Celebrate lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex lives and culture by recognising the significant contribution LGBTI people have made to Scotland and the world at large. Share your milestones at #lgbtheritage www.lgbthistory.org.uk

February is LGBT History Month

1806 Isabella Gunn of the Orkney Islands assumes the name John Fubbister and joins the Hudson’s Bay Company to work as a labourer before giving birth in 1807.

1812 Dr. James Barry graduates from the University of Edinburgh Medical School. Following his death in 1866 it is discovered he was assigned female at birth.

1857 The Wolfenden Report recommends the decriminalisation of male homosexuality. The recommendations are rejected by the UK government.

1912 Scotland’s first gay night, Cobweb Disco, takes place in Edinburgh.

1933 Artists Robert Colquhoun and Robert MacBryde meet at Glasgow School of Art and become lifelong partners.

1971 Scotland’s first gay centre opens at 60 Broughton Street, Edinburgh.

1974 The Lesbian Archive relocates to Glasgow Women’s Library.

1980 Homosexuality is decriminalised in Scotland for people over the age of 21.


1989 Originally known as Stonewall Youth Project, LGBT Youth Scotland is established in Edinburgh with a mission to empower LGBT young people.

1990 Edwin Morgan – Glasgow’s First Laureate and Scotland’s first Makar – comes out, aged 70.

1993 The first ever Glasgow Festival takes place with performances from Ian McKellen and Rhona Cameron.

1995 The Lesbian Archive relocates to Glasgow Women’s Library.

1995 Scotland’s first Pride march gathers on Barony Street in Edinburgh on 17 June.

1998 Inspired by the real life story of jazz musician Billy Tipton, Jackie Kay’s Trumpet wins the Guardian Fiction Prize.

1999 Carol Ann Duffy becomes the first woman, the first Scot and the first openly LGBT person to be the UK’s Poet Laureate.

2000 The newly-formed Scottish Parliament repeals Section 28 (Clause 2a in Scotland), the law which prohibited the ‘promotion’ of homosexuality in schools in Britain.

2001 The age of consent for gay and bisexual men is lowered to 16.

2003 Margaret Smith and Patrick Harvie become Scotland’s first out LGB MSPs.

2004 The UK government passes the Equality Act 2010, providing protection from discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity.

2005 The Gender Recognition Act is passed, providing legal recognition for transgender men and women.

2005 Equal rights are granted to same-sex couples applying for adoption.

2005 The Scottish Government adds intersex equality to their approach to sexual orientation and gender equality.

2007 The first same-sex civil partnerships take place in Scotland on 20 December.


2014 Scotland’s first same-sex weddings take place at 00.01 on Hogmanay.

2014 The Scottish Government adds intersex equality to their approach to sexual orientation and gender equality.

2016 The UK government passes the Equality Act 2010, providing protection from discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity.

2016 As an LGBTI hustings, the First Minister pledges to reform the Gender Recognition Act and consider equal recognition for non-binary people.

2014 Playwright Jo Clifford is the first trans woman to perform ‘Kaply from the Lassies’ at a Burns Night celebration in Glasgow.

2016 At an LGBTI hustings, the First Minister pledges to reform the Gender Recognition Act and consider equal recognition for non-binary people.

Find out more about LGBT History Month, including what’s happening in your area, in our full programme of events: www.lgbthistory.org.uk

LGBT History Month Scotland is coordinated by LGBT Youth Scotland. LGBT Youth Scotland is a company limited by guarantee (SC244805) and a registered charity (SCO24047). Design and Illustration: Brian Houston, www.createpod.com