

LGBTQ+ History Month

UK Trans Trailblazers

This history month let's celebrate our trans community by talking about some British icons!

Sir Ewan Forbes, 11th Baronet of Craigievar (1912 -1991)



Sir Ewan Forbes was a Scottish nobleman, a doctor, a farmer and a justice for the peace. He was a trans man who successfully defended his inheritance in court after his cousin challenged it on grounds that he was a woman. Sir Forbes lived in Munich, Germany, in the 1930s, studying medicines and receiving hormone therapy while he was there. He witnessed the rise of the Nazi party, and saw Hitler speak, before his timely return to Scotland having inherited an estate. He studied medicine further in Aberdeen, and would go on to be a general practitioner. He re-registered his birth as male in 1952, and lived as a man for the rest of his life. In his cousin's 1965 court challenge, the court eventually concluded that he was intersex, though with documents now made public, we understand that he was a trans man. We are expecting a television series about his life to come out later this year.

April Ashley MBE (1935 - 2021)



Known as one of the earliest British people to have gender confirmation surgery, April Ashley spent over 60 years campaigning and raising awareness of trans issues. Despite being outed in the 1960s early on in her modeling and acting career, she maintained a public profile and would go on to become an activist and author. She was recognised with an MBE in 2012 for services to transgender equality.

Click on the image of April to watch a video on her extraordinary life!

Eddie Izzard



Eddie Izzard is a prolific comedian, writer, actor and activist. She began her stand up career in the 1980s, and just last month she raised £275 000 by running 31 marathons and performing 31 stand up gigs throughout January. She has always been very open about her gender identity, and her journey throughout the years is a great example of the way language and our understanding has changed. At first while still presenting as a man, she called herself a

transvestite or a crossdresser, because of the clothes and make up that she wore. She always made clear that this was never some performance, just a way that she expressed herself, and is quoted as saying “women wear what they want, and so do I.” Later, as her view on herself began to evolve, she would no longer use terms like crossdresser, saying “they’re not women’s clothes, they’re my clothes. I bought them”. She now describes herself as genderqueer, and mostly uses she/her pronouns.

Fox Fisher



Fox Fisher is an artist, film maker and campaigner, most well known for their ongoing film project, My Generation. After participating in the channel 4 documentary “My Transsexual Summer” Fox and another castmate wanted to create their own project to help improve trans representation in media, and allow trans people to tell their own stories through film. In addition to their work with My Generation, Fox has co-authored two books, “Are You A Boy or Are You A Girl?” with Sarah Savage, and “Trans Teen Survival Guide” with their partner Owl.

Click on Fox Fisher’s photo to find out more.

Munroe Bergdorf



Munroe Bergdorf is a model, activist and nightlife producer. She has walked runways worldwide, posed on the front of magazines and broke ground as the first trans model for L’Oréal. She is an outspoken advocate of the Black Lives Matter movement and for trans equality. A controversial figure, she is never afraid to be outspoken and tell the truth about how she experiences the world as a trans woman of colour.

Click on Munroe’s image for more information.