



# LGBT History Month 2009 Schools OUT Report

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## INTRODUCTION

The theme of LGBT History Month 2009 was Education and Youth, so it was essential to have the involvement of the Department for Children Schools and

Families (DCSF) – even more so than usual. We had a good working relationship with the then Parliamentary Under Secretary at the DCSF, Kevin Brennan. He addressed the Schools OUT Conference in February 2008 and he subsequently met with Schools OUT, the unions and other stakeholders at the TUC's Congress House. Before becoming Minister for the Third Sector he agreed to let us use the DCSF logo for a number of purposes – including the Pre-Launch. After 5 years of asking this was a major sign of commitment as far as we were concerned and we were delighted.

And so it was that we knew this year's LGBT History Month had to focus on what the children were doing.

## **THE PRE-LAUNCH**

We set the Pre-Launch date for November 19<sup>th</sup>, a Wednesday evening right in the middle of Anti-Bullying Week. With funding from the DCSF, Co-Chairs Sue Sanders and Tony Fenwick were able to commit time to preparing for the event and this time proved essential. The Pre-Launch took place at the Hackney Free and Parochial School in East London; more or less across the road from the Town Hall. Given the diversity of the school's catchment and the local population, together with the School's own C of E ethos, we thought it fitting to involve a speaker from each of the major religions. Thus we invited Councillor Faizullah Khan and Rabbi Danny Rich to speak as well as Hackney's Rector, Father Rob Wickham. Rabbi Rich as unable to make it in person but he sent us a message of support.

Having invited Kevin Brennan MP to be keynote speaker at the Pre-Launch we were anxious when there was a cabinet re-shuffle in October and his post was changed. We needn't have worried, however, since the new Under Secretary, Baroness Delyth Morgan, agreed to come and speak instead. Alan Wood, Chief Executive of the Learning Trust in Hackney, was also invited and agreed to speak.

Teachers Elly Barnes and Annette Cooper spoke about the work they were doing in their schools and provided inspiration to all, while Tina Caruso and Rosalyn Birmingham spoke about Hackney Free itself. Another teacher, Annette Pryce, spoke about the gay/straight alliance she had set up in her school. Dean Atta, a black gay poet and youth worker, gave us some of his poetry and talked of his work in the school. Mark Jennett talked about the work of No Outsiders.

Shaun Evans Park, Federico Podeschi and Sarah Stephenson brought us case studies from Cardiff, Swansea and the South West respectively.

Fionn Greig from The Green Door in Hackney brought some of his group along and Ralph Hutton from OOT in Hammersmith and Fulham brought someone to perform. The pupils and performers from OOT and Stoke

Newington School really made the evening vibrant and reminded us why we were doing this.

There was also a host of exhibitors; mainly from the third sector. These included *Gay Birmingham Remembered*; a local project funded by *The Heritage Lottery*, and some fliers from *Nottingham's Rainbow Heritage*. *Out for Our Children* also had a stall exhibiting books for primary schools.

What made this year's pre-launch so successful was the commitment and the involvement of schools and their pupils. Students from the school helped set up the event and filmed it throughout, while pupils from Stoke Newington and from Hackney Free and Parochial performed on the stage.

Baroness Morgan of Drefelin gave kudos to the event by making three very important announcements in her key-note address. First, she said the Government was committed to monitoring and recording incidents of homophobic bullying: "Schools are required under the regulations to treat homophobic bullying with the same seriousness as other forms of bullying."

Second, she committed the Department to training on LGBT issues: "We will support teachers through their training, so that they feel confident in using the guidance and in dealing with these issues."

Third, she committed the Department to producing anti-transphobia guidance: "The Department has also recently announced that we will be developing guidance on bullying related to gender or gender identity over the coming months. I hope to be able to consult some of the stakeholders represented here on this guidance."

## **BUDGET AND SUPPORT**

The DCSF supported the Pre-Launch's costs this year and provided their logo, which is now on our banner and on our website homepage. For budget details please email us at [treasurer@lgbthistorymonth.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@lgbthistorymonth.org.uk)

## **PATRONS**

We invited Labi Siffre to become a patron of LGBT History Month in 2008 and he graciously agreed. We entered February 2009 with three patrons: Sir Ian McKellen, Cyril Nri and Labi Siffre. Ian and Cyril both attended and spoke at the Schools OUT Conference, held on Saturday February the 7<sup>th</sup>. Labi sent us a special recording of his 90's hit *Why Isn't Love Enough* with a personal message.

## **FAITH**

Schools OUT and LGBT History Month operate an open doors policy on faith. That is to say that we respect everyone's belief as long as it is inclusive of

LGBT people; and where it isn't we believe in debate. As was previously mentioned, we had a speaker from many of the major monotheistic faiths at our pre-Launch, which was held in an Anglican school. SO and LGBT HM Co-chair Sue attended the LGBT Faith Conference organised by the Lesbian and Gay Christian Movement for the second year running and her fellow Co-Chair Tony appeared on The Big Questions on BBC1 on February 1<sup>st</sup> to defend LGBT Christians against a minority who believed them to be sinners.

Fred Phelps and his daughter Shirley from the Westboro Baptist Church stated on their website that they intended to demonstrate outside Basingstoke Sixth Form College when they showed a performance of *The Laramie Project* during the month. In the event their entry into the country was banned by Home Office Minister Jacqui Smith and the show was a sell-out.

## **MEDIA**

The gay press all acknowledged and expressed support for the Month: including local magazines. Newcastle's *Out North East* and Oxfordshire's *Fyne Times* both asked Tony Fenwick for copy and he now writes for the latter on a monthly basis. In fact *FT* also produced a year planner around LGBT HM which was distributed throughout the nation. Gaydar radio interviewed Tony and produced a web feature about the month.

The Month also featured in LGBT publications in France, Germany, Italy and Spain.

As pointed out previously, Tony appeared on The Big Questions in a debate concerning whether we should celebrate "homosexuality" (sic). His fellow co-chair Sue Sanders was filmed by the BBC for 6 hours and a lot of footage is yet to be used – but she did appear on *The One Show* locally. Treasurer David Watkins was interviewed on Radio Five Live about the Month.

A performance of Romeo and Julian and an opera of *Tango Makes Three* at a London school was boycotted by a small group of parents who withdrew their children from class and this was reported in *The Daily Mail* and *The Daily Telegraph*.

## **EDUCATION**

Many schools requested our logo for display purposes this year. Kate Sicolo from the *Intercom Trust* in the South West was employed to promote LGBT HM activities throughout the region; the first time such a post has been created in England.

Since 2007 the secondary curriculum orders have been changed and the outcome is a 'freed-up' curriculum that will make it easier in the future to have cross-curricular 'themed' days or weeks. This is an ideal opportunity to promote the history and achievements of LGBT people.

North West LGBT Youth has prepared a Paul Patrick Award Scheme in honour of our late co-founder, who died after a short illness last year. This will reward schools that have done something effective to promote awareness of LGBT people with their pupils. LGBT Consortium also held a Paul Patrick awards scheme for youth events and the awards were given out at their AGM in Birmingham during the Month.

## **SCHOOLS OUT CONFERENCE**

Schools OUT, the initiator of LGBT History Month, held its AGM and annual conference on February the 7<sup>th</sup> at the Drill Hall in London.

However it very nearly didn't. The East of England, the Midlands and the South West were hit by the worst snowfall for 27 years in the previous 72 hours and it was touch and go whether the event would have to be called off. As it was 103 brave souls made the day.

Schools OUT's Media officer Nigel Tart described it thus:

A hundred teachers, young people, policy makers and activists from all across the country braved the weather to attend the Schools Out conference at the Drill Hall theatre in London on Sat 7 Feb.

The keynote speaker was Teresa Clark from the Department for Children, Schools and Families, who outlined ways in which the DCSF is currently getting schools to address LGBT issues. She was clear about the need for positive work beyond tackling bullying and urged participants to engage with the department's consultation on its Single Equality Scheme, which should create a uniform approach to all equalities issues.

The conference included the official launch of LGBT History Month, and patrons Sir Ian McKellen and Cyril Nri joined us. Both gave moving personal accounts of how things have improved for LGBT people during their lifetimes. In workshops, participants learned how to make podcasts and how to include LGBT issues in a fun way in the curriculum, and discussed how to make the Schools Out Student Tool Kit more effective and accessible for young people experiencing homophobia and transphobia.

The highlight for most people was the documentary films from the No Outsiders research project, which showed how pioneering primary schools had successfully included LGBT identities into project work. In one school, children wrote and performed an opera about the real-life gay penguins in a New York zoo, who adopted an egg and raised a chick. Parents, governors and even a vicar spoke of the importance of raising the issues positively, before children learnt negative attitudes outside school.

Another powerful presentation was from a group of young people from Gay and Lesbian Youth in Calderdale, who mixed stories and statistics from their recent research with music and humour. A personal account of their friend's experiences of horrific homophobic violence left hardly a dry eye in the house!

Other speakers included Louise Davies from lesbian mums' group Out For Our Children, who showed us their two children's story books; Kate Sicolo, who outlined her successes in working with Cornish schools; and Philip Wragg, who announced the publication of a new schools resource pack from the Terence Higgins Trust. Dave Watkins, Paul Patrick and Tony Fenwick have all prepared lessons for this precious resource.

## **TOOLKITS**

There were four very important toolkits added to the Schools OUT/LGBT History Month website this year.

1. The Schools OUT Student Toolkit is written by students for students. It covers LGBT issues and has FAQs. A workshop on the toolkit and how to use it at the SO Conference elicited the response from one attendee: "That's the best hour I've ever spent in my life!"
2. The LGBT HM Generic Toolkit. An essential resource for all events planners that will grow every year.
3. The Schools LGBT HM Toolkit. A resource designed especially for schools to celebrate the Month.
4. A primary and secondary schools toolkit from Norfolk County Council. A guide from an LEA on how to get things right.

## **EVENTS**

Our goal was to attract as many events as possible to the Month and to ensure that as many people as possible would be able to attend them.

There were 426 events on our national calendar this year. Camden, Tower Hamlets and Islington sent their own programmes with a further 66 events, making a total of **492** events advertised through our website. In 2007 there were 197 events. A further 66 groups requested the use of our logo for their events.

Here is a snapshot of some of the events that took place this year. It is by no means a comprehensive list; rather, it is designed to show developments that have built on achievements from last year.

## **LOCAL AUTHORITY SUPPORT**

Camden had more than one event a day throughout the month of February and published its own LGBT History Month brochure. Tower Hamlets, Merton

and Islington among others did likewise. A report of the month is attached as **appendix 1**.

Cambridgeshire County Council produced a range of events. Hertfordshire had its own event at Watford Town Hall, as did Kent. Norfolk sent toolkits for schools as previously mentioned.

## **POLICE**

Since 2005 it has been the practice of many constabularies to set up an LGBT Police Association. This consolidates support among LGBT police officers and tells the wider LGBT community they are supported; so that they are more likely, for example, to report hate crime. This year Kent Constabulary set up a writing competition in Maidstone schools and Bedfordshire GPA made a presentation at an LGBT exhibition at Luton and Dunstable Hospital, in which a trans police officer described her experiences working for the police in the area.

## **UNIONS**

LGBT History Month is a grass-roots organisation and has always been proud of its strong links with the trades unions. This year *Milk* was released in the UK in January and it created an enthusiasm for LGBT film shows. On February the 6<sup>th</sup> the TUC LGBT Committee hosted a showing of the dramatic film "Paragraph 175" revealing homosexual life under the Nazis. Narrated by Rupert Everett, with contemporary film footage and moving testimony by survivors, the film tells of the persecution of LGB people by the Nazis using an existing law - paragraph 175. LGBT trade unionists gathered for a drink before the film.

## **COMMUNITY**

Some of the best events were organised by cross-community groups, such as this one on Valentine's Day: Broken Rainbow Awareness Day. This was a joint initiative involving Unison, WCC, Broken Rainbow and the Met's LGBT Unit. 2500 rainbow ribbons were distributed alongside leaflets highlighting support services for victims/survivors of LGBT domestic violence.

## **LIBRARIES AND MUSEUMS**

Most libraries now have a display for LGBT History Month and many have a guest writer. Watford Library, for example, hosted an evening with Stella Duffy.

The Discovery Museum in Newcastle upon Tyne took the interactive exhibition *Hello Sailor!* From Liverpool's *Homotopia* and adapted it to use podcasts from people from the North East. This invaluable display showed how the Merchant Navy was a safe haven for the gay man throughout a large part of the

twentieth century. Watford Library did a display for the first time, with a presentation by Schools OUT's Co-Chair Tony Fenwick. It was well received and will be repeated and built upon next year.

Nottingham hosted Rainbow heritage and there was a talk by local author Narvel Annable.

## **WALES**

In 2005 as far as we could tell there were no events in Wales. This year there were two ground-breaking events at either end of the Month.

On the 6<sup>th</sup> there was a Social Enterprise Launch. This was to familiarise people with the social enterprise and engage with its work. Together with the Welsh Assembly Government, the LGBT Excellence Centre Wales hosted its launch "Going One Step Beyond" in the Senedd, Cardiff Bay.

The launch brought together LGBT organisations, professionals and policy makers from all public services, as well as the private sector from around Wales, to understand the role that this new social enterprise plays in achieving better equality for LGBT people.

*The Excellence Centre* showcased a storytelling documentary into homophobic bullying and detailed the achievements of its Safe Space programme. Then Shaun Evans Pask from Cardiff Council hosted Cardiff Education and Youth Conference on the 27<sup>th</sup> of the Month and it was a triumph. It was opened by two out and proud senior politicians: Councillor Rodney Berman, leader of Cardiff Council; and Chris Bryant, MP for the Rhonda and Deputy Leader of the House of Commons. We were also regaled by Gareth Williams Chaplain for Bishop Llandaff Church in Wales High School, so we were solidly backed by both Church and State. The rainbow flag was flying outside Cardiff City Hall.

## **DOWNING STREET RECEPTION**

On March 5<sup>th</sup> Sue and Tony were invited to a Downing Street LGBT Reception to join a host of LGBT celebrities, activists and politicians and meet Gordon and Sarah Brown and Harriet Harman. The LGBT History Month reception was the first LGBT reception of any kind to be held at No. 10 and brought the month to a terrific close. In all there were 250 LGBT people in the Prime Minister's house!

## **WEBSITE**

The LGBT History Month website had 870,924 hits in February 2009. See **appendix 2** for a detailed breakdown.

## **FINANCES**

Although the month is still organised and run on a voluntary basis, we received a grant from the Department of Children, Schools and Families

(DCSF) to support the Pre-Launch in November. After the success of the pre-launch, we were fortunate enough to receive a number of public sector donations, which made us secure in 2009. Much of our income comes from the sale of badges and occasionally T-shirts.

We are very grateful for these contributions because they have enabled us to:

- redesign, maintain and develop the website
- provide further advice on staging events -
- engage more fully with the media and multimedia to publicise the Month
- engage more fully with LGBT groups nationwide
- maintain mailing list and regular mailings – and produce an expanded bulletin
- organise Pre-launch and launches nationwide during the Month
- liaise with other individuals, groups and organisations with similar and mutually supportive aims –
- write report of LGBT History Month 2009 and distribute to DCSF and other grant providers and supporters
- promote the Month and the importance of LGBT history at events nationwide

Some funding was used to pay the web technician who updated the website daily. The website is the foundation of the project and we are pleased that we have managed to produce an up-to-date, accessible, clear and informative website. Frankly, what we achieve with our finances is astonishing!

We are currently seeking charity status and we are seeking ongoing funding so that we can provide a full-time salary and invest in a secure future and an expanding operation.

## CONCLUSION

LGBT History Month is now on the mainstream calendar. This year we expanded more than ever into the provinces and we made LGBT people visible in schools as never before. Supported by groups like *No Outsiders* and *Out for our Children*, schoolchildren can access texts in the classroom that reflect their own families and the diversity of the society which they inhabit.

We need to:

- secure funding
- organise new and challenging initiatives, including: LGBT History Month Europe; and A Day in Hand
- encourage all events organisers to publicise their events on our free calendar
- use our success to mainstream LGBT in the school curricula.

Next year our **Pre-Launch** will be held at the **British Museum**. It will be an all-day event with school students, teachers and stakeholders involving

themselves as audience and as participants. It will focus on **LGBT history**.

## **APPENDICES**

### **Appendix 1**

## Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender History Month 2009: Report

### What happened?

#### **1. Writing on the Queer Side – LGBT Representation in Contemporary Fiction**

Date: 11<sup>th</sup> February

Details: This event was held at 6.30 pm at Wimbledon Library

Author and Time Out Editor Paul Burston, Author Stella Duffy and Poet and Author Aoife Mannix explored LGBT representation in contemporary fiction. There was good community attendance at this event and some great readings from Stella, Aoife and Paul. In the discussion surrounding the importance of LGBT representation in contemporary fiction many good points were raised by the community regarding availability of books which had LGBT representation in libraries and schools and this is something that will be discussed further in the Merton LGBT Forum meetings.



From left Stella Duffy, Aoife Mannix and Paul Burston

## **2. Polari Workshop**

Date: 16<sup>th</sup> February

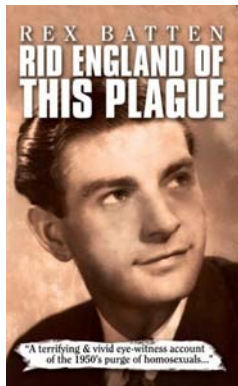
Details: Two Polari workshops took place at 1-2 pm and 5-7 pm in Merton Civic Centre

Two wonderful seminars in which Chris Park took community members and staff through the evolution of the language of Polari, its beginnings and its eventual demise. At each session there was a mock GCSE examination so the 'class' could practice their newfound language skills. A fun session with a serious twist!

**3. The Long Revolution, What has changed since the 1950s? How far do we still have to go? Historian Jeffrey Weeks traced the nature of change over the past 50 years, while Rex Batten vividly recalled his memories of the 1950s and 60s.**

Date: 17<sup>th</sup> February

Details: This event was held at 6 pm in Morden Library, Morden



An excellent event that saw good community turnout. Jeffrey gave a coherent and informative introduction to the change in the legislation, social attitudes and finally fortunes of the LGBT community. This was then followed by a moving account of Rex's difficulties in the 1950s as a gay man that underlined the account given by Jeffrey and somehow made it seem more real. Finally discussion was had around how far legislation and social attitudes have yet to go before actual equality is achieved for LGBT people.

One community member stated: 'Was really good - can't think of how it could be improved.'

#### 4. Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Film Festival

##### **Transamerica** (Certificate 15)

5<sup>th</sup> February

A pre-operative male-to-female transsexual takes an unexpected journey when she learns that she fathered a son, now a teenage runaway hustling on the streets of New York.

This screening was kindly hosted by Wimbledon Film Club – Doors opened at 7pm with the film starting at 7.45 pm at the Polka Theatre, The Broadway, Wimbledon.

For more information about Wimbledon Film Club:

<http://www.wimbledonfilmclub.com/default.asp>

##### **Bad Education** (Certificate 15)

10<sup>th</sup> February

Pedro Almodovar's film follows the reunion of two young men in early 80s Madrid. Fifteen years earlier, in the darkness of a Catholic school, the two young men had discovered sensuality and a common hatred of the priests from whom they received their 'bad education'. Reunited, both men – a film-maker and an aspiring actor – revisit their early years together. As they try to uncover the truth about themselves, each other and the other characters in their story, they realise that things and people are not as they first seem.

This screening was held at 6.30 pm at Merton Civic Centre, Morden.

Bad Education is a Spanish film with English subtitles

##### **But I'm a Cheerleader** (Certificate 15)

18<sup>th</sup> February

Megan Williams is an all-American girl. She's a cheerleader and her boyfriend is captain of the football team. But her parents think she is a lesbian so send

her off to New Directions, a sexual rehabilitation camp, where she is put on a strict regime of corrective therapy. While there Megan falls head over heels for another girl and is forced to reassess whether straight really is great. This screening was held at 6.30 pm in Merton Civic Centre, Morden

### **Brokeback Mountain** (Certificate 15)

24<sup>th</sup> February

Set against the sweeping vistas of Alberta's Rocky Mountains, this film tells the story of two young men - a ranch-hand and a rodeo cowboy - who meet in the summer of 1963 and unexpectedly forge a lifelong connection, one whose complications, joys and tragedies provide a testament to the endurance and power of love.

This screening was held at 6.30 pm at Merton Civic Centre, Morden

## **5. Exhibition**

Date: 9<sup>th</sup> February – 13<sup>th</sup> February and at all other History Month Events held.

An exhibition was displayed in Merton Civic Centre entrance this included a timeline of famous LGBT people throughout history and included a table with leaflets that included details about the services that can currently be accessed by LGBT people in Merton and nationally.

### How did we publicise it?

We distributed posters throughout the borough.

We consulted our LGBT Forum and our Let Me Out Youth Group before the event and let them know all the dates and times in advance, and sent out reminders.

We had an advert in the pink paper.

We had our events listed in Time Out magazine.

We had information publicised in the Wimbledon Guardian.

We had our events published on Merton Council Internet pages.

We had our events published on Merton Connected web pages.

We had our events posted on the Rainbow Network web pages free of charge.

We had our event posted on the LGBT History Month web pages.

## Attendance

Event	Attendance (Community members only)
Transamerica	62
Bad Education	5
Writing on the Queer Side	25
Polari - lunch time	7
Polari - evening	4
LGBT History Talk	11
But I'm a Cheerleader	12
Brokeback Mountain	10
<b>Total</b>	<b>136</b>

## Feedback from our community

At the 8 different LGBT History Month events we handed out Feedback Forms to everyone who attended, and received back 43 forms.

### Monitoring Information

Gender	
Male: 20	47%
Female: 21	49%
Transgender: 0	0%

<i>Do you feel you have a disability?</i>	
Yes: 7	16%
No: 33	77%

Age	
20 – 30: 7	16%
31 – 40: 9	21%
41 – 50: 9	21%
51 – 60: 5	12%
61 – 70: 4	9%
71 – 80: 2	5%
Don't Comment: 7	16%

<b>Ethnicity</b>	
White: 12	30%
White British: 6	14%
British: 4	9%
New Zealander: 2	5%
White American: 2	5%
White English: 1	2%
White European: 1	2%
White Other: 1	2%
White Anglo Saxon: 1	2%
Greek: 1	2%
Irish: 1	2%
Asian: 1	2%
Asian/Caribbean: 1	2%
Anglo Indian 1	2%
Don't Comment: 0	0%

<b>Religion</b>	
None: 11	26%
Christian: 5	12%
Agnostic: 2	5%
Atheist: 1	2%
Bohemian: 1	2%
Biospherist: 1	2%
Buddhist: 1	2%
Humanist: 1	2%
Lutheran: 1	2%
Protestant: 1	2%
Spiritual/No formal religion: 1	2%
Don't Comment: 17	40%

<b>Sexual Orientation</b>	
Heterosexual/straight: 15	35%
Gay man: 14	33%
Gay woman/lesbian: 10	23%
Bisexual: 1	2%
Other: 0	0%
Don't comment: 2	7%

### Question 1: Have you enjoyed this event?

This was a yes or no question.

41 respondents stated 'yes' they had enjoyed the event they attended.  
2 people did not respond to the question.

Therefore **95%** of the community members who attended **enjoyed** the LGBT History Month Events.

### Question 1, part two: How could we have improved this event?

<b>Event</b>	<b><i>How could we have improved this event?</i></b>
Bad Education	The film was excellent
Writing on the Queer Side	Seating in the round
	My friend was interested but it was his writing circle night, perhaps these groups could be found/identified and invited to the event
	Cash bar
Polari	Little more on the history
	Unsure was good
LGBT History Talk	More comfortable seating? A more open space in the library itself rather than being in an enclosed classroom, as possibly people may have stumbled upon the event and stayed to participate, learning more about our community.
	Was really good - can't think of how it could be improved
	Very interesting event - best to start on time and also give an end time
	Different seating arrangements and more comfortable chairs. Thanks for refreshments.
	More advertisement
	Keep up the good work. Thank you.
	Have a better weather time
But I'm a Cheerleader	Perhaps a few more people
	If started at 7pm would make it easier
	Bit early and I think this effected attendance
Brokeback Mountain	Advertised more widely
	Advertising
	Advertising
	How was it advertised
	Sold Popcorn
	Although I live in Morden I wouldn't have known about LGBT History Month if my friend who works for the Council and told me about it. So I think more publicity is needed. Big banners and posters, proudly displayed.

**Question 2: Do you have any suggestions for what Merton Council could do to celebrate LGBT History Month in 2010?**

<b>Event</b>	<b>Do you have any suggestions for what Merton Council could do to celebrate LGBT History Month in 2010?</b>
Transamerica	This was so excellent a film that you will find it hard to beat
Writing on the Queer Side	More of the same
	As a library user, I saw little impact in the area around Wimbledon - I can't remember seeing anything in Waterstones promoting the event. Some large A1/A2 posters.
	Have a social night in a vibey venue
Polari	More publicity
	Speed dating
LGBT History Talk	As this year
	I've thoroughly enjoyed this event and the attendance has been good. I hope next years programme brings in such a wonderful group and such well informed speakers.
	2009 events very good. Perhaps more local publicity further in advance - but as it is becoming embedded in merton calendar numbers should grow. Really impressive programme of events.

	Try and publicise it more. It was almost by accident I heard of this meeting. Perhaps you could liase with local LGBT groups ie. South London Gays, Croydon Area Gay Society so they can put your events in their programmes.
	I enjoyed the authors readings at Merton Library I would look forward to something similar next year. Not sure if/how Merton schools are celebrating this, but hope that it is promoted.
	Not really
	Joint council events
But I'm a Cheerleader	Not sure what else you have done but enjoy films, books and walks
	Picnic at historical place
Brokeback Mountain	More public events
	Mama Mia film please
	More exhibitions like the one in lobby making people aware of contributions (eg.Oscar Wilde)
	The same again and maybe a more social event, like a fair or mini carnival day.

### Question 3: What do you think Merton Council and other public agencies could do to more effectively promote equality for the LGBT Community in Merton?

- Advertise events in surrounding libraries including Kingston
- Improve responses to reported hate crime in social housing
- Have a social night in a vibey venue
- More website advertisement
- Increase in publicity
- More public acknowledgement of LGBT people always being explicitly mentioned so the Council 'comes out' as LGBT friendly instead of us having to individually come out to insist of services for our needs
- Borough forum is very positive step and its very existence makes a difference. More mainstreaming of LGBT issues would also be good remembering to include in all aspects of service delivery and policy development etc.
- More communication and effort to tackle hate crime experienced a complete lack of response from lavender fields safer neighbourhoods team when reporting abuse and harassment from housing association tenants and didn't think that the issues I reported over several months were communicated to housing/anti social behaviour agencies.
- More literature openly available
- More events/library exhibitions/groups etc.
- This is good as it gives visibility.
- More advertising
- More advertising in local media
- More events like these attracting mixed audiences. Mainstreaming events rather than fringe.

### Question 4: Would you be interested in receiving information about Merton's LGBT Forum?

14 people said 'yes'

3 people said they were 'already a member'

26 people don't comment

Therefore **32%** of people who filled out the Feedback Forum at one of the events afterwards decided to become a LGBT Community Forum member.

## **Lessons Learned for next year**

Key points:

- Consultation did take place for the 2009 History Month with regards to what events people wanted, but this wasn't done as comprehensively as it could have been. For 2010 might be worth doing more intensive consultation and ask specific questions about good times and dates etc. Also it might be good to have a launch event.
- Working jointly with existing clubs and societies ensures a higher turnout at the events and also raises awareness in groups which otherwise may not have had much exposure to LGBT issues.
- There was a higher turnout when we held events in the town centres rather than in Merton Civic Centre.
- There were interesting points brought up in discussion at some of the events and through the feedback form that was handed out for completion. These points will be forwarded through the LGBT Forum. This is important to note for next year as the LGBT History Month events could be used to consult with the LGBT community on specific issues.

## **Appendix 2**

<b>Start:</b>	01 February 2009	Usage Analysis shows an overview of the activity on the site over the selected time range.
<b>End:</b>	28 February 2009	For more information about any of the tables in this report, select the 'Usage' menu items in the left hand menu.
<b>Units:</b>		

### **Server Activity Totals**

Total Sessions Served	61679
Total Hits	870924
Total Page Hits	202593
Total Non Page Hits	668331
Total Session Duration	15661962s
Total Transferred	27.40 GB

### **Server Activity Averages**

Total Sessions Served	61679
Average Hits Per Session	14
Average Page Hits Per Session	3
Average Session Duration	253s
Average Transfer/Session	465.84 kB

### Page views per session breakdown

17799 (28.8%) sessions made	0	page requests
21488 (34.8%) sessions made	1	page requests
16607 (26.9%) sessions made	2-5	page requests
3361 (5.4%) sessions made	6-10	page requests
1532 (2.5%) sessions made	11-20	page requests
652 (1.1%) sessions made	21-50	page requests
209 (0.3%) sessions made	51-100	page requests
115 (0.2%) sessions made	101+	page requests

### Time spent per session breakdown

48186 (78.0%) sessions lasted	0	minutes
2501 (4.0%) sessions lasted	1	minutes
4220 (6.8%) sessions lasted	2-5	minutes
3641 (5.9%) sessions lasted	6-15	minutes
1825 (3.0%) sessions lasted	16-30	minutes
557 (0.9%) sessions lasted	31-45	minutes
257 (0.4%) sessions lasted	46-60	minutes
576 (0.9%) sessions lasted	61+	minutes