

List of sources held at Dudley Archives and
Local History Service which help document the
history of lesbian, gay, bisexual issues in the
Dudley Borough.

If you come across references to in our collections relating to LGB issues, please let a member of staff know so that it can be noted and help inform this area of research.

Entries will also be added to the “Out There” Gay and Lesbian Archive Links Online project portal, which is hosted by The National Archives.

<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/partnerprojects/outthere>

If you have any material that can help tell the history of LGB issues or people who have lived or worked in the Dudley Borough, please let us know.

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Source list re Lesbian and Gay issues

Local studies card index and CALM last checked Oct 2008.

Entries added to the "Out There" Gay and Lesbian Archive Links Online project portal – last updated Oct 2008

<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/partnerprojects/outthere>

To date, only newspaper entries have been found in our holdings. In January 2009, a volunteer expanded the descriptions of the newspaper articles (previously all we had was the headline title).

Entries are arranged by date order. The headline in the newspaper is given, and then in some cases a brief summary of the article has been written.

Terms checked:

Lesbian / lesbians

Gay / gays

Homosexual / homosexuals

1980s

Nov 1986

"Equal opportunities, homosexuals: Row on fair jobs policy for gays"

[A move to ban job discrimination against homosexuals and lesbians has led to a 'row' in Dudley council. A Tory councillor is 'infuriated' by the inclusion of sexual orientation in new policy limiting job discrimination, other councillors argue for the addition of such policy preventing inequality]

Ref: NPC/200 - Newspaper cuttings volume 200, p.19

March 1987

"Blackburn, John MP, blasts 'gay' sex education"

[Dudley MP claims the responsibility of teaching sex education should be with the parents and churches, not in the classroom]

Ref: NPC/202 - Newspaper cuttings, Volume 202, page 97

May 1987

"Education, 'Scaremonger' claims over gay sex row".

[A Dudley labour councillor has been accused of "scaremongering" regarding the issue of teaching homosexual and lesbian practices in the borough's schools. Tory education spokesman claims parents are alarmed because Labour councillors voted through lessons in gay practices but Labour maintain

this is in the context of a government initiative to promote the dangers of AIDS]

Ref: NPC/204 - Newspaper cuttings, Volume 204, page 60

May 1987

"Education, MP hits at lessons on lesbianism".

[Tory MP for Dudley West is supporting a notion in the House of Commons which suggests all explicit films and literature be vetted by the Department of Education before being shown to youngsters. The move follows the screening of a controversial video entitled "How to be a lesbian in 35 minutes" which was shown at a Haringey Council community centre. Education officials in Dudley have agreed that homosexuality and lesbianism issues should be taught in sex education lessons at school]

Ref: NPC/204 - Newspaper cuttings, Volume 204, page 63

June 1987

"Lessons on gays denied"

[A statement made by the Dudley education director in response to concerns that 'homosexuality' was being taught in sex education lessons in Dudley schools]

Ref: NPC/205 – Newspaper cutting volume 205, page 88

December 1987

"Dudley Council - Staff. NALGO officer in Lesbian outburst"

[A NALGO officer criticises own union for concentrating too much of their resources and effort on supporting marginalized groups in society i.e. gay and lesbians, Greenham Common Women's Rights, and ethnic minorities]

Ref: NPC/211 - Newspaper cuttings, Volume 211, page 8.

April 1988

"Education. Labour anger at MP's gay sex lessons claim"

[A 'storm' has blown up over claims from a Dudley MP that the Labour party is trying to promote the teaching of Homosexual practices in sex education lessons at schools. Dudley's education chairman declares that this is not the case even though local councils have no control over sex education lessons]

Ref: NPC/215 - Newspaper cuttings, volume 215, page 9.

April 1988

"Education. 'Gay sex lessons' claim is dismissed"

[A 'row' has broken out between a Mrs Rosa Dangerfield, who is standing for election in Dudley and councillor Jack Wilson, vice chairman of the council's education committee, over whether or not children in Dudley schools are being 'brainwashed' with peace studies and gay sex lessons. Mr Wilson disparages these claims because he has faith in the teachers of Dudley

adhering to the governing bodies' content for sex education lessons which includes warning children of the dangers of 'promiscuous' sex]

Ref: NPC/215 - Newspaper cuttings, volume 215, page 30

April 1988

"Sex Education. 'Gay sex' backlash"

[Dudley MP Dr John Blackburn has apologised for comments made via a constituency newsletter in which he alluded that Dudley schools were 'teaching homosexual and lesbian practices to children of a tender age.' The claim has been nullified by union bosses and Dudley's education chief alike, 'gay sex lessons do not exist in our classrooms.']

Ref; NPC/215 - Newspaper cuttings, volume 215, page 75

May 1988

"WHAT? Centre, Stourbridge. Young people's centre in 'gay' row",
[Claims have been made that a young people centre in Stourbridge has been promoting homosexuality and lesbianism by displaying a gay hotline telephone number and showing a controversial newspaper for lesbians and homosexuals. Both a spokesman for the centre and Councillor Fred Hunt deny that either of these items encourage young people into homosexuality]

Ref: NPC/216 - Newspaper cuttings, Volume 216, page 5

May 1988

"Education. Tory in storm on 'gay lessons' "

[A dispute has arisen from a Tory council candidate, Mr Clive Murray's statement accusing the Dudley Labour Group of initiating a programme which included teaching the 'filth' of lesbianism and homosexuality in schools, which he claims in future will 'lead to the spread of AIDS.' He is threatening legal action if the programme is not expelled. Labour councillor John Walters has asked the councillor to write and retract this statement because "there is not, any such proposal to teach 'filth' in our schools."]

Ref: NPC/216 - Newspaper cuttings, Volume 216, page 10

May 1988

"Education. Teachers in 'gay sex' fury"

[Head teachers are demanding an apology from defeated Tory council candidate Clive Murray, after he accused teachers of being encouraged to educate students on homosexual and lesbian activities. Mr Garrish, headmaster at The High Arcal School stated that it 'is a monstrous slur on the integrity of all head teachers in this borough.' He is also threatening to take legal action against Mr Murray if the comments are not revoked]

Ref: NPC/216 - Newspaper cuttings, Volume 216, page 40

July 1988

"Homosexuals. No advice for gays on rates"

[The costs of a voluntary organisation who counsel homosexual people will no longer be funded by the council]

Ref: NPC/218 - Newspaper cuttings, Volume 218, page 88

July 1988

Homosexuals. Leader's pledge on new 'gays' law"

[Dudley's council leader has pledged that the council will stay within the law on making grants to organisations promoting homosexuality. At What? Young people's advice centre copies of "pink" literature had been removed along with a gay hotline number. They will now have to offer a counselling service without funding from the local council after Councillor Mary Whitehouse decided against granting the centre any funds]

Ref: NPC/218 - Newspaper cuttings, Volume 218, page 89

1990s

25th April 1997

"Scouts: Row over decision on gay scout leaders" page 110.

[The Scouts Association recently announced it would be dropping its ban on homosexuals becoming leaders in the movement]

Ref: NPC/289 - Newspaper cuttings, Volume 289, page 110

2000 onwards

14 February 2005

"Civil Partnership: Two women pledge love at a blessing"

Ref: NPES/2005/2 - Express & Star newspaper, page 12

April 20th 2006

Education - Lessons plan to beat gay bullying

Ref: NPSC/2006/4 - Stourbridge Chronicle newspaper, page 1

7th October 2006

"Gay bar encounter led to brutal murder".

Ref: NPES/2006/10 - Express & Star newspaper, page 18

1st February 2007

"Dudley Caverns prove top spot for lesbian weddings"

[Dudley's limestone caverns awarded accolade by a lesbian magazine, Diva, as one of the most potential popular venues for civil partnership ceremonies]

Ref: NPDC/2007/2 – Dudley Chronicle newspaper, page 5