



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

# Annual Report 2016

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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

[OSB Constitution, Section 3]

## **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.”

[OSB Constitution, Section 8]

## Membership at 30<sup>th</sup> September 2016 was

61	Registered members (57 in 2015)
324	Names on the e-mailing list (298)
327	Members of the facebook group (315)
564	Followers on Twitter (358)

## 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.”

[Constitution, Section 17]

## Trustees in the period since 14<sup>th</sup> November 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	Treasurer 19/07/16
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	Resigned 17/05/16	
Sarah Louise Minter	07/02/15	Treasurer 07/02/15	Resigned 19/07/16
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 2015 to October 2016

### 1. Trustees

Following the AGM held 14<sup>th</sup> November 2015, trustees met on 17<sup>th</sup> November, 19<sup>th</sup> January, 15<sup>th</sup> March, 17<sup>th</sup> May, 19<sup>th</sup> July and 20<sup>th</sup> September 2016.

### 2. Events

#### ○ Mapping Project Events

21/11/15 - New volunteers session, Hamilton House.  
5/12/15 - Audio editing workshop, University of Bristol  
5/1/16 - Oral History Team, introduction  
9/1/16 - Unlocking our Past; new researchers' introduction, Bristol Record Office  
23/1/16 - Oral History Team, OH interview training  
28/2/16 - Pinning Party, University of Bristol  
16/4/16 - Mapping workshop, University of Bristol  
11/6/16 - Pinning Party, University of Bristol  
6/7/16 - Prelaunch party, Old Market Assembly  
9/7/16 - Launch at Bristol Pride, with University multimedia truck  
3/9/16 – Storymaps workshop, University of Bristol.

#### ○ Other Events

15/2/16 - 29/2/16 - Revealing Stories exhibition at UWE – opening by Stuart Milk, 15/2  
20-21/2/16 - LGBT History Month Bristol Festival with Civic Launch at M Shed, 19/2

#### ○ OutStories Bristol supported and was represented at

20/11/15 - Trans Day of Remembrance flag raising  
5/12/15 - John Addington Symonds poetry and music recital at University of Bristol, Clifton Hill House  
14/6/16 - The Orlando Shootings memorial gathering

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

Article – “God’s Chosen: Trans People and Religion” in 2016 LGBT History Month magazine  
6/Feb/2016 – Talk, “Michael Dillon, Trans Pioneer” at the V&A Museum, London  
27/Feb/2016 – Paper, “From Sumer to Rome: On the Trail of the Great Goddess and Her Gender-Variant Worshippers” at the What is & How to Do LGBT History 2016, Manchester Metropolitan University  
17-20/Mar/2016 – Poster based on “From Sumer to Rome: On the Trail of the Great Goddess and Her Gender-Variant Worshippers” at Moving Trans History Forward, University of Victoria, British Columbia, Canada  
Involvement in the Twilight People Project (Stories of Faith and Gender Beyond the Binary - <http://www.twilightpeople.com/>), including:

- 23/Apr/2016 – Presentation at Trans\*Code, GoCardless Offices, London
- 8/Aug/2016 – Presentation to Gendered Intelligence Youth Group, Bristol
- 18/Aug/2016 – Presentation at Metropolitan Archives, London
- 19/Sep/2016 – Presentation at Trans\*Code, City Hall, Cardiff
- 22-25/Sep/2016 – Exhibition as part of Trans Pride South West
- 15/Jul/2016 – Talk, LGBT Police Network Annual Conference, Guildhall, London
- 08/Oct/2016 – Jana Funke, “Beyond the Well of Loneliness”, at Bristol University

### 3. LGBT History Month February 2016 – Festival Hub, Bristol

Events arranged by Cheryl Morgan, Co-Chair

- Stuart Milk

15/Feb/2016 – opens Revealing Stories exhibition at UWE  
15/Feb/2016 – talks to NUT meeting  
16/Feb/2016 – on Claire Cavanagh show on Radio Bristol  
16/Feb/2016 – visits Freedom Youth  
17/Feb/2016 – visits St. Mary Redcliffe School  
17/Feb/2016 – on Women’s Outlook show on Ujima Radio  
17/Feb/2016 – presents The Times of Harvey Milk at Bristol University  
18/Feb/2016 – presents The Times of Harvey Milk at Bath University  
19/Feb/2016 – visits Redland Green school

- Civic Launch

19/Feb/2016 – Civic Launch of LGBT History Festival at M-Shed, featuring Phyll Opoku-Gyimah, Stuart Milk, Mayor George Ferguson & Lord Mayor Clare Champion-Smith  
20-21/Feb/2016 – LGBT History Festival at M-Shed

Also, Robert Howes led an LGBT History walk around Bath on 28 February 2016.

In 2017 there will be an LGBT History Month hub in Exeter on February and 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>. Cheryl has been invited to speak at the launch event on the 11th.

#### **4. Collections**

Osbox is 'OutStories' online remote storage set up in 2014. All trustees use this to store digital files (audio records, digital photos, administrative documents). We have over 100 gb of data securely stored here and are continuing to develop its use to support our ongoing activities.

Robert Howes has arranged and catalogued the Gay West Archive, which is now available to bona fide researchers in the Bristol Record Office, subject to the prior permission of the Gay West committee. He continues to pass recent issues of the Gay West Magazine and committee meeting minutes to the Record Office in batches to be added to the collection.

Robert has collected and donated to the Record Office material collected at LGBT+ events, mainly leaflets, magazines and reports:

- Items collected at LGBT History Month, February 2016 (41 items)
- Items collected at Bristol Pride, 2016 (70 items)
- Items collected at Weston-super-Mare Pride, 2016 (43 items)

Robert has also recently donated his newspaper cuttings collection (originals and photocopies), which are being scanned with Mapping LGBT+ funds, and will be added to an OutStories Bristol Collection, in course of preparation.

#### **5. Mapping LGBT+ Bristol Project**

The outstanding achievement of the year has been the successful creation and launch in July of our new online digital map and mobile app exploring the LGBT+ past of the Bristol region.

The project was a one-year collaboration between OutStories Bristol, the 'Know Your Bristol'

community heritage project at the University of Bristol, the online historical mapping website 'Know Your Place' run by Bristol City Council, Bristol Record Office and the LGBTQ youth group Freedom Youth.

OutStories Bristol volunteers and University interns researched and collated local LGBT+ history from the 17<sup>th</sup> Century to the present day, then placed it on a digital map with photographs and audio extracts from oral history interviews with local people. During the year we held six weekend-afternoon workshops for digital uploading, one workshop learning audio-editing techniques, and two oral history training sessions, one led by a trainer from the Oral History Society.

The map can be viewed on:

- OutStories Bristol's website: [www.outstoriesbristol.org.uk/map](http://www.outstoriesbristol.org.uk/map)
- Know Your Place website: [www.maps.bristol.gov.uk/kyp](http://www.maps.bristol.gov.uk/kyp)
- Mobile apps from Google Play and the Apple App Store (search "Mapping LGBT+ Bristol").

The project also produced curriculum materials to be used in local schools to combat the stigmatization of gender diversity and homosexuality.

We owe huge thanks to Josie McLellan and Nathan Eisenstadt of the Know Your Bristol project who led the collaboration and whose unstinting effort and enthusiasm ensured successful completion. Big thanks also to web developers Mike Jones and Tessa Alexander of the university who created the map software, to Peter Insole and Andrew Ventham of Bristol City Council who integrated the map on the Know Your Place website and to the Bristol Record Office who helped with research in their archives. The project was made possible by generous funding from the Arts & Humanities Research Council. Finally, our thanks to all the OutStories volunteers who devoted time researching, conducting oral history interviews, and uploading the results to the map.

The formal OutStories/University collaboration has finished. However OutStories will continue to research our history and add to the map indefinitely. It is an ongoing project and we welcome anyone who would like to help.

## **6. Charitable Status**

The 2013 annual general meeting adopted a proposal by the trustees for OutStories Bristol to 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 was required. Unfortunately, it has not been 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.