

National Ambulance
LGBT Network

Back to LGBT Basics - Identity



Supporting Lesbian, Gay,
Bisexual, Trans staff,
patients and communities

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A quiz looking at some of the
cultural aspects of LGBT
over the last 100 years

Alistair Gunn, 10 January 2019

Find us online:
www.ambulanceLGBT.org



National Ambulance
LGBT Network



@NatAmbLGBTUK

How Does This Work?

Read This
First!

In this pack of information you will find some interesting facts about LGBT life in the last century. You will find out about people, symbols and some cultural nuances about LGBT life.

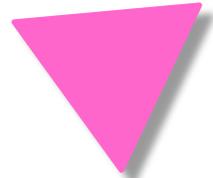


A little warning though... on each slide there is some information that is not correct.

Can you spot the false facts?

Have fun reading and we hope you enjoy finding out more about LGBT culture.

You can find out the answers to this quiz on the National Ambulance LGBT Network website at www.ambulanceLGBT.org/resources/we-are-gay-history.



All In The Name



L **G**
Lesbian and Gay

B
Bisexual

T
Trans

Today we use the term like it has always existed. In fact the journey to creating the LGBT acronym is fascinating in itself.

At the turn of the twentieth century men who were attracted to the same sex were usually identified clinically as homosexuals, 'mollies' and 'inverts'. It is believed the origins of the term 'gay' come from America in the 1950. One suggestion is the word stands for 'good as you', recognising the uprising of the political movement.

Up until the early 1990s we were described as the KGB community. Towards the end of the 1990s a few gay rights groups and activists started using the LGBT acronym in support of another section of people who were being marginalised because of their gender identity.

Although these two issues are actually different, there became a growing sympathy between the two based on a need to raise awareness and the quest for equal rights.

The Pink Triangle



The pink triangle has its origins in the 1940s and more specifically is associated with the holocaust. Between 1939 and 1945 it is believed around six million Jews were systematically killed by the German Nazi party.

In concentration camps Jewish people were identified by the green Star of David symbols that they were ordered to sew onto their shirts.

It wasn't just Jewish people who were persecuted by the Nazis. Gay men were also arrested and sent to prison or concentration camps, many of which suffered humiliating abuse and were killed. Gay men were made to wear a pink triangle on their shirts. It is thought that around 100,000 gay men perished in the holocaust although the exact number is very hard to establish.

During the 1960s the pink triangle symbol was reclaimed by the gay community as a symbol of gay identity. It remained the most recognisable

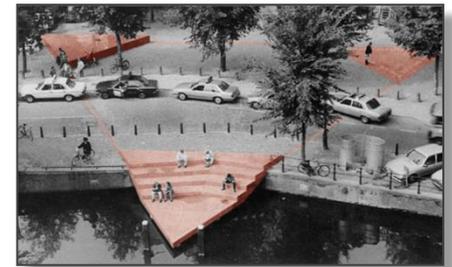
symbol until the creation of the rainbow freedom flag in the 1980s.



The pink triangle symbol

Monuments to gay men killed in the Holocaust can be found in several European cities and use the pink triangle. In Amsterdam the Homomonument is a large piece of pink marble that juts out into one of the canals. In Berlin a more discrete plaque can be found on the wall of the Norlandorfplatz u-bahn station.

The Homomonument in Amsterdam



LGBT or LGBT+?



LGBT

stands for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender.

LGBT+

is a shortened version of...

LGBTQQIAAP

which stands for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Transsexual, Queer, Questioning, Intersex, Asexual, Allies and Pansexual.

What does this mean?

The additional letters in the acronym mean...

- **L = Lesbian:** A woman who is attracted only to other women.

- **G = Gay:** A man who is attracted to other men, and also used to broadly describe people who are attracted to the same sex.
- **B = Bisexual:** Anyone who is attracted to both men and women.
- **T = Transvestite:** Someone whose gender identity differs from their gender at birth.
- **T = Transsexual:** Same as transgender but it refers to people who desire to permanently transition to the gender with which they identify, seeking medical assistance.
- **Q = Queer:** Reclaimed pejorative term now used by people who don't identify with the binary terms of male and female or gay and straight and do not wish to label themselves by their sex acts.
- **Q = Questioning:** Someone who is still questioning or exploring their sexual/gender identity.

LGBT or LGBT+?



- **I = Intersex:** Someone who's body is neither fully male or female due to medical variation. Formerly known as hermaphrodites, now considered an offensive term.
- **A = Ally:** Someone who is straight but supports the LGBTTTQQIAAP community.
- **A = Asexual:** Someone with no sexual attraction to any gender.
- **P = Pansexual:** Someone whose sexual attraction is not based on gender and more based on personality. They may also be gender fluid. Sometimes used to differentiate between the binary choice of two genders implied by 'bisexual'.

The addition of other letters has largely been driven from America where activists insist the original four letters do not encompass the full range of sexual orientations and gender identities. The list appears to have got longer and longer but is now most commonly abbreviated to LGBT+.



Billie Jean King



Billie Jean King is a tennis legend who was awarded the BBC Sports Personality of the Year Lifetime Achievement Award in 2018. Her story is an inspiration to many.

As well as being a tennis supremo between 1968 and 1983, King has been an active women's and LGBT rights activist. She famously won the 'Battle of the Sexes' match in 1973 against Bobby Riggs in front of a television audience of 50,000 people.

Also in 1973 King threatened to boycott the US Open unless equal prize money was awarded to the champion. Previously this had been unequal and winning her battle meant she was the first female tennis player to make \$100,000 in a year.

From one gay icon to another, King's involvement with the Philadelphia Flyers is claimed to be the inspiration for the Elton John song Philadelphia Freedom. This song reached number one in the US charts in 1975.

King's personal life is equally as interesting. She didn't realize she was gay until 1968 at age 25, after she had already married her college boyfriend, Larry King.



*Billie Jean King
now (left) and
in action in
1973 (right)*



In 1981, King was sued by her former secretary and lover, Marilyn Barnett, forcing her out of the closet and making her one of the most prominent lesbians in sports history.

Since divorcing her husband in 1987, King has been with her partner Ilana Kloss almost thirty years. She also continues to be a keen advocate for LGBT equality.

The Rainbow Flag



The main symbol of gay identity that we use today, the rainbow flag, was first created in 1978. It originally had eight different coloured stripes and it wasn't until the late 1990s that the six stripe version took hold.

Even today there is some debate about what the true version is, but there is no doubt that the six stripe mascot is the most established flag used to identify LGBT venues.

In addition to this, the six component colours are often incorporated into the logos of LGBT services. This includes the rainbow star of life symbol that is now used by Ambulance Services in the United Kingdom. This logo was first created by members of the Yorkshire Ambulance LGBT Network back in 2011 and it was adopted by the National Ambulance LGBT Network in 2016 because of its simplicity. This logo is seen on decorated ambulances at many Pride events.

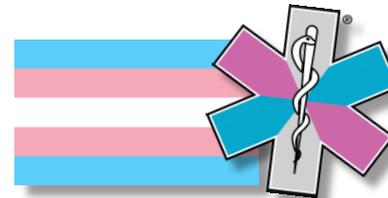


Two versions of the rainbow flag. The correct one (left) and another version incorporating the BME community (right).



The longest ever Pride flag, stretching two kilometres, was created for Key West Pride in 2003. The flag was carried by hundreds of people and ariel views showed it stretched all the way down the main boulevard.

Two other versions of the star of life have been created...



Bisexual flag



Trans flag

The Lost Language of Gay Men



Polari was a secretive language widely used by the British gay community from the 1900s to the 1970s. It was based on slang words deriving from a variety of different languages, rhyming slang, and backslang (spelling words backwards).

In the eighteenth century it was mainly used in pubs around the London dock area. The language was soon picked up by merchant seafarers and brought back on ship. From the 1930s to 1970s the language was mostly used in gay pubs, theatre and on merchant ships.

The language helped gay men talk to each other in front of straight people. It enabled gays to feel like part of an exclusive group. Polari was used in crew shows on ships and some straight shipmates picked up the language from these shows.

Polari was popularised by Julian and Sandy (played by Hugh Paddick and Kenneth Williams) in the 1960s BBC radio comedy show, Round the Horne.

In the show the two played a couple of camp out-of-work actors.



The language is thought to have originated in London in the 18th Century

Hugh Paddick and Kenneth Williams in Round the Horne



In the 1970s the use of Polari started declining. The 1947 Sexual Offences Act made homosexuality legal, so there was less need for a secret form of language. The 1970s gay liberation movement found the language to be old fashioned and sexist. However, it was still used on ships up until the 1980s.

Polari Dictionary



Polari words would have been dropped into otherwise normal sentences so the true meaning was well and truly hidden. If someone referred to that 'omi-polone' over there, only people in the know would realise they are pointing out a fellow gay man.

Some common sentences are:

- **How bona to vada your dolly old onk!**
How good to see your dear old face!
- **Can I troll round your lally?**
Can I have a look around your house?

Because of the context of the language, most of it refers to people, body parts and even sexual references. Try hard as we might, we could not find a Polari version of 'Could you pass the vinegar please?' Although the language is now practically defunct, you may recognise some of the terms as slang even today.

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bevvu: drink
bijou: small
bod: body
bona: good
butch: masculine
camp: effeminate
capello: hat
carsey: toilet
crimper: hairdresser
dish: an attractive male
dolly: pretty, nice
ecaf: face (backslang)
fantabulosa: wonderful
hooper: dancer
kaffies: trousers
lally: house
lallies: legs
lilly: police (Lilly Law)
luppers: fingers
measures: money
mince: walk (affectedly)

naff: bad, drab
oglefakes: glasses
ogles: eyes
omi: man
omi-polone: gay man
onk: nose
orbs: eyes
palare pipe: telephone
plate: feet
polari: chat, talk
polone: woman
pots: teeth
riah / riha: hair
riah slasher: hairdresser
scarper: to run off
scotch: leg
shyker / shyckle: wig
slap: makeup
thews: thighs
trade: sex
troll: to walk about
vada / varda: see

Alan Turing



Alan Turing is famed for being the father of the modern computer and also being the person who cracked the Enigma Code, meaning Nazi messages could be deciphered. This gave the Allies a massive tactical advantage which undoubtedly helped win the war. Today he is celebrated as being a national hero, but this was not always the case.



*Alan Turing (left)
and the Nazi enigma
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Turing was born in 1912 and grew up to become something of an understated genius. He conceptualised the mechanical brain or computer. He was fascinated by machines and how far they could be developed. In the Second World War he was employed at Gosford Park where, against all

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Both these factors caused Turing to become heavily depressed and in 1953 he committed suicide. A true scientist to the very end, his death was caused by eating an apple dipped in cyanide.

Stonewall



Stonewall is best known as the lesbian and gay rights lobbying group that has existed in the United Kingdom since 1989. Many prominent public figures have been associated with this organisation including Sir Ian McKellan and Angela Mason.

Now that many legal rights are equal for LGBT people Stonewall's key focus is now on improving conditions for LGBT people in a number of different contexts, including health and employment. The Stonewall Top 50 Employers Index is a well established accolade that is sought after by many public sector and private companies.

The name Stonewall has its origins in 1960s America. The Stonewall riots (also referred to as the Stonewall uprising or the Stonewall rebellion) were a series of spontaneous, violent demonstrations by members of the LGBT community against a police raid that took place in the early morning hours of 28 June 1969, at the Stonewall Inn in New York's Greenwich Village.

This is widely considered to constitute the most important event leading to the gay liberation movement and the modern fight for LGBT rights in the United States.



The Stonewall Inn (left) in New York still exists today and young people celebrate the Stonewall Uprising (below).



The name Stonewall continues to be synonymous with LGBT rights and culture. The Stonewall Inn still exists in New York and the organisation Stonewall continues to campaign for improvements in LGBT living and employment conditions throughout the United Kingdom.

Albert Kennedy



Albert Kennedy was 16 years old when he died after falling from a car park roof in Manchester, while being chased by several attackers in a car.

Albert's body was found by a policeman in the early hours of a Saturday morning. He had apparently fallen from the top of the car park. The '2am Death Leap' made the front page of the Manchester Evening News the next day. 'A rent boy carrying a killer disease plunged to his death in Manchester's red-light district,' read the story. 'Firemen wearing special gear had to wash down the street where the teenager was found to ensure no one came into contact with his blood.'

In fact the 'killer disease' was Hepatitis B, not usually fatal and Albert was not a professional rent boy although one of his carers later disclosed he had occasionally resorted to prostitution to support himself when he was absconding from the Salford children's home where he lived. But the tone of the coverage reflected the mood of the times.

This, after all, was 1989 and shortly after Section 69 passed into law banning local authorities from 'intentionally promoting homosexuality', and when Greater Manchester's Chief Constable James Anderton could say he had been inspired by God to state publicly that AIDS was a divine retribution for homosexuality.



Albert Kennedy died in 1989 at the age of 16

Manchester's gay community was moved into action and the Albert Kennedy Trust was officially created in 1990. It was observed that Kennedy's case was not isolated and that the foster care system failed other LGBT young people. The Albert Kennedy Trust is still going today.

Take Pride



Pride events are an annual event in most of the big cities in the United Kingdom and increasingly common in many smaller towns too. It is hard to think that the first Pride event actually happened less than 5 years ago with a purpose far different from the events we celebrate today.

In 1972 the gay rights movement was taking hold in the United Kingdom. The decriminalisation in 1967 got the ball rolling and events in America in 1969 spurred people to fight for equality on this side of the Atlantic.

The first Pride event took place in London on 1 July 1972, the nearest Saturday to the anniversary of the Stonewall riots. Around 2,000 people took part in the event which saw demonstrations about unequal rights for lesbians and gay men. Over subsequent years London Pride got bigger and bigger, and by the 1990s was one of the biggest annual demonstrations, bringing the centre of London to a standstill.



London Pride in 1972

As LGBT rights got equalised, the emphasis of Pride events has switched more to being a celebration of the LGBT culture. Many companies and services take part and sponsor Pride events to highlight their LGBT friendly credentials. Many music and artists also take part to show their support.

Pride events continue to invoke much debate about whether they are actually about promoting equality or companies simply cashing in on the 'pink pound'. Maybe the answer is both.

Stephen Fry



Stephen Fry has to be one of the most widely acclaimed actors and comedians of recent times. His list of film and television credits would fill at least twenty more slides. He may be best known for taking lead part of Baldrick in the Blackadder series of programmes and most recently as the presenter of TV favourite QI.



Stephen Fry as himself (left) and in the popular television series Blackadder Goes Forth

Fry who was born in 1957 is also openly gay, although this is something he was less comfortable with in the past. It seems Fry struggled to keep his homosexuality secret during his teenage years at

public school and by his own account did not engage in sexual activity for 16 years from 1979 until 1995. When asked when he first acknowledged his sexuality, he quipped; 'I suppose it all began when I came out of the womb. I looked back up at my mother and thought to myself, 'That's the last time I'm going up one of those'.'

Fry has never been afraid to explore sexuality in film and television. In 1997 he very convincingly played the lead role of Oscar in the film Wilde. He has presented programmes raising awareness of the HIV and AIDS, his life as a manic-depressive and most recently on great gay British buildings alongside Mary Portas (well worth seeing by the way). He has even featured on the programme 'Who Do You Think You Are?' tracing his family who were sent to Auschwitz by the Nazis.

There has been some debate recently about Fry's status as a national treasure, but if this accolade went to people with the most varied of careers there is little doubt in our minds.

The Answers [1]

Don't Cheat!



The following slides contain the answers to the quiz. Don't peek until you have worked out which piece of information is incorrect on each of the slides.

Good luck!



The Answers [2]



All In The Name

All In The Name

L Lesbian and Gay
B Bisexual
T Trans

Today we use the term like it has always existed. In fact the journey to creating the LGBT acronym is fascinating in itself.

At the turn of the twentieth century men who were attracted to the same sex were usually identified clinically as homosexuality, 'mollies' and 'inverts'. It is believed the origins of the term 'gay' come from America in the 1950. One suggestion is the word stands for 'good as you', recognising the uprising of the political movement.

T = Transvestite: Someone whose gender identity differs from their gender at birth.

Towards the end of the 1990s a KGB cover group and activists started using the LGBT acronym in support of another section of people who were being marginalised because of their gender identity.

Although these two issues are actually different, there became a growing sympathy between the two based on a need to raise awareness and the quest for equal rights.

It was to great amusement that the Chair of the National Ambulance LGBT Network was once introduced to an audience as having 'something to with the KGB Network'. The KGB is in fact the Russian State Security and the correct acronym is 'LGB'.

The Pink Triangle

The Pink Triangle

The pink triangle has its origins in the 1940s and more specifically is associated with the holocaust. Between 1939 and 1945 it is believed around six million Jews were systematically killed by the German Nazi party.

In concentration camps prisoners were identified by the green Star of David symbol that they were of Jewish descent.

It wasn't just Jewish people who were persecuted by the Nazis. Gay men were also arrested and sent to prison or concentration camps, many of which suffered humiliating abuse and were killed. Gay men were made to wear a pink triangle on their shirts. It is thought that around 100,000 gay men perished in the holocaust although the exact number is very hard to establish.

During the 1960s the pink triangle symbol was reclaimed by the gay community as a symbol of gay identity. It remained the most recognisable symbol until the creation of the rainbow freedom flag in the 1980s.

Monuments to gay men killed in the Holocaust can be found in several European cities and use the pink triangle. In Amsterdam the Homomonument is a large piece of pink marble that juts out into one of the canals. In Berlin a more discrete plaque can be found on the wall of the Norindorplatz u-bahn station.

The Homomonument in Amsterdam

The pink triangle symbol

The Star of David, known in Hebrew as the Shield of David, is a generally recognized symbol of modern Jewish identity and Judaism. Its shape is that of a hexagram, the compound of two equilateral triangles. In the Holocaust these were yellow in colour.



LGBT or LGBT+?

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LGBT stands for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender.

LGBT+ is a shortened version of...

LGBTQQIAAP which stands for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Transsexual, Queer, Questioning, Intersex, Asexual, Allies and Pansexual.

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The addition of other letters has largely been driven from America where activists insist the original four letters do not encompass the full range of sexual orientations and gender identities. The list appears to have got longer and longer but is now most commonly abbreviated to LGBT+.

The first 'T' in the LGBT acronym is actually transgender, meaning people changing their gender identity. The term 'transvestite' is an outdated term for someone who likes dressing as the opposite sex. The correct term today is 'cross dresser'.

The Answers [3]



Billie Jean King

Billie Jean King

Billie Jean King is a tennis legend who was awarded the BBC Sports Personality of the Year Lifetime Achievement Award in 2018. Her story is an inspiration to many.

As well as being a tennis supremo between 1968 and 1983, King has been an active women's and LGBT rights activist. She famously won the 'Battle of the Sexes' match in 1973  in front of a television audience of 50,000 people.

Also in 1973 King threatened to boycott the US Open unless equal prize money was awarded to the champion. Previously this had been unequal and winning her battle meant she was the first female tennis player to make \$100,000 in a year.

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King's personal life is equally as interesting. She didn't realize she was gay until 1968 at age 25, after she had already married her college boyfriend, Larry King.

Billie Jean King now (left) and in action in 1973 (right)

In 1981, King was sued by her former secretary and lover, Marilyn Barnett, forcing her out of the closet and making her one of the most prominent lesbians in sports history.

Since divorcing her husband in 1987, King has been with her partner Ilana Kloss almost thirty years. She also continues to be a keen advocate for LGBT equality.



Billie Jean King and Bobbie Rigg's 'Battle of the Sexes' match was a very brave move in its day. It captured the attention of much of the western world and it is believed around 50 million people actually watched the match.

The Rainbow Flag

The Rainbow Flag

The main symbol of gay identity that we use today, the rainbow flag, was first created in 1978. It originally had eight different coloured stripes and it wasn't until the late-1990s that the six stripe version took hold.

Even today there is some debate about what the true version is, but there is no doubt that the six stripe mascot is the most established flag used to identify LGBT venues.

In addition to this, the six component colours are often incorporated into the logos of LGBT services. This includes the rainbow star of life symbol that is now used by Ambulance Services in the United Kingdom. This logo was first created by members of the Yorkshire Ambulance LGBT Network back in 2011 and it was adopted by the National Ambulance LGBT Network in 2016 because of its simplicity. This logo is seen on decorated ambulances at many Pride events.

Two versions of the rainbow flag. The correct one (left) and Another version incorporating the BME community (right).

The longest ever Pride flag, stretching two kilometres, was created for Key West Pride in 2003. The flag was carried by hundreds of people and aerial views showed it stretched all the way down the main boulevard.

Two other versions of the star of life have been created...

Bisexual flag  



On this slide the two flags at the bottom right hand corner are labelled incorrectly. The trans flag is actually on the left, and made up of the pastel pink and blue colours.

The bisexual flag is the more vibrant version made of purple and blue colours.

The Lost Language of Gay Men

The Lost Language of Gay Men

Polari was secretive language widely used by the British gay community from the 1900s to the 1970s. It was based on slang words deriving from a variety of different languages, rhyming slang, and backslang (spelling words backwards).

In the eighteenth century it was mainly used in pubs around the London dock area. The language was soon picked up by merchant seafarers and brought back on ship. From the 1930s to the 1970s the language was mostly used in gay pubs, theatre and on merchant ships.

The language helped gay men talk to each in front of straight people. It enabled gays to feel like part of an exclusive group. Polari was used in crew shows on ships and some straight shipmates picked up the language from these shows.

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In the show the two played a couple of camp out-of-work actors.

The language is thought to have originated in London in the 19th Century

Hugh Paddick and Kenneth Williams in Round the Home

In ~~1967~~  the 1947 sexual offences act ~~declined~~  homosexuality ~~was~~  a criminal offence. The 1970s gay liberation movement found the language to be old fashioned and sexist. However, it was still used on ships up until the 1980s.



This one is quite hard and well done if you spotted it.

The Sexual Offences Act that decriminalised homosexuality was passed in 1967 after some fierce debating in the House of Commons.

The Answers [4]



Polari Dictionary

Polari Dictionary

Polari words would have been dropped into otherwise normal sentences so the true meaning was well and truly hidden. If someone referred to that 'omi-polone' over there, only people in the know would realise they are pointing out a fellow gay man.

Some common sentences are:

- How **bona** to **vada** your **dolly old onk!**
How good to see your des **old face!**
- Can I **troll** round your **lally?**
Can I have a look around your house?

Because of the context of the language, most of it refers to people, body parts and even sexual references. Try hard as we might, we could not find a Polari version of 'Could you pass the vinegar please?' Although the language is now practically defunct, you may recognise some of the terms as slang even today.

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biou: small	bod: body	oglefakes: glasses
bona: good	butch: masculine	ogles: eyes
camp: effeminate	capello: hat	omi: man
carsey: toilet	crimper: hairdresser	omi-polone: gay man
dish: an attractive male	dolly: pretty, nice	onk: nose
ecaf: face (backslang)	fantabulosa: wonderful	orbs: eyes
hoofar: dancer	kaffies: trousers	palare pipe: telephone
kaffies: trousers	lally: house	plate: feet
lallies: legs	lilly: police (Lilly Law)	polari: chat, talk
luppers: fingers	measures: money	polone: woman
mince: walk (affectedly)		pots: teeth
		riah / rih: hair
		riah slasher: hairdresser
		scarper: to run off
		scotch: leg
		shyker / shyckle: wig
		slap: makeup
		thews: thighs
		trade: sex
		troll: to walk about
		vada / varda: see

If you look carefully at the dictionary 'onk' is the Polari word for nose. The most popular word for face was 'ecaf' (face spelt backwards) which was later shortened to 'eek'. There was never an official dictionary, for obvious reasons, so there is often some variation in the words used.

Alan Turing

Alan Turing

Alan Turing is famed for being the father of the modern computer and also being the person who cracked the Enigma Code, meaning Nazi messages could be deciphered. This gave the Allies a massive tactical advantage which undoubtedly helped win the war. Today he is celebrated as being a national hero, but this was not always the case.



Alan Turing (left) and the Nazi enigma coding machine

Turing was born in 1912 and grew up to become something of an understated genius. He conceptualised the a mechanical brain or computer. He was fascinated by machines and how far they could be developed. During World War he was employed at Gosford Park where, against all odds, he successfully created a machine that could decipher the Nazi coding.

Turing was also gay, a fact that was discovered by police when he reported a burglary. Unbelievably information found whilst investigating the burglary was used against him and in March 1952 he faced a criminal trial.

Thinking he was being lenient, the judge decided to 'let off' Turing with probation on the condition that he agreed to hormone therapy. Turing was subjected to a year of synthetic oestrogen injections which resulted in the lowering of his libido and him growing breasts. At the same time Turing's conviction meant his security clearance at GCHQ was removed meaning his employment there was terminated.

Both these factors caused Turing to become heavily depressed and in 1953 he committed suicide. A true scientist to the very end, his death was caused by eating an apple dipped in cyanide.

Alan Turing's work took place at Bletchley Park in Buckinghamshire. As well as being an important site for the Second World War effort, it is often referred to as the 'home of the code-breakers'.

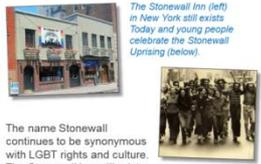
If Gosford Park rings a bell, it is the title of the 2001 'who-done-it' film.

Stonewall

Stonewall

Stonewall is best known as the lesbian and gay rights lobbying group that has existed in the United Kingdom since 1989. Many prominent public figures have been associated with this organisation including Sir Ian McKellan and Angela Mason.

Now that many legal rights are equal for LGBT people Stonewall's key focus is now on improving conditions for LGBT people in a number of different contexts, including health and employment. The Stonewall Top 50 Employers Index is a ranking of many public sector and private companies.



The Stonewall Inn (left) in New York still exists Today and young people celebrate the Stonewall Uprising (below).

The name Stonewall has its origins in 1960s America. The Stonewall riots (also referred to as the Stonewall uprising or the Stonewall rebellion) were a series of spontaneous, violent demonstrations by members of the LGBT community against a police raid that took place in the early morning hours of 28 June 1969, at the Stonewall Inn in New York's Greenwich Village.

This is widely considered to constitute the most important event leading to the gay liberation movement and the modern fight for LGBT rights in the United States.

The name Stonewall continues to be synonymous with LGBT rights and culture. The Stonewall Inn still exists in New York and the organisation Stonewall continues to campaign for improvements in LGBT living and employment conditions throughout the United Kingdom.

The Stonewall Top 100 (not 50) Employers Index began in 2009 replacing their Workforce Equality Index.

Every year the number of organisations taking part has grown making it ever harder to secure a place in the Top 100.

The Answers [5]



Albert Kennedy

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Albert Kennedy was 16 years old when he died after falling from a car park roof in Manchester, while being chased by several attackers in a car.

Albert's body was found by a policeman in the early hours of a Saturday morning. He had apparently fallen from the top of the car park. The '2am Death Leap' made the front page of the Manchester Evening News the next day. 'A rent boy carrying a killer disease plunged to his death in Manchester's red-light district', read the story. 'Firemen wearing special gear had to wash down the street where the teenager was found to ensure no one came into contact with his blood.'

In fact the 'killer disease' was Hepatitis B, not usually fatal and Albert was not a professional rent boy although one of his carers later disclosed he had occasionally resorted to prostitution to support himself when he was absconding from the Salford children's home where he lived. But the tone of the coverage reflected the mood of the times.

The **Section 69** and shortly after Section 69 passed into law banning local authorities from promoting homosexuality', and when Greater Manchester's Chief Constable James Anderton could say he had been inspired by God to state publicly that Aids was a divine retribution for homosexuality.



Albert Kennedy died in 1989 at the age of 16



Hugely controversial from the day it was introduced to the day it was abolished, Section 28 (not 69) of the Local Government Act was one of the most homophobic political statements ever made. Margaret Thatcher introduced it in 1987 stating; 'Children are being taught they have an inalienable right to be gay'.

Take Pride

Take Pride

Pride events are an annual event in most of the big cities in the United Kingdom and increasingly common in many smaller towns too. It is hard to think of the first Pride that actually happened less than 5 years ago which propose far different from the current day.

In 1972 the gay rights movement was taking hold in the United Kingdom. The decriminalisation in 1967 got the ball rolling and events in America in 1969 spurred people to fight for equality on this side of the Atlantic.

The first Pride event took place in London on 1 July 1972, the nearest Saturday to the anniversary of the Stonewall riots. Around 2,000 people took part in the event which saw demonstrations about unequal rights for lesbians and gay men. Over subsequent years London Pride got bigger and bigger, and by the 1990s was one of the biggest annual demonstrations, bringing the centre of London to a standstill.



London Pride in 1972

As LGBT rights got equalised, the emphasis of Pride events has switched more to being a celebration of the LGBT culture. Many companies and services take part and sponsor Pride events to highlight their LGBT friendly credentials. Many music and artists also take part to show their support.

Pride events continue to invoke much debate about whether they are actually about promoting equality or companies simply cashing in on the 'pink pound'. Maybe the answer is both.



Hopefully an easy one for you here.

The first Pride march in London happened in 1972 a little under 50 years ago, not 5 years as stated in the article.

Stephen Fry

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Stephen Fry has to be one of the most widely acclaimed actors and comedians of recent times. His list of film and television credits would fill at least twenty movie slides. He may be best known for taking lead part of General Baldrick in the Blackadder series.



Stephen Fry as himself (left) and in the popular television series Blackadder Goes Forth

Fry has never been afraid to explore sexuality in film and television. In 1987 he very convincingly played the lead role of Oscar in the film Wilde. He has presented programmes raising awareness of the HIV and AIDS, his life as a manic-depressive and most recently on great gay British buildings alongside Mary Portas (well worth seeing by the way). He has even featured on the programme 'Who Do You Think You Are?' tracing his family who were sent to Auschwitz by the Nazis.

There has been some debate recently about Fry's status as a national treasure, but if this accolade went to people with the most varied of careers there is little doubt in our minds.

Fry who was born in 1957 is also openly gay, although this is something he was less comfortable with in the past. It seems Fry struggled to keep his homosexuality secret during his teenage years at



The character Stephen Fry actually played in the Blackadder Goes Forth series was General Melchett.

In the same series Private Baldrick, who usually had 'a cunning plan', was played by Tony Robinson.

