



Annual Report 2021

Objects of OutStories Bristol

Membership report

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Financial report

Thank you

1. The objects of OutStories Bristol are:

- a) To promote social inclusion for the public benefit of people in Bristol and neighbouring districts who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender by gathering and recording the experience of people who are socially and economically excluded on the grounds of their gender identity or sexual orientation
- b) To promote the needs of such people and supporting their participation in society through the publication of their common history
- c) In furtherance of these objects, the trustees shall:
 - I. Increase, co-ordinate and provide information about opportunities for LGBT people in Bristol and neighbouring districts to record their individual and collective stories
 - II. Give LGBT people a voice and facilitate their engagement with relevant agencies that record the history of the City, in order to influence the quality and relevance of local services and provisions and so better meet the needs of LGBT people
 - III. Research or participate in research into the causes and effects of social exclusion of LGBT people in Bristol and neighbouring districts
 - IV. Promote activities that support the health and well-being of LGBT people in Bristol through the collection and publication of shared history

[OSB Constitution, Section 3, adopted 9th May 2017]

2. Membership of the Association

Membership of OutStories Bristol is open to anyone who is interested in furthering its purposes, and who, by applying for membership, has indicated his, her or its agreement to become a member and acceptance of the duty of members set out in sub-clause iii of this clause. A member may be an individual, a corporate body, or an individual representing an organisation which is not incorporated.

[OSB Constitution, Section 9, adopted 9th May 2017]

Membership at 14th September 2021:

75	Registered members (71 in 2020)
339	Names on the e-mailing list (374)
382	Members of the Facebook group (366)
903	Followers on Twitter (826)

3. Trustees and roles

The Trustees manage the affairs of OutStories Bristol, decide policy and oversee activities.

The Trustees normally meet every two months. Due to the Covid pandemic Trustees did not meet in person but held six video conferences during the year.

Trustees in the period since 10th October 2020:

	<i>First elected or co-opted</i>	
Charlie Beaton	10/10/2011	Secretary to 31/3/2021. Retired as Trustee 31/3/2021.
Cheryl Morgan	10/10/2011	Co-chair from 10/10/2011
Chris Leigh	10/10/2011	Web Administrator from 10/10/2011
Jacob Bouyer	16/3/2021	Co-opted. Secretary from 1/4/2021.
Jenny James	10/10/2020	
Marek Barden	25/03/2019	Treasurer from 25/03/2019
Robert Howes	Supporter	Collections

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.

4. Activities in the period October 2020 to September 2021

The Covid-19 pandemic prevented in-person activities throughout the year, both events and gathering oral history. Nevertheless Cheryl Morgan gave many online talks on our behalf.

Events

AGM 2020 and 7th John Addington Symonds Annual Lecture, 10/10/2020. Due to the Covid pandemic this was an online event. Our thanks to Dr Alan Greaves, Senior Lecturer in the Department of Archaeology, Classics and Egyptology at the University of Liverpool, who gave a talk on the long history of statue desecration.

Robert Howes gave a Virtual LGBTQ History Tour of Bath 25/2/2021 as part of LGBT History Month; hosted by Bath and North East Somerset Council. He led a Bath LGBTQ History Walk 12/9/2021 as part of the Bathscape Walking Festival.

Website and social media

The OutStories Bristol website averages 600 visitors/month. It has seen an increase in the quantity of new articles, notably experiences of the Covid pandemic to 'My Queer Quarantine'. Preparatory work has begun on a redesign of the website.

For technical reasons the Android version of the *Mapping LGBT+ Bristol* app has been withdrawn. The iOS (iTunes) version is still available from the Apple App store and the map can still be viewed on our website and Bristol City Council's *Know Your Place* website.

@OutStoriesBris has 900+ followers on Twitter and a steady stream of tweets.

Revealing Stories exhibition

Since their creation in 2013 the 'Revealing Stories' display panels have been exhibited for a total of 502 days in 23 different locations, far beyond our original expectations. We have decided to retire the physical display panels and plan to replace them with an updated digital version.

Oral history

To date we have recorded the stories of 63 people. All recordings have been deposited with Bristol's M Shed museum as part of the city's archives; most are available to researchers.

Further oral history interviewing has been suspended due to the Covid pandemic and resultant restrictions on face-to-face contact.

Activities in 2020-2021 by Cheryl Morgan on behalf of OutStories Bristol

Talks:

- Feb 6th - Talk for Leeds LGBT History Month on Michael Dillon
- Feb 10th - Talk for M-Shed on Michael Dillon
- Feb 15th - Talk for Cambridge University students on Lord Byron
- Feb 16th - For M-Shed interviewed Nicola Griffith on queer lives in early mediaeval England
- Feb 17th - Trans History talk for the LGBT staff network at the Royal Bank of Scotland
- Feb 17th - Talk for Strawberry Hill House on the Chevaliere d'Eon
- Feb 24th - For M-Shed chaired a panel on the history of trans and intersex people in sport
- Feb 24th - Talk for Durham University Classics Department on Transgender Romans
- Feb 25th - For Bristol Libraries interviewed Frank Wynne about his anthology, *Queer*
- Feb 26th - Talk on Transgender Celts for Aberation, a Welsh LGBT history festival
- Mar 13th - Talk on Transgender Romans at the Moving Trans History Forward conference (University of Victoria, Canada)
- Jun 3rd - Talk on Trans Terminology for the Gender, Methodology and the Ancient Near East (University of Helsinki)
- Jun 10th - Talk on Lord Byron for the Deloittes LGBT staff network
- June 17th - Talk on Transgender Romans for the HistFest history festival
- Aug 11th - Talk on Transgender Celts for Trawsnewid, a youth group run by the National Museum of Wales
- Sep 11th - Talk with Tom Marshman at the Palace International Film Festival in Bristol.

Publications:

- Interview with Allison Surtees, co-editor of *Exploring Gender Diversity in the Ancient World* (Women's Classical Committee Blog, December 2020).
- Chapter on trans people in the ancient world in *The SAGE Encyclopedia of Trans Studies*, Abbie E Goldberg & Genny Beemyn (eds.), (SAGE Publishing, May 2021).

Other activities:

- Attended meetings of the Welsh LGBT History Group
- Attended meetings of the S. Gloucestershire LGBT Network
- Contributed to the Queer Bristol Audio Tour
- Contributed a video talk on Medusa to the Ray Harryhausen exhibition at National Galleries Scotland

5. Financial report

Our financial year runs 1st July to 30th June.

Total income for the year was £1633 and comprised:

- A £757 donation from the residual funds of LGBT Bristol on its closure.
- Donations from five individuals named in Section 6 below.

No grants were received during the year.

Total expenditure was £491 comprising:

- £133 public liability insurance
- £226 fees associated with our website and cloud storage
- £60 publicity and promotion
- £72 bank charges.

Therefore the surplus was £1142. Cash in bank at 30/6/2021: £2715.

Spending was low because OutStories was not involved in any major projects during the year.

Due to the Covid pandemic there was no spend from the £250 Bristol LTBTQ+ Voice & Influence Partnership grant received in 2019-2020.

The accounts have been independently checked and verified by Mike O'Callaghan; our thanks to him for his help.

6. Thank you

Thank you to members, trustees and supporters of OutStories Bristol for their invaluable contribution that made it all happen.

Thanks to our regular donors : Charlie Beaton, Chris Leigh, Josie McLellan and Robert Howes.

Special thanks to donations from LGBT Bristol (£757) and Cheryl Morgan (£600 – her fees for organising and presenting LGBT History Month Day held at M Shed in February 2020).

End of the Annual Report