



# LGBTQI+ History Month 1<sup>st</sup> -28<sup>th</sup> February



# Maya Angelou

Angelou born Marguerite Annie Johnson; April 4, 1928 – May 28, 2014) was an American poet, memoirist, and civil rights activist.

The National Black Justice Coalition noted Angelou “never shied away from embracing her LGBT brothers and sisters.”

Angelou’s words: “I am gay. I am lesbian. I am black. I am white. I am Native American. I am Christian. I am Jew. I am Muslim.”



## **SHE SPOKE SIX LANGUAGES.**

Angelou's time in Europe also gave her the chance to hear other languages, and she paid very close attention. Ultimately, she learned to speak French, Spanish, Hebrew, Italian, and Fante (a dialect of Akan native to Ghana).



## **SHE WAS ONLY THE SECOND POET IN HISTORY TO RECITE WORK AT A PRESIDENTIAL INAUGURATION.**

Lending her voice to President Bill Clinton’s inauguration in 1993 – wearing a bright red AIDS ribbon. Reading the centuries-spanning epic “[On the Pulse of Morning](#),” which she wrote for the occasion. Her recitation scored her a 1994 Grammy Award for Best Spoken Word Album.

In 2009, she [called three New York State Senators to advocate for marriage equality](#), which would come to the state 2 years later. She is quoted as saying, “To love someone takes a lot of courage.”

# Mark Ashton

Friends recall 'a firecracker of a human being' as memorial fund for Mark Ashton receives more than £10,000.

Ashton was a British gay rights activist and co-founder of the Lesbians and Gays Support the Miners support group.



The Mark Ashton Trust was created to raise money for individuals living with HIV, and as of 2007 it had raised £20,000. Since 2008, the Terrence Higgins Trust has included the Mark Ashton Red Ribbon Fund, which had collected more than £38,000 as of 2017.

On 25 September 2018, the Council of Paris awarded the garden adjoining the [Hôtel d'Angoulême Lamoignon](#) the new name of [Jardin de l'Hôtel-Lamoignon - Mark-Ashton](#) ([Hôtel-Lamoignon - Mark Ashton Garden](#)), in his memory.



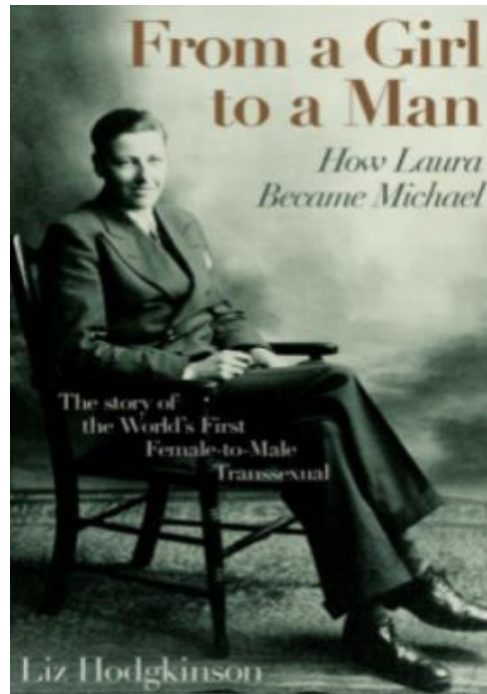
The LGSM's activities were dramatised in *Pride*, a film released in September 2014 featuring Ben Schnetzer as Ashton. Ashton's role in the Lesbians and Gays Support the Miners group was recalled in a series of interviews with some of its other members prior to the film's release.

# Michael Dillon

Dillon (born Laura Maud Dillon, 1 May 1915 - 15 May 1962) was a British physician and the first trans man to undergo surgery. Heir to the baronetcy of Lismullen in Ireland.

In 1945 Dillon enrolled in medical school at Trinity College, Dublin under his new legal name, Laurence M Dillon. A former tutor persuaded the Oxford registrar to alter records to show he graduated from all-male Brasenose rather than the women's college St Anne's, so that his academic transcript would not raise questions.

"Trans men are not a modern phenomenon"



Dillon suffered from hypoglycaemia (low blood sugar). While in the Royal Infirmary recovering, he came to the attention of one of the world's few plastic surgeons. The surgeon performed a double mastectomy (removal of breasts), provided Dillon with a doctor's note that enabled him to change his birth certificate, and put him in contact with the pioneering plastic surgeon Harold Gillies.

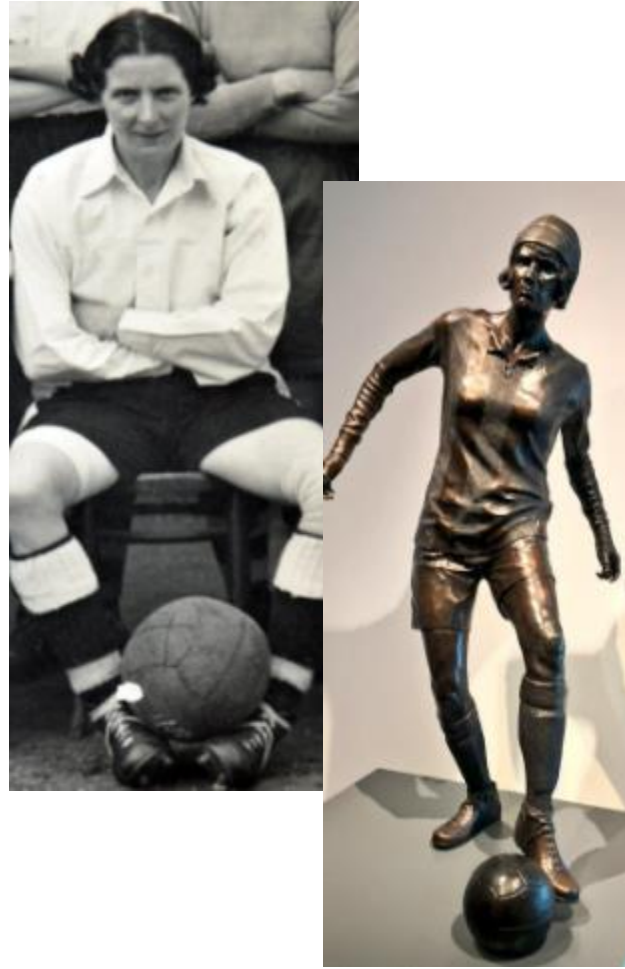


Dillon studied at St Anne's College, Oxford, a women's college. Dillon was president of the Oxford University Women's Boat Club and won a blue for rowing, competing in the Women's Boat Race in 1935 and 1936. After graduating he took a job at a research laboratory in Bristol.

# Lily Parr

American newspaper reports labelled Parr “the most brilliant female player in the world.”

Lilian "Lily" Parr (26 April 1905 – 24 May 1978) was an English professional women's association football player who played as a winger. She is best known for playing for the Dick, Kerr's Ladies team, which was founded in 1917 and based in Preston.



In 2002, she was the only woman to be made an inaugural inductee into the English Football Hall of Fame at the National Football Museum (hence the statue).

A statement, released by the FA in 1921, banning women's football from being played on affiliated grounds in England, served to stunt the progress of a game that was increasing in popularity.

The FA later moved to supporting women's football.

A touring French side visited England in 1920 and Dick, Kerr's, playing unofficially as England's representatives, won twice, lost one and drew one in the four matches – raising almost £3,000 for charity across the matches, equivalent to over £100,000 today.

# Mark Weston

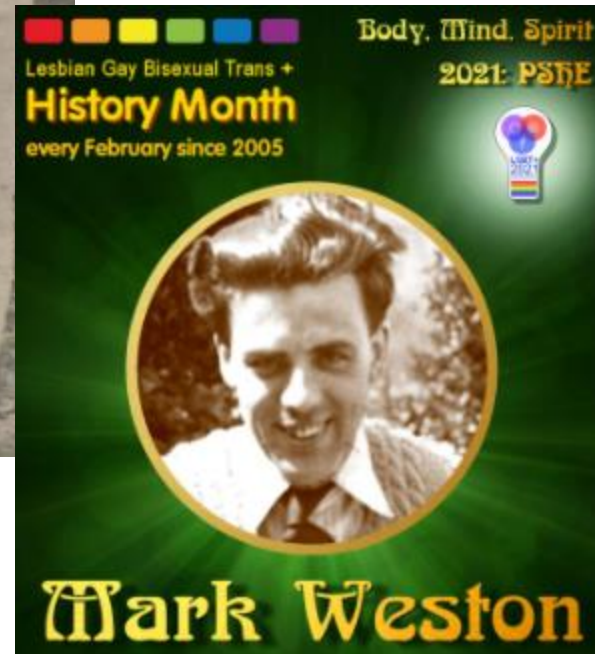
Nicknamed "the Devonshire Wonder"

Weston (born Mary Louise Edith Weston, 30 March 1905 – 29 January 1978), was one of the best British field athletes of the 1920s.

Weston was born with atypical genitals due to disorder of sex development (DSD) and was assigned as female at birth and raised as a girl. In April and May 1936, Weston underwent a series of corrective surgeries at the Charing Cross Hospital.



Weston was a national champion in the women's javelin throw and discus throw in 1929 and won the women's shot put title in 1925, 1928 and 1929. At the 1926 Women's World Games he finished sixth.



After surgery, Weston changed his first name to Mark, retired from competitions, and later worked as a masseur.

Following his example, his elder sibling Harry (previously known as Hilda) also changed his gender presentation and name in the 1930s.