

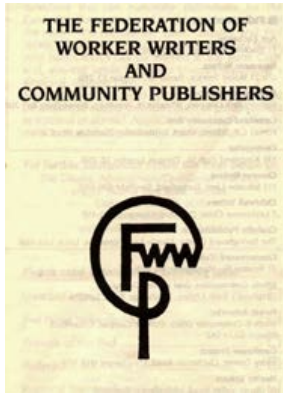
LGBTQ+

The readings in this collection highlight the life experiences of members of LGBTQ+ communities in various regions in England and beyond in the 1950-1980s. Many of the texts are collections of poems, memoirs, short stories, and illustrations.



As a whole, the collection draws attention to intersectional concerns related to living a meaningful life, including self-discovery, love, family, guilt, isolation, and violence. Furthermore, the collection describes darker tensions, including the ways in which some social groups are marginalized and persecuted, in public and in private life.

Overall, the collection seeks to draw the LGBTQ+ community away from the margins of society and into the fold.



Beyond Paradise

Lesbians and Gay Men
Poetry, 1990

FWWCPC/ RM 01

This collection of poems is written by lesbians and gay men living in North West. The poems share a common theme of love, highlighting attending tensions within non-heterosexual communities. The poems also speak to social concerns, including, for example, prejudice and discrimination within the workplace and family life.

Keywords: discrimination | LGBTQ+ | love | sexuality

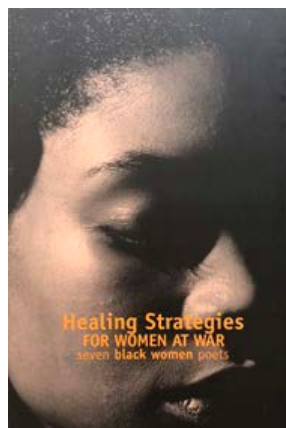
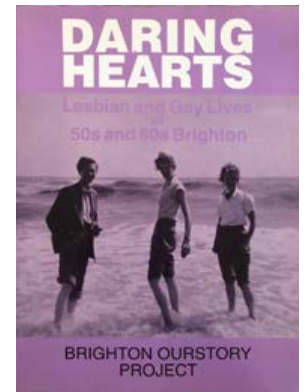
Daring Hearts: Lesbian and Gay Lives of 50s and 60s Brighton

Brighton Ourstory
Project, 1992

FWWCPC/07 SE 03

This book is a compilation of interviews with members of the lesbian and gay community in Brighton in the 1950-60s. Despite being referred to as a "Gay Mecca," Brighton residents would still face discrimination and prejudice by neighbours. Thus, secrecy in public and private life is a recurring theme. Interviewees describe how physical presentation, including hair and dress, would draw unwanted attention. Many hid their affections from public view. Interviewees also describe the impact of their sexualities on families.

Keywords: body image | discrimination | gay | lesbian | sexuality



Healing Strategies For Women at War

Seven Black Women
Poets, 1999

FWWCPC/01 NW 07

The book is a collection of poems written by seven women writers from Sri Lanka, India, China, and the Caribbean. This collection speaks to the experiences of first- and second-generation women living in Britain. Through poetry, the collection details the story of their individual journeys, with recurring themes of sexuality, racial stereotypes, and familial relationships underscoring a concern with survival.

Keywords: Black women | race | sexuality | stereotypes



Hermit Crab

Di Williams, no date

FWWCPC/01 NW 07

The book is a collection of poems which strives to give voice to the underrepresented -- working-class, Black people, and members of the LGBTQ+ community. The poem that gives the collection its name speaks to the difficulty of fitting in and discovering identities. Recurring themes include family relationships, immigration, and identity.

Keywords: Black | gay | women | working-class

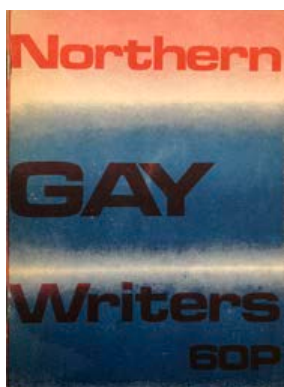
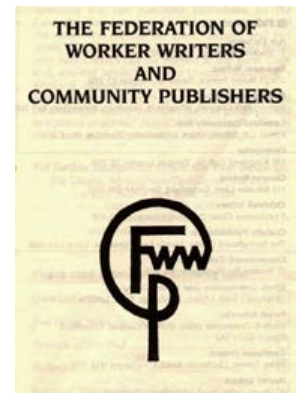
Nomad 14: The Gay Issue

Survivor's Press Scotland,
no date

FWWCPC/10 S 01

This book of poems and short stories describes the life experiences of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgendered individuals in Scotland. The works, as they were written by over 10 people, all touch on different themes and topics, but are all held by a common thread, however, which is membership and diversity within the LGBTQ+ community.

Keywords: diversity | LGBTQ+ | transgender



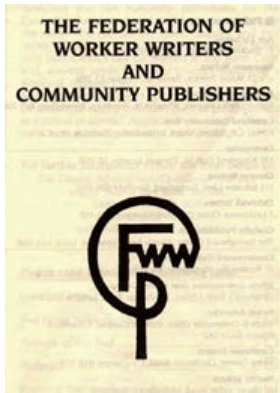
Northern Gay Writers

Commonword, no date

FWWCPC/01 NW 06

The book is a collection of poetry and short stories. Writers discuss experiences with self-acceptance as members of the LGBTQ+ community. Guilt and self-hate are recurring themes. The narratives also focus on identity and self-discovery. For example, narratives describe how sexuality and gender identity, especially when intersected with other identities, like race and/or class, can cause a strain on mental health and hinder safety.

Keywords: intersectionality | mental health | self-discovery | self-reflection



Ridge Walking

Char March and Hilary Bichovsky, no date

FWWCPC/03 Y 12

The book was written by two members of the The March Hares, a group of lesbian writers, performers, and visual artists. Recurring themes include larger categories of identity, gender, and race. Other topics of violence and rape may be triggering to some. The text includes poems and illustrations.

Keywords: gender identity | performance | race

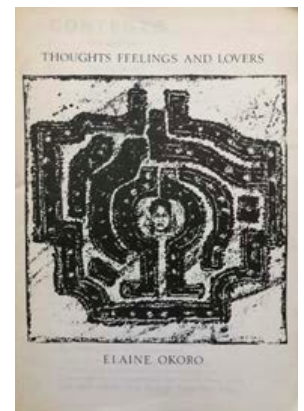
Thoughts Feelings and Lovers

Elaine Okoro, 1985

FWWCPC/01 NW 06

This collection of poems is split into three sections. The first, "Thoughts," focuses on women's health and family relations. The second, titled "Feelings," is concerned with self-reflection and analysis. It speaks to Okoro's experience with love and sexuality. "Lovers," the last section, which is mostly written in second person, centers around relationships and touches on desire. There are some instances in which the poems in one section are repeated in another section to show interconnection.

Keywords: health | poetry | relationships | sexuality



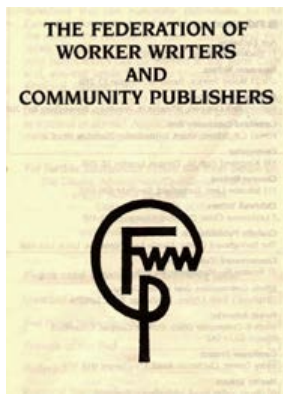
Turning Points

Northern Gay Writers, 1985

FWWCPC/01 NW 06

Turning Points is a collection of poems and short stories. The collection explores prejudice within marginalized communities, conveying a deep understanding of the effects of discrimination. Most of the stories were written by members of the LGBTQ+ community, but not all. The collection also includes poems and stories written by allies of the community.

Keywords: discrimination | LGBTQ+ | prejudice



Words from the Women's Cafe: Lesbian Poetry from 'Word Up'

Word Up, 1993

FWWCP/08 L 03

This booklet of poems and illustrations is by lesbian writers. Word Up is an innovative reading and performance space for all women. The poetry in this collection provides insight into the daily life of lesbian women. Topics include identity, childhood, familial relationships, which overlap with racial and social class identities.

Keywords: childhood | class | lesbian | race | women