



Resources for Schools

Support U



About the Broken Futures Project:

Broken Futures is a community-based queer heritage project, funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund in 2019. It is delivered by the Thames Valley LGBT+ Support and Resource charity, Support U and supported by fantastic partners: Museum of English Rural Life; Berkshire Record Office; University of Reading; Reading Museum; and, Queer Rural Connections. It explores the history of ordinary men in Berkshire who were charged with buggery, gross indecency and indecent assault between 1861 to 1967 by training community volunteers in archival and genealogical research. The project sits within a vital shift across the UK's heritage-based projects and research towards the intersectional identities that are visible within the records. To follow suit, Broken Futures draws on best practice guidelines in queer heritage and provided accessible volunteer opportunities for members of Berkshire's community to learn knowledge and skills through training workshops in the recovery of diverse histories.

How can this research be used in schools?


Research on this topic doesn't just have to be used to tell someone what happened in the past. Historians know that actually giving a 'true' account of what 'actually' happened in history is almost impossible.

This research could be used as part of a wider discussion of the oppression of LGBT+ by the state, as well as simply being used as a talking point for the methodology we use in historical research. It can link to a number of curriculum areas besides the more obvious links to historical enquiry.

For those who are teaching historical enquiry topics, the vast number of ethical and practical issues in this sphere, instead of being offputting, can be seen as beneficial to educators. Teachers who are wary of introducing questions of child sexual exploitation and sex with animals into the classroom may find it beneficial to explore with their students how we can tackle such murky issues in history: the state treated sex between men in the same way as it treated sex between animals – what can this tell us about the state and how do we mitigate these issues as historians and parties interested in the past?

Educators should also be aware of the support services provided by Support U (www.supportu.org.uk). Our frontline team will be able to support members of the LGBT+ community who are adversely affected by the issues raised in this research. Support is also available for those questioning their sexuality or gender, for whom the issues discussed in this project may have more resonance.

Broken Futures Resources:

Type of Resource and link	About
<p>Toolkit https://www.brokenfutures.co.uk/toolkit/</p> <p>How to Guides https://www.brokenfutures.co.uk/how-to-guides/</p> <p>Templates https://www.brokenfutures.co.uk/resources/</p>	<p>The toolkit, how to guides and templates bring together the research approach for the Broken Futures project. They provide information, resources, sources and techniques for locating queer lives in archives between two different time periods: 1861 to 1919 and 1920 to 1967.</p> <p>This resources can be used by schools to learn about research, or to guide teachers who may want to run outreach events at the Berkshire Record Office with their students to visit the archives.</p> <p>If you'd be interested in taking students to the Berkshire Record Office, or any outreach with them, please do contact them on the information below:</p> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center;">  <div> <p>Berkshire Record Office: 0118 937 5132 arch@reading.gov.uk </p> </div> </div> <p>www.berkshirerecordoffice.org.uk</p> <p>List of How To Guides:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overall Approach to finding individuals charged of offences involving sex between men between 1850 to 1920. • How to Guide outlining the use of online National Archives Ho 140 files for the collation of individuals charged and convicted of sex between men between 1860 to 1920. • How to Guide covering specific research into the individuals found within the Crime and Punishment Archives within the British Newspaper Archive, 1850 to 1920 • How to Guide covering generic research using search terms within the British Newspaper Archive, 1850 to 1967 • How to Guide covering the use of Ancestry for genealogical research

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How to Guide discussing the use of Find my Past for genealogical research
<p>‘Rural Queer Lives in Berkshire Criminal Archives, 1861 – 1967’</p> <p>Museum of English Rural Life</p> <p>Online Exhibition available at: https://merl.reading.ac.uk/explore/online-exhibitions/rural-queer-lives-berkshire-criminal-archives</p>	<p>This online museum exhibition tracks Berkshire’s connections to the historical regulation of sex between men alongside the developments of the law throughout history. It discusses life within Reading Prison, the court hearings for those charged for an offence involving sex between men, and some of the experiences and stories located within the Broken Futures history group.</p> <p>This resource can be used within schools, perhaps within tutor sessions or within history classes, as a visual exhibition of Berkshire’s connections with the regulation of sex between men.</p>
<p>Inclusion in the Archives – Broken Futures</p> <p>https://www.brokenfutures.co.uk/inclusion-in-the-archive/</p>	<p>Our second online exhibition, ‘Inclusion in the Archives’, provides broader information around the approach taken for research with the Broken Futures history group, the ethics and practicalities that this research sits within and features the biographies of the individuals located.</p> <p>This exhibition can be utilised through the link, and may be used by schools within history sessions, understanding research approaches to querying state archives and more.</p>
<p>Walking Tour of Reading’s Queer Past</p> <p>www.brokenfutures.co.uk/tour</p>	<p>This guided tour is available in a number of formats, including as a video file. Coronavirus restrictions permitting, a number of walking tours will be run by Support U, using staff and volunteer guides. Schools and groups who are interested in attending should contact the Broken Futures project using hello@brokenfutures.co.uk</p> <p>A large-print version of the tour transcript is available.</p>
<p>Online Seminar Series</p> <p>www.brokenfutures.co.uk/seminars</p>	<p>These c.30 minute seminars take the form of interviews by the Broken Futures team with academics and queer heritage professionals. They can be used by members of staff who are keen to expand their knowledge on</p>

relevant areas. They also provide an accessible introduction to students, assuming little or no subject knowledge.

The seminars are available on all major podcast sites, as well as via the Broken Futures project website.

Transcripts are provided for each episode via the BF website. Speakers and topics include:

- Prof Peter Stoneley – Professor Emeritus of English Literature at the University of Reading: Oscar Wilde, the future of Reading Gaol, queer heritage and collections
- Dan Vo – co-chair of the Queer Heritage and Collections Network: queer history and finding queer ancestors in the archives, the future of Reading Gaol, LGBT+ rights in the present-day
- Amy Austin – PhD student and sessional lecturer in History at the University of Reading: the links between sexuality and gender in history, researching transgender identities in archival sources, the importance of historical research into transgender identities for present-day transgender individuals
- Dr Oliver Baldwin – British Academy postdoctoral fellow in Classics at the University of Reading: queer classics and the use of classics to conceptualise same-sex desire in history, the *Queer Tragedy* project run by Dr Baldwin,
- Prof Aleardo Zanghellini – Professor of Law and Social Theory at the University of Reading: the legal proscription of sex between men, researching same-sex sex in non-criminal archives, ethical considerations surrounding the research, historical fiction relating to same-sex sex – in particular Prof Zanghellini’s novel *The Spellbinders*
- Dr Emily Rutherford – Junior Research Fellow in History at Merton College, the University of Oxford
- Mark Stevens – Berkshire County Archivist: the conception of the Broken Futures project,

	<p>recording marginalised communities in archives of the state, diverse histories, the future of Reading Gaol</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Prof Katherine Harloe – Professor of Classics and Intellectual History at the University of Reading: the conception of the Broken Futures project, queer classics
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