

LGBTI HERITAGE WALK OF WHITEHALL

- This walk, starting at Trafalgar Square and ending near Parliament should take about 70 minutes. It was devised and written by Andy Kirby.

Directions - Walk west down the Strand toward Trafalgar Square to Adelaide Street on your right with Oscar Wilde's statue. Continue to the front of Charing Cross Station.

Stop 1 – Charing Cross

The replica marks one of the Eleanor Crosses commemorating Edward I's first wife, which once stood where Charles I's statue is. Distances from London are measured here, where stood the pillory where many gay men were locked, mocked and punished. The picture is of a similar incident in Cheapside. On 25 September 2009 Ian Baynham died following a homophobic attack in the square. Joel Alexander, 20, and Ruby Thomas, 19, were imprisoned for it.

Directions - Walk to the other (south) end of Trafalgar Square. Stop at the King Charles I statue. The SW plinth is to General Sir Charles Napier, in 1845 he sent Captain later Sir Robert Burton to investigate the homosexual brothels in Karāchi; his explicit study resulted in their destruction; and that of Burton's promising career.

Trafalgar Square was the location of the 1971 Festival of Light rally we will meet again at Westminster Central Hall. The following year 2,000 people took part in the Gay Liberation Front's first Gay Pride march from here to Hyde Park. Since 2004 Pride has ended with a rally here. On 19 June 2016 in time for the 2016 LGBTI Pride the green pedestrian "go" setting on some 40 traffic lights here were masked with a range of LGBTI symbols. Here is Rory Svensson who designed them.



Stop 2 – Trafalgar Square



Directions - Walk down Whitehall until you reach the junction with Horse Guards Avenue on the left. The building on the corner is the former War Office.

When a 2nd Lieutenant in autumn 1914 T E Lawrence worked in the War Office making a map of and a guide to Sinai based on his peacetime travels.

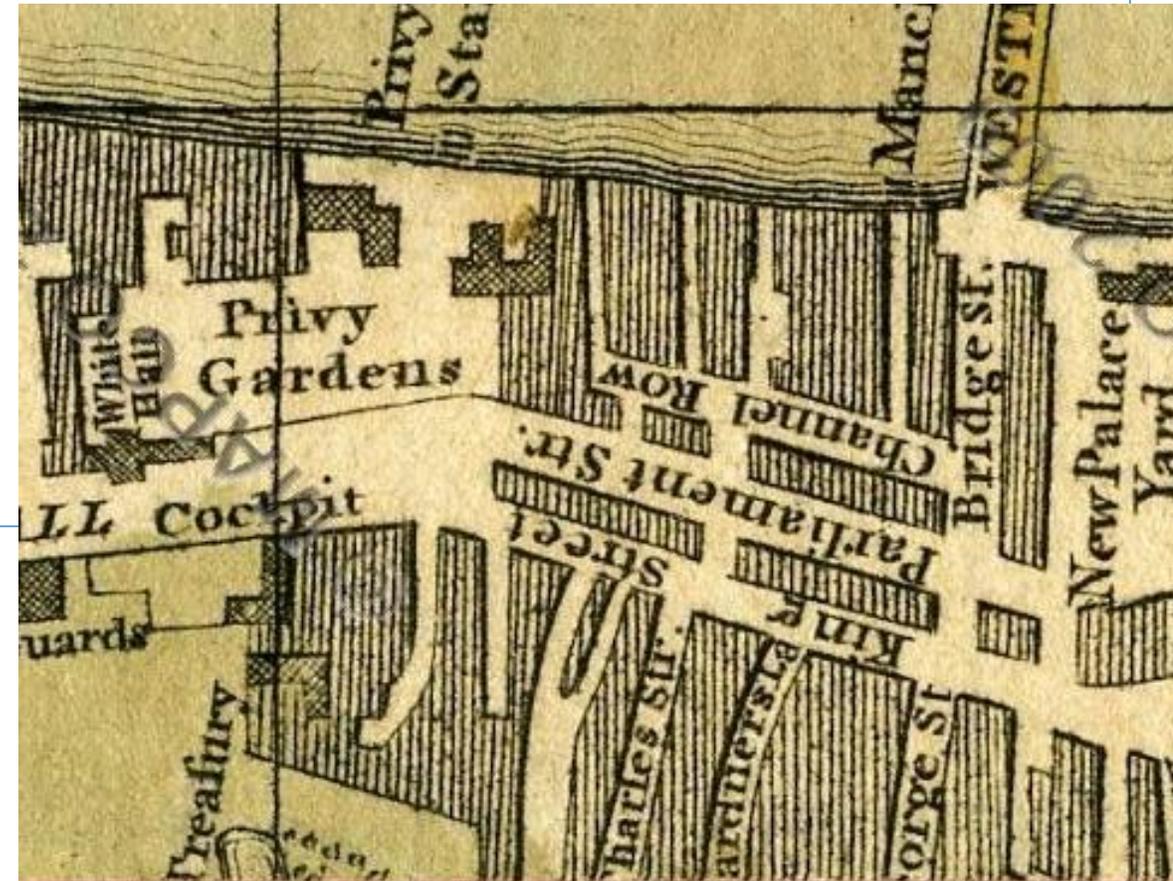
Stop 3 – War Office



Directions – Continue until you see King Charles Street on your right with its mighty arch.

Stop 4 – King Street

The current Parliament Street was once two narrow parallel streets, Parliament and King Streets. It held a molly house owned by partners Robert Whale and York Horner. Known to their friends as Peggy and Pru until it was raided in July 1726 and on 6 January 1727 they were convicted of “keeping an House in King-Street with Conveniences for Persons to commit the detestable Sin of Sodomy” and pilloried at Charing Cross.



Directions - Walk down King George Street and down the steps at the end. Cross Horseguards Road and walk down it into Birdcage Walk and walk down it until you get to Cockpit Steps on your left.

Stop 5 – Birdcage Alley

Birdcage Alley or Walk - named for James I's Royal Aviary - was a pick up area from 1700. Hanky codes began here, men poked a white handkerchief through their coat tails and wagged it to get the attention of guardsmen from the nearby barracks supplementing their pay. One such James Brown confessed with his brother he had blackmailed 500 men in the alley.

Westminster Abbey storekeeper Samuel Drybutter on 30 June 1777 was reported for picking up a guardsman, seized and beaten by a mob and died on 5 July. In 1958 Ian Harvey, Foreign Office Minister, and a Coldstream Guardsman were found in the park bushes and imprisoned. In the 1970s he became Vice President of the Campaign for Homosexual Equality

Directions - Retrace your steps to Storey's Gate south of St James Park. In front of you is the Treasury Building.

Stop 6 – Treasury Building

Economist John Maynard Keynes 1883-1946 worked in the Treasury 1915-19 and was a key advisor on the Treaty of Versailles at the end of the First World War. Before his marriage in 1905 to Russian ballerina Lydia Lopakova Keynes was predominantly homosexual. One of his lists reveals his catholic tastes: "Stable boy of Park Lane; The Swede of the National Gallery; The Soldier of the baths; The French Conscript; The Blackmailer; sixteen-year-old under Etna; Lift boy of Vauxhall; Auburn haired of Marble Arch, Grand Duke Cyril of the Paris Baths..." He had 65 encounters in 1909, 26 in 1910, 39 in 1911.

Directions - Cross the road and go down Storey's Gate past the Westminster Arms until you are in front of Westminster Central Hall..

Stop 7 – Westminster Hall



The 1971 Festival of Light, held at Westminster Hall, was led by a group of nagging Christians — including Mary Whitehouse and Cliff Richard — who were concerned with the world's escalating 'evils'. It was disrupted on 7 September by Gay Liberation Front protesters dressed as nuns in costumes bought by Monty Python member Graham Chapman. They released mice into the audience and cut the power supply.

Directions – Turn left and continue towards Parliament into Parliament Square traffic island. Here are 11 statues of men were joined in 20128 by women's suffrage campaigner Millicent Fawcett. the picture is from 2007.



2016 saw 35 lesbian, gay and bisexual MPs in Parliament. Firsts include Maureen Colquhoun first outed MP in 1976, Angela Eagle first female MP to come out while an MP in 1997 and to enter a civil partnership 2008, Baroness Steadman-Scott first out peeress 2010, Education Secretary Justine Greening 2016, first female Minister to come out in office, Margot James first MP to be out before being elected. 1992 saw the first trans delegation of Mark Rees, Krystina Sheffield and others to see Alex now Lord Carlisle. In the square stands George Canning, Prime Minister in 1827 and said to make advances to any pretty boy near the House of Commons.

Stop 8 – Houses of Parliament

Directions – Walk between Parliament and Westminster Abbey until you continue to College Green where MPs are interviewed..

Poet's Corner in the south transept has memorials to many gay artists. Lord Byron, Thomas Gray, playwrights Francis Beaumont and John Fletcher, composer Benjamin Britten, together with his librettist W H Auden. Overlooking them is gay monarch James I in the Great Nave and his lover the Duke of Buckingham. Less famous but more colourful is the one-footed comic actor and playwright Samuel Foote who was smuggled as close to Poets' Corner as his friends dared in 1777, months after the conclusion of a scandalous trial in which he faced a charge of 'sodomitical assault'.

Stop 9 – Westminster Abbey

Directions - Continue to Great College Street on the right and then Little College Street on your left, look for Number 13.

Stop 10 – 13 Little College Street



On the death of his cocoa manufacturing father in 1883 Alfred Waterhouse Somerset Taylor inherited £45,000. and as he said "had no occupation but have lived a life of pleasure." In 1894 Taylor and Arthur Marling, a female impersonator, were arrested for wearing female clothing at a party. Between 1892 and 1893 he rented rooms here for £3 a month and hung muslin on the windows. Oscar Wilde is known to have visited for contacts with young men. Taylor was pursued by the Marquis of Queensbury and tried and convicted alongside Oscar Wilde and on his release from prison he went to America. Taylor was educated in Preston Village, near the park where Brighton Pride is held.



Directions - Go back to Great College Street and look for Barton Street. Number 19 is on the right.

Stop 11 – 14 Barton Street

T E Lawrence's gay and masochistic sexuality are contested, and in 1927 he wrote to E M Forster "I'm so funnily made up, sexually." In 1919 he rented an attic room at 19 Barton Street where he wrote "Seven Pillars of Wisdom". Littered with books sent to him for review, he once found it so hard to get into bed, he filled his knapsack, went to the canons' houses in Westminster Abbey Close and left volumes he thought suitable in the letter-boxes. As we saw, when a 2nd Lieutenant in autumn 1914 he worked in the War Office making a map of and a guide to Sinai based on his peacetime travels. These pictures of him are in the National Portrait Gallery.

Directions - Continue to Tufton Street and look for a plaque to Siegfried Sassoon at 54 Tufton Street

Stop 12 – 54 Tufton Street



Siegfried Sassoon 1887-1967 was an important First World War poet and novelist and lived in a house at 54 Tufton Street between 1919 and 1925. He was a major influence on another war poet Wilfred Owen. Sassoon's biographer, Rupert Hart-Davis claimed he was "torn politically, the possessor of a private income with an uncomfortable socialist conscience; ...and torn emotionally by a succession of disappointing homosexual relationships."



1. Charing Cross
2. Trafalgar Square – Pride
3. War Office - T E Lawrence [of Arabia]
4. King Street – Robert Whales and York Horner
5. Birdcage Alley – Samuel Drybutter, Ian Harvey
6. Treasury – John Maynard Keynes
7. Westminster Hall – Graham Chapman
8. Houses of Parliament - various
9. Westminster Abbey - various
10. Little College Street – Alfred Taylor/Oscar Wilde
11. Barton Street – T E Lawrence [of Arabia]
12. Tufton Street – Siegfried Sassoon