



OutStories Bristol - Recording the lives of
lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans
people in Bristol.

Annual Report 2015

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OutStories Bristol's aims

- a) Capture the stories of LGBT individuals, living or associated with Bristol and its surrounds
- b) Capture the stories in written, audio, video or other media
- c) Gather publications and artefacts of the various campaign, commercial, social and support LGBT groups, meeting places and venues, that have come and gone over the years, through existing sources and research
- d) Manage the information gathered
- e) Seek to archive the material in relevant public institutions
- f) Seek to have material displayed by relevant public institutions
- g) Promote the use of the material telling the LGBT story in any form

Membership of the Association

“Membership is open to individuals sixteen years of age and over or organisations that are approved by the trustees. Membership is not transferable to anyone else. The trustees must keep a register of names and addresses of the members.”

Membership at 30th September 2015 was

57	Registered members (51 in 2014)
298	Names on the e-mailing list (256)
315	Members of the facebook group (252)
358	Followers on Twitter (216)

Trustee and officer roles

“The association and its property shall be managed and administered by a committee comprising the officers and other members elected in accordance with this constitution. The officers and other members of the committee shall be the trustees of the association and in this constitution are together called 'the trustees'. The association shall have the following officers: two co-chairs of different gender; secretary; treasurer; web administrator. A trustee must be an individual member of the association. No one may be appointed a trustee if he or she would be disqualified from acting under the provisions of clause 20. The number of trustees shall be not less than five but – unless otherwise determined by a resolution of the charity in general meeting – shall not be subject to any maximum. A trustee may not appoint anyone to act on his or her behalf at meetings of the trustees.”

Trustees in the period since 7th February 2015 were:

	<i>First elected or co-opted</i>	
Andy Foyle	10/10/11	Co-chair 10/10/11
Andy Hole	09/10/12	Osbox Admin 20/08/13
Anthea Makepeace	07/02/15	
Charlie Beaton	10/10/11	Secretary 10/10/11
Cheryl Morgan	10/10/11	Co-chair 10/10/11
Chris Leigh	10/10/11	Web Admin 10/10/11; Osbox Admin 20/08/13
Kim Renfrew	30/08/12	
Sarah Louise Minter	07/02/15	Treasurer 07/02/15
Amy Rose Taylor	Supporter	
Robert Howes	Supporter	

A volunteer who participates in the business of the trustees but does not wish to become a trustee is styled “supporter” with no voting rights and no responsibility for the affairs of the Association.

Activities in the Period November 2014 to October 2015

1. Trustees

Trustees met on 18th November, 20th January, 18th March, 19th May, 21st July and 15th September 2014 – AGM scheduled to take place in November 2014 was held on 7th February 2015.

2. Events

○ Organised by OutStories Bristol

- 14/11/15 Beatrice Hitchman talk “Negotiating with the Dead: writing lesbian historical fiction” at The Golden Guinea
- 26/10/15 Revealing Stories Exhibition at Bath Spa University for six days
- 05/10/15 Happy 175th Birthday John Addington Symonds, Clifton Hill House
- 26/09/15 Launch of “Mapping LGBT+ Bristol” at University of Bristol
- 11/07/15 Stall at Bristol Pride, Castle Park
- 28/02/15 “Opening a New Chapter” recording Bristol’s LGBT stories – workshop to encourage participation
- 27/02/15 Josie McLellan talk “Glad to be Gay Behind the Wall” at Roll for the Soul
- 22/02/15 Robert Howes walking tour of “LGBT associated sites in central Bath”
- 14/02/15 Thomas Glave talk “Jamaica, Secrets and Dangerous Sex” at M Shed
- 07/02/15 Cheryl Morgan talk “a potted history of gender variance” at M Shed
- 30/01/15 Revealing Stories Exhibition live at University of Bristol Union for five weeks
- 18/10/14 Frank Vigon talk on Simeon Solomon

With special thanks to Kim Renfrew, who led on making the arrangements for these events.

○ Contributions by Cheryl Morgan as Co-Chair, OutStories Bristol

- 14/02/15 “What Is and How To Do LGBT History” Conference, Manchester,
- 26/02/15 "A Potted History of Gender Variance" public lecture, Bath University,
- 23/03/15 "Exploring Gender Fluidity through Science Fiction and Fantasy" public lecture, Liverpool University
- 16/05/15 "A Potted History of Gender Variance" public lecture, Exeter Pride,
- 11/06/15 “Have A Word” poetry reading, Jubilee Library, Brighton
- 12/06/15 “Trans Studies Now” Conference, University of Sussex,
- 13/06/15 “50 Voices for Malcolm X” poetry reading, Bristol Old Vic
- 19/06/15 “Variant Sex and Gender, Religion and Wellbeing Workshop, University of Exeter,
- 25/06/15 “Archipelakon” Conference, Mariehamn, Finland,
- 22/08/15 “Historicising Trans” Conference, Liverpool John Moores University,
- 31/10/15 "Challenging the Gender Binary through Science Fiction and Fantasy" public lecture, Cambridge Festival of Ideas
- 01/11/15 “Sanctum” poetry reading, Temple Church, Bristol
- 13/11/15 “Trans/Forms” Launch Party poetry reading, Hamilton House, Bristol

Plus trans awareness talks for a variety of clients, including University of Bristol Medical School, Avon and Somerset Constabulary, Julian House, HMP Ashfield and Youth Cymru

With special thanks to Cheryl for these contributions on behalf of OutStories Bristol.

3. Collections

Items continued to be added to the Gay West collection in the Bristol Record Office. Collections of publicity material and publications on display at Bristol Pride in 2014 and 2015 and at Weston-super-Mare Pride 2014 were also made and donated to the Record Office.

With special thanks to Robert Howes for his diligent leadership getting this done.

4. Mapping LGBT+ Bristol Project

OutStories Bristol has begun a one-year collaborative project with the University of Bristol to research and map the LGBT+ history of the Bristol region. Funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) the project will create a new LGBT 'layer' on Bristol City Council's online map "Know Your Place" which allows you to explore your neighbourhood through historic maps, images and linked information. The map will also be embedded in OutStories own website to facilitate crowd-sourced contributions, and there will be a custom-made mobile app for smart phones and tablet PCs. New material will be added to the archives at the Bristol Record Office.

The project will draw teams of people together to research and record the stories of the diverse individuals and communities that make up Bristol's LGBT life, both historic and present. Places of significance might include where people meet (now or in the past), the shifting map of the LGBT scene, sites of memory or life events significant to one individual or small groups, and places relevant to public and political oppression, acceptance, dissent and diversity.

The project plan also includes working with Bristol's LGBT+ youth group Freedom Youth to produce curriculum materials to be used in local schools to combat the stigmatization of gender diversity and homosexuality.

With special thanks to Chris Leigh for his unstinting leadership on this endeavour.

5. LGBT History Month February 2016 – Festival Hub

Outstories Bristol has been selected by Schools Out, the organisers of the national LGBT History Festival, to host a local series of activities concentrated on the weekend of 19 – 21 February 2016, including a civic launch, talks, film and drama. At the time of writing the programme is an advanced stage of preparation and will be published soon.

With special thanks to Cheryl Morgan for her unstinting leadership in this endeavour.

6. Charitable Status

The 2013 annual general meeting adopted a proposal from the trustees for OutStories Bristol may become a Charitable Incorporated Organisation and replace the current constitution with one acceptable to the Charity Commission. The proposed constitution was not acceptable to the Charity Commission and further development is necessary to specify the aims of OutStories Bristol to the Commission's satisfaction. Unfortunately, it has not be possible to bring a new proposal to this annual general meeting.

7. Thank you

And, for their invaluable contribution that made it all happen, thank you to members, trustees and supporters.