

Pride and Protest

Joining like-minded people to march, protest, or celebrate can be a source of comfort for people. Sometimes seemingly culturally unlike groups join forces for a common cause.

In 1984, an alliance of lesbians and gay men formed to support the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) during the 1984-85 strike. The Lesbians and Gay Men Support the Miners group (LGSM) fundraised for the striking miners and their families, with the London group alone raising £22,500.

The events of this story were depicted in the 2014 film 'Pride'.



Copy of original 'Lesbians and Gays Support the Miners' banner made for the 2014 film 'Pride' which told the story of the links between the LGBTQ community and NUM South Wales Area.

The LGSM organised a benefit concert for NUM funds at the Electric Ballroom in Camden. Known as the 'Pits and Perverts' gig, it was headlined by Jimmy Somerville and Bronski Beat.



'Pits and Perverts' T shirt produced as a promotional item for the 2014 film 'Pride'.

OBJECTS OF COMFORT

#objectsofcomfort



Sculpture of 'Bryn' a miner wearing a 'Lesbians and Gay Men' T shirt. Produced by Olivia Quail mother of Gethin Roberts who was played by Andrew Scott in the 2014 film 'Pride'.



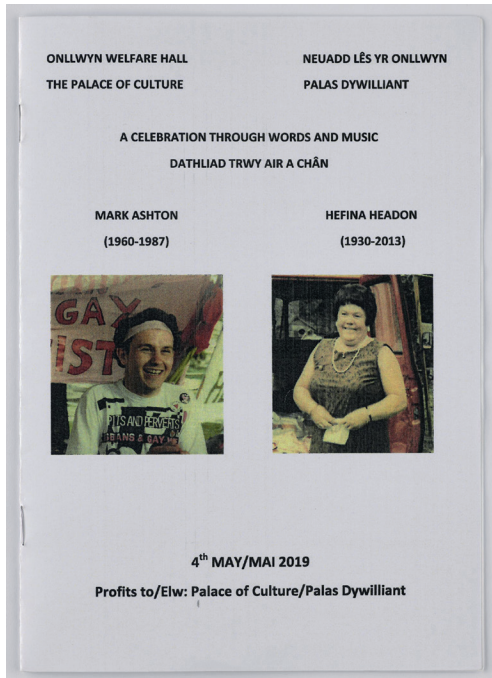
Jason Hodges a former member of LGSM with the badge he was given during the Gay Pride march in London in 1985. That year the march was led by members of the National Union of Mineworkers to thank the LGBT community for their help during the 1984-1985 miners' strike.



Original design by Jonathan Blake for the LGSM lapel badge. Notice the pink triangle which was used in Nazi concentration camps during the 1930s and 40s to denote an LGBTQ prisoner.

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Programme from event to honour Mark Ashton (1960-1987) (Lesbians and Gay Men Support the Miners) and Hefina Headon (1930-2013) (Secretary Dulais Valley Women's Support Group). The event was held at Onllwyn Welfare Hall, 'The Palace of Culture' on 4 May 2019. Mark Ashton and Hefina Headon played key roles in bringing these two movements together during the 1984-85 miners' strike, and this story is told in the 2014 film 'Pride'.

In 1985, a group of miners joined the LGSM in leading the annual 'Pride' March into Hyde Park in London, an event which is portrayed in the film.

The NUM continued to support gay rights in various forums, including opposing the controversial Section 28 law passed in 1988 by a Conservative government that stopped councils and schools 'promoting the teaching of the acceptability of homosexuality as a pretended family relationship.'

Pride events usually consist of a parade, music and other events that celebrate and give visibility to the LGBTQ community, with people from all over Wales coming together to participate.

Questions:

Have you ever joined a protest for/against something with a group of people?

What made you protest? Who did you protest with? Did you use any 'props' e.g. flags, banners, badges, placards etc.?

Have you ever taken part in a celebration with a group of people?

What were you celebrating? Did you use any 'props' e.g. flags, banners, badges, placards etc.?

Suggestions for tactile or sensory elements/ additional activities:

Design a postcard or badge for something which needs to be celebrated! This could be someone's birthday, an anniversary, the coming of Spring, Friday – the best day of the week, etc.

Watch the film 'Pride'.

Design a banner, badge or decoration for a celebration with your setting/group. Or, design a banner, badge or decoration to celebrate the group itself!