

# Spilling The Tea On Our History!

**Date and Time:**

**Friday 23rd February 2023 at 6:30 pm to 8 pm**

**Location: Stockport Central Library**

**Description:**

**A relaxed discussion about LGBTQ+ history. Light refreshments will be available.**



Free Ticket  
here



## Mark Ashton

Mark Ashton was a gay man born on 19/05/1960 in Oldham and who grew up in Portrush in Northern Ireland.

Throughout his life Mark Ashton was involved in many activist and political causes.

One such cause he is well known for is co-founding in 1984 Lesbians and Gays Support the Miners (LGSM) a group that raised money for Miners, who were on strike at the time, and their families.

LGSM is considered by many in the LGBTQ+ community to be an important milestone in LGBTQ+ history.

The LGSM groups raised tens of thousands of pounds for the striking miners, and in gratitude

many mining groups showed solidarity with and supported the expansion of rights for the LGBTQ+ community. The miners support was a direct contributing factor to the Labour Party supporting LGBTQ+ rights and the miners groups were also outspoken critics years later of Section 28.

Mark Ashton was also a member of the Communist Party of Great Britain and General Secretary of the Young Communist League.

Diagnosed with HIV, Mark Ashton was admitted to hospital on 30 January 1987 and died 12 days later aged 26. His death prompted a significant response from the LGBTQ+ community, particularly in publications and attendance at his funeral.

After his death 000s of £s have been raised in his name to help people with HIV/AIDS.