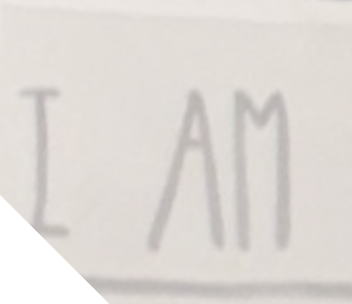


presentation

Haringey
VANGUARD 

PRESERVING BAME LGBTQ+ HISTORY



ABOUT

Haringey Vanguard is a BAME LGBTQ+ History project focused on the history and contributions of Haringey-based community activists in the 1970s - 1990s, work whose influence was felt well beyond the borough.

Launched in July 2018 and culminating in February 2021, the project was funded by a grant from the National Lottery Heritage Fund and led by Haringey Archive and Museum Service, Bruce Castle, supported by London Metropolitan Archives (LMA). Together, they worked to improve access to existing collections and to encourage the donation of new material. This brought together formal records with personal and community collections, enriching the wider Haringey LGBTQ+ history and ensuring the preservation of this important history by placing older BAME LGBTQ+ residents' experiences at the heart of the project.

The project was the brainchild of Haringey filmmaker Veronica McKenzie, who started collecting materials from the era while making a documentary about the Black Lesbian and Gay Centre and its activism in the 1980s. She teamed up with the London Metropolitan Archives and

Bruce Castle to preserve this history and create a permanent home for it in Haringey, making it accessible to the general public, researchers and subsequent generations of activists.

The collection consists of photos, banners, posters, flyers from marches, club nights and parties, political badges, minutes from council meetings of Haringey's pioneering Lesbian and Gay Unit and much more. All the physical material has been catalogued as well as digitally preserved.

The project has also recorded oral histories from 40 people involved in BAME LGBTQ+ activism from the 70s to 90s to ensure that this invaluable historical testimony is not lost.

Though this phase of the project has come to a close, the collection remains open to donations and it is hoped that the archive will continue to grow and develop.

Together this collection reveals the unknown history of the BAME LGBTQ+ community in Haringey, and the important work they did to promote acceptance, both in the mainstream LGBTQ+ scene and wider black communities.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

A programme of proactive community engagement was a key pillar of the Haringey Vanguard project. It was imperative to raise awareness in the community not only of the existence of the project but the value of personal materials documenting the era and the importance of their preservation for the future. There is often a misconception that archives and museums solely hold artefacts from well-known people. It was important to communicate how crucial materials from ordinary citizens and citizen activists are in painting the fullest picture of the past.

The project team, including many volunteers, maintained an active presence at key local and national events including Pride in Haringey, London Pride and UK Black Pride, and gave several public presentations and talks about the project and the era it was seeking to represent.

People were invited to join a Special Interest Group to provide advice to the project team and to offer a range of discussions, talks and events, programmed by the membership. This was a key component of ensuring the project's ownership by the community and its long term sustainability.

London Metropolitan Archives has a long history of working with LGBTQ+ projects and groups and was able to leverage those partnerships and experiences for the Vanguard project.

Free workshops and training opportunities allowed both archive enthusiasts and professionals to improve and expand their skillsets. Training was provided in archive organisation, oral history collecting techniques, interviewing and listening skills, sound recording, digitisation, website and exhibition design, with specific opportunities for young people.

Perhaps the most important aim of the outreach was to bring together different generations of BAME LGBTQ+ activists to learn from each other and to support a sense of wellbeing and being valued for the elders in particular. For many of the interviewees, this was their first opportunity to speak about their experiences.

Their history continues to be relevant and their often unique and creative activism provides a blueprint for our times. The collection provides positive images and a sense of empowerment brought about by visibility and presence.

ACTIVITIES

2018

JUNE

Haringey Vanguard launches and introduces itself to the community through stalls at London Pride and UK Black Pride.

AUGUST

Tea Party at Bruce Castle Museum in Tottenham attended by LGBTQ+ activists, local allies and young historians.

SEPTEMBER

Haringey Vanguard stall at Haringey Has Pride, 30 years after the first Haringey Pride Festival was held in Wood Green in 1989.

OCTOBER

Wellbeing workshop at London Metropolitan Archives, exploring current relaxation techniques and those of BAME LGBTQ+ activist communities in the 80s.

OCTOBER

Free oral history workshop covering best practice, ethics and hands-on interviewing, and the specific challenges of collecting LGBTQ+ oral history.

OCTOBER

Haringey Vanguard presentation at Haringey Council which shared material related to Haringey's historical support of LGBTQ+ rights.

OCTOBER

Partnered with Opening Doors LGBTQ+ 50+ group to host the short film, *hear here*, and a discussion at Bruce Castle Museum History Group.

OCTOBER

Haringey Vanguard nominated for a nOSCARS Award, given for making a positive difference to sexual health outcomes in BAME communities.

NOVEMBER

First meeting of the Special Interest Group is held and first oral history interviews with BAME LGBTQ+ elders begin.

NOVEMBER

Workshops on sound recording and interviewing and listening skills.

DECEMBER

Haringey Vanguard makes a presentation at Edgy: The 16th LGBTQ+ History and Archives Conference organised by London Metropolitan Archives.

DECEMBER

Special Interest Group Xmas Social.

ACTIVITIES

2019

JANUARY

Haringey Vanguard attends the Queer History Fair at Goldsmiths University.

FEBRUARY

The Art of the Gestetner: Duplicating Publishing workshop teaching participants to duplicate publications using these Tottenham-made machines.

FEBRUARY

Haringey Vanguard has a stall at the Haringey Local History Fair at Bruce Castle Museum.

FEBRUARY

The Vanguard of Then & Now BAME LGBTQ+ Art Social brings together intergenerational communities to socialise and discuss activism and history.

MARCH

Haringey Vanguard is invited to run its Getting it Down, Getting it Done Digital workshop at the Tate Modern's Age/ncy late event.

MAY

Workshop on Campaigning Then and Now looks at the relevance of campaigns in Haringey in the 1980s and their relevance to the digital age.

JUNE

Haringey Vanguard participates in the London Metropolitan Archives' stand at London Pride and has a stall at Black Pride in Haggerston Park.

AUGUST

Second round of the Sound Recording and Oral History Interviews workshops.

SEPTEMBER

"Eat and Transcribe" session at Bruce Castle Museum for volunteers working on interview transcriptions.

OCTOBER

Exhibition at Bruce Castle Museum on the contributions of local BAME LGBTQ+ people as part of Black History Month celebrations.

OCTOBER

Conversation with Olivette Cole Wilson, a key member of 80's Black lesbian groups and a founder member of the Stonewall charity.

DECEMBER

Haringey Vanguard organizes Provoke: The 17th annual LGBTQ+ History and Archives Conference at the London Metropolitan Archives.

ACTIVITIES

2020

FEBRUARY

Panel appearance at the University of Cambridge exploring the history of LGBTQ+ people in Black communities around the world.

FEBRUARY

Haringey Vanguard presents Key Moments in 1980's BAME LGBTQ+ History at the University of Sussex.

FEBRUARY

Walking tour around Haringey outlining the contributions of BAME LGBTQ+ activists in Haringey from the 1970s to 1990s.

MARCH

Due to coronavirus restrictions, Haringey Vanguard pivots to virtual interviews with oral history contributors.

OCTOBER

Online workshop offers training in collecting BAME LGBTQ+ Oral histories as part of Black History Month.

NOVEMBER

Haringey Vanguard volunteers speak at an LGBT+ History Month event organised by Schools OUT UK.



OUTCOMES - BUILDING AN ARCHIVE

- 1 The creation of a new, accessible and effectively managed BAME LGBTQ+ community oral history and memorabilia collection based at Haringey Archive and Museum Service at Bruce Castle.
- 2 Improved professional practice through the creation of skills sharing events and training opportunities.
- 3 An accessible catalogue and set of finding aids for anyone wishing to explore or research BAME LGBTQ+ history in Haringey.
- 4 A programme of research training to improve the skills of archive users.
- 5 Activities designed to encourage and support participants in collecting, preserving and sharing LGBTQ+ archive materials, safeguarding items for the future and ensuring a presence in the historical record.
- 6 A revised, strengthened and inclusive public engagement programme for existing and new users raising awareness of LGBTQ+ history and experience in Haringey and outer London.
- 7 A well-trained volunteer team to support the collection and associated activities. Part of the Special Interest Group acting as community champions for the project and the wider service.



OUTCOMES - COMMUNITY & OUTREACH

- 8 Firmly established working relationships with BAME LGBTQ+ groups and individuals to secure the project's legacy and sustainability.
- 9 The launch of a website haringeyblackqueerhistory.com including oral histories and transcripts, scanned documents, case studies and accessible resources for adults and schools, which links to other online projects, specifically, Speak Out London (LMA).
- 10 Downloadable learning resources for teachers, facilitators and other organisations such as Schools Out, for use in educational settings nationwide.
- 11 The creation of an exhibition to be launched at Bruce Castle Museum designed to be portable for future use at libraries, schools, community centres and public spaces.
- 12 Actively worked with local BAME and LGBTQ+ communities, particularly with elders to acknowledge valued personal history, which boosts mental well-being.
- 13 Targeted training opportunities for young people provided a deeper engagement with local history and culture supported by Haringey BAME LGBTQ+ residents and heritage services.
- 14 Intergenerational and cross-cultural activities benefitted all volunteers, participants and those attending public events.



HARINGEY

A LEGACY OF LGBTQ+ ACTIVISM

1967

Homosexuality decriminalised in the UK

1984

Gay rights included in the Labour Party's manifesto. Haringey is one of 10 councils to donate more than £600,000 to gay projects and groups.

1986

Labour wins control of Haringey Council and launches the country's first Lesbian and Gay Unit to highlight the rights of LGBT people to council staff.

3,000 people march around the Roundway in Tottenham in support of Haringey's gay and lesbian community in a demonstration organised by the group Positive Images.

The book *Jenny lives with Eric and Martin*, about a girl living with her dad and his partner, is made available to school children in Haringey. The book, which was located in a restricted part of a library, was seized on by a parent. A group of local parents complain, sparking protests on the streets of Wood Green, both for and against gay rights.

1987

Bernie Grant, MP for Tottenham, becomes the first MP to voice opposition to Section 28, which is brought in a year later.

Positive Images and Haringey Black Action organise the first demonstration in the UK to highlight the stories of black lesbians and gay men.

The Department of Education and Science expresses concerns to Haringey Council's education team about the "promotion of homosexuality" after the council's Lesbian and Gay Unit write to the borough's headteachers, urging them to share positive views of homosexuality with pupils.

1988

On 23 May, the night before Section 28 becomes law, four protestors, including Haringey's Boon Temple, storm the BBC 6 O'Clock news, handcuff themselves to equipment and shout 'Stop section 28'.

1999

Wood Green arts charity Wise Thoughts is established to address social justice issues and the needs of Haringey's BME LGBT communities.



2001

The equalisation of the age of consent is enacted for gay men nationwide.



2002

UK's Adoption and Children Act allowed same-sex couples to adopt. Then-MP for Hornsey and Wood Green Barbara Roche, who was Minister for Social Exclusion and Equalities, spoke in support of civil partnerships, saying there was a strong case for allowing same-sex couples to register their relationships.



2003

Section 28 is repealed.



2009

The T-shirt Haringey protester Boan Temple wore when she stormed the BBC goes on show at Bruce Castle Museum, as part of *From the Closet to the Collection: Haringey LGBT Exhibition*.



2010

GIRES (Gender Identification Research and Education Society) is set up to improve the environment in which gender non-conforming people live.



2012

Equalities Minister and MP for Hornsey and Wood Green Lynne Featherstone is widely hailed as the architect of the bill that brings same-sex marriage to England and Wales. She is named Attitude Magazine's Politician of the Year. Stonewall bestows a similar honour in 2014 and Pink Magazine names her Ally of the Year in 2014.



2014

Subodh Rathod and Niranjana Kamatkar become the first gay couple to marry in Haringey and the first gay Indian couple to marry in the UK under new marriage equality legislation.



2017

Haringey begins work to make the council a more LGBT+ friendly place, with support from Stonewall.



2018

The LGBTQ+ Community Network is formed - 15 organisations from across the borough working with and championing the needs of the LGBT+ population.

Cabinet reinstates its commitment to the LGBT+ population with a new action plan.

Haringey Vanguard, an archiving project focussed on the histories of Black, Asian and ethnic minority LGBTQ+ communities in the borough, is launched.

A LIVING ARCHIVE

The Haringey Vanguard Collection is available by prior appointment to anyone wishing to view materials. It also remains open to expansion through donations. If you have any materials related to any aspect of Black, Asian and Ethnic Minority LGBTQ+ life in Haringey from the 1970s to the 1990s, we would love to hear from you.

Get in touch

Haringey Council

Haringey Archive and Museum Service

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