

# 50 years since the Sexual Offences Act 1967:

## A Conservative LGBT history

### A true LGBT champion

First out trans Conservative councillor candidate stands in local elections in Haringey.



Conservative Party leader Michael Howard backs Labour's Civil Partnerships Bill.



Justine Greening becomes the first out female Cabinet Minister



Alan Duncan comes out, becoming the first out Conservative MP.



Nick Herbert becomes the first out gay Conservative candidate to be elected as an MP.



Andy Street elected Metro-Mayor of Birmingham



Equal Marriage Bill receives Royal Assent.



Conservative Peer Lord Arran reintroduces the Bill; it receives Royal Assent in July. Lord Arran also sponsored a bill for the protection of badgers. When asked why this bill had failed whereas decriminalising homosexuality had succeeded.



Arran replied, "There are not many badgers in the House of Lords."

David Cameron becomes the first Conservative Party leader to address a Gay Pride event.



More out Conservative MPs elected than all the other parties put together.



1967



Conservative Group for Homosexual Equality formed.

1994



Edwina Currie tables an amendment lowering the gay age of consent to 16. This amendment was defeated.

1991



Major government removes bar to gays in senior civil service positions.

1965



Conservative MP Humphrey Berkeley introduces a Private Members Bill to decriminalise homosexual acts in line with the Wolfenden Report.

Thatcher Government decriminalises homosexuality in Scotland and Northern Ireland.



Secretary of State for Health and Social Security Norman Fowler commissions a national HIV/AIDS-awareness campaign.



1984

Churchill government sets up a Departmental Committee to consider homosexual offences



1980/82

Conservative MP Matthew Parris comes out in a late night speech to the Commons. Nobody notices.



1984

1954

Conservative Peer Lord Montagu and two others arrested and convicted for "consensual homosexual offences".



1958



Conservative MP Ian Harvey arrested in flagrante with a guardsman in the bushes of St James's Park. On hearing the news, Churchill remarked, "On the coldest night of the year? It makes you proud to be British." The men were both fined £5. Harvey paid the guardsman's fine.