

**Project: 'Queer Lives: Barriers from Cradle to Elder Care - An oral history...'**

Respondent: Charlie Bryde

Year of Birth: 2004

Age:

Connection to project: Local knowledge

Date of Interview: 07/11/2024

Interviewer: Dr Sue Morrison

Recording Agreement: Yes

Information & Consent: Yes

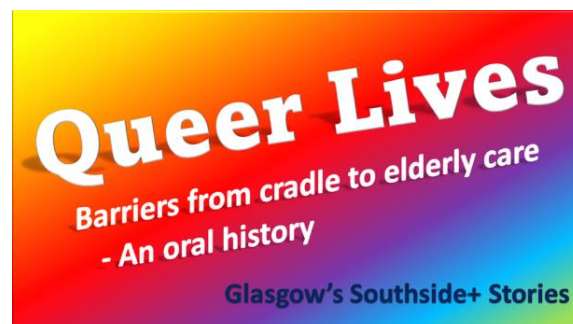
Photographic Images: Yes/ No (Number of: )

Length of Interview: 30.14

Location of Interview: The Haven, Wick

Recording Equipment: Zoom H4n (internal mics)

**Glasgow's Southside+ Stories**



Time (from: mins/secs)	Description	Transcribed Extract (from- to: mins/secs)
00.30	<b><i>Have you always lived in the Highlands?</i></b>	
	"I've always lived in the Highlands and now I live near Wick."	00.38
00.40-00.51	<b><i>We've used the term queer because we were asked to because people felt it more inclusive and a lot of people are using pronouns these days. Can I ask if you have any preferred pronouns?</i></b>	
	"Just he/they."	00.55
	<b><i>Would you mind telling me if you've come out and if so, at what age?</i></b>	
	"Yes, I would say 16."	01.00
01.22	<b><i>When did you first realise that you were L.G.B.T.?</i></b>	
	"I'd say probably when I was quite young, like the first year of going into high school age, 11/12"	01.25-01.35
01.38	<b><i>Did you tell anyone about that at the time?</i></b>	
	"No, I just kept it to myself, thinking it might just have been a phase, because some people have a phase when they think they are that and then they're not."	01.40-01.54
01.55	<b><i>When did you realise that you were definitely L.G.B.T.</i></b>	
	I'd probably say second year at high School. So, for about a year I went through confusion. I spoke to one teacher about it because she was a lesbian anyway. She was really supportive of it".	01.56-02.17
02.19	<b><i>How did you approach her?</i></b>	
	"She was a guidance teacher and I was speaking to her about something and I came out and I just basically said I think I am going through feelings or phases and I think I might be part of the L.G.B.T community and that's how I approached her."	02.20-02.39
02.43	<b><i>Was that helpful, having someone you could speak to?</i></b>	
	"Yes, because she was a guidance teacher at the school, she had another job as an L.G.B.T. educator. She educated people on L.G.B.T. So, she knew quite a lot about people coming out and all that stuff as well."	02.45-03.18
03.19	<b><i>Did you tell any of your friends?</i></b>	
	"I told a few eventually and a lot of them supported me and there were other ones that were just like, no we don't want them."	03.22-03.36
03.37	<b><i>Do you think in coming out to them when you did was the right thing for you to do?</i></b>	
	"Yes, I would say so, because at least I didn't hide it because it made it easier."	03.42

03.56	<b><i>Did you come out to your parents and what was their response?</i></b>	
	"Not until I was about 16. I told my mum in the car and she was okay with it, saying 'you are who you are and we'll support you'; and then I told my dad and he was okay with it as well because he was 'you are who you are and that's it'. They're still supportive, because I do drag as well, and my mum has gone to support me and my dad has gone too."	03.59-04.30
04.31	<b><i>Can you tell me how you got started in drag art?</i></b>	
	"It was probably watching pantos. I liked watching the pantomime dames. When I was about 7, we went to Tenerife and there was a drag queen there, but I liked it and I was inspired by it."	04.51-05.20
05.21	<b><i>When you started doing drag did you do this online or in a theatre?</i></b>	
	"It started online and then I did a few performances in bars and I have done this in a theatre as well."	05.28-05.36
05.37	<b><i>How do you get ready for an event?</i></b>	
	"I know I'm getting ready for a reason and it's something I enjoy. I've never had stage-fright. Even when I did musicals or shows I never got that."	05.45-06.05
06.21	<b><i>Do you feel you experienced any barriers at school?</i></b>	
	"Probably just from the head teacher. He wasn't a very good person; he was more of an older man and did not support L.G.B.T. at all. I was on the committee for the student council at high school and he turned round to me and I said I think we should have an L.G.B.T. group and he was like, 'no it's absolutely rubbish and you should all go to jail', and all that. After that I never spoke to him again. Later down the line he actually got sacked. When I left school it wasn't because I was L.G.B.T. because there were other people who were getting bullied at school so my mother put me into an education centre where they were helping me with maths and English but they could only do so much with me and then I got put to another school and I didn't like it and I just left school completely when I was 17 and went to college. College was better but because I didn't have Nat 5 in maths and English, I couldn't do the drama course that I wanted to do and I did a Skills Connect one and it had a bit of maths and a bit of English, it had a bit of cooking, creative industry and event planning and health as well. I didn't finish the course because there was a lot of drama on it so I ended up leaving halfway through. I was 18 at the time."	06.24-09.10
09.11	<b><i>What did you do after you left the college?</i></b>	
	"I left college and took a break for a bit and now here I am, 20, and having moved up here last year, I'm just doing online courses and also over at the library on a Saturday, they're helping me get my maths and English up so that I can return to further education."	09.22-09.42
09.43	<b><i>What are your aspirations work-wise?</i></b>	
	"Some next, I kinda want to do... be like a journalist or presenter on radio and all that and if that doesn't work out, I want to do something in education like being a teacher or a lecturer or something like that."	09.44-09.54
10.02	<b><i>In your college experience, did you feel accepted there?</i></b>	
	"Yes, I think Inverness College was a very good college, I think I was just on the wrong course. The lecturers there were very good, they had experience of working with children and adults."	10.03-10.23
10.24	<b><i>Can you explain your feelings when you were 16/17/18 about your sexuality?</i></b>	
	"I was happy but, in the stage, where I wanted to find a partner, but I didn't want to find a partner all at the same time because I didn't feel ready at that point. I think it was because I didn't want to rush into a relationship and I was busy with college as well."	10.26-10.54
10.55	<b><i>You're now in a relationship, where did you meet that person?</i></b>	
	"I met them through a friend. I was supposed to go to a drag gig but I was also on a T.V. show and the guy who was one of the presenters in the T.V. show with me, was	10.56-12.03

	a drag queen as well and he was performing in Edinburgh and I really wanted to go and see him. I actually went to a drag show before and a person who was there as well posted a photo on an Instagram post. We messaged back and forth for a few weeks and then that was it we just decided to meet up. She was down in Lockerbie at the time. We met up and it was love at first sight.”	
12.13	<b><i>What is it like living up here?</i></b>	
	“I think it could do with having more, like an L.G.B.T. group to go to and with me being involved in Cyber Radio I’ve also found an acting group that I can go to as well.”	12.15-12.36
12.37	<b><i>Can you tell me about the acting group?</i></b>	
	“They’re an amateur group and I go there every Sunday. They do pantomime and they were doing auditions, so I auditioned for this and got offered a part in the chorus. The panto is in December. I’m enjoying it and the people are really nice. It’s like I’ve known the people for years because they’re all nice. I think one of the members may be L.G.B.T. but I’ve not really asked, it doesn’t matter and they are all really friendly and they try and use pronouns.”	12.37-13.30
13.31	<b><i>Have you encountered any animosity or nastiness while living in Wick?</i></b>	
	“Yes, I have. I did a newspaper interview with the John O’Groats Journal on my drag and I did get a bit of backlash. To be honest it wasn’t too bad of a backlash, more nobody commented, they just reacted with emojis on Facebook, just laughing but a lot of people did say this is a good thing for the community up here. “	13.35-14.09
14.10	<b><i>What are the activities that you can get involved in as an L.G.B.T. couple?</i></b>	
	“There’s a community cafe which is really good and that’s at the other side of Wick. The People’s Project it’s called and I get support from them. They used to have a Care at Home, I think it was personal care but that shut down because of cuts and all that but they’ve got the Home Link bit and they’ve got childcare as well and the community cafe where you don’t need to pay, I think it’s a donation or something. So that’s really good and they’ve done events as well. There’s also this group called Stepping Out and that’s really good.”	14.26-15.12
15.14	<b><i>It sounds like you’re getting involved in a lot of community events, is that helping your mental health?</i></b>	
	“Yes, because I used to not go out at all. I think this was before I knew how to engage before I had support. I think I have enough support now.”	15.20-15.40
15.41	<b><i>Are you intending to stay in Wick?</i></b>	
	“Not long term just temporarily until I can move somewhere.”	15.42
15.43	<b><i>Have you ever lived in a city out with Inverness?</i></b>	
	“No. I have been to other cities just visiting. I think they’re different because there’s a lot more things to do for L.G.B.T. like more drag nights, more stuff to do like bars and more events.”	15.54-16.17
16.19	<b><i>Do you think if you were in the city, you feel or benefit from being anonymous?</i></b>	
	“Yes and no I would say. If it’s like a new place yes and if it’s a place you’ve been before and people you know, then it’s fine.”	16.23-16.43
16.45	<b><i>What are your hopes for the future?</i></b>	
	“I’d probably say to go into employment eventually and help young people, even if they are L.G.B.T. or straight. I think young people are educated more, because I didn’t leave school with a lot of qualifications. I left school with qualifications that would help me but without the maths and English.”	16.52-17.25
17.19	<b><i>You mentioned you volunteered with the radio</i></b>	
	“Yes, up in Thurso, it’s Caithness F.M. It’s a community radio and all of them are volunteers. I just present a show on a Saturday night from 7pm-11pm. I play pop music and music from the ‘80s and ‘90s as well. I am trying to interview people but trying to get them is quite a difficult thing. I don’t know how many people listen apart from the ones who let me know. We did have somebody from Australia or	17.40-18.42

	someone from Belfast listening in."	
18.51-19.01	<b><i>Do you think that within the Highlands there is generally enough support or do you have to actively go out and look for it?</i></b>	
	"This group is good but I think there needs to be more. I think they need to talk about it more in schools. I just think people in general need to know more about L.G.B.T. and not just if they are L.G.B.T."	19.04-1930
19.31	<b><i>What is it like?</i></b>	
	"It's difficult but it's also good as well because you can just express your feelings as well because you don't really care about what other people think, however I do in some regard but if somebody's like I don't like this about you or that about you, and I'm like well if you don't like my sexuality I don't care, I'm not causing you any harm."	19.32-20.02
20.04	<b><i>Do you think as a young person you have similar experiences to other L.G.B.T. people?</i></b>	
	"I would say in ways yes because I can go out and do what they can do without being judged as well. There's a lot of people who do musical theatre and pantomimes like I do and they're normally L.G.B.T. as well. I worked with a guy who did a panto dame for 14 years and I always thought he was gay but he wasn't he had a wife and kids and I didn't know that because normally they do cast dames as L.G.B.T. people because of the romance with people in the audience."	20.12-20.57
21.14-21.37	<b><i>Do you think amongst the L.G.B.T. community members that you know of, do you think there are conflicting views about coming out, about trans, about anything to do with L.G.B.T.?</i></b>	
	"I think trans bits in the L.G.B.T. need to be talked about more because people don't understand what it is. Some people are like, oh it's a trans woman, a drag queen or a cross-dresser - no a trans woman is somebody that's open to transition, but there's also a woman who doesn't want to have surgery but just want to have the male hormones and then there's people who say well that's not who trans people are, but it is. I think that some people even within the L.G.B.T. community need education in trans people because I never knew what a trans woman or a trans man was until I met my friend on line on TikTok and she was trans and I learned a lot from her because I did do a podcast and I interviewed her on her story and how she came out as trans and she talked about all the stuff that she went through as well and that really educated me, even if I wasn't doing her podcast and if she was just talking to me, because it educated me on what trans was".	21.38-22.57
22.58-23.08	<b><i>What methodology would be good to teach people about the issues that affect the whole of the community?</i></b>	
	"I think we should definitely do talks in schools like assemblies or even do workshops or have more queer events like fairs or stalls, anything like that. I would say either an individual or community should talk at these events. I don't think it necessarily would need someone from the L.G.B.T. community to deliver the talks. It could just be someone who knows what the subject is all about."	23.10-23.47
23.46	<b><i>At school would you have liked someone medical talking about trans and transitioning?</i></b>	
	"Yes, I think so because that would've been helpful."	23.56
23.57-24.17	<b><i>Is there enough support for school leavers moving into a job, writing job applications if they were L.G.B.T.?</i></b>	
	"I think nobody takes judgement to it; some employers do but then they won't say because they're not allowed to. I have been declined for a lot of jobs but I don't think that was to do with that, it was more the education side of it."	24.18-24.45
24.59	<b><i>This group, Stepping Out, has only been going a short while and already you're on the committee, what are your responsibilities?</i></b>	
	"I'm the secretary, I'm responsible for writing up the minutes, anything they want me to do like planning, I also look at venues for meetings and things like that".	25.07-25.44
25.45	<b><i>What are your hopes generally for the future of queer people in the highlands?</i></b>	
	"Hopefully this group gets more members joining because they don't even need to be queer to join because obviously, they only need to be supportive. A few people	25.47-26.25

	have come forward I think we have about 60 members in this group and 45 in another group but a lot of them won't go to the meals, I think maybe they might be a bit anxious about it."	
26.26-26.42	<b><i>People are quite happy to come here to The Haven because you're not surrounded by other buildings and it's kind of anonymous but they won't go to a cafe or restaurant. What's stopping them?</i></b>	
	"I think it's because they don't want people to know they're L.G.B.T. because they haven't come out fully."	26.58-27.06
27.07	<b><i>What would you like to see happening across the highlands in relation to queers getting together gatherings?</i></b>	
	"I would like other L.G.B.T. getting together as well and maybe their members can join other groups as well. There are other groups, but there's only this one up here."	27.18-27.38
27.39-27.46	<b><i>There is a bigger main issue up here in relation to transport, so how would that affect you getting from A to B?</i></b>	
	"Yes, we would need better transport up here. During the day I would get a bus or a train and, in the evening, there is a regular bus to other places it could be a problem. If it was like Pride it would be fine; there's a bus that leaves Inverness to come back up here at 4.50pm and the last train from Inverness is 6 or 7pm."	27.47-28.53
29.12	<b><i>Has the question of elderly care for L.G.B.T people ever crossed your mind?</i></b>	
	"I have heard a lot about care homes being terrible to L.G.B.T. people. I have seen videos online about people being abusive to them by carers, even of non L.G.B.T. people. I think they need to have the right to work with them but have checks done on them, proper training and supervision."	29.15-2.50
30.02	<b><i>Is there any event happening or any experience you would like to share?</i></b>	
	No, I think that's everything.	30.06
30.11	<b><i>Thank you very much Charlie it's been a pleasure speaking with you.</i></b>	
   		