

Discover the lives of Croydon lesbians and gay men as Croydon Celebrates LGBT History.

LGBT stands for Lesbian Gay Bisexual Trans. The LGBT History trail through the Museum of Croydon highlights the LGBT presence in, and contribution to, Croydon's history. To follow the trail, look out for the Croydon Celebrates LGBT History logo on the cases in the Museum. You can use this leaflet and the touch screens in the displays to find out more about the highlighted objects and stories.

Our trail begins with scientist Henry Havelock Ellis' studies of sexuality in 1896 and continues up to today. Not all of the objects and stories you will discover are about sexuality or gender. As well as representing Croydon's LGBT community, the Museum of Croydon seeks to include LGBT stories in the mainstream of our shared history.

The Museum of Croydon aims to reflect the lives of all communities in Croydon. We are aware that we currently under-represent Croydon's historic and contemporary Bisexual and Trans communities. If you would be interested in sharing your life story with us to help address this, please call the Museum of Croydon collections team on 020 8253 1026 or e-mail museum@croydon.gov.uk.

How to find us



Museum of Croydon, Level 1, Croydon Clocktower, Katharine Street, Croydon CR9 1ET
020 8253 1026
museum@croydon.gov.uk

Train

East Croydon Station (10 mins)*
West Croydon Station (15 mins)

*East Croydon is 16 minutes from both London Victoria and London Bridge

Bus

Katharine Street (2 mins)
High Street (5 mins)
Park Lane (5 mins)
Park Street (6 mins)

Bus numbers serving these stops:

50, 60, 75, 109, 119, 154,
155, 166, 197, 250, 264,
312, 403, 405, 407, 412,
466, 468

Tram

George Street (3 mins)
Reeves Corner (12 mins)

Parking

Fairfield (10 mins)
Surrey Street (10 mins)
Centrale (12 mins)

www.museumofcroydon.com/visit

Museum of Croydon LGBT History Trail



Museum of Croydon
Level 1, Croydon Clocktower
Monday to Saturday, 10:30am to 5pm
www.museumofcroydon.com

FREE ENTRY

Henry Havelock Ellis' Studies in the Psychology of Sex, 1897 - 1928

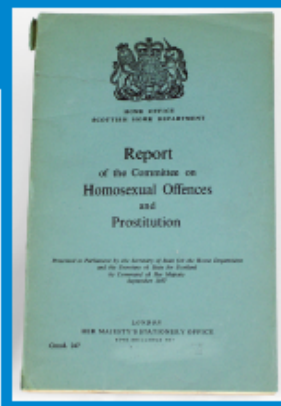
Henry Havelock Ellis was a radical Croydon psychologist who shocked people with his openness about sexuality. He was the first person in Britain to write about homosexuality as part of normal sexual life rather than as a disease or a crime.

"I determined that I would make it the main business of my life to get to the real natural facts of sex." Henry Havelock Ellis



The Wolfenden Report, 1957

The Report of the Committee on Homosexual Offences and Prostitution is widely known as the Wolfenden Report, named after its author Sir John Wolfenden. This landmark publication concluded that the criminalisation of homosexuality was a breach of civil liberties. It took another ten years until the 1967 Sexual Offences Act was passed, this finally legalised homosexual acts between consenting adults in Britain.



"When the Wolfenden Report came out I thought things are going to change now, but they didn't. It almost gave me a nervous breakdown, the disappointment and misery that caused." John

Ray's Photo Album, 1962

This photo album illustrates Ray Harvey-Amer's time

in Hong Kong as a Royal Navy Nurse. When Ray joined the Royal Navy sexual acts between men were illegal and gay men like Ray had to be secretive. Although hidden, gay culture has been a part of seafaring life for centuries.



Roger Fisher, 1962

Roger Fisher and his partner Ron Strank were both nurses.

When their hospital closed they decided to go and work in America for a year. They found jobs at the University of Texas Medical Branch and then travelled across America on their way home. Working and travelling abroad was adventurous and unusual in the 1960s.



Sara's Maternity Dress, 1975

In the early 1970s, Sara Holmes was in a long-term relationship with a woman. They wanted children, but thought that it could not happen. When Sara became pregnant in 1975 she wore this dress. Starting a family was a bold choice and Sara faced strong reactions.



"I think my parents always thought it was a phase I was going through, that I'd grow out of. They were really, really furious. They had hoped I'd get married in order to have babies." Sara Holmes

Ray's Badges, 1980s

In the early 1980s the HIV and AIDS crisis became a worldwide concern. Voluntary preventive organisations sprang up. At first many affected by the disease were gay men, and it was gay men like Ray Harvey-Amer and his partner Mike Harvey, who set up the first projects to raise awareness and care for HIV sufferers.



Ray's Handbag, 1990s

Ray Harvey-Amer carried this handbag as a member of gay rights campaign group the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence.

Originally set up in San Francisco in the 1980s, the Sisters were gay men who dressed up as nuns to campaign for gay rights and against homophobia. Croydon campaigners continue to fight for equality and justice for the LGBT community to this day.



"We've done lots of protests in Parliament, the London Rubber Company once and Westminster Cathedral twice. And in 1994 we did this wonderful cleansing ritual of Bromley Council chamber because they were not spending any money at all on HIV services. We made them look very silly indeed." Ray Harvey-Amer