LGBT Pride in 2020

Key Stage 2
Scotland P4 to P7

Who are Stonewall?

This resource is produced by Stonewall, a UK-based charity that stands for the freedom, equity and potential of all lesbian, gay, bi, trans, queer, questioning and ace (LGBTQ+) people. At Stonewall, we imagine a world where LGBTQ+ people everywhere can live our lives to the full. Founded in London in 1989, we now work in each nation of the UK and have established partnerships across the globe. Over the last three decades, we have created transformative change in the lives of LGBTQ+ people in the UK, helping win equal rights around marriage, having children and inclusive education.

Our campaigns drive positive change for our communities, and our sustained change and empowerment programmes ensure that LGBTQ+ people can thrive throughout our lives. We make sure that the world hears and learns from our communities, and our work is grounded in evidence and expertise.

Stonewall is proud to provide information, support and guidance on LGBTQ+ inclusion; working towards a world where we're all free to be. This does not constitute legal advice, and is not intended to be a substitute for legal counsel on any subject matter. To find out more about our work, visit us at www.stonewall.org.uk.

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What is LGBT Pride?

Every year around the world, thousands of LGBT people gather together to celebrate LGBT pride. The first LGBT pride march was held in New York in 1970, to mark the anniversary of the Stonewall riots. During the Stonewall riots, LGBT people fought back against unfair treatment by the police. The 1970 march was called The Christopher Street Liberation Day March and the participants were asking for acceptance and for fair treatment for LGBT people.

Pride events are normally big marches or parades with music, singing, dancing and colourful costumes. They're a time for LGBT people to show they're proud to be LGBT. In many countries, pride is an opportunity to celebrate the progress made in LGBT rights and acceptance but also to highlight the injustices that still exist for LGBT people.

Pride in the UK

LGBT people and their friends and family take part in pride events up and down the country. 1.5 million people attended London Pride in 2019 and the march was led by Sadiq Khan, the Mayor of London.

It is safe for people in the UK to attend pride marches and many LGBT people take their children with them.

Pride around the world

Whilst LGBT people in the UK can safely take part in pride events, the same is not true for everyone in the world. In Russia it is against the law to publicly speak in favour of LGBT people, and pride marches are banned. Despite this, LGBT people march in Moscow every year. Every year they are arrested.

In Uganda it is illegal to be LGBT, so a lot of people are afraid to even take part in a pride march. However, some people do still take part in Kampala pride as part of their campaign for acceptance.

Pride around the world

In Myanmar, it's illegal to be gay or bi and whilst it's not illegal to be trans, members of the trans community experience harassment and are not legally protected. Despite this, there is growing acceptance for LGBT people. Instead of a march, Myanmar Pride is a boat parade.

2019 saw Seoul in South Korea hold its 20th LGBT pride event. This was attended by more than 70,000 people. LGBT people in South Korea have found increasing levels of acceptance over the course of the past 10 years.

Pride around the world

Pride has been celebrated in Johannesburg, South Africa since 1990. Johannesburg Pride is the biggest LGBT pride event in Africa and attracts thousands of visitors. LGBT people in South Africa have their rights protected in law and are free to march in pride events.

In Turkey it's a different story. Even though it's not against the law to be LGBT in Turkey, LGBT pride events are often banned by the police. Despite this, thousands took part in Istanbul Pride 2019. Eventually the march was stopped by police.

Pride 2020

The Covid-19 outbreak means that LGBT pride marches can't take place this year. However, that hasn't stopped LGBT people from finding ways to celebrate pride. Pride 2020 is going digital, with all sorts of events planned.

People from all around the world will come together virtually for Global Pride, a 24 hour live streamed event with contributions from pride organisers around the world.

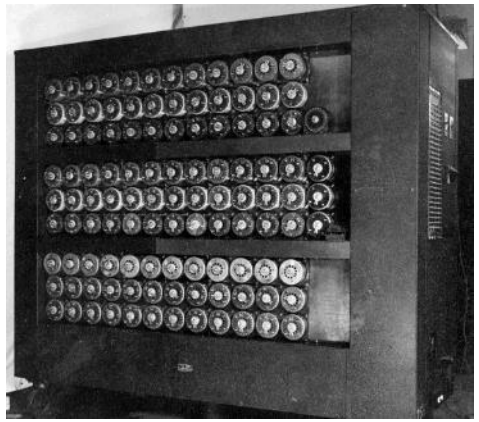
Some of the UK's LGBT organisations such as UK Black Pride, Trans Pride Brighton and Amnesty Rainbow Network have collaborated to create Pride Inside. The online platform will host all sorts of online events with artists, musicians, comedians, DJs and activists so that people are able to celebrate LGBT pride from the comfort of their own homes.

There's also going to be a Digital Youth Pride, which will give LGBT young people an opportunity to celebrate pride online.

Alan Turing

Digital pride events would not be possible without Alan Turing, who is known as the father of computing.

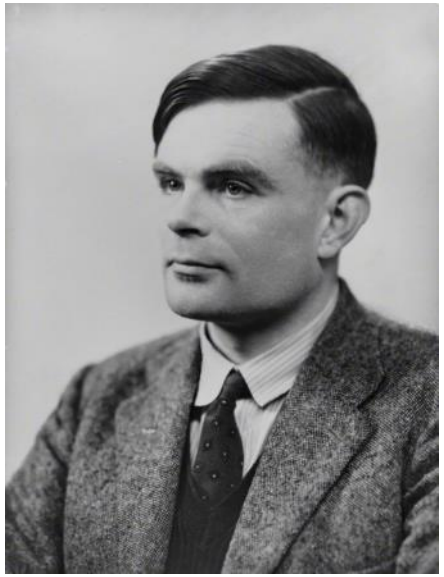
Alan Turing was born in London in 1912. He was excellent at maths and went to study it at Cambridge University. After that he became a researcher in the field of maths, specifically in work around probability and logic. This work would influence his later work in computing.



After finishing his research, Alan joined the Government Code and Cypher School. During World War 2, Alan went to work at Bletchley Park. This was where all of the government code breakers were based during the war. The German military encrypted all of their messages using a machine called the Enigma. It was incredibly hard to break the code because the machine was so complicated. Alan and his team created a code breaking machine called the Bombe – this was an early version of a computer. The Bombe deciphered a huge number of messages, meaning that the British military and their allies had a tactical advantage. Alan Turing's work is credited with bringing an end to the war.

Alan Turing

Everybody that had worked at Bletchley Park during World War 2 had to keep their work secret. After the war, Alan Turing went on to work on designing computers. He went to work at the University of Manchester and wrote the first ever computer programming manual.



Alan Turing was gay. However, it was illegal to be gay at the time and so Alan had to keep it a secret. One day there was a break in at Alan's home near Manchester. The police discovered that it was Alan's ex-boyfriend that had broken in. As a result, Alan was arrested for being gay. He was given the choice of going to prison of taking some medication that would stop him being interested in having boyfriends or girlfriends. He chose the medicine, which had upsetting side effects.

Alan carried on his work at Manchester University, but he was finding life increasingly difficult. In 1954, Alan was found dead as a result of cyanide poisoning. Alan Turing was given a Royal Pardon in 2013, along with an apology which recognised that it had been wrong to arrest people for being gay. From 2021, Alan Turing's picture will be on £50 notes in the UK.

Sophie Wilson

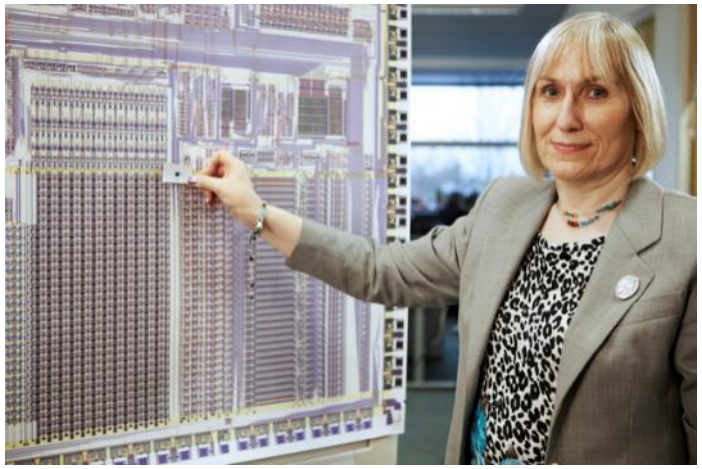
Sophie Wilson is a trans woman, but that's only a tiny part of who she is. She was born in Leeds in 1957 and after leaving school, she went to Cambridge University to study Computer Science. When she was 20, she developed a microcomputer which could be used to electronically feed cows.

After university, Sophie went to work at Acorn Computers. and The design for her cow feeding computer was used as the basis for the Acorn Micro-computer. These computers were mainly used by scientists and engineers, as it was rare for people to have a computer at home in the 1970s. Sophie worked to improve the programming language used by Acorn, and this led to the release of the BBC Micro-computer. Over a million BBC Micros were sold and used in thousands of U.K. schools. At this time, schools would only have one or two computers for the children to use.

Sophie Wilson

In 1983 Sophie worked with a colleague called Steve Furber to design a microprocessor called the ARM. Microprocessors are tiny computer chips that contain a circuit with lot of tiny components – without them, computers wouldn't work. ARM microprocessors are small and use very little power. They were revolutionary at the time and are now used in thousands of electronic products. You'll find one in your TV, your mobile phone and in your iPad. There are more than 4 ARM microprocessors for every person on earth. Without them, we wouldn't have smart phones or iPads at all.

Sophie still works in the computing industry and has been awarded a CBE for services to computing and has been elected as a Fellow of the Royal Society. Many people will be taking part in digital pride activities through their phone or tablet device, something that wouldn't be possible if it weren't for Sophie Wilson's important contribution.



Audrey Tang

Audrey Tang was born in Taiwan in 1981 and is Taiwan's Digital Minister. When she was 16, Audrey set up an IT business and went on to establish several companies. She went on to be an adviser for companies such as Apple, and has also been involved in developing and implementing new programming languages, such as Perl. Audrey has worked to make free software available across the world.

Audrey is transgender. In 2016, she became the first transgender government official when she was made Taiwan's Digital Minister. She is committed to working in a transparent way and giving everyone a say in government policy.

Audrey Tang

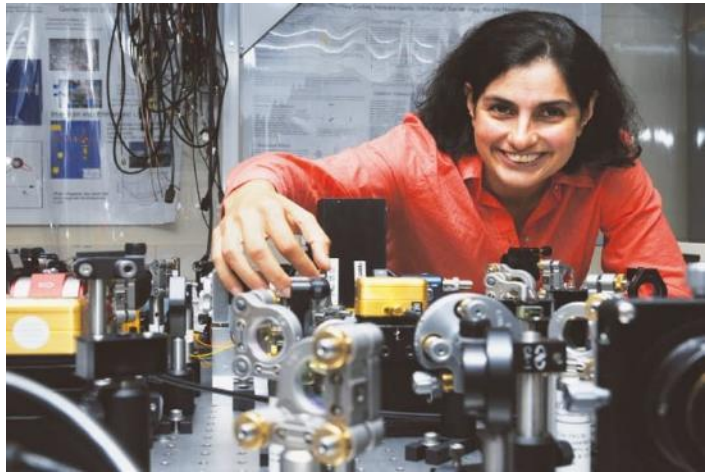
The digital platform that Audrey created allows Taiwanese people to express their opinion on issues which then influence government decisions. For example, in 2019 a 16 year old student suggested a ban on plastic straws to save the environment. A huge number of people agreed and soon the Taiwanese government had banned plastic straws.

During the Covid-19 outbreak, Audrey's work has helped to prevent panic amongst Taiwanese citizens. One of the apps she has developed allows people to see how many face masks are in stock in the nearby pharmacies. This has prevented panic buying, because people can see that there are plenty of masks in stock.

Nergis Mavalvala

Nergis Mavalvala was born in Karachi, Pakistan in 1968. After finishing school, she went to study at a college in the USA. When she was at college, she realised that she is a lesbian.

When she was a graduate student at Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), Nergis developed a laser interferometer. Using this piece of equipment, Nergis and her team were the first people to detect gravitational waves. This proved one of Albert Einstein's important predictions about gravity and black holes to be correct. Being able to detect and understand gravitational waves has given scientists a new way of understanding space and the universe, especially in relation to black holes.



Nergis Mavalvala

In 2010 Nergis was awarded a MacArthur Fellowship, which is a prestigious grant given to exceptionally talented and creative individuals who will make significant advances in the world.

Nergis is now a professor at MIT and she continues to research gravitational waves and to develop the instruments used to measure them. She lives with her partner and their two sons.

Celebrating everyone

At Stonewall we think it's important to celebrate people's differences and to recognise that even though someone might be different to you, they can still play an important role in society.

Whose contribution do you want to celebrate?