

Camden & Islington LGBT History Month February 2026



Celebrate the history and achievements of the LGBT community

forum⁺

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Camden & Islington LGBT History Month 2026

Welcome to Camden & Islington LGBT History Month 2026! forum+ is proud to present a fantastic programme of activities and events celebrating the incredible history and achievements of the LGBT community. Everyone is invited to join the festivities and explore LGBT history through craft workshops, discussions, exhibitions, film screenings, guided walks, performances, talks and more!

Camden and Islington's rich LGBT history is brought to life in this collection of over 30 diverse engagements, designed to educate, entertain and inspire. On Sunday 1st February the festivities get off to a super start with *50+ Years of Islington LGBT History Guided Walk* and a fantastic finale awaits on Saturday 28th February with a *Sassify Zine Workshop!*

LGBT History Month is not only a vibrant cultural celebration but also an important opportunity to champion inclusion and equality. It is a time to empower everyone with the strength, creativity, and resilience of LGBT communities. At a lonely time of the year for many, community events and engagements help to reduce social isolation and build vital connections.

forum+ is very grateful for the support of our funders Camden Council and Islington Council. Thank you to everyone who has so generously contributed to this programme, making it a true community celebration. We hope you enjoy taking part and wish you a Happy LGBT History Month!

Tessa Havers-Strong
forum+ Director

Sunday 1st February

2 pm – 3.30 pm
Angel Station – Highbury Fields
[BOOKING](#)

50+ Years of Islington LGBT History Guided Walk

Get LGBT History Month off to a super start by joining a guided walk on 50+ Years of Islington LGBT History! Learn about Islington's incredible LGBT history and hear about the UK's first gay mayor, LGBT rights demonstration and MP.

Monday 2nd February

6.30 pm – 7.30 pm
Islington Museum EC1V 4NB
[BOOKING](#)

Islington's Pride Talk: One Small Borough's Big Impact on British LGBT+ History

Celebrate Islington's incredible contribution to LGBT+ equality in Britain. Seán McGovern's fun and engaging talk will cover the people, places and organisations from Islington's huge, history-making role in the fight for LGBT+ rights.

From Wednesday 4th February

12 pm – 6 pm
Queer Britain N1C 4BH
[BOOKING](#)

Queer Britain Museum

Queer Britain, the UK's national LGBTQ+ museum, reopens with all-new displays across its galleries. Relaunching during LGBT History Month, the exhibitions feature over 200 items, including photographs, posters, clothing, and banners. Across four galleries a multitude of stories will be told, through six themes - *Resist!; Club Kids; Queer Creativity; Body and Mind; Live, Laugh, Love; and The World Around Us.*

Every Wednesday
6.30 pm – 7.30 pm
BOYS! BOYS! BOYS!
Gallery Café W1T 5NF
[BOOKING](#)

BOYS! BOYS! BOYS! MEETS
BOYS! BOYS! BOYS! Gallery Café is a cultural hub promoting queer, art and culture, and the home of queer and gay fine art photography. Every Wednesday evening the gallery café hosts *BOYS! BOYS! BOYS! MEETS* where a leading member of the community shares their story. There are four fantastic events to join during LGBT History Month featuring Fat Tony, Michael Batten, Nigel Grimmer and Lee Knight.

Every Wednesday
8.00 pm
Gay's The Word WC1N 1AB
[BOOKING](#)

Lesbian Discussion Group
Join the legendary LDG for discussion and debate at Gay's The Word. For over 40 years the group has provided a community to women that meet every week to discuss love, life, and current affairs. The Older Lesbian Discussion Group meet at Gay's The Word on the last Wednesday of every month.

Thursday 5th - Friday 27th February
Various times
The Garden Cinema WC2B 5PQ
[BOOKING](#)

Celebrate LGBT History Month at The Garden Cinema
From 5th – 28th February, the gorgeous Garden Cinema is celebrating LGBT History Month. Visit the cinema for a compelling selection picked by members, alongside exciting partnership events! Hear expert introductions, join Q&A discussions and meet up with old friends and new in the beautiful cinema bar.

Thursday 5th February
5.30 pm – 8 pm
RCP Museum NW1 4LE
[BOOKING](#)

RCP Museum Late: LGBT+ History Month Special
The Royal College of Physicians Museum is celebrating the LGBT+ History Month theme of *Science and Innovation* by hosting an in-person event at which you can see original documents preserved by the RCP. LGBT stories can be traced back at least 350 years at RCP and cover the experiences of LGBT+ people, including physicians, as well as the views of a society that medicalised them.

Thursday 5th February
7 pm – 8.30 pm
Housmans Bookshop N1 9DY
[BOOKING](#)

Launch of The Log Books: Voices of Queer Britain and the Helpline that Listened
The Log Books: Voices of Queer Britain and the Helpline that Listened is an intimate history of LGBTQ+ life over four decades, discovered in a stash of forgotten, handwritten notes. Join authors Tash Walker and Adam Zmith at Housmans Bookshop for an evening of discussion and celebration.

7th, 15th, 21st and 27th February
Start times vary
The British Museum WC1B 3D
[BOOKING](#)

Desire, love, identity – an LGBTQ tour of the British Museum
Explore objects in the British Museum collection linked to the themes of desire, love and identity. Join a volunteer-led tour and discover a fascinating selection of objects with LGBTQ+ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer) connections. The tour ranges from the ancient world to the present day, and includes some of the most famous artworks on display.

Saturday 7th February

1.30 pm – 4.30 pm
Queer Britain N1C 4BH
[BOOKING](#)

Queer Britain Craft Workshop: Stitching Our Queer Stories

Unleash your creativity and express your voice through stitched text in this hands-on textile workshop inspired by the AIDS Quilt UK. In this workshop, drawing on the new AIDS Quilt UK display opening at Queer Britain in February, begin by exploring the quilt panel in the galleries for creative inspiration.

Until Thursday 12th March

Swiss Cottage Gallery NW3 3HA
No booking required - <https://www.lovecamden.org/whats-on/connections-and-conversations-gill-ord>

Exhibition: Connections and Conversations, Gill Ord

Discover the work of Gill Ord, who creates paintings in her London studio shaped by observation and experience, and by time spent visiting places where industry and nature meet — from her native North East of England to international locations. Gill Ord lives on The Alexandra and Ainsworth Estate in Swiss Cottage. This exhibition is part of Camden's LGBTQ+ History Month programme.

Thursday 12th February

6.30 pm – 8 pm
St Luke's Community Centre
EC1V 8AJ
[BOOKING](#)

forum⁺ LGBT History Month Workshop - Polari, the Secret Queer Language

Join with forum⁺ and Dan de la Motte for a fun interactive workshop on *Polari, the Secret Queer Language*. Learn the 'rules' of the language, decipher words and phrases, and make up your own sentences and mini scenes for others to work out!

Friday 20th February

12.30 pm – 2 pm
The London Archives EC1R 0HB
[BOOKING](#)

The London Archives LGBTQ+ Collections - Document Viewing

Visit The London Archives and see a selection of documents that speak to the lives of, and experiences of, LGBT people. This event is an introduction to flagship collections including the National HIV Stories Trust oral history collections, as well as less known but no less valuable collections like that of Gerald Kremensteine and Lesbian London.

Saturday 21st February

11 am – 3 pm
The British Museum WC1B 3DG
Full Event Information &
[BOOKING](#)

LGBT History Month Community Event at The British Museum

Enjoy a day long, community focused event at The British Museum marking LGBT History Month. There is going to be so much to enjoy as we explore the theme of *Science and Innovation*. Choose from a number of engaging activities including talks, tours, workshops and more! The event is free to attend, but booking in advance is essential to gain entry to the museum.

Sunday 22nd February

2 pm – 3.30 pm
British Library NW1 2DB
[BOOKING](#)

Kenneth Williams at 100: A Celebration

22nd February would have been the 100th birthday of the inimitable Kenneth Williams (1926–1988). In 2015, the British Library acquired his remarkable archive, including his legendary diaries. This centenary offers a wonderful opportunity to rediscover his wit, talent, and enduring legacy. Expect to hear readings from Kenneth's diaries, reflections on his connection to the local area and shared memories that bring his remarkable spirit to life.

Monday 23rd February

7 pm – 8.30 pm
British Library NW1 2DB
[BOOKING](#)

The Remarkable Life of Ronald Blythe

Join Patrick Barkham, Ian Collins, Jenny Hall and Helen Melody for an evening celebrating the life and work of nature writer and essayist Ronald Blythe. This will be an evening of conversation and reminiscence, along with fascinating insights into Ronald Blythe's archive. To register for a guest place with forum⁺ please email info@forumplus.org.uk

Wednesday 25th February

6.30 pm – 8 pm
Queer Britain N1C 4BH
[BOOKING](#)

Threads of History: AIDS Memorial Quilt, Club Kali & Queer Heritage

Queer Britain invites you to an inspiring conversation celebrating the newly co-curated displays that honour and preserve queer heritage. This special event brings together voices from across the community, including Harry Hillery, from AIDS Memorial Quilt UK; Rita Hirani, co-founder of Club Kali; Dan Vo, Queer Britain's Trustee; and Jennifer Shearman, Head of Programmes and Collections at Queer Britain.

Thursday 26th February

12 pm – 1.30 pm
The British Library NW1 2DB
[BOOKING](#)

LGBT History Month Collections Corner at The British Library

Discover local LGBT History in The British Library's Collections! Join with forum⁺, and the British Library Community Engagement Team, for a show and tell session examining local LGBT history. Explore fascinating items from the library's collections including historical newspapers and published works, and uncover the rich, impactful history of Camden and Islington's LGBT community.

Thursday 26th February

6 pm – 10 pm
The Camden Collective
NW1 8NJ
[BOOKING](#)

LGBTQ+ Film Fest

Join Evolve Productions for a one night only LGBTQ+ Film Fest, an intimate underground screening event celebrating queer stories past, present, and future - in honour of LGBTQ+ History Month. Hosted in a password-only, speakeasy-style venue, this evening is about community, nostalgia, resistance, and joy. Expect a cosy, welcoming space filled with queer creativity, conversation, and connection.

Saturday 28th February

1.30 pm – 4.30 pm
Whittington PCA N19 4RS
[BOOKING](#)

forum⁺ LGBT History Month Sassy Zine Workshop

Get creative at a Zine Workshop and social with forum⁺ and Sassy Zine. Find out about how the LGBT community engages with zines as a tool for connection, reflection, and healing. Learn about zines and zine history before having a go at creating your own unique artwork.

Camden's LGBTQ+ Stories

Explore Camden's incredible LGBTQ+ stories on the Camden People's Museum website. From pioneering gender-affirming surgery in the 1940s, to landmark activism, iconic venues and radical community organising - Camden's LGBTQ+ history is powerful, proud and deeply woven into the borough's cultural fabric.

<https://www.camdenpeoplesmuseum.org/exhibits/camden-s-lgbtq-stories>

Central Station

Central Station is Islington's oldest LGBT Bar and has been a safe welcoming space to the community for many years, helping raise thousands for HIV/AIDS charities and hosting LGBT karaoke, theatre and numerous community groups from footballers to faith groups, as well as funeral services. The venue will celebrate its 35th Birthday on Saturday 7th February with a party.

Central Station N1 9SD

<https://centralstation.co.uk/>

Gay Gooners

Gay Gooners is Arsenal Football Club's official supporters' group for LGBT+ fans. Established in February 2013, they are the first and largest LGBT+ fans group in England, with over a thousand of members in the UK and overseas.

<https://www.arsenal.com/fanzone/gay-gooners>

Gay's The Word

During LGBT History Month why not pay a visit to Gay's The Word? The iconic Camden bookshop has been at the heart of the capital's LGBTQ+ rights movement since opening on 17th January 1979. GTW continues to host events and is a home for LGBT community groups such as the *Lesbian Discussion Group*, *London Ace Book Club* and the *LGBT Book Group*.

Gay's The Word WC1N 1AB

www.gaystheword.co.uk

Housmans Bookshop

On Caledonian Road, Islington visit iconic radical bookshop Housmans. In the 1970s and 1980s Housman was a hive of LGBT activism. The Gay Liberation Front had offices there and the London Lesbian & Gay Switchboard operated above the shop. Each week the bookshop hosts *Housmans Queer Book Club*, *The Melanated Queers Reading Collective* and *The Queer Girls' Book Club*.

Housmans Bookshop N1 9DX

<https://housmans.com/book-groups/>

Islington's Pride Heritage Trail

Journey through the Islington's Pride Heritage Trail and enjoy visiting over 150 points of LGBTQ+ interest that have been found throughout the borough of Islington. Visit the website and learn the entries, incorporated images and oral histories, that are linked to the physical plaques across Islington which connect you to the rich history we celebrate today.

Heritage Map – Islington's Pride (islingtonspride.com)

London Friend

Islington based charity London Friend is the oldest LGBTQ+ charity in the UK. Since its establishment in 1972 the charity has been dedicated to improving the health and mental wellbeing of the LGBTQ+ community. The charity has a special 50th Birthday Heritage website at <https://50thbirthday.londonfriend.org.uk/> and London Friend continues to deliver regular social support groups, counselling, groups as well as drug/alcohol/chemsex support through Antidote.

London Friend N1 9DN

<https://londonfriend.org.uk/>

London Lesbian Kickabout

For over 25 years London Lesbian Kickabout has been organising friendly football meet ups for lesbians. "Helping Lesbians To Score Since 1999" LLKA holds friendly football kickabouts in Camden. The club is based on the goals of social, open access to all lesbians who want to play football and have a good time while doing it!

<https://www.meetup.com/llka-london-lesbian-kickabout/>

Rainbow Paddlers

The Pirate Castle proudly presents Rainbow Paddlers – adult LGBTQ+ paddlesport sessions. Rainbow Paddlers was launched in 2021 and is a front-runner initiative, proud to be the first (and currently only) Paddle UK club in the UK to offer weekly adult paddlesport sessions run by and for the LGBTQ+ community.

The Pirate Castle NW1 7EA

<https://thepiratecastle.org/kayaking-canoeing-clubs-london/rainbow-paddlers>

The Phoenix Arts Club

For over 35 years The Phoenix Arts Club has been dazzling crowds and welcomes 100,000 guests a year to the best cabaret and queer variety shows from drag to musical theatre, burlesque and so much more! The venue wishes to showcase imaginative performances and artistic expressions to resonate with the diverse world we live in, embracing a rich variety of voices and cultures.

Phoenix Arts Club WC2H 8BU

<https://phoenixartsclub.com/>

Yas Queen! LGBTQ+ Chess Club

Join a vibrant community of chess enthusiasts and enjoy the game in an inclusive and supportive environment. Yas Queen! is an LGBTQ+ chess club that is proudly women-led. Whether you're a grandmaster in the making or just learning how the pieces move, there's a seat at the table for you.

<https://www.yasqueen.uk/>

Zodiac

Zodiac Bar and Club started with small, humble pop-up events in various venues until opening its own home on Hampstead Road, Camden in November 2021. The venue hosts a range of events and will celebrate LGBT History Month by honouring Latin queer heritage through music, dance and community.

Zodiac Bar NW1 3EE

<https://www.zodiacbarlondon.com/>

Follow **forum⁺** for the latest announcements and updates on Camden & Islington LGBT History Month 2026.