

Quotes from Leviticus framed the article. An anonymous student replied to the article in the Gazette published on the 15th December.

1963 - 1965

1963 The only reference made to homosexuality in the Guild Gazette from 1963 to 1965 was of two book reviews, one called “*A Single Man or a*

Queer camera" (October 1963) and the second called "*The Gold-Rimmed Spectacled*" (November 1963).

1966

June 21st An article was published in the Guild Gazette titled "*Homosexuality – Perversion or just a social illness*".

1967



July 28th 10 years after the publication of the *Wolfenden Report*, the government legalised male homosexuality between consenting adults in England and Wales when the Sexual Offences Act (1967) received Royal Assent. This was limited to men over 21 years of age and did not include the Merchant Navy or the Armed Forces.

1969

- The Committee for Homosexual Equality (CHE) was formed in 1969 as the successor to the North West Homosexual Law Reform Committee. CHE became the first national organisation for gay legal reform. The word Committee was replaced with Campaign in 1971.

June 28th The Stonewall Inn in New York City was a bar with a mixed clientele including LGBT people. On the morning of the 28th June the New York Police raided the bar resulting in 3 nights of rioting. The Stonewall Riots are regarded as the symbolic beginning of the gay liberation movement.

August 1970 – July 1980

Immediately following the decriminalisation of male homosexuality in 1967 there was little obvious development of a gay rights movement akin to the Women's Liberation or Civil Rights Movements at the time. In 1969 the Stonewall Riots rocked Greenwich Village in New York City for 3 consecutive nights. Soon afterwards the Gay Liberation Front (GLF) was established and spread from the US to the UK. A more direct approach to gay equality began to emerge unlike the legal approach that had been adopted by C.H.E ...

1970

1970 The Gay Liberation Front was formed at the London School of Economics in 1970. This more radical movement didn't take place at the University of Liverpool. It wasn't until December 1970 that an advert appeared in the Guild Gazette by the Campaign for Homosexual Equality (C.H.E) inviting interested parties to get in touch with them about establishing University groups.

1971

1971 Graham MacIntosh (BA Sociology and economics 1969-1972) and John Greenman (BSc Life Sciences; BSc (Hons) Microbiology; PhD (Oral Microbiology) 1969-1976) were members of the Liverpool C.H.E group. Following a national meeting of C.H.E groups in Manchester, a number of Liverpool student attendees and floated the idea of establishing a gay society. Their primary reason for setting up GaySoc:

"was to have a group of people of similar age meet and discuss Gay Issues and socialise in a non-commercial and non-threatening setting. This was to some extent a reaction to the predatory chicken hawks in the pub and club scene."

The society began to take shape during early 1971 and held its first stall at the fresher's fair that year. There was little or no overt opposition from the Liverpool Guild of Students and the group was officially recognised as the Homophile Society by the Guild Council on the 15th May 1972.

April University lecturer M.J. MacCulloch co-authors a paper which is published this month in the journal Behaviour Therapy titled *"Anticipatory avoidance learning for the treatment of homosexuality: Recent developments and an automatic aversion therapy system"*.

1972

May 15th The Executive Committee of the Liverpool Guild of Students recommends that Society Status should be awarded to the **Homophile Society**. This was approved today by the Guild Council.

September The Homophile Society had a stall for the second year at Fresher's week.

1973

March 20th The Homophile Society published its first article in the Guild Gazette, and the first explicit article about homosexuality since 1966. The article titled *"Homosexuality – a dirty word?"* was a mixture of an opinion piece

and advert for the Homophile Society, which was sometimes referred to as GaySoc. The article also challenged stereotypes and myths about gay people, some of which continue to this day:

“The common myths about homosexuality include those that say that homosexuals are limp wristed queens if they are men, or close cropped horsey Amazons if they are female. Also homosexuality is confused with paedophilia and transvestitism”

April 4th

The National Union of Students Easter Conference adopted its first comprehensive motion on **Gay Rights**. The motion itself was 2000 words long and had 31 amendments made. At the conference which was held in Exeter, a card vote of the whole union’s membership resulted in 363, 789 FOR, 10,382 AGAINST and 12,000 ABSTENTIONS. The adoption of the motion was welcomed by the Campaign for Homosexual Equality (CHE) whose spokesperson Bernard Greaves said the motion was *“the most significant advance in gay politics since the passing of the 1967 Act”*. The success of the motion was reported in the [Guild Gazette on May 8th](#). Providing further background information the report stated:

“There were five major debates given priority at conference out of 86 possible topics and the most excitement surrounded the debate on the Gay Rights motion. Conference overwhelmingly supported the initiation of a campaign on behalf of the Unions 25,000 homosexual members ... The motion called for changes to the Sexual Offences Act 1967 which prohibits homosexual relations between males aged under 21 – most student homosexuals are under that age ...The debate was one of the most efficient and interesting of the conference and was being interpreted by some as a sign of a shift from political to social matters in student affairs...The success of the motion was largely due to the persistent activism of a small pressure group which grew out of the Margate conference in 1972 to press N.U.S. to do something about the estimated 5 percent of its membership who were homosexual. As a result of their activity the motion was placed third in priority out of 86 possible debates in a poll.”

October

The National Union of Students held its first ever **Gay Rights Conference** at Bristol University. The three representatives from the University of Liverpool reported in the [Guild Gazette](#) on the conference proceedings. Following the opening speech by Alistair Stewart (NUS Executive member responsible for Gay Rights) the conference broke into workshops to discuss the topics of *“Bisexuality, Homosexuality, Sexual Identity”, “Gay children and their parents”, “Gay Women”, “Counselling Homosexuals, “The C.H.E. Education Campaign”* and *“Sex Education in Schools”*.

1974

March

Mark Preston, the Gay Rights Project Secretary and member of the Gay Society organised a Disco in the Guild of Students.

November 4th

The **Homophile Society** officially changed its name to the **Gay Society**. This was approved by the Guild Council on this day.

1975

October

It was reported at the Guild’s Finance Committee that there are 32 members of the GaySoc.

- November It was reported to the Guild Council today that Trevor Phillips and Peter Ashby had been elected as joint leads of the Gay Rights Campaign within the National Union of Students.
- November The GaySoc held a joint social event with the GaySoc from Liverpool Polytechnic.

1976

- March A motion titled "*General Gay Legal Equality*" was recommended by the Executive Committee to the Guild Council for approval. The Council approved the motion 38 For, 3 Against and 2 Abstentions.
- May 14th The National Union of Students on this day launched a **Gay Rights Week of Action**. The main objective of the week was to secure the extension of homosexual decriminalisation to Northern Ireland. Planned activities included gay rights demonstrations and debates, picketing of University libraries for refusing to stock gay literature and inserting into reference books up to date references on homosexuality. Part of the reason for the week of action was because the national campaign had "*faltered over the past year or so*" with the number of active groups in Colleges and Universities decreasing dramatically. This was attributed by Trevor Phillips to the original gay rights activists graduating from University and not being replaced.
- May 17th Guild Council voted in favour of supporting the main points in the *C.H.E. Draft Bill for Gay Equality*.
- October 2 delegates from the Guild of Students attended the NUS Gay Rights Conference. The Conference decided to change its name to the **Gay Liberation Conference**.

1977

- January The Guild Executive Committee approved a motion on *Freedom of Speech* which was primarily opposed to Mary Whitehouse's campaign against the publication *Gay News*. The motion stated "*In line with Guild Policy on freedom of speech, Council condemns Mary Whitehouse and her recent attacks on Stanley Baxter and her lawsuit against Gay News. Council Instructs: The President writes a letter of support to Mr Baxter and his Anti Mary Whitehouse Association*".
- October There were 32 members of the Liverpool Guild GaySoc. The main campaign for the year was the Age of Consent.

1978

- April At the NUS National Conference, National Executive member Talbot was censored for their "*lack of work on the Gay Rights Campaign*". One of the guest speakers at the conference was Bob Crossman from *Gay News*.
- June University Lecturer Malcolm J. MacCulloch co-authored a paper which


was published this month titled "*Incubation of sexual attitude change between sessions of instrumental aversion therapy: Two case studies*"

- September University Lecturer Malcolm J. MacCulloch co-authored a paper which was published this month titled "*Avoidance latencies reliably reflect sexual attitude change during aversion therapy for homosexuality.*"
- November The NUS Gay Liberation Conference was held this month.

1979

- March The Liverpool Guild of Students completed a questionnaire on Gay Liberation that has been sent by the National Union of Students.
- November The NUS Gay Liberation Conference was held on the 2nd – 4th November. The conference was attended by the Gay Rights Campaigns national committee and around 100 delegates from Unions. Workshops held at the conference included: Sexual Oppression and Liberation; The Gay Liberation Movement and Women's Liberation Movement; The Personal and the Political; What is Gay Lib?; The Gay Scene; Gay Activism; Law Reform; Gays & Fascism; and Lesbianism. The conference debated 2 new motions. The first motion called on Unions to implement the original 1973 Gay Rights motion that was adopted at the National Conference. It called on Unions to appoint a member of their Executives to coordinate Gay Rights and called on Unions to support and run Gay Liberation symposiums. The second motion was concerned with the breakdown in communication between NUS, the Gay Liberation Committee and the Students Unions, and called on them to take action to address this. Finally the conference elected 8 new members of the Gay Liberation Committee.
- December Guild Council approved a "*Gay Rights*" motion which called for the Welfare Committees membership to be expanded to include a gay member.

1980

- February Guild Council amended its byelaws to ensure that the specific responsibility for the representation of gay people was included in the role descriptors of the Executive Committee members.
- March Guild representatives attended the NUS Gay Rights at Work Conference.
- July It is reported in the Guardian, that after a re-organisations of NUS in order to avert financial collapse, the union would no longer campaign on political and social issues including gay rights.
- 
 November 13th Male homosexuality was decriminalised on Scotland when the [Criminal Justice \(Scotland\) Act 1980](#) received Royal Assent.

Recollections: John Greenman

BSc Life Sciences; BSc (Hons) Microbiology; PhD (Oral Microbiology)

1969-1976

We met in December 1970 and got involved in starting Liverpool Gay Soc, the forerunner of Liverpool LGBT. As members of C.H.E. Liverpool we were in touch with other C.H.E groups and in the general ferment of the Post-Wolfenden era and the subsequent decriminalisation of the law regarding homosexual acts between consenting adults. At this time all sorts of developments were happening, among them being a high level of public discussion about sexuality; GLF from America and the UK and the 1968/1969 student 'revolution'.

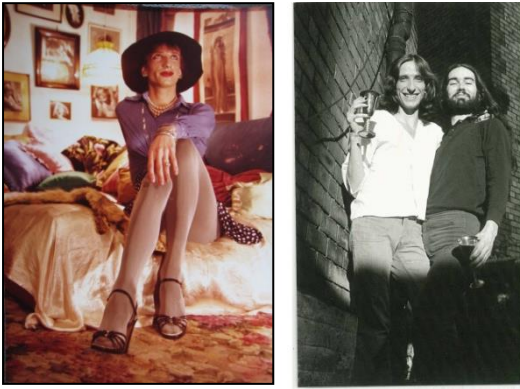
If our memory is right the first UK GaySoc was formed in Manchester sometime in 1970. In conjunction with a large national meeting of C.H.E in Manchester, a small number of Liverpool student attendees floated the idea of forming a GaySoc in Liverpool. We believe that Liverpool GaySoc started sometime in 1971 and had its first stall at Fresher's week in autumn 1971.

The primary reason for setting up GaySoc was to have a group of people of similar age meet and discuss Gay Issues and socialise in a non-commercial and non-threatening setting. This was to some extent a reaction to the predatory chicken hawks in the pub and club scene. We used to go to the pubs and clubs as a group to enable us to look out for each other.

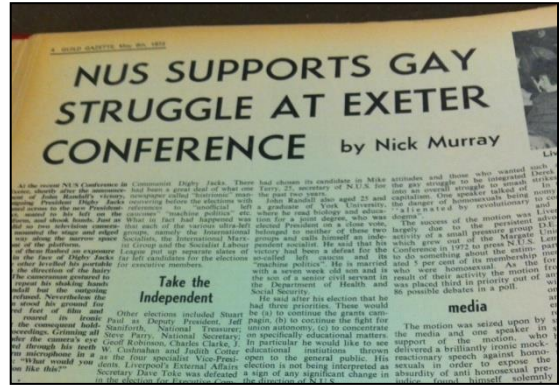
Close to the above reason was to continue with the basic campaigns for gay rights, self-awareness and political awareness. On reflection it was perhaps central to the existence of GaySoc that 'coming out' was seen as a major step in personal liberation and as a political/campaigning action. Then, as now, for some people it was always a step too far. Nevertheless the group supported individuals who chose to come out to whatever degree was right for them at that time. Our recollection was that there was support from the student guild with little if any overt opposition.

Activities included regular GaySoc meetings, organising group social events and open discos in the Guild facilities, as a way of raising our profile. As a matter of interest, a few of the GaySoc members were also in the karate club (to learn self defence) and recruited some of the other karate lot to act as 'bouncers' at the open discos in case there was any trouble or trouble makers! - There was none. Members also attended national conferences on campaigning issues and worked closely with C.H.E and to some extent G.L.F.

There was no overt reaction from the University but it is certainly true that the covert discrimination was extensive. Negative reactions were as expected most noticeably from some of the Christian groups. Individual instances of discrimination regularly came to light and as a group strategies to challenge such cases were devised and acted upon.



Peter Rimmer and Martin Ross, c.1975/76.



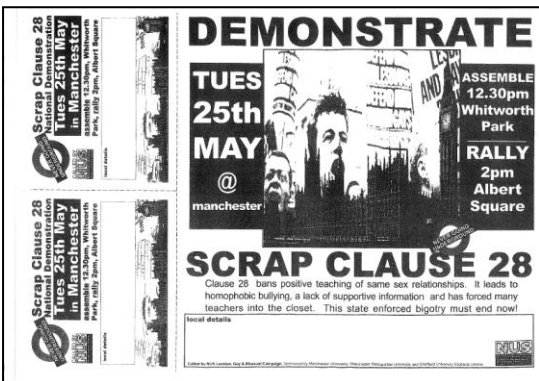
Guild Gazette 1973, reporting on the adoption of the Gay Rights Motion at the NUS National Conference.



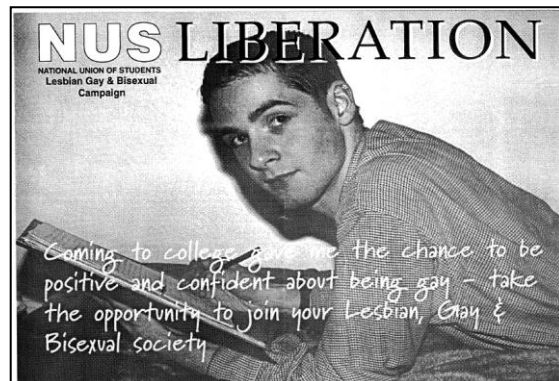
Guild & City Gazette 1982 reporting the severance of links with the Glasgow Student Union over their refusal to establish a GaySoc.



NUS Easter Conference 1988 passing a motion of defiance against Clause 28.



NUS LGB Section 28 Protest flyer 1988.



NUS LGB Campaign poster 1990's.



Liverpool Gazette, 1991, protest over the ban on gay people in the Navy



LGB Committee 1993



Liverpool Gazette c1995, LGBT protest against the Medic Societies 'Smoker' performance c1995



LGB Committee, 1995



Manchester Pride Parade 2004.



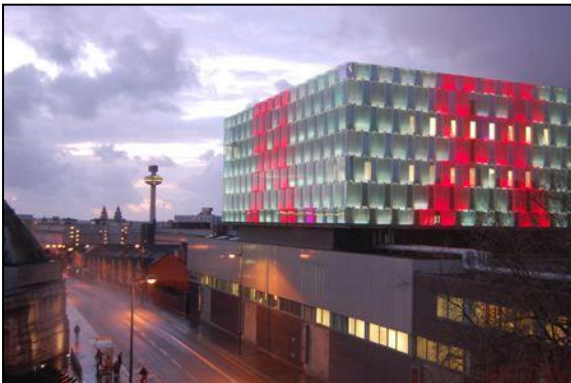
North West University students at the NUS Lobby of Parliament of Good & Services, 2005.



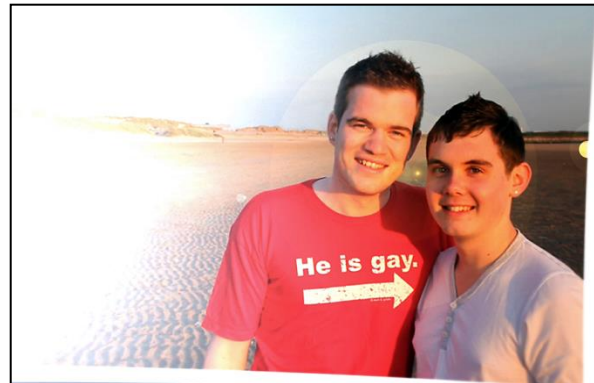
Donation Not Discrimination Action Day 2006. Protest outside the National Blood Service.



Staff & Postgraduate Student LGBT Network, IDAHO 2011 in Abercromby Square.



World Aids Day 2011, Active Learning Laboratory.



"Gay's the Word" film promo picture 2011.

Recollections: Peter Rimmer & Martin Ross

BA Hons French and English Literature and PGCE 1972-1977

BSc Mathematical Physics and PGCE 1973-1977

I remember a Gay Soc stall at Fresher's Week in 1972 but was too paranoid to be seen looking at it and walked on by. I eventually joined Gay Soc in the summer of 1975, after spending the third year of my course in France as an Assistant. In the meantime, I had found my way into a limited and rather closeted gay world in London by coming across (quite by chance) personal ads in Melody Maker. By the summer of 1974, personal ads in Melody Maker were no longer accepted from gays, presumably because of some legal issue. Martin had originally been at University College London (1970-1972), where he joined G.L.F and UCL Gay Soc, but he dropped out of his course in London and, after a year off, turned up in Liverpool. Martin joined Liverpool Gay Soc immediately on his arrival in 1973, going up to the stall in Fresher's week which was, coincidentally, being manned by someone he had been at school with six years earlier.

Martin and I met on the doorstep of 17 Green Hey's Road, Liverpool 8, in July 1975. 17 Green Hey's Road was at the time the nerve centre of the University Gay Soc. The divorced wife of the owner of the house, Mrs Romaine, and her daughter lived in the lower ground floor of the house. The upper two floors provided six bedsits and a communal kitchen and bathroom. Martin already lived in one of the bedsits when I met him and I moved into another bedsit shortly afterwards, when it became vacant... It was a predominantly gay household and the telephone number at 17 Green Hey's Road was the contact number printed on all the Gay Soc cards which were posted on notice boards at the Student Union and in the Halls of Residence. The cards were often removed by people who disapproved of such matters and a lot of crank calls were made to the phone number. By 1975, I am fairly sure that the phone number at Green Hey's Road also appeared in Gay News. People who wished to contact Gay Soc, but did not wish to ring up, could also, as I did, place a letter in pigeon hole G at the student Union. They were replied to in a similar manner.

It is difficult now to understand how hard it was to access the gay world in those days. Most gays did not even know that there was a gay world out there, because it was so invisible. Having managed to access it, it was then terrifying to approach a group of people who one had been taught to revile all one's life. However, having taken the first steps, the relief was enormous. One of the main focuses of Gay Soc in those years was to try to make the transition from total isolation easier. After coming out, I discovered that one of my English tutors was gay, as was a History lecturer. Being in the know suddenly gave one a whole new perspective on life. One became an insider rather than an outsider.

The gay scene in Liverpool, once identified, was buoyant and expanding fast.

Initially, there was Sadie's night club, in Seel St if I remember rightly. It was run by an old queen called Sadie who vetted each arrival by opening a window several floors above ground level before allowing anyone in (the door was bolted shut after each arrival). It was a fantastic club which allowed lesbians, gays, transvestites and transsexuals to mingle, and we did so very harmoniously. It was a venue where students could mix with Dockers. There were three very glamorous TV's/TS's, one of whom was affectionately known as Diana Ross, who patronised the place regularly. This was at a time before the various LBGT groups separated from each other, as they increasingly did in the late 1970's. By 1977, Sadie's started to be used by groups of straights who dressed in 1940's clothes, and would morph three or four years later into the New Romantics.

By about 1977, Sadie's had closed. There was also a pub (probably still is) called The Lisbon, which was not exclusively gay and was a bit of a dive. Finally, there was The Bear's Paw which was exclusively male. In about 1976 and 1977, two new bars opened: The Masquerade and Paco's. Sadie's apparently reopened after Martin and I had left Liverpool in 1978 and stayed open till Sadie died in the 1980's.

The Gay Soc organised at least two gay discos in the Student Union. I saw the advertisement for the first one in 1973, but did not attend. A second was held in 1976 which Martin and I helped to organise, but not many dared to show their faces so publicly. Some straights turned up to see what it was all about.

In the summer of 1976, Martin and I moved from Green Hey's Road and joined another gay friend in the ground floor flat at 164 Prince's Road. It was a fabulous summer and the world was very exciting. Most of the outfits in the photos were bought at Paddy's Market or very cheap Saturday jumble sales, where retro dresses sold for 10p. I adopted drag for shock tactics, sometimes going to straight venues like the Adelphi and Crown Hotels or a student party, though sometimes people simply weren't aware of the deception (in those days the general public was much more gullible than it is today). I also went to an English Department function and quite a stir was caused when it became known that I was actually a man. One of the lecturers exclaimed that he had always wanted to meet a transvestite but some of the female students were quite hostile, so the point of the exercise (to challenge people's prejudices) was achieved.

Thirty-six years after meeting, Martin and I are still together, having lived through the difficult early years of gay liberation, then through the terrifying years of AIDS when there was no treatment, to now, when the social landscape has changed unbelievably. Something like Civil Partnership was unimaginable in the 1970's.

”


August 1981 – July 1990

The beginning of the 1980's saw the NUS re-organising and reprioritising its work at the expense of gay rights. As the decade progressed a new disease which disproportionately affected the gay community was identified. A.I.D.S and H.I.V drastically changed what it meant to be gay and how society thought about gay people. Anti-gay restrictions became anti-gay laws in the form of Section 28 and the Gay Liberation movement was refocused and reenergised...

1981

- At the Campaign for Homosexual Equality's national conference in Durham, an emergency motion was adopted expressing horror at reports of a sexual assault of a Liverpool youth by Merseyside Police during the Toxteth Riots.
- The first cases of what would later be called the Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (A.I.D.S) was detected in California and New York. The first cases amongst gay men are identified.

1982

- February - April The GaySoc events organised this month included a talk titled "Psychiatric Attitudes to Gayness", the Annual General Meeting, a Bisexual Coffee evening and a Women's Group meeting. The GaySoc also had a stall in the Union foyer each Wednesday lunch time.
- May The Guild & City Gazette reports that the Guild of Students had severed links with the Glasgow University Students' Union over their refusal to allow a Gay Society to be officially established.
- The term Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (A.I.D.S) is first used to describe the symptoms of people with the yet unidentified Human Immunodeficiency Virus (H.I.V).
 -  Male homosexuality in Northern Ireland was decriminalised.

1983

- May The Guild of Students co-sponsors a motion on Lesbian and Gay Rights at the NUS Easter Conference. The motion was adopted with little opposite. It was reported in the Guild & City Gazette that "*NUS Policy on this now includes active support for the 'Gay Pride march', the London Gay Workshops, Lesbian Line Gay Icebreakers, and GEMMA, (Lesbians with disabilities), also to protest at the anti-Gay activities if the Police*"
- November The Guild & City Gazette published a **sex survey** of students which found that 14% of male respondents identified as Bisexual, and 6% of female respondents as Bisexual/Gay. 24% of men and 11% of women reported a positive yes to the question "*Has homosexuality ever appealed to you?*", and 45% and 40% respectively reporting a positive

yes to the question “*has it ever disgusted you?*.”

1984

- February University Lecturer Dave King (Department of Social Work Studies) authors a paper which is published this month titled “*Condition, orientation, role or false consciousness? Models of homosexuality and transsexualism*”.
- The Human Immunodeficiency Virus (H.I.V) is identified and attributed to the pathogen causing A.I.D.S.

1985

- May The first ever mention of A.I.D.S is published in the Guild & Student Gazette. The article reports of recent blood drive efforts to increase donations from students following concerns over imported blood from America.

1986

- December The first comprehensive series of “Safe Sex” articles about A.I.D.S was published in the Guild & City Gazette. The feature covered a number of difference area including Protect and Survive”, “Women at Risk”, “The regions health”, “Immoral Media” and “Injection”.

1987

- University Lecturer Dave King (Department of Social Work Studies) authors a paper titled “*Social constructionism and medical knowledge: the case of transsexualism*”.
- July The University of Liverpool’s Equal Opportunities Code of Practice is approved. The policy includes explicit reference to sexual orientation as a characteristic which is protected from unfair treatment and unjustifiable discrimination.
- The UK Government begins a nationwide awareness raising campaign about H.I.V/A.I.D.S. A leaflet was delivered to every home in the UK.

1988

- January The Guild & City Gazette publish an article titled “*Gay Promotion Under Attack*” following government plans to bans the promotion of homosexuality as a pretended family relationship, known as Clause 28.
- February There was a NUS gay rights march against Section 28 in Manchester. It started from the Manchester Polytechnic Students’ Union.
- April 13th At the National Union of Students’ Annual Conference “*delegates voted for a policy of defiance – “even in the face of legal action” – against clause 28 of the Local Government Bill, which prohibits the promotion of homosexuality.*”
- May **Section 28 of the Local Government Act 1988** comes into effect. The



law prohibition homosexuality from being promoted as a pretended family relationship within government maintained schools.

September GaySoc changed its name to the **Lesbian and Gay Society**.

1989

January The Guild Gazette reports on the Liverpool Against the Clause groups protests in Manchester following the introduction of Section 28.

March The Guild runs an A.I.D.S awareness week.

- The national LGB charity Stonewall was established as a direct response to Section 28. Founder members included Sir Ian McKellen and Michael Cashman.

1990

February The LGB Society holds a LGB Awareness Week and publishes an article in the Guild & City Gazette titled "*In defence of Homosexuality*".

Recollections: Chris Tsielepi

1981 - 1983

I came to Liverpool University in October 1981. I knew I was gay. I'd had sexual experiences with men but I was convinced that I would be able to get through my 3 years at Uni without the need for sex.

A few months into the course I saw a poster advertising a Gay Society meeting organised by the Student Union Welfare Officer. I remember she was called Wendy. There had been nothing at Fresher's Week so I was tempted to go.

I can't remember the detail but the inaugural meeting of the Gay Society proper was at 1pm in the Small Music Room. I was really nervous going up to the room and I was hesitating outside for a few minutes trying to pluck up the courage to go in. The door was closed and I was wondering whether I should knock or not.

I looked at my watch and it had just gone 1pm so I decided it was now or never and purposefully grabbed the door knob, opened the door and walked in.

Everyone stood up! The guy at the front looked over and said "We're just finishing" I replied "Oh, I thought you were just starting". He said "What group do you want?" I said "The Gay Society", to which he replied "Oh, this is the Methodist Society".

I knew at that moment I was not meant to be in the closet, having outed myself to the Methodists.

When the others eventually came to the meeting, I became the Membership Secretary of the GaySoc. I remember we met every Monday evening at the Everyman for a social. We thought it was important to provide an alternative to the commercial gay scene in town. We held evening meetings, I think monthly. We would invite speakers and hold discussions.

One speaker I remember was called Julia, a photographer who made the society's banner with a logo designed by my cousin Andrew, a graphic design student at Brighton. Julia was speaking about feminism and during the talk said something like she would line all men up against a wall and shoot them. I remember a very awkward silence followed by our chairman quickly closing the meeting and adjourning to the bar.

The early 80s was a very different time to today when being gay was nowhere near as widely accepted like today. The age of consent was 21, so in theory as students we could not legally have sex till we finished our degree! We did have a run in with the University authorities, well one guy in particular; who I think was ex-Navy who would not allow us to hold an event as we could go to prison, so he said. His threat worked and we backed down although the Student Welfare Office was always supportive.

Other students weren't our natural allies. During a sit-in against education cuts in the Arts Library we were the only organisation to have taken a banner in with us, which we draped over the balcony. There was mumbblings from others who obviously objected to being under this "umbrella". The banner also saw action in London at student demos there.

I also remember going round putting posters up advertising our meetings in the various university departments. They didn't usually last very long in the Law building I seem to remember.

We also used to hold a bookstall in the student union I think once a week. I would collect book from "News from Nowhere" on a sale or return basis. It wasn't a great success and come to think about it most customers were friends who would hang around as protection, but like the sit-in and the posters, the more we were visible and got up homophobes noses the better.

I'd like to think our greatest moment was the speech I wrote and delivered to our Student Union in support of our struggle for Equality. Our Union then took the motion to the NUS National Conference and it was adopted by the Conference. I'm pretty sure the NUS were the first national organisation to press for Equality in the age of consent for hetero & homosexual sex. This was around 1983 or '84.

”

August 1990 – July 2000

After the introduction of the homophobic Section 28 and the panic over HIV/AIDS, the 1990's saw the first lesbian kiss on prime time TV before the water shed, it saw the reduction in , if not the equalisation of the age of consent, and towards the end of the decade a new Labour Government would usher in unheard-of protections for LGBT people ...

1990

July	The first Liverpool Lesbian and Gay Pride event is held.
September	The Guild of Students Handbook contains explicit reference to homophobia in a statement about discrimination at University.
November	Gazette features article <i>The Myth of Equality</i> . An article about whether there is actual equality. The article makes reference to allegations of homophobia by the Medical Society.
December	Gazette article " <i>All gays shall burn in hell</i> ". An article about preachers outside the Guild and the distribution of homophobic leaflets on campus.

1991

-	The Red Ribbon was created in 1991 by the New York based Visual AIDS artist caucus as a symbol of HIV/AIDS awareness. Within the year the red ribbon had become the international symbol for HIV/AIDS.
November	The Guild provides the Lesbian, Gay & Bisexual Society with lockable notice boards to prevent posters being torn down. The main campaigns at the time were <i>Alter Attitudes to AIDs</i> , <i>Boycott Armed Forces</i> , <i>Kiss In</i> , <i>Blood Donation Campaign</i> .
December	There is an emergency meeting of the Executive Committee to decide whether the Royal Navy should have a stall at the AISEC Careers Fair that is being held in the Guild. The committee decides that is it too late to prevent the stall, and if they take a censorship position on gay rights then they would have to apply it to all policy areas for all the different organisations attending. Subsequently students protested about the presence of the Royal Navy which was reported in the Guild Gazette " Protest over no gay Navy ".

1992

January	The Gazette features an interview with Paul O'Grady's alter ego Lily Savage.
February - March	Paul Amann from the LGB Society spearheaded a campaign to boycott the armed forces. The law at the time made it illegal for LGB people to serve in the armed forces. A motion titled " <i>Armed Forced Boycott</i> " was presented to the Executive Committee and the Guild Council. It was adopted by the Council and presented to the General Meeting for discussion. 220 people attended the General Meeting following the

mobilisation of supporters for and against the motion making it the first quorate AGM in a number of years. A large turn out by the University Training Officer Core resulted in 70 votes For the motion, 140 Against and 6 Abstentions. The motion failed. See [Gazette](#) report.

- May Gazette article *Another Woman*, a features article about Sarah Van Wijngaarden a hermaphrodite student and her personal experiences.
- June The 3rd and final Liverpool Lesbian and Gay Pride festival is held. There would be no further pride event until Liverpool Pride in August 2010.
- June Second reading of the “*H.I.V./A.I.D.S Policy*” is approved by the Guild Council making is official policy This was carried.
- October The Sphinx Magazine published an article titled “*Coming Out to Liverpool*” by Paul Amann (LGB Society).
- The University set up a working group to draft a formal Equal Opportunities Policy covering the whole institution.
- December The Guild of Students held a number of events for World Aids Day. This included a disco organised by the LGB Society.
- December The Guild Council votes to create a LGB Standing Committee. This would replace the LGB Society with an official subcommittee of the Guild. The terms of reference for the new committee stated “*the Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Committee ... shall act as a representative body for lesbian, gay and bisexual students and shall further the academic, educational, welfare and social interests and needs of lesbian, gay and bisexual students*”.

1993

- January - June The LGB Society events from the semester included a discussion on the Age of consent, Trip to Blackpool (with Keele LGB), Video screening of “Two of us”, Pleasure Island Trip, Pink Collective Meeting (Manchester), KD Lang Video Evening, Trip to Manchester, Victoria Wood Evening, G Spot 2 “The Second Coming” (Disco), Pink Triangle day meeting, LGB Conference (Sheffield), G Spot 3 “3 in a bed” and American Supper.
- February Gazette article “*Speak Out*” by Paul Amann is published. The article outlines the double standards of British sexuality laws and the pressures on teenage gays and lesbians.
- March The Sphinx magazine published an article titled “*The Age of Consent*”. The article highlights the differences between the age of consent for gay men and straight people.
- June The Sphinx magazine published an article titled “*The Age of Consent – Part 2*”. The article highlights the differences between the age of consent for gay men and straight people.

1994



- February The Government reduced the age of consent for gay men from 21 to 18 years old. This is still 2 years older than that for heterosexuals.
- March Guild Council debated two motions titled “*Those Damn Queers Again*” and “*Age of Consent*”. The first called for a monthly LGB Disco to be held in the Guild, the organisation of which is to be the responsibility of the Entertainments department. They were both approved at the meeting of the Council in April.
- September The LGB Special Committee launches a new regular LGB Disco.

1995

- September The Guild Handbook publicises ‘**Go Wild Up My Aisle**’ a disco for “*dykes, fags and their friends*”, every 3rd Thursday on the month. This is the LGB Committee’s regular disco in the Guild.
- November The LGB Committee hold a [LGB Equality Week](#) in the Guild.

1997

- May The Labour Party wins the General Election with a massive majority. Part of their manifesto was to incorporate the European Convention of Human Rights into UK law and seek to end unjustifiable discrimination wherever it exists.
- October Equality 2000 – at Guild Council a motion was passed pledging support for the “*Equality 2000*” campaign which has been launched by Stonewall. The week was declared Equality Week and there were stalls in the Guild staffed by the LGB Committee.

1998

- October University Lecturer David King co-author a paper which was accepted this month, titled “*Towards a Sociology of Transgendered bodies*”.

1999



- May 1st The [Sex Discrimination \(Gender Reassignment\) Regulations](#) make it illegal for employer to discriminate against trans people for the first time.
- May The National Union of Students L.G.B Campaign celebrates 30 years.
- June The LGB Committee become the **LGBT Committee**. Final constitutional amendments are completed in November.
- October Following a court ruling that the ban on LGB people in the armed forces was illegal, the government announces that the ban would be lifted. In response the Guild Council discussed a request from the Military Education Group to lift its ban. The Council approved a policy at its

meeting in March 2000 titled “*Officer Training Corp, Royal Naval Units & Air Squadron Inclusion in Fresher’s Fair*” lifting the ban on the armed services attending the Fresher’s fair.

2000

February A candle light vigil was held outside the Town Hall in support of the repeal of Section 28. The Guild Council approved a motion titled “*Section 28*” outlining the Guilds belief that Section 28 was discriminatory, prevented schools from tackling homophobic bullying, teaching LGB related sex education and that intolerance and discrimination contribute to the isolation and depression of LGB youth. The motion resolved:

1. *“That Section 28 must be repealed.*
2. *To urge the Government to keep the repeal of Section 28 as a priority in the Local Government Bill, and not to allow the unelected peers to disrupt a opportunity for equality.*
3. *That the Guild will highlight the negative effects of Section 28 to its members*
4. *To prioritise equality and human rights within the Guild’s campaigns, and to continue the fight against intolerance and discrimination*
5. *To mandate the Executive to press for effective anti-hate crime legislation.”*

February The Liverpool Student published an article titled “*City Bishop in Gay Row*” and “*Should the Church play God?*” following the publication of an article in the Daily Telegraph by the Bishop of Liverpool in which he defended Section 28.

In March the Liverpool Student published an interview with the Bishop titled “*A question of respect*” in which the article attempted to clarify what the Bishops position on Section 28 was. His comments included:

“Never once has it been registered that Section 28 leads to bullying”

“I believe if you look at what Section 28 says ... there is nothing in saying that you should not promote the homosexual lifestyle that is in of its self oppressive”.

April Robinson and Manning’s’ (Population and Evolutionary Biology Research Group, School of Biological Sciences) paper is received titled “*The ratio of 2nd to 4th digit length and male homosexuality*”.

Recollections: Paul Amann

BSC Information Studies 1991-1993 and MBA Urban Regeneration 2003-2006

Liverpool, the city I came out in, had my first relationships in and was gutted to leave but delighted to return to after a 10 year hiatus. On my arrival I was shocked at the state of the place that I had read about in books by Nicholas Monsarrat and Michael Carson, one of the world's great cities's laid low.

The Lisbon, Jodies, Reflections, and The Curzon along with the boycotted (due to rampant misogyny) Sadies, comprised the scene. Friend Merseyside had a dubious reputation and Body Positive (BP) had offices on Maryland Street. BP regularly provided condoms, lube and ribbons throughout the year. I recall walking across from BP with 3,500 condoms in a black bin liner wondering whether the bag might split on Mount Pleasant in front of the Catholic Cathedral and what a photo opportunity this might result in.

In my first year, I joined the LGB Society along with about 40 others but regular attendees dwindled to around a dozen. In my second year, we worked hard to recruit at the Fresher's Fair and we managed 80-90 people! The covered notice board was achieved in 1992 which provided the only space in the Guild where our notices could not be ripped down and defaced, which also aided recruitment. We had an office on the third floor of the old Guild above the Liver Bar which provided a space for people to drop in at lunchtimes in addition to a weekly programmed meeting and activities ranging from bar crawls to film nights. The Guild toilets were a notorious hang out for those not yet happy to join the society!

I spearheaded the boycott of the armed forces in 1992. At the time the law made it illegal to be lesbian or gay to be members of the services with sanctions of 2 years imprisonment, yet officer recruitment was undertaken through the student unions across the UK. Following in the footsteps of a dozen other student unions, I presented a successful motion to the Executive Committee and then the Guild Council. This was then taken to a General Meeting. The Observer covered the campaign on page 3, outing me nationwide! This was on the Sunday ahead of the meeting, in an article detailing that the then Major government was to review the criminalisation of homosexuality which had led to pernicious prosecutions and human rights abuses.

The hacks of the Guild were largely supportive of our motion but we knew that the military were rattled. Come the day of the General Meeting, it was clear that the armed services had mobilised. For the first time in living memory, a quorate General Meeting was held. As Deputy Independent Chair, I opened the meeting and then passed over the Chair to move the motion. We argued back and forth, the virulent homophobia of some opponents actually worked in our favour with many service affiliated students clearly embarrassed by choice remarks such as "I'd never get in tank with one". On the day we lost the vote due to the overwhelming turnout of the officer training corps and others. Within months the government's review had led to an official decriminalisation of homosexuality and an end to jailing people for their sexuality.

THE OBSERVER SUNDAY 22 MARCH 1992

NEWS

★★ 3

MoD to review forces homosexuality ban

Barry Muggill

THE Ministry of Defence has ordered a top-level review of homosexuality in the armed forces. Under consideration is a change in the draconian military law that bans all homosexual activity.

A MoD spokesman confirmed yesterday that the review would go ahead regardless of the election result. Senior officers are understood to favour decriminalisation.

The review will almost certainly recommend an end to court martial and imprisonment

for acts of gay and lesbian sex. A heated debate is taking place as to whether homosexuals should be allowed to serve in the forces, provided they refrain from sexual activity.

The Sexual Offences Act 1967, which decriminalised most gay male sex, specifically excluded men in the forces who can be prosecuted and imprisoned for acts not an offence under civil criminal law. To 'come out' in the Army, Navy or Air Force is still a crime.

In 1990, 78 gay or lesbian military personnel were dismissed from the forces after

admitting to homosexuality. Six were court-martialled and three imprisoned for 18 months for offences not a crime under civilian law. Between 1987 and 1989 more than 300 were discharged and 32 imprisoned. The number currently in military jails is not known.

Amnesty International is considering the cases of several gay men held in military prisons and is looking at allegations of torture by military police to make soldiers confess to homosexuality.

Gay groups are planning to target universities and poly-

Threats of prison and court martial to be lifted

technics from where more than 80 per cent of officers are recruited. On Wednesday, Liverpool University students will consider a proposal to ban the armed services from campus.

Cardiff undergraduates have refused to let military personnel participate in 'freshers' and recruitment fairs. At Aberdeen, the student union has withdrawn funds from army groups

Chris Lovitt, an Aberdeen undergraduate spearheading the campus boycott campaign, was discharged from the university Royal Navy Unit after 'coming out'. 'I knew it was illegal to indulge in homosexual acts, but I did not know it was a crime to be gay. I didn't do anything "wrong", but still they threw me out,' he said.

Amnesty is interested in the

activities of the military special investigations bureau, which is accused of confiscating mail, tapping telephones and seizing diaries and photographs of suspected gays.

Bandman Paul Crowe, who served in the Royal Highland Fusiliers, alleges that military policemen forced him to confess to homosexuality. He claims that in 1968 he was seen talking to a gay ex-soldier and subsequently arrested, beaten up, stamped on, refused sleep and forced to perform continuous physical exercise. He 'confessed' and was discharged.

Paul Amann, who will move the Liverpool University boycott motion this week, said: 'It is a human rights issue. These people don't have the right to an emotional life or to privacy. Their rooms are searched, their phones tapped, their letters and diaries read; they are held incommunicado, beaten up and interrogated. The armed forces recruit 80 per cent of their officers from universities and polytechnics, so if all student unions banned them they would realise that the policy must change.'

A MoD spokesman confirmed that homosexuals, both

men and women, may be prosecuted under military law. 'But attitudes are changing and discharge is much more common than prosecution.'

Last summer the ban on homosexuals serving in the security and intelligence services was lifted, 'in the light of changing social attitudes'.

But the Prime Minister told parliament that susceptibility to blackmail or pressure by a foreign intelligence service would remain a factor in security vetting. He said homosexuality would remain an offence in the armed services.

We organised in the summer of 1991 to have coaches to take us to Pride in London. In 1992, we again organised coaches to London for its first Europride. Memorably we had a last departure times of 6pm and shortly afterwards I was harangued by a woman whose girlfriend had not returned, I had to stick to my guns due to the driver's tachometer and we left with her still fuming; some years later, she apologised advising that she had separated from her girlfriend that week on finding out that she had not returned because she was otherwise engaged!

Returning to Liverpool in 2003, as a part time student working full time for the Council, I was more of an outsider on the student scene. Clearly older than most in the LGBT group, I was largely periphery to developments. I was however pleased to see the group in a bigger office providing real drop-in capacity but still requiring the covered notice board due to poster defacing and removal. I was able to offer some books to the group that was beginning to develop a library. Outside of University I continued my involvement in LGBT organisations and became involved with the Outsiders Film Festival, Mersey Marauders Football Club and Liverpool Pride.

August 2000 – July 2010

The most prolific extension of the rights and protections of LGBT people occurred throughout the 00's. Equalisation of the Age of Consent, Adoption rights, employment rights, civil partnerships and accessing goods and services all followed in quick succession. The 00's also saw the final repeal of Section 28...

2000

- October LGBT Committee events for the Semester included LGBT Meetings, a visiting speaker from the NUS LGB Committee and a Women's Group.
- October The Executive Committee discussed the possibility of creating Liberation Officers on the Executive Committee, specifically a LGBT Officer, Athletic Union Officer, Mature Students Officer and a Black Student Officer.
- November The homophobic content of the Medic Society's annual Smoker event caused some discussion throughout November and December. The outcome of the discussions included the Equal Opportunities Committee reviewing, and if required, censoring original scripts for student led productions within the Guild; in future the Smoker Scripts must be submitted to the Executive Committee 6 weeks in advance for approval and a clear set of guidelines would be produced to ensure compliance with the Equal Opportunities Policy.
- November -
December The Guild's Equal Opportunities Committee agreed to recommend to the Guild Council that a LGBT Executive Officer position should be created. At the Council the issues of representation and the size of the Executive Committee was discussed. A motion was submitted to the Council in December. It resolved to create 4 new Executive positions: LGBT Officer, Students with Disabilities Officer, Black Students Officer and Mature Students Officer. After a series of speeches the vote was taken and the motion was approved 16 For, 2 Against, 1 Abstention.

2001



- January The age of consent for gay men was finally equalised at 16 and came into effect on the 8th January 2001.
- February The constitutional amendment motion to create the new Liberation Officers on the Guild's Executive Committee was withdrawn from the agenda by its co-sponsors. The motion was to be reviewed before being finally submitted for approval. It was never resubmitted.
- March The Guild Council approved a policy titled "*Guild of Students Equal opportunities Policy*". It had originally been introduced as a constitutional amendment which would have enshrined the policy within the governance structures of the Guild.

October University Lecturer J.T.Manning co-authors a paper which was published today, titled "*The ratio of 2nd to 4th digit length: a proxy for testosterone, and susceptibility to HIV and AIDS?*".

2002

- The March for Liberation was called in 2002 by Carli Harper-Penman and Daniel Murphy the NUS LGB Officers. The march demanded the repeal of Section 28, employment discrimination legislation, partnership and parenting rights and a living grant for students. The march took place at a time when five separate bills for LGB equality were going through parliament.

March LGBT Committee events for the semester included LGBT Society Quiz Night, 'Stars In Their Eyes' music night, LGBT Christmas Social.

August Hannah Charnock, President of the Guild of Students, defended Liverpool as not being a homophobic city in an article in the Liverpool Echo. This was in response to a claim that the north of England was less accepting as the south.

She said: "In my experience the culture is now changing. It's not just about toleration in Merseyside anymore. It goes far further than that.

"You just have to look at the popularity among straight people of a place such as Garlands to see that this is not even an issue in the city."

September - December LGBT Committee events included the Annual General Meeting and election of new committee members, a joint pub crawl with Liverpool John Moores and Liverpool Hope LGB Societies, and Joint Social events.

December Hannah Charnock attended a meeting with Senior University staff to discuss equal opportunities, in particular LGBT issues in Halls of Residence.

2003

February A web site developed by staff in the Department of Pharmacology and Therapeutics had become a major web-based resource for investigating drug combinations in HIV treatment. The web site: www.hiv-druginteractions.org was set up by Professor David Back and Sara Gibbons and is sponsored by pharmaceutical companies including GlaxoSmithKline, Abbott Laboratories and Roche Pharmaceutical.

February The University established a Diversity & Equality Group to review current legal developments.

March The Guild LGBT Awareness Week was held from the 11th – 15th March. The week included a 'Coming Out Night' and a 'Wacky Hair Wear Red'

night in aid of Red Nose Day. There was an information stall in the Guild throughout the week.

March The Guild Equal Opportunities Officer printed a “*Prejudice in Halls*” leaflet. This was distributed around the halls later in the year.

March 26th The NUS LGB held a Lobby of Parliament as part of the campaign to ‘End Legislative Inequality’. The aim the lobby was to get MPs to sign Early Day Motion 948.

Early Day Motion 948:

That this House supports the National Union of Students' LGB campaign, End Legislative Discrimination Now; welcomes the Government's review of partnership rights for same sex and unmarried couples; urges the Government to end the discrimination against lesbian, gay and bisexual employees by fully implementing the EU Directive to outlaw discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation in the workplace; and calls on the Government to fulfil its commitment to abolish Section 28.

The Lobby was attended by 3 members of the Guild’s LGBT Committee.

May Guild Council approves a motion titled “*No platform for racists or fascists*” and constitutional changes (first reading) which include changing the Welfare Officer to a Welfare and Equal Opportunities Officer. It amends the job description of the Welfare & Equal Opportunities Officer to make them responsible for Equal Opportunities, and the Equal opportunities Committee, it also amends the terms of reference for the committee. The Committee also approved a new Equal Opportunities Statement.

August Europride is held in Manchester. Members of the Guild LGBT Committee participate in the production of the NUS LGB banner at the Peoples Museum in Manchester, and took part in the Pride Parade.

November The Bishop of Chester (a member of the University of Liverpool’s Council) is questioned by police for Homophobic Hate Crime comments.



November 4th Section 28 of the Local Government Act 1988 was officially repealed. On the 13th November the Guild Council discussed and approved motions titled “Local Governments and Section 28” and “Guild Response to the Bishop of Chester”. The LGBT Committee had been asked to “*spearhead a campaign on homophobia and religion*” by NUS LGB.



It was reported that the main NUS LGB campaigns that had been discussed at a recent meeting were Out in Sport, Blood Donor Service and Religion and sexuality.

November 17th An end of Section 28 Celebration was held by the LGBT Committee in the Liver Bar of the Guild of Students. The repeal of Section 28 took effect on the 18th November. It allowed schools to include LGBT content within the curriculum and freed schools from a perceived inability to talk about LGB issues and support LGB students. SchoolOUT launched LGBT History Month in 2005 with a primary aim to increase LGB awareness within schools and challenge discrimination and bullying.



December 1st The law protecting LGB people from discrimination in employment comes into effect.

2004

- A key NUS LGB Campaign this year was “*Give Blood Because Gay & Bisexual Men Can’t*”. This nationally coordinated campaign saw student protests, awareness raising activities, petitions and letter writing.
- January A Motion titled “**Transgender – Raising Awareness**” was discussed at the Guild Council.
- March The Guild’s Executive Committee and the Guild Council passed a motion on the National Blood Service ban on gay men giving blood.
- March 22nd The LGBT Committee held their annual LGBT Awareness Week in the Guild of Students. The Executive Committee approved a motion titled “**Gay Rights in America**” for submission to the NUS Conference.
- May The Guild Council debates and approved two motions, the first titled “**Gender Recognition Bill**” and second, “**Partnership Rights Bill**”. The motion on gender recognition committed the Guild to support the Bill going through parliament by communicating that support to MPs, Lords and the NUS Transgender Network. It also committed the Guild Welfare Officer to Support the LGBT Committee is raising awareness of Transgender issues. The motion on partnership rights committed the guild to supporting the then Civil Partnership Bill in a similar fashion, and challenge homophobia and discrimination that was appearing in local and national media about the subject.
-  July 1st The Gender Recognition Act received Royal Assent providing a process for transgendered people to achieve legal recognition for their actual gender opposed to their birth gender.
- August Members of the LGBT Committee take part in the Manchester Pride Parade as part of the North West Universities / NUS entry.
- November Homotopia, Liverpool’s first LGBT Arts festival is held. The Guild of Students hosts two film nights “*The Politics of Fur*” and “*The Raspberry Reich*”.
- November The NUS LGB Winter Conference is held in Leicester. The conference passed the first reading of the motion to include Trans people within the campaign and change the title to be the NUS LGBT Campaign. A second reading in April was required to approve the constitutional change.
-  November 18th The Civil Partnership Act is passed by parliament providing the first legally recognised same sex relationship that was on a par with marriage. A Civil Partnership ceremony was limited to being only a civil ceremony and could not take place on religious premises or contain any religious elements such as hymns.

2005

- University student, Mike Homfray completes his PhD thesis titled “*The gay and lesbian community in the North-West of England : towards a communitarian theory of gay equality*”. The book of the PhD was published by Peter Lang in 2007, under the title ‘*Provincial Queens – the*

gay and lesbian community in the North-West of England'

- January The LGBT Committee mark Holocaust Memorial Day in order to “to pay our respects to the 15,000 LGBT people killed in the Holocaust, we will be issuing black arm bands for all those wishing to take part in the memorial day”.
- February - March LGBT Awareness Week – “In conjunction with national LGBT history month, we’ll be having respective L,G,B and T days & the Friday will be a mix of everything. We’re getting guest speakers from the NUS and other organisations to come in and do workshops. Things from what not to wear, the role of lesbians in the media to what it means to identify as Trans ... plus lots more things that will hopefully get us all thinking”.
- March The NUS LGB organise a lobby of Parliament calling for the introduction of legal protection for LGB people from discrimination when accessing goods and services such as shops and hotels. The lobby is attended by a delegation of students from the University.
- April The NUS LGB Summer Conference votes for the second time to approve the motion calling for the campaign to become the NUS LGBT Campaign.
- April LGBT Committee events for the semester included the Annual General Meeting, Star in their eyes, Boys Munches & Girl finger buffet and Pub Crawl.
- August Matt Houlbrook (Lecturer in 20th-Century British History at Liverpool University) published article in the Times Higher Supplement titles *The bloody business of manly pursuits*.
- August The LGBT Committee take part in the NUS/Student entry in the Manchester Pride Parade.
- September - June The campaigns for the LGBT Committee in 2005/6 were Marriage and partnership rights, Asylum, Blood Donor Service, British National Party, Bullying, Sex Education, Gay Clergy, Homophobic Lyrics, Kent County Council and Discrimination legislation.
- September - June The LGBT Committee publish a monthly column in Liverpool Student Newspaper called “*Queer Thoughts*”. The majority of the articles are light hearted opinion pieces. Further articles on the newspaper include news articles “*Curious about Liverpool’s LGBT*”, “*The 175ers; a lesson from the forgotten victims of the Holocaust*”, “*Gay rights controversy over blood donations*” and “*Modo refuses gay student party*”.
- December The first Civil Partnership takes place.

2006

- January Dr Matt Houlbrook (Senior Lecturer in British Cultural History 2003-2008), from the University of Liverpool’s School of History wins the *History Today Book of the Year 2006* for his book *Queer London: Perils and Pleasures in the Sexual Metropolis*.

- March The University appoints its first Diversity & Equality Manager and begins to work on drafting a new Diversity & Equality of Opportunities Policy. This new appointment is in response to the developments in legal equality for disability, gender reassignment, religion and belief, gender and sexual orientation over the previous 3 years.
- November NUS LGBT – National Day of Action” which saw over 20 demonstrations and information pickets by LGBT students outside blood donation centres up and down the country.
- December 1st Sahir House hold their annual World Aids Day candle light vigil in the Guild of Students.

2007

- Following a governance review, the LGBT Standing Committee is disbanded this year and reconstituted as the LGBT Society. This removes the representation structure for LGBT students within the Guild.
- January Dr Freya Jarman-Ivens (School of Music) launched two books that she edited called *Oh Boy! Masculinities and popular Music*, and *Queering the Popular Pitch*.
-  April 30th The law outlawing discrimination based on sexual orientation when people access good, facilities, services and education came into effect today in England and Wales. There remain some exceptions primarily based on religious organisation exceptions. The law provided equal protection for civil partners and those in a marriage.
- May The Diversity & Equality Steering Group of the University agreed to develop the University's first *Sexual Orientation Statement*.
- June The expanded Diversity & Equality team of the University is promoted via an article in Precinct, the staff news magazine.
- The University established a Diversity & Equality Committee (Students) and the Diversity & Equality Committee (Staff) which would replace the work of the Diversity & Equality Steering Group from 2007/8 onwards.
- October The Diversity & Equality Committee approve the first ever *Sexual Orientation Statement* and *Sexual Orientation Action Plans*. These documents set out the University's commitment to LGB equality and set out actions to achieve this.

2008

- February The University of Liverpool is voted 2nd place in the category *Best University or College* in the Pink Papers readers' awards 2008. Liverpool Guild LGBT Society is voted 2nd place in the category *Best Student LGBT Group* in the Pink Paper readers awards 2008.

- March Sport Liverpool support supports the local gay football teams tournament.
- August Liverpool Gay teenager Michael Causer was murdered by his friends.
- 2008-9 The Liverpool Guild of Students amends its constitution, preamble 2 of the Article of Governance to read:

“When acting to further its powers and in accordance with its objectives, the Guild shall not discriminate on the grounds of age, gender, race, colour, parental status, class, religion or belief, ethnic or national origins, creed, sexuality, nationality, size, socio-economic background, disability or medical condition, except positive action may be taken to aid any disadvantaged section of society”.

The inclusion of this pre-amble, removed aim and objective (iv) to promote equality of opportunity. The constitutional review removed specific job roles from the Sabbatical Trustee Officers disbanding the position of Welfare and Equal Opportunities Officer with the exception of Guild President.

2009

- February The LGBT Society holds their annual LGBT Awareness Week.
- April The University of Liverpool joined the Stonewall Diversity Champions programme. The programme was promoted as *“Britain’s good practice forum for LGB workplace issues, Diversity Champions brings together top employers from across the UK to promote diversity in the workplace. The programme has been helping businesses and public services to develop inclusive workplace cultures for a decade, ensuring that all of their staff can perform to their full potential.”*
- April Tara Hewitt (LGBT Committee member) was awarded Campaigner of the Year in the NUS LGBT Awards 2009 for her work on Trans issues.
- September The University of Liverpool enters the Stonewall Workplace Equality Index for the first time. The index provides a benchmark of activities that support LGB staff in the workplace. The University come 301st in the national ranking.
- September The Diversity & Equality team launch a poster campaign to tackle bullying and harassment and promote the new Dignity at Work and Study policy.
- September The first Staff & Postgraduate Student LGBT Network is established at the University, chaired by Lee Cooper.

August 2010 onwards

2010 onwards has seen the University progress in the Stonewall Workplace Equality Index and a host of activity to support these developments. Locally the first Liverpool Pride since 1993 has been held and continues to grow in popularity and scope. The Government has taken steps to move forward Trans Equality and tackle homophobia in Sport, and religious premises which wish to perform civil partnership have been given the freedom to do so...

2010

January	The University receives the results of the Stonewall Workplace Equality Index and achieved a ranking of 301 st .
February	The LGBT Society holds their annual LGBT Pride Week.
March	The Diversity & Equality team produce the first Gender Reassignment Guidance to assist staff and managers to support staff who are transitioning.
May	The NUS LGBT Conference is held at the Adelphi Hotel in Liverpool City Centre. The LGBT Society and Guild of Students host a Love Music Hate Homophobia event in the Guild.
April	The University begins to monitor the sexual orientation of staff. The online staff record is amended to allow staff to update their details when they wish to.
-	LGBT Society wins an Eagle Award at the Guild Awards 2010
June	Elizabeth Ettore (School of Sociology and Social Policy) publishes <i>Nuns, dykes, drugs and gendered bodies: An autoethnography of a lesbian feminist's journey through 'good time' sociology</i> . The abstract of the paper is: <p style="padding-left: 40px;"><i>"This article provides an autoethnographic account of my personal journey through 'good time' sociology. Telling my story involves recounting my experience as a Catholic nun and closeted lesbian in 1970s' USA; providing a picture of what it was like to do the first PhD on lesbians in the UK; explaining the impact of drugs and alcohol research on my lesbian feminist sociological imagination and reflecting upon the place of 'deviant bodies' in the new genetics and generally in society. My stories are framed by the backdrop of being a lesbian feminist sociologist in academia and informed by a small yet, emerging body of work by LGBT scholars who use autoethnography. Autoethnography is introduced as a methodological tool for speaking and writing reflexively about being out in academia. I demonstrate that telling one's story can become a gift – 'a telling creating conversations that transcends our traumas' and a way of healing ourselves and others."</i></p>
August	Liverpool Alumnus, Jean Osborne is ranked 57 th on the Independent on Sundays most influential LGBT people in 2010. A domestic violence expert, Osborne founded the first domestic violence crisis intervention centre in a British police station. She raised more than £1m to fund the project, and was commended by the Met Police for her pioneering work.

September The University enters the Stonewall Workplace Equality Index for the second time. The result, published in January 2011, placed the University 231st out of 373 organisations.



October The Equality Act 2010 comes into effect extending sexual orientation rights and including sexual orientation within the Public Sector Equality Duty.

2011

February University of Liverpool voted 2nd Best *University or College* category in the Pink Paper Readers Awards 2011.

February The LGBT Society holds their annual 'Pride Week'. Each day has a different theme, these being Lesbian Day, Gay Day, Bisexual Day, Trans Day, and LGBT General day.

May 17th The University of Liverpool commemorates International Day Against Homophobia by flying the rainbow flag from Abercromby Square and Liverpool Guild of Students.

August The University of Liverpool marks Liverpool Pride by flying the rainbow flag from Abercromby Square and lighting the Active Learning Laboratory in a rainbow pattern.



September The University enters the Stonewall Workplace Equality index for the 3rd year in a row. The University is ranked 101st most LGB friendly organisation in the country out of 363 entrants. This was an increase on 130 places from the previous year.

October The Diversity & Equality Team produce the first guidance for managers titled "*Supporting LGB Staff*" and a new Sexual Orientation Action Plan.

November The Staff & Postgraduate Student Network produce a short film titled "**That's so Gay? Gay is the Word?**" which is premiered at Homotopia. The film was uploaded onto YouTube and received in excess of 17,000 hits.

November 7th The National Blood Service removed the lifelong ban on gay men donating blood, reducing the criteria to a person who has been abstinent

for 12 months or more.

December Sahir House holds their annual World Aids Day candle light vigil in the Mountford Hall, Liverpool Guild of Students. The Active Learning Laboratory lights up as a red ribbon all of that week and fund raising activities are run by Diversity & Equality, LGBT Society, Oxfam and HIVE Liverpool Societies.



December 5th The law allowing civil partnerships to take place on religious premises came into effect today. This allows religious organisations which want to perform a civil partnership the ability to do so.

2012

January The University is ranked 101st in the Stonewall Workplace Equality Index 2012. In the higher education section the University was ranked 7th overall and 4th in the Russell Group.

February 22nd The LGBT Staff & Postgraduate Student Network and the School of Cultures, Histories and Languages hold a public lecture titled "*Alan Turing: Triumph and Tragedy*" as part of LGBT History Month and the Centenary of Alan Turing's birth. Over 200 staff, students and members of the public attend.

February 21st – 19th May PINK BRICK – LGBT Histories of the University of Liverpool Exhibition runs in the Victoria Gallery & Museum. The projects website goes live and this timeline was published.

February The LGBT Society hold a series of events to mark LGBT History month which includes a weekly film night. Films shown include "*But I'm a Cheerleader*", "*Rent*" and "*Hedwig and the angry inch*". The LGBT organised their annual LGBT Awareness Week in the Guild and attended the National Student Pride event.

17th May The University officially supports the IDAHO 50 Campaign organised by Homotopia. 50 leading organisations in Liverpool and Merseyside committed to mark IDAHO by flying the rainbow flag. The University's Active Learning Laboratory displayed a rolling rainbow light show for the duration of the week, and large rainbow flags and flown from the Gilmore Building of the Liverpool Guild of Students.



19th May A celebration is held in the Victoria Gallery & Museum to mark the 40th

Anniversary of the LGBT Society, and the end of the Pink Brick exhibition. The event is attended by past and present LGBT students, as well as members of staff and the community.

August 4th

The University officially marched in the Liverpool Pride Parade for the first time. The 'education' section included staff and students from Liverpool, LJMU, Hope, Edge Hill and NUS.



October

The LGBT Staff and Postgraduate Student Network is shortlisted for the award of 'Civil Contribution' category in the inaugural Celebrating Success Awards for staff. The ceremony was held in the Crypt of the Catholic Cathedral in December.

2013

January

The University is ranked 58th in the Stonewall Workplace Equality Index 2013, of most inclusive Lesbian, Gay & Bisexual Employers. The University came 4th in the Russell Group and 6th in the Higher Education Sector.

The LGBT Staff & Postgraduate Student Network was recognised as a Star Performer Network as part of the assessment, for their contribution to the University.

February 27th

The LGBT Staff & Postgraduate Student Network and the School of Cultures, Histories and Languages hold a public Flagship lecture titled "*Don't compromise yourself. You are all you've got*" by author John Sam Jones. The lecture focussed on "*using newspaper and magazine cuttings to illuminate the social climate for gay men and lesbians in the 1960s, one man's experience of aversion therapy was presented*".

May 1st

The second Flagship lecture by the LGBT Staff & Postgraduate Student Network was held. Presented by Dr Daniel Saunders (Nottingham University hospital) the talk focused on "*Being the gay one: are LGBT issues still relevant to medicine and medical education*".

17th July

The [Equal Marriage \(Same Sex Couples\) Act](#) received Royal Assent. The new Act made provisions for the marriage of same sex couples in England and Wales, it enabled people who go through a gender change to remain married or in a civil partnership, and it included provisions for permitting marriages to be conducted by religious organisations where agreed by the governing body of that organisation.

August 3rd

For the second time, the University marchers in the Liverpool Pride Parade 2013.



November

The University officially supported the 10th Anniversary of Homotopia, Liverpool's LGBT Arts festival.



9th November

The LGBT Staff and Postgraduate Student Network hold a screening of the film 'Hamam' as part of the Homotopia festival. The event is followed by a discussion led by Dr Firat Cengiz.

December

At the annual staff Celebrating Success Awards, the Flagship Events Committee (LGBT Staff Network) was shortlisted for the 'Civic Contribution' award. Lee Cooper from the School of Dentistry won the Individual category for 'Enhancing University Life' for his role in establishing the Staff LGBT Network and for its continued activities and contribution to the University.



2014

January 2014 The University is ranked 57th in the Stonewall Workplace Equality Index 2013, of most inclusive Lesbian, Gay & Bisexual Employers.

The LGBT Staff & Postgraduate Student Network was recognised as a Star Performer Network as part of the assessment, for their contribution to the University.



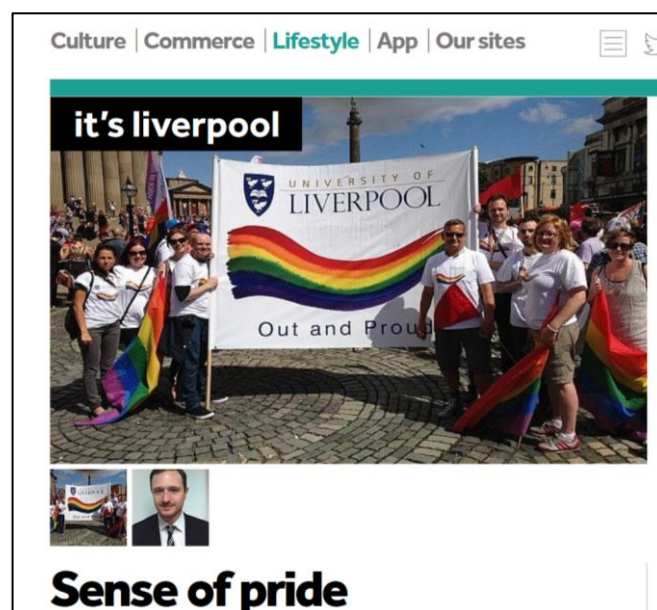
February Flagship Lecture “**What's wrong with LGBT History Month?**” was delivered by Academic and Author Dr Matt Houlbrook. Matt was a former lecturer in the University’s History Department as is author of ‘Queer London: Perils and Pleasures in the Sexual Metropolis, 1918-57’ (2005).

<https://www.liv.ac.uk/lgbt-history/media/lgbthistorymonth/>

March Flagship Lecture “**Where are the LGBT Scientists? Does it matter?**” by Professor Dave Smith (York University).

<https://www.liv.ac.uk/lgbt-history/media/lgbt.scientists/>

April 8th ItsLiverpool, Liverpool Culture and Tourism website, published the article ‘[Sense of pride](#)’ about the University’s success in the Stonewall Workplace Equality Index.



May Flagship Lecture “**The Unfinished Battle for LGBT equality**” was

delivered by Human Rights activist Peter Tatchell.



<https://www.liv.ac.uk/lgbt-history/media/petertatchell/>

For the third time, the University marchers in the Liverpool Pride Parade 2014.

October 21st

Flagship Lecture “**Legacies of Slavery: A writers reflections on Blackness and Queerness**” by Thomas Glave, a Bronx-born author of Jamaican ancestry. This event was a co-organised event with the Staff Black, Asian & Minority Ethnic network and the Centre for the Study of International Slavery, and the Centre for New and International Writing.



December

Lee Copper, the founder of the Staff & Postgraduate Student LGBT Network is recognised for his work at the staff Celebrating Success Awards. Lee wins the category

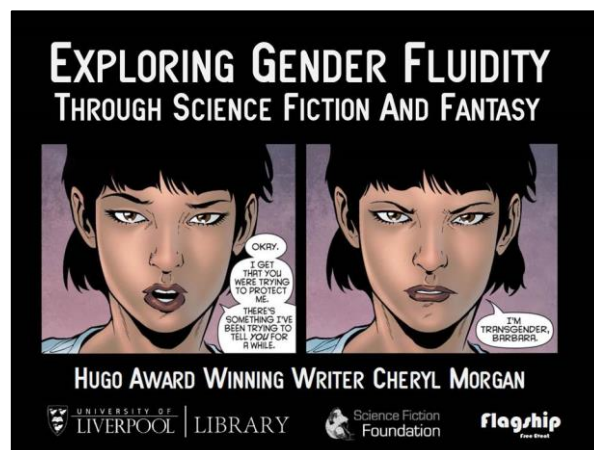
2015

January 2015 The University is ranked 101st in the Stonewall Workplace Equality Index 2014, of most inclusive Lesbian, Gay & Bisexual Employers. The drop in the ranking was associated with changes to the marking methodology and point weighting.

February 19th Flagship Lecture “**History, Memory and Lesbian lives in WW1**” was delivered by Professor Laura Doan, Professor of Cultural History and Sexuality studies at the University of Manchester.



March 23rd Flagship Lecture “**Exploring Gender Fluidity through Science-Fiction and Fantasy**” was held by Hugo Award winning author and Trans writer Cheryl Morgan.



<https://www.liv.ac.uk/lgbt-history/media/genderfluidity/>

August 1st For the fifth time, the University marchers in the Liverpool Pride Parade 2015. This year's event corresponded with the actual anniversary of Michael Causers death, after whom the Pride is held to commemorate.



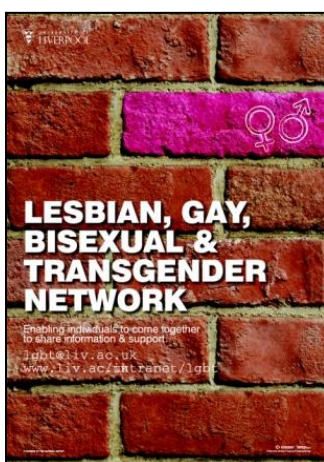
Recollections: Lee Cooper

Employee and First Chair of the Staff & Postgraduate Student LGBT Network

When I first started working in my department I was not 'out' as there was quite a bit of homophobic banter & innuendo going on. I didn't feel like I could be myself and I was quite shocked to find such attitudes in a higher education institution.

I set up the Staff & Postgraduate LGBT Network in late 2009 and we held our first meeting in January 2010. From the beginning our meetings have proven to be a great success and it really has been a joy to meet and see other LGBT individuals from across the University come together and share their experiences of working and studying here.

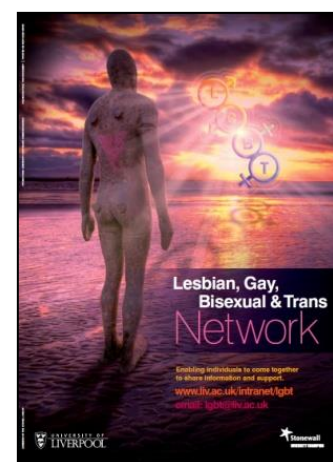
What I'm particularly proud of is establishing a dialogue between the staff networks & senior University management which takes the form of quarterly meetings with the Director of Human Resources, a Pro Vice Chancellor and the Staff Equality Network Chairs. I took on the role of producer & helped make a film about the inappropriate use of the word gay which premiered at Liverpool's Homotopia festival, was mentioned in The Huffington Post and has proven to be a big hit on YouTube.



(a)



(b)



(c)

(a) and (b) are concept designs for the Staff & Postgraduate Student LGBT Network poster and leaflet (2010). (c) is the final artwork for the Networks publicity.

Acknowledgments

We would like to thank all members of staff and students both past and present that have helped develop and contributed information and materials to this project. In particular we would like to thank everyone who submitted a personal account or piece of evidence that has help develop the time line, website or exhibition. We would like to thank the University of Liverpool Archives, the Victoria Gallery and Museum, the Liverpool Guild of Students, the LGBT Student Society, the LGBT Staff & Postgraduate Student Network, Corporate Communications, the Campaign for Homosexual Equality and the National Union of Students LGBT Campaign.

Specifically and in no particular order we would like to thank the following people who contributed to the contents of the exhibition or project or helped to pull it together:

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Paul Amann
Paul Scott
Peter Rimmer
Tara Hewitt

References:

The timeline does not include specific references to supporting evidence for the majority of entries. If you would like a specific reference please contact Darren Mooney on Darren.mooney@liv.ac.uk.