

Unite celebrates *LGBT History Month*



Ethel Smyth (1858-1944)
Composer and Suffragette

A significant composer, writer and an active sportswoman. She joined the Women's Social and Political Union. She was arrested at a suffragette demonstration and in prison helped organise athletics where women in suffragette colours, marched singing *March of the Women*, which she composed for WSPU.



Edward Carpenter (1844 –1929)
Socialist Poet, Philosopher
and Gay Activist

Instrumental in founding the Fabian Society and the Independent Labour Party. He was active in environmental protection, animal rights, sexual freedom, women's and trade union movement. He set up a gay housing co-operative and a playground.



Byron (1788–1824), Poet

Renowned bisexual poet whose political views were evident in his works. He later spoke out in favour of workers' rights and social reform in parliament. He contributed to the *Examiner* and *The Liberal*, radical and political journals. He joined the Greek insurgents fighting for independence against the Ottoman Empire.



Roberta Cowell (1918 – 2011)
Businessperson, Racing Driver and Pilot

She spent time at a prisoner-of-war camp in 1945. Also, the first known British trans woman to undergo sex re-assignment surgery which gained public interest around the world. Her autobiography was published in 1954.



Dusty Springfield (1939 –1999) Singer

One of the best-selling UK singers in the 60's and a lesbian icon. Dusty's 1964 tour of South Africa was controversially terminated, and she was deported, after performing for an integrated audience against the government's segregation policy. Her contract excluded segregated performances, one of the first British artists to do so.



Topher Campbell
Director, Producer and Writer

As Producer for BBC Radio Drama he established an initiative encouraging actors from under-represented groups. Has written articles on black gay contemporary life and history and won the 2005 Jerwood Directors Award. Alongside Ajamu, they founded Rukus!, UK's award winning black LGBT arts organisation.



Stephen Whittle (1955)
Professor and Trans Activist

He is the co-founder and vice president of Press for Change, working to change laws and social attitudes surrounding trans people's lives. He is a professor of Equalities Law and was president of the World Professional Association for Transgender Health.



Meg Barker, Lecturer and Psychotherapist

A founding member of BiUK, which produces *The Bisexuality Report*. She co-edits 'Psychology & Sexuality' and published a book on "mindfulness and mental health". She co-organised the national bisexual event, BiReCon in 2008 and a similar international event in 2010. She is a regular speaker on bisexuality.

Angela Eagle (1961)
Labour Party MP

She became an MP in 1992 and had many ministerial positions in the Labour government. She joined the Shadow Cabinet in 2010 and became the Shadow Leader of the House of Commons in 2011. She became the first 'out' lesbian MP.

Nicola Adams (1982)
Olympic Boxer

The first woman and the first openly LGBT person to win an Olympic gold medal for boxing at the 2012 Summer Olympics held in London. As an out bisexual, she took great pride in topping the 2012 Independent Pink List.

Chris Smith (1951)
Former MP, Cabinet Minister and currently
Peer and Privy Council of the UK

When elected in 1984 he declared: "My name is Chris Smith. I'm the Labour MP for Islington South and Finsbury, and I'm gay", making him the first 'out' gay politician in the parliament.

Angela Clayton (1959-2014)
Physicist and Trans Activist

Advocate for the rights of trans people. She was a very active trade unionist and was well respected in her field of science. Angela became the first trans observer to TUC LGBT Committee. She was closely involved in the development of the Gender Recognition Act 2004.

