Out and about
LGBT History Month in Worcester
February 2019

Out and about LGBT History Month in Worcester is supported by Fortis Living
What is LGBT History Month?

• The overall aim of LGBT History month is to promote equality and diversity this is done by:

• Increasing the visibility of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender ("LGBT") people, their history, lives and their experiences in the curriculum and culture of educational and other institutions, and the wider community;

• Raising awareness and advancing education on matters affecting the LGBT community;

• Working to make educational and other institutions safe spaces for all LGBT communities; and

• Promoting the welfare of LGBT people, by ensuring that the education system recognises and enables LGBT people to achieve their full potential, so they contribute fully to society and lead fulfilled lives, thus benefiting society as a whole.
LGBT History Month is celebrated throughout the UK every February.

The theme for 2019 is Peace, Reconciliation and Activism

https://lgbthistorymonth.org.uk/

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Mariella Franco, 38, a Brazilian Councilwoman, was killed instantly on 14th March 2018 when her car was pummeled by drive-by shooters. Her driver, Anderson Pedro Gomes, was also killed. She was leaving an event for ‘Young Black Women Who Are Changing Power Structures’.

One of Brazil’s most promising, charismatic and beloved political figures, what was most notable and most devastating about Franco’s murder was how improbable and unique her trajectory was to the public stage. A black LGBT+ woman in a country notoriously dominated by racism, sexism and traditional religious dogma she was raised in one of Rio’s poorest and most violent slums, the Maré complex.

A single mother aged 19, yet obtained a Masters in Sociology, then became one of the city’s most effective human rights activists. (cont’d)
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In 2016 Franco ran for office for the first time as a candidate for Rio’s City Council and was elected with a massive vote. The results stunned the city’s political class: as a first-time candidate, a black woman from Maré became the fifth most voted candidate in the city.

That success solidified Franco’s status not only as a new political force to be reckoned with, but as a repository of hope for Brazil’s traditionally voiceless excluded groups: its favela residents, its black and poor people and women.

The black feminist LGBT+ activist was due to marry her fiancée Monica Benicio next year, “I don’t question at all that it was a political crime. She was our only black female councilor – a black lesbian woman from the favelas occupying a position of power…. predominantly reserved for the white men who make up this ‘Brazilian elite’”

Following the attack, thousands took to the streets outside of Rio de Janiero’s council chamber to protest against the growing violence in Brazil.

Mariella Franco
(1979 – 2018)
Dr Magnus Hirschfeld (1868 –1935) was a gay German Jewish man who fought for LGBT rights, particularly within the field of medicine.

He founded the first LGBT rights organisation Wissenschaftlich-humanitäres Komitee (The Scientific-Humanitarian Committee) in 1897 to campaign against the criminalisation of homosexuality.

In 1919 he opened the Institut für Sexualwissenschaft (Institute of Sex Research) which was the first clinic to offer access to medical transition, as well as general sexual health and counselling.

In the 1930s when the Nazis took power the institute was destroyed and Magnus was forced to flee to France.

Magnus Hirschfeld
(1868 – 1935)
Marsha P. Johnson was an American gay liberation activist and self-identified drag queen. She was one of the prominent figures in the Stonewall uprising of 1969. A founding member of the Gay Liberation Front, Johnson co-founded S.T.A.R. (Street Transvestite Action Revolutionaries) alongside Sylvia Rivera.

Johnson was known as the ‘Mayor of Christopher Street’.

Marsh P. Johnson was brought up a devout Christian. She suffered harassment for wearing dresses as a young boy and was the victim of a sexual assault as an adolescent. Her mother told her that being homosexual is like being “lower than a dog”.

Johnson was one of the first drag queens to go to the Stonewall Inn, after they began allowing women and drag queens inside.

(cont’d)
In the early hours of 28 June 1969 the Stonewall uprising occurred. While the first two nights of rioting were the most intense, spontaneous demonstrations and marches happened for roughly a week. Johnson participated in the first Pride on the anniversary of the rebellion.

Johnson’s activism continued throughout her life; she was photographed by Andy Warhol in 1975 and became an AIDS activist in 1990. Shortly after the 1992 Pride parade Johnson’s body was found in the Hudson river. Police ruled the death a suicide but friends and the local community insisted Johnson was not suicidal.

On his TV show, RuPaul called Johnson an inspiration, “the true drag mother” and describes how she “paved the way for all of them”.

In 2018 the New York Times published a belated obituary for her.
Robert Graves was a prolific writer. In 1916, while in action in the first World War he published his first volume of poems. He was wounded and whilst recuperating met war poets Siegfried Sassoon and Wilfred Owen. His most well-known works include a biography of T. E. Lawrence whom he knew well, and the autobiographical ‘Goodbye To All That’ (1929) which recounted his wartime experiences. It was a bitter indictment of England and it’s values – speculated to be coloured by his traumatic experiences of punishment at Charterhouse for a relationship with another boy.

Graves wrote: “In English preparatory and public schools romance is necessarily homosexual. The opposite sex is despised and treated as something obscene. Many boys never recover from this perversion. For every one born homosexual, at least ten permanent pseudo-homosexuals are made by the public school system: nine of these ten as honourably chaste and sentimental as I was.”

Graves went to marry twice and father eight children but his relationships were never conventional. No written evidence exists of his bi- or pan-sexuality but he lived in an era when this was illegal so this is not surprising.
Local LGBT+ Groups: Worcestershire Pride

The first Worcestershire Pride was in September 2017...

The first Pride Parade through Worcester city centre was in September 2018...

Want to be part of LGBT+ History?
Come and get involved!

info@worcestershirepride.org

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Local LGBT+ Groups: Out2gether

Out2gether offers the LGBT+ community opportunities to meet at ‘non-scene’ social events, building friendships and a supportive community
Get in touch to find out more: out2gether.worcs@gmail.com

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LGBT History Month Local Events Listing

Check for more details on www.worcestershirepride.org

Facebook - search for Out2gether

Or email out2gether.worcs@gmail.com

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LGBT History Month Launch Event 2 Feb 19

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Out2gether
LGBT History Month in Worcester is supported by Fortis Living
Out and about LGBT History Month in and around Worcester

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